



Lasting peace in region not possible until resolution of Kashmir dispute: Governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here Sunday said the over seven decades long ongoing humans rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were a matter of great concerns for the humans rights organizations.



August 5 to be remembered as dark day in history: Gilani

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated on Sunday that August 5, 2019, will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In his message on Youm-e-Istehsal, he said, "The 5th of August will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 ... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity with Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Posters and flags displayed on different roads of the Federal Capital, urge people to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August. In world over, August 5 is observed as Kashmir Exploitation Day by the people of Kashmir as on this black day, the fascist Modi regime without any legal justification had illegally abrogated the Articles 370 and 35A in 2019, thus abolished the special status of IIOJK unilaterally.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

India's actions demonstrate disregard for int'l law in IIOJK: President Zardari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said India's actions since 5 August 2019 demonstrated complete disregard for international law, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, and the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a message on Youm-e-Istehsal on 5th August 2024, he said, "Today marks the completion of five years of India's latest campaign to consolidate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, five years ago, India took a number of unilateral and unlawful steps in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to undermine its internationally recognised disputed status."

Since 5 August 2019, he said India has embarked upon a ceaseless campaign to alter the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK.

Issuing domicile certificates to



outsiders, registering temporary residents in the voters' lists, gerrymandering assembly constituencies, and modifying land and property ownership laws are some of the key features of this campaign. All these measures are in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, he observed.

"The continued presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops has turned IIOJK into one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world. The gross human rights violations in IIOJK have been documented extensively and condemned globally. The mistreatment of Kashmiri journalists and human rights defenders has further revealed India's willingness to go to any lengths to silence dissenting voices. India would not succeed in suppressing the just struggle of the people of IIOJK through domestic legislation and judicial verdicts," he added.

Pakistan Army, govt express solidarity with Kashmiri people on Youm-e-Istehsal

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and the Pakistan Armed Forces reaffirm their steadfast solidarity with the courageous and resilient people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). We unequivocally support their legitimate and protracted struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination. The Indian Security Forces' egregious violations of international law, including the ongoing draconian military lockdown, unlawful attempts to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory, and persistent human rights abuses, are deeply reprehensible. These unjust actions, coupled with the Indian government's belligerent rhetoric and hostile posturing, perpetuate the security and humanitarian crises in IIOJK, posing a constant threat to regional stability.

It is axiomatic that lasting peace and stability in the region hinge on the resolution of the long-standing Kashmir dispute, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Pakistan Armed Forces pay tribute to the martyrs of IIOJK for their extraordinary sacrifices and reaffirm their unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiri people in their righteous struggle against oppression and tyranny, on political, moral, and humanitarian grounds.

PM directs economic team to speed up transformation of FBR

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday set a target for his economic team to speed up the process of transformation of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

He was chairing a review meeting on Track and Trace System of FBR.

The total digitization and restructuring of FBR according to modern standards was part of the transformation plan. He delegated responsibility to Minister of State for Finance

to oversee the transformation project of FBR.

The prime minister was presented a detailed report regarding the track and trace system and on progress of digitization of FBR. He directed immediate action against the persons responsible for deficiency and irregularities regarding the track and trace system.

He directed immediate implementation of steps for taking action against the officials negligent in upgrading the system.

He said reforms in FBR were neces-

sary to improve the tax system of Pakistan, adding, "We will work day and night to save every penny of the poor people of Pakistan." Shehbaz Sharif said digitization of FBR was main priority of the government and no disruption was acceptable in this regard.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, Coordinator of Prime Minister Ihsan Afzal and high level officials attended the meeting.

Pakistan to observe Youm-i-Istehsal on Monday to express solidarity with Kashmir

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has announced that Pakistan will observe Youm-i-Istehsal on Monday, to mark the fifth anniversary of India revoking Kashmir's special status and to show solidarity with Kashmiris.

On August 5, 2019, India's Narendra Modi-led government stripped the Muslim-majority territory of its special status by repealing Article 370 of the constitution, splitting the former state into two territories directly ruled by New Delhi.

Through the revocation of the said article, people from the rest of India gained the right to acquire property in Indian-held Kashmir and settle there permanently. Kashmiris, as well as critics of India's Hindu nationalist-led government, saw the move as an attempt to dilute the demographics of Muslim-majority Kashmir with Hindu settlers. In response to the controversial move, the government of Pakistan designated 5 August as Youm-e-Istehsal, starting in 2020. This day is now observed annually in Pakistan as a reaction to the status change.

This year, discussions related to the commemoration of the day were held at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by federal ministers and senior government officials who briefed the PM about preparations.

"A joint main event of Pakistani and Kashmiri leadership has been approved for the day, with Prime Minister Shehbaz expected to visit Muzaffarabad on August 5 to "show solidarity with Kashmiris", a post from PTV News said on the X platform. The post added that the premier will "give an important policy statement" on Youm-i-Istehsal.

Pakistan to continue moral, political, diplomatic support to Kashmiri people: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will continue to extend its strong moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

In a message on Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5, 2024, he said the people and Government of Pakistan are observing the Youm-e-Istehsal today.

"This somber occasion reminds us of the grave consequences of India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 vis-à-vis Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)."

On 5 August 2019, he said India took a series of steps to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK. "Ever since, India has been trying to convince the world that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of its territory. However, international law, historical facts, moral principles and the situation on the ground deny India's baseless claims. Today, in IIOJK, efforts are being made to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands, while 14 political organi-



zations have been outlawed.

Harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, and the so-called 'cordon and search operations have become a matter of routine. The Indian forces are operating with impunity, according to them under different draconian laws," he added.

He said, "I, however, salute the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people that has enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to subjugate them. There is no doubt that India's coercive methods have failed to diminish their yearning for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination."

یوم استحصال

یوم استحصال کشمیر کے موقع پر
وزیر اعظم اسلامیہ جمہوریہ پاکستان

کو مظفر آباد آمد پر
میاں محمد شہباز شریف
فوش آمدید کہتے ہیں

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کی آمد سے لائن آن کنٹرول کے دوڑوں اطراف کشمیریوں کے وصلے بلند ہونگے

لاک ڈاؤن، ریاستی جبر، قید و بند کی صعوبتیں
کشمیریوں کے عزم کو کمزور نہیں کر سکتیں

105 اگست 2019 کے ہندوستان کے غیر آئینی، غیر قانونی اور غیر اخلاقی
اقدامات مسئلہ کشمیر کی حیثیت کو تبدیل نہیں کر سکتے۔ مسئلہ کشمیر کا واحد حل اقوام متحدہ
سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادوں کے مطابق استصواب رائے کے ذریعے ہی ہوگا

اقوام متحدہ سے مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ
وہ اپنی قراردادوں پر عمل درآمد کر دے اور کشمیریوں کو انکا پیدائشی حق خود ارادیت دے

محکمہ اطلاعات آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں و کشمیر

Historical Khatam-e Nabuwat Rally in Multan

Supreme Court should withdraw its controversial decision and save the country

Shakeel Chaudhry

MULTAN: Majlis Tahafuz e Khatam Nabuwat organized a protest demonstration in front of Multan Press Club. Thousands of activists participated and sent a message to the rulers that the decision of the Supreme Court against the Sharia and the Constitution will not be accepted under any circumstances.

procession through Ghanta Ghar Multan, Fawara Chowk. The central leaders, journalists, lawyers, intellectuals made statements there and the public and journalists were informed about the aims and objectives of the protest.

If the law is tampered with, an anarchy will spread in the country, which the country cannot afford under these circumstances. Atiqur Rahman Saif, Mufti Adnan Kashif, Qari Haris, Maulana Mursaleen, Maulana Inayat Al Kareem, Maulana Asadullah Zia, Maulana Bilal, Qari Akasha Rahimi, Azizur Rahman Rahmani etc. spoke. And presented their demands. The participants said that if the Supreme Court does not withdraw its decision, there will be a strong movement that will force the rulers to withdraw their controversial decision.



Multan: Maulana Allah Wasaya, Umar Farooq, Hafiz Umar Sheikh, Maulana Muhammad Waseem Aslam, Maulana Muhammad Anas, Maulana Sultan Mehmood Zia, Mufti Umar Farooq, Hafiz Umar Sheikh, Maulana Atiqur Rehman took part in a protest rally organized by the Majlis Tahafuz Khatam e Nabuwat against

the decision of the Supreme Court against Sharia and the Constitution. Al Kareem, Maulana Asadullah Zia, Maulana Bilal, Qari Akasha Rahimi, Azizur Rahman Rahmani and others are speaking.

Largest industrial city

This is Largest industrial city of Punjab showing a Scene of heavy rain, and needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Nikon D3500, 24mm, f/5.6, 1/125s Photo: Mian Abid

Man arrested for thrashing, torturing wife

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Hassanabdal Police on Sunday arrested a man who allegedly thrashed and tortured his wife in Khaliqdad village in union council Burhan over some family dispute. According to a police spokesman, Tehmenia Bibi has reported to Police that she had an arranged marriage with Iftikhar Ahmed some 13 years ago. Her husband subjects her torture frequently over family issues and on Sunday he came from work and subjects her serve torture with sticks and rods. She added that when she became unconscious, he locked her in a room without food and water. Later some neighbours after hearing her cries called her father who came and freed her from illegal confinement. Subsequently, the matter was reported to Police; subsequently police registered a case on the complaint of the victim under section 342 and 506 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and arrested the suspect.

Labourer died during blasting at stone crusher plant

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A 40 years old labourer died during blasting at a stone crushing plant in Pathargarh in the limits of the Hassanabdal police station on Sunday. Police and hospital sources have identified the victims as Muhamamd Masood a native of Qutab Bandi Hariapur was working at a stone crushing plant at Pathargarh stone crushing area near Hassanabdal, when a stone hit him during blasting resultantly he died on the spot. Later, the body was handed over to the family. The Hassanabdal police registered a case and started further investigations. It may be mentioned here that every year, many laborers lost their lives and limbs during quarrying and mining at Pathargarh stone crushing area due to lack of safety measures and the lack of labour law implementation.

VCs of AJK Universities Demand Immediate Financial Aid to Prevent Collapse

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 4, 2024: An urgent meeting of the Vice Chancellors of all five public sector universities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was held in Islamabad to discuss the severe financial crisis facing these institutions, specifically concerning the payment of salaries and pensions to university staff and pensioners. The Vice Chancellors conveyed their concerns and the potential repercussions of the financial crisis to the President of AJK who is the Chancellor of the universities following the meeting.

Participants in this crucial meeting included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad; Brigadier (R) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Younis Javed, Vice Chancellor of Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST); Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed, Vice Chancellor of Women University Bagh; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zakir, Vice Chancellor of the University of Poonch; and Prof. Dr. Rahmat Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kotli.

The Vice Chancellors highlighted that they have repeatedly informed all relevant forums and authorities about the financial crisis over the years through written and verbal communication, but no positive development has occurred. Consequently, the crisis has intensified, leaving the universities with no resources to pay salaries and pensions.

The Vice Chancellors have made continuous efforts to resolve the financial issues, including meetings with the President of AJK/Chancellor of the universities and the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission.

Police Martyrs' Day obsessed in Wana with great devotion and respect

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Like the whole of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a big ceremony was held in Police Line Wana on the 4th of August in connection with Police Martyrs' Day in Police Line Wana by the Police Department in the tribal district of South Waziristan Lower.

Police Martyrs' Day was observed in Wana with great devotion and respect District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah Khan was the Chief Guest of the martyrs function. On this occasion Assistant Commandant SWS Wana, Deputy Commissioner Nasir Khan along with the heirs and children of police martyrs participated in large numbers. Circle SDPOs, SHOs of various police stations, tribal elders and jour-



The participants of the event paid tribute to the policemen for their services. On this occasion, DPO Farman

Ullah Khan said while addressing the ceremony, that the sacrifices of police martyrs are eternal, the peace that exists today is definitely thanks to these sacrifices.

He said the police martyrs sacrificed their yesterday for the nation's today and have attained the highest status of martyrdom.

He said, there is no substitute for their sacrifice, but we pay tribute and respect to them.

DPO said that the atmosphere of peace that exists in the country today is behind the eternal sacrifices of police martyrs, while the policemen and officers of Lower South Waziristan laid down their precious lives fighting terrorists and anti-social elements, and embraced martyrdom, and their eternal sacrifices will always be remembered.

Protease As a Robust Biocatalytic System For Various Industrial Applications

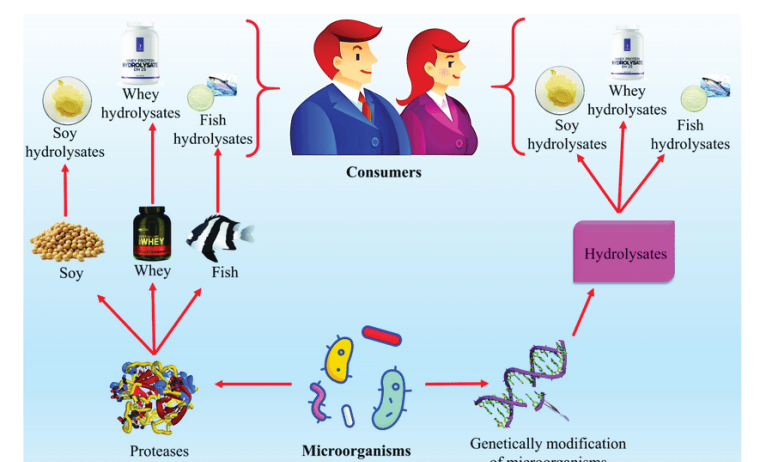
Fareeha Nadeem / Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Agricultural byproducts are important natural and renewable feedstock resources essential for the working of modern industrial societies. Pakistan is an agro-industrial country with production of 50 to 60 million tons of agricultural byproducts on per annum basis. Agricultural byproducts commonly called as agricultural waste. Burning of these agricultural byproducts in routine by incineration, is responsible for wastage of resources, causes environmental pollution and results in discharge of huge amount of greenhouse gases. Utilization of these

agricultural byproducts as nutrient for microbial growth in fermentation process reduces the production cost of enzymes. It also solves the issue of waste disposal, develops awareness of recycling energy efficiently and is eco-friendly. Enzymes are biocatalysts produced by living cells to speed up certain biochemical reactions and are essential component of metabolic pathways vital for life. There are thousands of enzymes known, and some of them are used in biotechnological and commercial applications including food & feed industry, detergent industry, leather and pharmaceuticals industry, biofilm degradation, organic synthesis, paper & pulp industry, textile industry and also used for treatment of waste. Among these enzymes, proteases

are hydrolytic in nature with prominent physiological and industrial significance. The worldwide enzyme market including proteases is evolving at annual growth rate of 6.1% with total income from this market is expected to be priced as 3 billion US \$ by 2024. Proteases are produced from diverse sources including animals, plants and microorganisms. Proteases produced from microorganism including bacteria and fungi are preferred over plants and animals proteases due to ease in production, low production cost and less production time. Filamentous fungi are good protease producers and Aspergillus sp. has been previously utilized for the bulk scale production of industrial enzymes. Current research deals with the screening of

novel fungal strains for the production of protease. Various agricultural byproducts were utilized as substrate for fungal growth and for protease production. The protease after purification was utilized for the characterization studies. The protease was immobilized via sodium alginate as a supporting matrix to enhance the shelf life and stability for industrial applications. The locally produced protease was found highly suitable for detergent industry for removal of proteinaceous stains, has capability to hydrolyze gelatin layer from waste X-ray films as these are worthwhile source of silver and found suitable for in-vitro hydrolysis of soybean meal used for poultry feed industry. A group of scientists at Institute of Biochemistry and



Biotechnology, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences is working on the production and characterization of industrially important enzymes. Unfortunately, none of these enzymes are being produced in Pakistan till today and these are being imported by paying a huge amount of foreign exchange. The purpose of this research was to explore and characterize suitable protease for the local industry of Pakistan. The production of this enzyme at domestic level will reduce the production cost and will save the foreign exchange for the import of this enzyme. Writer can be reached at 2020-phd-1124@wvas.edu.pk



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:48 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:05 pm
Isha 8:39 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 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 gears up Independence Day celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is gearing up to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm. On the instructions of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the university's main campus and regional offices across the country have been adorned with national flags.

A series of events, including competitions for national songs and speeches, seminars, tableaux, and cultural programs, will be held to instill patriotism in the younger generation and help them understand the true meaning of independence.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of education in contributing to Pakistan's development and stability, urging young people to focus on their studies and serve the country with dedication and hard work.

The events aim to pay tribute to the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives for the protection of the country, and to awaken the spirit of love for the country among young people.

Empowering Tomorrow's Digital Leaders with SquarePact Mentorship Program 2024

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Squarepeg, a women-led digital marketing agency, continued its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with the conclusion of its third annual cohort of the SquarePact Mentorship Program, aimed at empowering young individuals with hands-on industry experience.

The event featured honourable chief guests, including the former Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sadaf Zafar, and the CEO of Empower! SMC, Humaira Yousaf.

Sadaf Zafar remarked, "Empowering young professionals is crucial for the growth of our digital economy. The SquarePact Mentorship Program is a commendable initiative that provides valuable

opportunities for the next generation."

The SquarePeg's uniquely designed Mentorship Program paired participants with experienced mentors to provide practical insights and hands-on training in content marketing, social media, graphic design, and project management.

Through one-on-one mentoring sessions and real-world projects, mentees gained transferable skills to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in digital marketing. These mentees then developed social media content for micro-women entrepreneurs to gain hands-on experience.

"Our mission with the SquarePeg Mentorship Program was to create a nurturing space where young talent can learn marketable skills," said Zunaira Omar, CEO of The Squarepeg.

At the final event, mentees used their hands-on knowledge and experience to deliver their presentations, impressing the judges with their creativity and learning abilities.

Humaira Yousaf added, "This program not only equips mentees with essential skills but also inspires confidence and fosters innovation. It's a fantastic example of how mentorship can drive meaningful change."

As we look to the future, the SquarePact Mentorship Program stands as a beacon of excellence, shaping the next generation of digital leaders and driving the industry forward with fresh perspectives and innovative talent.

The Squarepeg remains dedicated to empowering young professionals and contributing to the growth of Pakistan's digital landscape.



State terrorism by India

ISLAMABAD: Posters and flags displayed on different roads of the Federal Capital, urge people to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August. In world over, August 5 is observed as Kashmir Exploitation Day by the people of Kashmir as on this black day, the fascist Modi regime without any legal justification had illegally abrogated the Articles 370 and 35A in 2019, thus abolished the special status of IIOJK unilaterally.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Emergency meeting of the members of the district price control committee held

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The members of District Price Control Committee expressed serious concern over price fixing, fines on small shopkeepers and the move to seal shops. The members of District Price Control Committee decided that in the first phase, Vice Chairman District Price Control Committee Khawaja Shehzad will consult with the traders along with his members. After which the future action plan will be prepared. In the second phase, meetings will be held with the Government Representatives to inform them of the actual facts.

An emergency meeting of the

members of the District Price Control Committee was held on Sunday. In which Salim Parvez Butt Patron General Grocery Association Punjab, Zahoor Bhatti President Flour Mill Dealers Association, Waqar Malik President Malik Association, Zaheer Abbas Abbasi President Poultry Retailers Association, Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry President Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, Mumtaz Ahmed Chairman Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, Huzaifa Yarmal Senior Vice President Bakers Association, Naem Qureshi President Jamiat Al Quraysh, Khurshid Qureshi General Secretary Non Bai

Association specially attended. In the members of District Price Control Committee meeting, concern was expressed over price fixing, fines on small shopkeepers and measures to seal shops. For price control on behalf of the committee, the rates of raw materials in international markets, the prices of food items in local markets and the rates of wholesalers and retailers, to eliminate the gap between demand and supply, and to provide abundant supply of goods, etc.

After the consultation, the future action plan will be prepared while in the next phase, the Member of National Assembly Muhammad Hanif Abbasi will be met. In front of which the concerns of the traders will be informed. During the meeting, the member of the National Assembly will be asked to invite the government and administrative people to a meeting, so that the real facts can be revealed.

business community along with their members to convey their message to the government people on behalf of the members of District Price Control Committee in the first stage. Suggestions will be discussed.

Sardar Attique demands end of Indian rule in Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that August 5 is the day of renewal of pledge that until the state of Jammu and Kashmir is freed from the illegal and immoral occupation of India The freedom movement will continue. The Indian army has been imposed under black laws in Kashmir. We appeal to the United Nations, the international community, OIC, European Union, human rights organizations to uphold this inalienable right of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Play your role to bring and stop the serious violations of human rights in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and play your role for referendum in the state. The front will continue to be forgotten. He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of Black Day on August 5. He said that India, after a conspiracy, violated all these agreements and usurped Kashmir and then committed constitutional terrorism.



Anjum Nisar says overbilling damaging industry, opening floodgates of inflation

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) has blasted the power distribution companies (DISCOs) for issuing highly inflated power bills to the trade and industry in the second quarter (2Q) of Apr-Jun of current fiscal year of 2024-25, who are already harmed by the high cost of doing business, discouraging investment in capacity and capability.

BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the high cost would prove to be detrimental to the industries due to high cost of doing business and has also opened the floodgates of inflation. In addition to making the electricity bills costlier and unaffordable for the consumers, the hike in base tariff would escalate prices of all household goods being widely used in every household, he added.

Quoting a report based on information and data provided by Power Information Technology Company, he said that the scope of pro rata billing had been expanded beyond its original intent instead of solely revising bills for periods exceeding 30 days.

Entire Mughal community strongly condemns the cowardly attack on their leader

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, numerous strong and conscious organizations comprising the Mughal community are engaged in serving the country and the nation according to their standards. Among them, the executive president of Mughalia Rawalpindi Islamabad and prominent business leader Sarfaraz Mughal in his expression expressed his views on federalism. The largest development in capital Islamabad The organization strongly condemned the murderous attack on Tehsildar Mirza Saeed of CDA and gave a clear message that there is a wave of anger in the entire Mughal nation and all the organizations have the same demand that the murderers be brought to justice soon. Chief Minister Punjab, IG Punjab and RP Sarfraz Mughal should be arrested soon.



Experts for collaborative efforts to address energy challenges in SA through regional cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The experts at the study launch of Energy Security in South Asia have stressed the need for collaborative efforts to address energy challenges in South Asia through regional cooperation to ensure energy security.

Speaking at the launch of the study "Energy Security in South Asia: A Case of Transitioning to Sustainable Sources" on Monday, jointly prepared by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), Birgit Lamm, Country Head of FNF, stressed on the urgent need for sustainable energy policies, especially in THE light of the current focus on energy prices in Pakistan.

Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Head

of Energy Unit at SDPI, emphasized that South Asia, while being one of the fastest-growing regions, is highly susceptible to climate change. The ongoing socio-economic turmoil poses a significant challenge, particularly from an energy perspective. Despite the region's vast potential, connectivity between countries remains limited. Over the next 30 years, South Asia is expected to add over 600 million people, significantly increasing energy needs. However, 66% of the region's energy is imported, with fossil fuels accounting for 80% of total energy production.

Considering these opportunities and challenges, the study "Energy Security in South Asia: A Case of Transitioning to Sustainable Sources", examines the viability of regional coop-

eration and transition towards renewable energy as the key to addressing energy security concerns in South Asia. It analyses the energy sector landscape of South Asia, development plans for regional cooperation, and policy focus towards renewable energy upscale.

Hemantha Withanage, Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Justice in Sri Lanka, discussed Sri Lanka's reliance on coal and thermal power for 50-60% of its energy needs. He noted Sri Lanka's ambitious target of achieving 70% renewable energy by 2030 and mentioned ongoing communication with India about installing an underwater transmission cable for energy transfer.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow, SDPI, noted that there

are hard borders in South Asia and geopolitics drives the regional dynamics, however, the shared threat of climate change is beyond physical borders. Moreover, the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) also highlights the need for a collective regional approach to ensure future export competitiveness.

Dr. Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist at the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), provided an update on the CASA-1000 Project, which has faced implementation delays and increased costs over the past 20 years.

Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow at the SAARC Energy Centre, highlighted the significant portion of South Asia lacking access to energy, exacerbated by



climate change driven by fossil fuel use. Shaukat Ali, Regional Programme Expert for South Asia at the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), emphasized the need for policies to electrify rural areas through decentralization.

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Minority Judgement; Gunpowder for the Govt...

The minority judgment announced today by the two-member bench comprising Justices Amin-ud-Din Khan and Naem Akhtar Afghan in the case of SIC versus Election Commission resonated extremely well with the arguments of the government, Election Commission, and all political parties in the government. It is a sigh of relief for the government to assume that they were not the only ones convinced that the decision of the majority bench eight plus the three-member benches, which restored the status of PTI as a party in the national and provincial assemblies and allocated to it the reserved seats for women and minorities, was wrong, unconstitutional, and akin to rewriting the constitution.

Though in its haste, the government bulldozed the approval of the proposed amendments to the election law by the National Assembly Committee. The proposed bills, if enacted, will also amend sections 66 and 104, which will exclude the amendments from the jurisdiction of court orders, including those of the Supreme Court. This bill includes provisions proposing that a political party should not be allocated seats reserved for women and non-Muslim candidates if it fails to submit its list for the reserved seats within the prescribed time. Secondly, a candidate should be considered an independent lawmaker if they have not filed a declaration with the returning officer about their affiliation with a particular political party before seeking the allotment of a poll symbol. Thirdly, an independent candidate shall not be considered a candidate of any political party if, at a later stage, they file a statement to that effect.

These proposed amendments have also undermined the two-member minority judgment issued today and have weakened the government's own case.

The minority judgment, though straightforward, lacked imagination and wisdom, and was plain in content and context. It basically rested its findings on the premise that the allocation of seats under Article 51(6) (d) and Article 106(3) to the political parties in the National Assemblies and provincial assemblies was made in accordance with the law through the proportional representation system of political parties based on the total number of seats secured by each political party.

It argued without any cogent evidence or logic that since the SIC did not participate in the elections as a political party, did not file any list of candidates under Section 104 of the Elections Act, 2017, and did not dispute the election program issued by the ECP for the elections held on 8.2.2024, therefore SIC cannot be allotted reserved seats.

However, the order fell short of answering the fundamental question that kept coming up repeatedly during the entire proceeding of the case: under which provision of the constitution can the leftover reserved seats be allotted to other political parties in the parliament?

This question remained unanswered during the entire proceeding of the case and by the impugned judgment, as the constitution did not assume that such a scenario would ever come into existence

by any stretch of the imagination.

The decision was lacking the imagination to such an extent that instead of sighting the constitutional provision which authorize the Election Commission to allot leftover seats to the existing political parties, it used all force of its argument proving that these leftover seats could not be allotted to independent therefore, with or with reasons these seats will be given to existing political parties in the parliament as spoil of war.

The judgment also did not take into account the fundamental rights of the people of Pakistan, which grant them the right to choose their representatives without being subjected to fear, intimidation, and with free will. The judgment failed to appreciate that the people had voted for and elected the independent candidates with full knowledge and understanding that those "forced to be independent" were actually nominated by the PTI and consciously and willingly mandated them to represent them in the parliament. It failed to grasp the generality of the constitution and, on the basis of a few useless notifications and its jumble of interpretations and non-interpretations of law and rules, it nullified the will and mandate of over 120 million voters.

The judgment also failed to cite any express provision of the constitution that specifically forbade independents from joining a party that either did not contest the elections or did not have a single member in the parliament.

However, it admitted between the lines

that independents had the right to join the SIC but argued that even then, SIC could not qualify for reserved seats. This line of argument, however, was not supported by any specific provision of the constitution but was based on verbosity and baseless conclusions. Its argument that all thirteen members of the larger bench did not give relief to SIC was based on an utter lack of wisdom and deeper appreciation that the other eleven members, in fact, gave the SIC relief that was much more than it asked for.

Though we all know that this judgment, regardless of its strengths and weaknesses, has no bearing or consequences on the majority decisions of the 8+3 judges, the fact remains that it would provide much-needed fodder and gunpowder to the government to undermine and weaken the strength and credibility of the majority judgment. This judgment will also stoke a war of words and narratives between the political parties in the opposition and the government, providing much-needed arguments to parliament to bash the Supreme Court in its subsequent sittings.

It would also provide fodder to the demanding media and become a discussion point on prime time talk shows for a week or so before dying down. However, when the Supreme Court resumes its sitting after summer vacations, the first thing it would have to address would be the proposed amendment in the Election Act, 2024, which by then would retrospectively have excluded the allocation of reserved seats from the purview of the Supreme Court.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Bangladesh protesters demand PM resign as death toll mounts

At least 77 people were killed on Sunday alone, including 14 police officers

Objects set on fire burn as demonstrators with sticks occupy the street during a protest demanding the stepping down of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, following quota reform protests by students, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 4, 2024. Reuters

Hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resign clashed with government supporters Sunday, with dozens killed in one of the deadliest days since demonstrations began.

Rallies that began last month against civil service job quotas have escalated into some of the worst unrest of Hasina's 15-year rule and shifted into wider calls for the 76-year-old to step down.

At least 77 people were killed on Sunday alone, including 14 police officers, with the rival sides battling with sticks and knives and security forces firing rifles, taking the total killed since protests began in July to at least 283.

Police said protesters attacked their officers, including storming a station in the northeastern town of Enayetpur. "The terrorists attacked the police station and killed 11 policemen," said Bijoy Basak, a deputy inspector general.

AFP journalists reported hearing sustained crackles of gunfire after dark on Sunday, with protesters defying a nationwide curfew.

Mobile internet was tightly restricted. In several cases, soldiers and police did not intervene to stem the protests, unlike the past month of rallies that repeatedly ended in deadly crackdowns.

In a hugely symbolic rebuke of Hasina, a respected former army chief demanded the government withdraw troops and allow protests.

Demonstrators in the capital Dhaka, surrounded by a tightly packed and cheering crowd, waved a Bangladeshi flag on top of an armoured car as soldiers watched, according to videos on social media verified by AFP.

Asif Mahmud, one of the key leaders in the nationwide civil disobedience campaign, called on supporters to march on Dhaka on Monday.

"The time has come for the final protest", he said. Troops briefly imposed order after violence erupted in July.

However, protesters returned to the streets in huge numbers this month in a non-cooperation movement aimed at paralysing the government.

"Brought to justice" Vast crowds of protesters, many wielding sticks, packed into Dhaka's central Shahbagh Square on Sunday, with street battles in multiple sites, police said.

"There were clashes between students and the ruling party men," police inspector Al Helal told AFP, saying two young men were killed in Dhaka's Munshiganj district.



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

August 5 Marks a Somber Day in the History of IIOJK - I

Civilization, a hallmark of human progress, takes various forms across nations. Advanced societies exhibit distinct traits that reflect their societal, political, and cultural achievements. These characteristics not only define their global stature but also influence their interactions with the international community.

At the core of advanced societies lies a strong commitment to the rule of law. These nations emphasize justice, equality, and transparency in their legal systems and governance. They uphold human rights, safeguard civil liberties, and ensure mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution. Accountable institutions, checks and balances, and effective law enforcement agencies are crucial for maintaining social order and fostering trust among citizens.

Advanced societies are often distinguished by thriving economies and sustainable development practices. They prioritize innovation, entrepreneurship, and investments in education and infrastructure. Economic stability, a robust middle class, and fair wealth distribution contribute to a high quality of life for their people. These nations also play pivotal roles in global trade and finance, promoting prosperity both domestically and abroad.

Cultural diversity is cherished and preserved in advanced societies, promoting tolerance, understanding, and social unity. They embrace multiculturalism, support artistic expression, conserve heritage, and celebrate linguistic diversity. Cultural diplomacy is recognized as vital for fostering international cooperation

and mutual respect. Education serves as a cornerstone of advanced societies, empowering individuals and driving intellectual progress. These nations prioritize quality education at all levels and invest in research and development across various fields. A knowledgeable workforce fuels innovation and enhances competitiveness in the global economy.

Environmental stewardship and sustainability are priorities for advanced societies. They enact policies to address climate change, conserve natural resources, and promote clean energy solutions. Conservation efforts, efficient waste management, and eco-friendly initiatives are integral parts of their developmental strategies, ensuring a sustainable planet for future generations.

On the global stage, advanced societies actively participate in international affairs, advocating for peace, security, and cooperation. They engage in diplomacy, uphold international law, and collaborate in multinational organizations to tackle global challenges such as poverty, disease, and humanitarian crises. These nations prioritize dialogue and negotiation to foster global stability.

Advanced societies prioritize the well-being of their citizens, ensuring access to quality healthcare, social safety nets, and support systems for vulnerable populations. They invest in public health initiatives, disease prevention, and healthcare

infrastructure to enhance life expectancy and reduce healthcare disparities.

Human rights serve as the foundation of advanced societies, reflecting a commitment to dignity, equality, and justice for all individuals. In these countries, the respect for human rights is not merely a legal or political obligation but a moral imperative that shapes governance, societal norms, and international relations. Advanced societies uphold the inherent dignity and worth of every human being as fundamental principles. Civilized countries acknowledge and protect essential rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture and slavery, freedom of expression, and the right to a fair trial. Upholding these rights guarantees that all individuals are treated with dignity and fairness under the law, irrespective of their background, beliefs, or social status.

Respect for human rights enhances social unity by fostering inclusivity and tolerance within societies. Advanced nations strive to eradicate discrimination and bias, cultivating environments where diversity is both valued and safeguarded. By ensuring equal opportunities and legal protections for everyone, these countries mitigate social tensions and cultivate a sense of community among their citizens.

Human rights form the bedrock of effective governance and the rule of law in civilized societies. Governments uphold accountability, transparency, and the safeguarding of civil liberties by adhering to

international human rights standards and principles. Independent judiciary systems, effective law enforcement agencies, and robust legal frameworks ensure swift redress for human rights abuses and hold perpetrators accountable.

Promoting human rights is integral to advancing sustainable economic and social development. Civilized nations recognize that providing access to education, healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities empowers individuals to actively contribute to society. By investing in human potential and reducing disparities, these nations create conditions that foster long-term prosperity and societal advancement. On the global stage, advanced nations play a pivotal role in advocating for human rights and advancing democratic principles. They engage in diplomatic initiatives, uphold international human rights treaties, and condemn violations of human rights worldwide. Through leading by example and collaborating with other nations, these countries contribute significantly to global efforts aimed at safeguarding and promoting human rights universally.

Advanced nations prioritize the protection of vulnerable populations, including women, children, minorities, refugees, and individuals with disabilities. They implement policies and initiatives to address systemic discrimination, violence, and marginalization, ensuring these groups receive adequate legal protections and support. By advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable, these nations uphold values of compassion and solidarity.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Article 62: bridging the gap between theory and practice



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

we can transition from a cycle of criticism to a constructive effort to uphold the constitutional ideals, thereby fostering a more stable and trustworthy political environment.

Moreover, regular monitoring and evaluation of compliance with Article 62 are essential. This would necessitate the establishment of independent bodies or committees tasked with overseeing the verification process of candidates' qualifications and ensuring adherence to ethical standards. By adhering more rigorously to the constitutional requirements, we can rebuild trust in legislative institutions and enhance their credibility.

In conclusion, the challenge lies not in the constitution itself but in the execution of its mandates. To address the public's loss of trust and the various issues within the legislative system, a committed effort towards enforcing Article 62's requirements is essential. Through such efforts, we can bridge the gap between the constitution's theoretical framework and its practical application, ensuring that the legislative bodies truly reflect the values and qualifications envisaged by the constitution.

Writer is student at University Of Sargodha.

'Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir' to be observed at Pakistan House in New York on Monday

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN and the Pakistan Consulate General in New York have jointly organized a meeting on Monday to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal' marking the fifth anniversary of India's revocation of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomy status, and to show solidarity with Kashmiri people.

The move to scrap Article 370 of India's Constitution, which gives the state of Jammu and Kashmir its own constitution and decision-making rights for all matters except for defence, communications and foreign affairs, was enforced in a bid to integrate the state with the Indian Union. That article also forbids Indians outside the state from permanently



settling, buying land, holding local government jobs and securing educational scholarships.

On 8 August 2019, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reaffirmed that the UN's position

on the Kashmir dispute is governed by the Security Council resolutions, and called for refraining from "taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir."

But the Indian leadership described

its unilateral move as the "Final Solution" for Kashmir, using harsh tactics through deployment of additional troops and a lockdown of the region, following up with the imposition of demographic changes in violation of the international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

Since 2019, human rights violations in Kashmir have escalated, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, sexual violence, and restrictions on freedom of expression. Despite these tough measures, the resolve of the Kashmiri people remains unbroken, and their struggle for freedom continues.

Prominent Kashmiri leaders and activists in New York will attend the meeting, which will be addressed among others by Ambassador Munir Akram.

Altaf Wani calls upon the Kashmiri masses to mark August 5th as Exploitation Day



Spokesman Report

MIRPUR: Urging Kashmiri masses to observe August 5 as exploitation day, the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) has said that the day marks the onset of India's settler colonial project that seeks to control, by all means, Kashmir, its population, and its resources.

In a statement issued here Sunday, JKNF vice chairman Altaf Hussain Wani, while castigating the BJP government for its aggressive designs in the region, said that the August 5 move was an atrocious assault on Kashmiris' national identity.

Termining it as yet another step in India's history of colonizing Kashmir, the leader of the National Front stated that the colonization of Kashmir has since long been a dream project of the BJP and other Hindu supremacist groups who believe in Savarkar's Hindutva ideology.

Wani urged the Kashmiri masses to observe a complete shutdown on the day to convey to the world that Kashmiris neither accept India's illegal occupation of their mother land nor do they accept unilateral decisions the Indian government has taken on and after August 5, 2019.

Condemning in strong terms India's policies of oppression and suppression to subdue Kashmiris, the National Front leader expressed that the fascist regime has turned Kashmir into an open-air prison where people are forced to live in a state of heightened fear of being killed, harassed, and humiliated.

He, however, maintained that despite using all possible means of oppression, India has miserably failed to suppress Kashmiris' urge and their passion for freedom.

Rasool exposes Indian political parties' true face in Kashmir

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An academician, multi-disciplinary scholar and peace activist Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasool has criticized Indian political parties for their handling of the situation in Kashmir, accusing them of bullying and deceiving the Kashmiri people.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Dr Sheikh Waleed Rasool in a media interview in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, argued that the Indian government had sought to erode the property rights of Kashmiris and undermine their ability to self-govern.

He exposed the true face of Indian political parties in occupied Kashmir, adding the Indian government's actions would not extinguish the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom.

He said Youm-e-Istehsal will be observed to express the Kashmiri people's rejection of India's illegal occupation and to protest the Indian government's decision on August 5, 2019, to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

This day serves as a reminder of the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for self-determination and their refusal to accept the Indian government's unilateral actions, which they deem a violation of their rights and a threat to their identity, he said.

To a question, Dr Waleed Rasool strongly criticized the Modi government's policies in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the imposition of Hindu nationalist ideology (Hindutva). He also condemned the government's decision to change the names of places, languages and curriculum of students, which he sees as an attempt to erase the cultural identity and heritage of the Kashmiri people.

He said that even Hitler, notorious for his brutal suppression of minority groups, did not attempt to alter the cultural identity of the regions, as the Indian government is doing in Kashmir. He vehemently criticized the Indian government's policies towards minority communities, particularly Muslims, Christians and other marginalized groups.

UK arrests dozens after protests turn violent in wake of child murders

LONDON: Police arrested dozens of people after protests across parts of England and Northern Ireland turned violent on Saturday, as the government pledged tough action against those it said were exploiting the murder of three girls to stir up disorder.

Violent protests involving hundreds of anti-immigration groups have erupted in towns and cities across Britain after three girls were killed in a knife attack at a children's dance class in Southport in north-west England last week.

The murders were seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups as misinformation spread that the suspect was a radical migrant. Police have said the suspect was born in Britain. Media reports have said his family was Christian.

On Saturday, violent disorder broke out in cities around the country, including Liverpool, Bristol, Hull and Stoke-on-Trent, as well as the town of Blackpool, with local police saying they had arrested at least 87 people. There was also unrest in Manchester and Belfast.

Ambassador condemns India's actions to undermine status of J&K

Spokesman Report

PARIS: Pakistan's ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Saturday strongly condemned India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 and subsequent steps aimed at undermining the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was speaking at a webinar with other participants on Youm-e-Istehsal marking 5 years of India's illegal & unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He said India was trying to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory in flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions related to J&K and international law including the 4th Geneva Convention.

United Nations' position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as contained in the relevant UNSC resolutions and also pronounced by the UN Secretary-General, remained clear and unchanged, he added.



He said there were no takers of the Indian position. The ambassador said there was unanimous rejection of all illegal actions of India by the Kashmiris who were more determined

than ever in their legitimate quest for self-determination and freedom from Indian occupation.

It was moral obligation and responsibility of the international community

to bring an immediate end to Indian oppression, widespread atrocities and grave violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people, he continued.

He said a just and peaceful resolution of the J&K dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people was imperative for regional peace and stability. UN Security Council must fulfill its primary responsibility and ensure implementation of its own resolutions on Kashmir, he stressed.

He said there was historical commitment and strong national consensus in Pakistan to continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiri brothers and sisters till the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination. He called for synergy of efforts at political, diplomatic, legal, human rights and other fronts to effectively promote and project the Kashmir cause including pro-active role and enhanced outreach by the diaspora to the international community.

At least 30 killed in Israeli airstrikes on 2 schools sheltering displaced Gazans, Palestinians report

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: At least 30 people were killed and dozens injured after Israeli airstrikes hit two schools in the Al-Nasr neighborhood in war-ravaged Gaza, according to the Palestinian Civil Defence agency.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defence, told foreign and local reporters that the majority of the bodies recovered are women and children. Rescuers are still searching for missing people under the rubble, he was quoted as saying in reports carried by the international media.

"There is no longer a safe place in Gaza City, and the (Israeli) occupation does not respect any sanctities," he said.

The death toll from Israeli military aggression in Gaza since October 7 reached 39,583 on Sunday, with a further 91,398 people injured, according to the Ministry of Health in the enclave.



Hezbollah fires dozens of rockets at Israel, amid high tensions

Agencies

GAZA: Hezbollah on Saturday said it launched dozens of rockets at Israel as tensions in the Middle East soared with Iran and its allies reading their response to the killing of Hamas's political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran earlier this week.

Amid fears of a regional war, US President Joe Biden hoped that Iran would "stand down" despite its threats to attack Israel.

Hezbollah said its rocket attacks on Moshav Beit Hillel in Israel injured civilians there. It also said it was a retaliatory attack to Israel's strikes on Kfar Kela and

Deir Siriane in Lebanon and after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a senior military commander from Hezbollah.

International media claimed no loss was reported in Hezbollah attack.

Three US and Israeli officials said they had expected Iran to attack Israel as early as Monday, according to an Axios report.

Meanwhile, the US embassy in Lebanon urged its citizens to leave Lebanon on "any ticket available", amid fears of all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah and a broader regional conflict.

Despite flight suspensions

and cancellations, "commercial transportation options to leave Lebanon remain available", the embassy statement said.

"We encourage those who wish to depart Lebanon to book any ticket available to them, even if that flight does not depart immediately or does not follow their first-choice route."

"While we are working round the clock to strengthen our consular presence in Lebanon, my message to British nationals there is clear — leave now."

The Foreign Office said it was "strengthening" its support for Britons in the country by deploying "border force, consular

officials and military personnel to the region".

The Epic of Mughal Saga: Babur the Fearless

My dearest reader let's tell you the story of our ancestors, our beloved warrior Emperors, who are the living embodiment of might, and gave the history one of his masterpiece. The Epic of Mughal Saga.

The narrative of the fabulously talented dynasty began in 1483, when Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, just 12 years old then, ascended the throne of the tiny Mughal principality of Feranga in a faraway Central Asia. Feranga was a lovely land of lush valleys

and gurgling streams, and Babur loved it dearly. But the boy-king, who had the blood of Timur and Chingiz Khan coursing in his veins, was a dreamer of great dreams, where Feranga was too small to sate his ambition. Hence, though a little boy, he set out, soon after his accession, to invade the neighboring kingdom of Samarkand, dreaming of empire and glory.

The fledgling had taken wing too soon. Not only did he fail to hold Samarkand, but soon lost Feranga as well, and for several years he had to wander about in the mountains of Central Asia, a king without a kingdom, even

without a home, seeking a safe anchor somewhere, but vain. Babur wrote in his engaging memoirs, "It came very hard on me, I could not help crying a good deal. But he never lost hope, and fortune favored him eventually, bestowing on him the secure throne of Kabul.

Babur was now king again. And in Kabul his eyes turned towards, where, beyond the snow laden mountains, lay the vast fertile Indo-Gangetic Plain, renowned for its wealth, which was then ruled by the Afghan dynasty of Lodis. However, in November 1525, Babur descended from the white

mountains, crossing the Indus, and swept into Hindustan. This was a perilous enterprise, for he had only a small army of just 12 thousand men, while opposing him was a mammoth Lodi army of 100 thousand men and a formidable contingent of 1000 elephants. But in a 5-hour battle fought at Panipat, about 80 kilometers north of Delhi, which his strategic plan, he entirely routed the army. Babur, at his 43 was finally an emperor.

His life was fulfilled and 4 years later Babur died, making a history. My dearest, reader if Babur can then why you can't?

To be continued...

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,225.98	77,740.30
Day's High	Day's Low
78,434.16	77,926.53
Index Value	Change
10,086,561,059	+485.68
Percentage	Time
+0.62%	2 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,174.71	-108.65
Percentage	Time
-1.31%	2 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,536.07	-811.90
Percentage	Time
-2.01%	2 Aug, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
35,909.70	-2,216.63
Percentage	Time
-5.81%	2 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.8	186
Bahrain Dinar	741.05	749.05
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	301.6	303.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36

Govt considering increase in tax on tractors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: This proposed tax hike comes after the government withdrew a previous sales tax exemption on tractors in the last budget (2024-25) and imposed a 10% sales tax.

Sources within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have revealed that the tax authority has recently held a meeting to discuss this matter. The FBR has now completed a proposal to increase the sales tax on tractors from 10% to 14%.

The tax department will implement the increase in sales tax after receiving approval from the Cabinet.

The finance ministry has already forwarded a summary regarding this proposal to the Cabinet, the sources added. They further explained that the rationale behind raising the sales tax to 14% is that the 10% input tax is not being fully consumed. Meanwhile, the standard sales tax rate is 18%, resulting in refunds being generated for the tractor industry. To address this issue of refunds, the proposal to increase the sales tax on tractors.

676 flour brands in the general market across the province checked. Secretary Food Punjab

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Food Punjab Moazzam Iqbal Sipra regarding the enforcement of flour prices. All Deputy Directors gave a detailed briefing on the flour brands and market prices in their respective divisions. A report on the prices of 676 flour brands in the general market across the province was submitted.

In Lahore, Attock, Murree, and Rawalpindi, 10 kg of flour bag is available for Rs. 820. In Chakwal, Sheikhpura, and Kasur, it is available for Rs. 870, while in Gujranwala, it is available for Rs. 840. In Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Wazirabad, Hafizabad, Nankana, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Multan, Sahiwal, Okara, and Pakpattan, it is available for Rs. 820. In Toba Tek Singh, Chiniot, Khushab, Bahawalpur, and Rahim Yar Khan, the price of a 10 kg flour bag is Rs. 800. In Mianwali, Bhakkar, Jhang, Lodhran, Vehari, Khanewal, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Bahawalnagar, and Kot Addu, the price is Rs. 780. Secretary Food Punjab said that if expensive flour is found in any district, the relevant officer will be responsible. No compromise will be made on the quality of flour along with prices. In view of the monsoon rains, the security of wheat stock will be ensured. The quality of available flour in the market will also be closely monitored.

Pakistan Can Improve Governance by Adopting Reforms Like China's: Zulfiqar Ali Anjum

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Group Chairman of SM Food and Volka Food International, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, while speaking to media representatives in his office, mentioned that two days ago (on Friday), a seminar titled "Pakistan's Economy and Development: Learning from the Chinese Experience" was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). A high-level delegation of Chinese experts participated in the seminar. During the event, the leading Chinese expert elaborated on China's strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and education, and highlighted that similar initiatives could provide significant benefits for Pakistan.



Zulfiqar Ali Anjum noted that representatives from all major think tanks attended the seminar and emphasized the importance of skill development, industrial linkages, and technology transfer between China and Pakistan.

Indeed, this is an excellent initiative by PIDE aimed at establishing intellectual connections with China. We need more research collaborations and exchanges of ideas, as China has much to teach us about policies and reforms.

As a member of the National Export Development Board for Agro and Processed Foods, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum said that the seminar aligned with his thinking and vision. He has always wished for Pakistan to learn the secrets of China's development, a sentiment he has expressed at various national forums. We should learn effective governance and institutional reforms from China, which include eliminating bureaucratic red tape and implementing proper measures against

corruption. China achieved development by eradicating corruption, which is a major barrier to any country's progress. By adopting reforms similar to those in China, Pakistan can improve governance, strengthen institutions, and enhance transparency. Emulating China's policies, infrastructure investments, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), human capital development, technological innovation, export promotion, and governance reforms can pave the way for Pakistan's prosperity. Anjum expressed confidence that the Prime Minister of Pakistan would act on the proposal to learn from China and issue directives to develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable development, thereby resolving the country's economic and administrative issues.

After incident

ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling burned items at Sasta Bazaar H-9 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

New taxation measures in Budget: Monthly inflation hits eight-month high: APBF

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has observed that the monthly inflation rate has reached an eight-month high in previous month of July due to direct and indirect taxes of Rs1.8 trillion in the Budget of current fiscal year of 2024-25.



APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the pace of inflation rose 2.3% compared to the preceding month, in the wake of higher prices of food and energy despite recent cut in the prices of petroleum products, as essential commodities have still not seen a decline in prices, leaving trade and industry frustrated.

The consumers hard. The monthly food inflation in July came in at 4.5% in urban localities.

The reading shows higher inflationary pressures as the monthly index normally stands around 1%. The impact was more pronounced in cities where the new tax measures hit

The APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the government has imposed a record Rs1.8 trillion in new taxes in the new budget for winning a \$7 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. Taxes have been slapped on the salaried persons and the consumable goods used mostly by all segments of society, irrespective of their income levels.

Our struggle is solely to restore the rights of business community: Haji Ghulam Ali

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Business Alliance has delivered a significant blow to its opponents with a powerful show of strength. A grand convention was organized under the banner of Sarhad Business Alliance, which saw the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of Sarhad Chamber members, despite heavy rain. On this occasion, Chairman PCDA, Syed Siraj Ud Din, hosted a dignified dinner in honor of the Sarhad Chamber members. The special guests at the event were Patron-in-Chief of Sarhad Business Alliance and former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, and Chairman and former Provincial Minister, Syed Zahir Ali Shah.



The massive turnout of Sarhad Chamber members at the event demonstrated that the opposing group is now nothing more than a crumbling wall. The spirited and impactful speeches by the people's Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, and former Minister, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, greatly inspired the business community. Particularly noteworthy was the announcement that after taking office, no one will need to plead for membership in Sarhad Chamber, as an online membership system will be introduced, which will be a significant convenience for businesspersons. Additionally, membership renewal fees and letter fees will be halved.

family is participating in this election; our struggle is solely to restore the rights, dignity, and lost significance of the business community, and to hand over the Chamber's lost position to the genuinely elected members and cabinet." His words sparked new enthusiasm and passion within the business community.

announced his separation from Sarhad Chamber Businessman Forum and his resignation from all chairmanships of Sarhad Chamber committees, declaring his decision to join Sarhad Business Alliance. His decision marks a new direction and strength within the business community.

In his speech, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali clarified, "Neither I nor my

Former Minister Malik Mehr Elahi, Siraj Ud Din, Sharafat Ali Mubarak, and others also expressed their views, stating that the time has come for the business community to fully support Sarhad Business Alliance in reclaiming their lost position and liberating the Chamber from the control of a group of five, returning it to the members. They declared this moment as the beginning of a new era for the business community.

Other dignitaries and members present at the event included Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Abdul Hameed Gurwara, Khawaja Yawar Naseer, Adnan Jalil, Jawad Ahmed Khan Tabassam, Bakht Mir Jan Durani, Syed Akbar, Shehzad Siddique, Ali Jahangir, Sartaj Khan Duranpur, Shahrulkh Khan Duranpur, Siraj Khan, and others, who graced the event with their presence. All the dignitaries strongly endorsed the initiatives of Sarhad Business Alliance. The enthusiasm of the members was commendable.

Food Minister, food safety teams raided a unit in Township, destroyed 4,710kg substandard Tea leaves.

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A notorious business of fake labelling of renowned brands in the open market has been exposed in Lahore. Under the supervision of Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Food Safety teams raided a unit in Township and destroyed 4,710kg

of substandard tea leaves that was being packed in the fake packaging of popular brands. A case was registered against the unit owner on account of fake packaging of well-known brands in the nearest police station while Minister Food directed concerned department to take strict legal action against the accused. During the operation,

the raiding team seized 3,710kg of packaging material, 1,000kg of inferior quality of tea leaves, fake labeling, and 10 machines. On the occasion, Provincial Minister for Food Bilal Yasin said that a network of supplying tea leaves of four famous brands to different areas of Lahore has also been exposed. He said that

the tea leaves were preserved on the surface of the floor that to be packed in different sizes of boxes and bags. He said that tax evaders and fraudulent elements are criminals against both the public and the state. The Food Minister further said that special teams will be formed to break the network of delivering fake items to the food market. He stated that the data of the mafia playing with the health of citizens will be compiled, and strict legal action will be taken against them as per the law. On the occasion, Punjab Food Authority Director General Asim Javed, Additional Director Operations and other officers were also present.

PCB signs historic MOUs for development of School, College and University Cricket

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board has today signed historic memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Inter-Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) to promote cricket and improve the cricketing infrastructure in schools, colleges and universities across Pakistan.

The signing ceremony, held at the CDA headquarters, was graced by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. Other attendees were Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Federal Secretary Education Mohiuddin Wani, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and senior officials from the Higher Education Commission, Inter Boards Coordination Commission, and CDA.

The MoUs were signed by key representatives, including Director Domestic PCB Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Director Sports Inter Boards Coordination Commission Muhammad Usman Khan, and Director Sports Higher Education



Commission Javed Ali Memon.

All participating organisations will work together to ensure the tournaments yield the best results. This collaborative approach is expected to strengthen cricket from the grassroots level.

This comprehensive plan includes organising cricket tournaments and leagues at various educational levels,

catering to both boys and girls nationwide. The initiative will encourage the establishment of cricket academies in higher education institutions and focus on promoting women's cricket. The HEC will also support outstanding players with sports scholarships.

PCB will provide special coaching courses for Physical Training Education (PTE) teachers, and PCB coaches

will visit schools to train boys and girls during school camps. Furthermore, PCB will offer free training to ground staff and curators of higher education institutions.

Top performers from school and college tournaments will have the opportunity to join PCB U17 and U19 teams and receive training at High-Performance Centres. Additionally, PCB will ensure annual training courses for selected players from inter-university championships.

PCB Chair Mohsin Naqvi: "We are excited about this historic effort to promote cricket at the grassroots level. The organisation of inter-school, inter-collegiate, and inter-university tournaments will help us identify and nurture young talent across the country."

Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui: "Schools are the nurseries of talent. Good players often emerge from school-level sports. Under these agreements, the IBCC will oversee tournament arrangements in collaboration with all educational boards, while the HEC will develop a framework to promote cricket in higher education institutions."

Emerging nations' shuttlers chase Olympic dreams, shouldering national hopes

Xinhua

PARIS: The vibrant atmosphere at the Porte de la Chapelle Arena on Wednesday night bore witness to an inspiring moment in Olympic badminton. Singapore's 10th-seed, Loh Kean Yew, clinched victory with a deft shot to the baseline, concluding Uriel Francisco Canjura Artiga's journey in the Paris Olympics.

For the 23-year-old Salvadoran, this was more than just a match, it marked El Salvador's debut in the Olympic badminton tournament.

"It's an incredible experience. I never imagined being in a place like this, in a huge arena with all the best players in the world," Canjura shared enthusiastically post-game.

Canjura's journey from humble beginning, playing barefoot on a backyard court with lines marked by white ashes, to the Olympic stage is a testament to his resilience and determination.

At 15, he left his family to train in San Salvador, a city once notorious for violence. "It was very dangerous, you couldn't go out with your phone or money. Luckily, they didn't know the value of a badminton racket," Canjura recalled,



noting the irony with a chuckle.

Badminton, originally popularized by British expatriates in India, is now dominated by Asian powerhouses like China and Indonesia, with strong competition from European nations such as Denmark. However, a new wave of athletes from Africa and Latin America is emerging, eager to make their mark on the sport's grandest stage.

One such trailblazer is Guatemalan shuttler Kevin Cordon, who reached the semifinals at the Tokyo Olympics, setting a new milestone for his country and region. Though injury forced him to withdraw early from the Paris games, his legacy continues to inspire young players across Latin America, including Canjura. "He is our inspiration. A semifinal at the Olympics is not easy. He did that, so why can

I not do the same?" Canjura remarked.

Similarly, Nigerian player Anuoluwapo Juwon Opeyori, who has competed in two consecutive Olympics, has become a beacon of hope for his compatriots.

Hailing from an informal settlement in Lagos, Opeyori was discovered by his coach while playing soccer. Despite lacking proper facilities and training with worn-out equipment, he rose to become a four-time African champion and determined to break the jinx of African badminton at the Olympics, where no African men's singles player has yet reached the knockout rounds.

"We mostly train with used shuttles, which limits the intensity of training," Opeyori noted, pointing out the challenges faced by African players in accessing quality equipment.

Opeyori, the chief captain of Nigeria's Olympic badminton team, faced a formidable opponent in Paris, losing to China's 6th-seed Li Shifeng in the group stage. Despite the setback, both he and Canjura remain undeterred, recognizing their roles in representing and inspiring their nations.

"It's a big responsibility for me, but I'm taking it step-by-step," Canjura said.

Hazara Quetta, TWK victorious in National Women's Football Club C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hazara Quetta and TWK won matches in the National Women's Football Club Championship 2024 on the third day of its final stage, played at Jinnah Stadium of the Pakistan Sports Complex here Sunday.

On the day first match, Hazara Quetta WFC displayed their dominance on the

field with a remarkable 7-0 victory over Jafa WFC. Farishata was the star of the match, scoring five goals and leading her team to a resounding win. Sadiqa and Farzana also contributed to the scoreboard, each netting a goal to secure the victory.

The second match saw TWK face off against Diya FC, resulting in another impressive performance. TWK triumphed



with a staggering 13-0 scoreline. Anushay Usman led the charge with four goals, while Aqsa followed closely with three.

Anmol Khan and Anmol Hira each scored two goals and Ayda added one more to complete the emphatic win for TWK

Pakistan clinches bronze medal in Asian Men's U18 Volleyball C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan team secured a bronze medal in the 15th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship, at Bahrain.

In a dominant display of skill and teamwork, Pakistan triumphed over Japan with a decisive 3-0 victory in the third-place match. The set scores were 25-13, 25-21, and 25-17, showcasing Pakistan's superior play.

This impressive performance places Pakistan in the third position among 16 participating countries, including notable teams from Bahrain, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Iran, China, Lebanon, the Philippines, India, Korea, and Kuwait. The victory not only brings a Bronze Medal but also marks a significant milestone for Pakistan volleyball, reflecting the growth and potential of the sport in the country.

The success of the Pakistan U18 team is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the players, coaching staff, and the Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF). Under the expert guidance of Head Coach Saeed Ahmed Khan, the team has developed into a formidable force in the Asian volleyball scene. The coaching staff's strategic planning and rigorous training regimen played a crucial role in honing the skills of the young athletes, enabling them to perform at their best on the international stage. The support and leadership of Ch Muhammad Yaqoob, Chairman of the PVF, have been instrumental in promoting volleyball in Pakistan. His vision and efforts have significantly increased the sport's popularity and participation across the region. This achievement is a reflection of the federation's commitment to developing volleyball talent and providing opportunities for young athletes to compete at the highest levels.

In addition to securing the Bronze Medal, the Pakistan U18 Men's Volleyball Team has also qualified for the upcoming World Championship.

Jashan-e-Azadi sports gala concludes



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A three-day Jashan-e-Azadi sports gala has concluded in Sports Complex FDA City with an impressive concluding ceremony.

Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed chaired the event as the chief guest and said that sports are imperative to promote healthy society.

She said that the government was committed to promoting sports activities at grassroots level and in this connection, a state-of-the-art sports complex was established in FDA City to provide sports facilities to the masses.

Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhary said that more than 100 players participated in the sports gala which comprised various events of swimming, badminton, basket ball, lawn tennis, snooker, table tennis, etc.

He said that FDA Sports Complex stood first in the sports gala while Chenab Club and Minerva Club grabbed second and third positions respectively.

Later, the divisional commissioner distributed cash prizes and trophies among the position holders.

Additional Director General FDA Dilawar Khan Chaddhar, Chief Engineer Mehar Ayub, Directors Asma Mohsin, Yasir Ejaz Chattha, Sohail Maqsood Pannu, Snooker Champion Muhammad Asif, Manager Sports Complex Rizwana Kamal and others were also present on the occasion.

Tokyo Olympic champion Zhang defends Chinese swimmers, questions 'unfair' Western media

Xinhua

PARIS: Two-time Olympic champion Zhang Yufei defended her teammate and newly crowned 100m freestyle champion Pan Zhanle at the Paris Olympics as she hit back at accusations of cover-ups in recent contamination cases involving the country's athletes.

"He has swum under 47 seconds many times and has made steady improvement in recent years. This is not something that has been achieved in one day. Pan, like every other Chinese athlete, has taken dozens of doping tests."

Zhang challenged the double standards in the scrutiny faced by Chinese athletes compared to their Western counterparts.

"Maybe you should ask him or his coach why he can swim so fast," she said of Pan. "But why should Chinese athletes be questioned about it? What if the world record is broken by an athlete from other country? Has anyone questioned Michael Phelps when he won so many medals? Why does the western media not question Katie Ledecky when she dominated? It's ridiculous."

Zhang said that Chinese swimmers had "nothing to hide" and strongly defended the actions and integrity of the Chinese Anti-Doping Agency (CHINAADA).

"I don't think it has influenced me or any other Chinese swimmer," said Zhang, reflecting on the impact of the allegations on her performance and morale.

Zhang emphasized the transparency and diligence of global authorities such as swimming governing body World Aquatics and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

"We're innocent. World Aquatics and WADA [World Anti-Doping Agency] have made very clear statements about the whole thing. Some people just don't want to believe it. There's nothing we can do to change those people's mind."

Highlighting the rigorous testing regime that athletes undergo, Zhang acknowledged the inconvenience but stressed the importance of compliance.

"It's our responsibility to do the doping tests," said the 26-year-old, who has won two gold and two silver in Tokyo

before claiming three bronze medals at the Paris Olympics.

"It's not only for Chinese swimmers. The frequency of the doping tests, for both Chinese swimmers and swimmers from other countries, has been increasing. It's every athlete's obligation to do it. In terms of the impact, I think anyone who is waken up to take the test around 5 a.m. might feel a little bit annoyed."

Zhang also addressed the broader impact of the doping allegations on China's Olympic ambitions. "We won't change our goal for the Olympics. The goal was established before the Games and we won't change it because we don't need to."

She reiterated her faith in the fairness of World Aquatics and



WADA, condemning the leaks that have marred athletes' reputations.

"I believe World Aquatics and WADA have made fair decisions and they won't cover up anything

for anyone who made mistakes. World Aquatics has made the investigation and respected the privacy of the athletes. They don't want the athletes to be influenced and compete in the Olympics in

an unfair way. But the athletes' information has been leaked out by western media."

Zhang expressed sadness at the unfair portrayal of her image in the media after some Western media outlets accused authorities of covering up contamination cases involving 23 Chinese swimmers.

"Some websites used my picture to represent the 23 athletes. That's not right and has caused me troubles. It's not my problem or my fault so why should I bear the consequence? As an athlete still competing, I'm worried that other competitors doubted me and don't want to compete with me. I'm also worried if some spectators don't want to see me competing anymore."

Youm e Istehsal

MUZAFFARABAD: Citizens looking at a banner at Chhatar Chowk regarding August 5 Kashmir Exploitation Day.



Photo: Online

Fast progress on second phase of CPEC: PM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said work was progressing fast on the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and there was positive momentum on further promotion of cooperation with China in different fields during visit of Chinese experts to Pakistan.

He was speaking during a meeting here with a seven member delegation of journalists who returned from an official visit to China undertaken on the invitation of government institution China Public Diplomacy Association.

He said China was sincere friend which helped Pakistan on every difficult occasion.

He urged that all stakeholders should rise above politics to work together on the national development projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said whenever Allah Almighty gave him an opportunity to serve the country he



pledged to himself to focus all his energies on progress of the country.

He said he was thankful to the Chinese leadership and people on the exemplary hospitality shown during his recent visit to China. He told that he himself was monitoring the progress on the memorandums of understanding and agreements after the visit to China.

He assured that Pakistan

was ensuring all steps for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

There was no place for politics of any kind on relations with a close friend like China, he remarked.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was present in the meeting.

The delegation of journalists included Salman Ghani of

ings that took place during the visit and said that China greatly valued its brotherly ties with Pakistan.

The delegation paid tribute to the prime minister on business and investor friendly policies of the government. While apprising the prime minister about the views of the Chinese leadership and people about the government of Pakistan, they said China had an impression of satisfaction on the government steps taken under the leadership of prime minister Shehbaz Sharif for Chinese investment particularly on the pace of work on projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chinese officials on different occasions mentioned "Shehbaz Speed" and appreciated reform agenda of the prime minister.

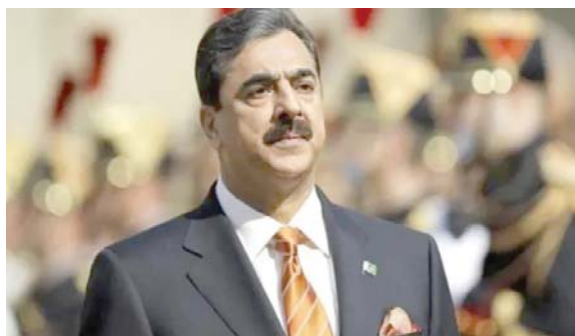
The delegates further said that during meetings with the Chinese officials they witnessed special enthusiasm for Pakistan China economic cooperation particularly CPEC.

August 5 to be remembered as dark day in history: Gilani

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated on Sunday that August 5, 2019, will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message on Youm-e-Istehsal, he said, "The 5th of August will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of



Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 using violent tactics, imposing lockdowns, and other coercive measures to suppress local voices."

He added that unilaterally altering the internationally recognized disputed status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)

is a clear violation of international laws and covenants, which speaks volumes about India's hegemonic designs. "Such acts will never change the facts or undermine the right to self-determination of Kashmiris," he added.

The chairman said that it is high time for the global community to acknowledge the pain and suffering of the people of IIOJK and to raise their voices on humanitarian grounds, as humanity is suffering.

He said that continuous violence in IIOJK has failed

to silence the voices of Kashmiris, whose sacrifices and courage remain unparalleled. Pakistan's stance on the issue is clear and vocal.

Gilani also noted that Indian belligerent postures, violations of international laws, and disregard for UNSC resolutions continue to pose a threat to regional peace and stability.

"Pakistan has raised all these concerns at the international level and will continue to extend moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people," he said.

Amir Maqam calls Int'l community to play its role to address Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD, AUG 4 (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the long-standing Kashmir valley issue of the region.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the minister said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through the resolution of the United Nations as without a solution to this issue there is no peace and development in the region.

He said that the incumbent government was highlighting the

Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms of the globe effectively. The minister underlined that since August 5, 2019, to date in the last five years around 900 people have been killed, more than 2500 freedom fighters injured and many widows have been arrested by Indian forces.

India is claiming the largest democratic state of the world but violating the human rights and suppressing the self-determination rights of Kashmiris, he added.

Amir Muqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir



on August 5. He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which will complete five years on August 5.

He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being

observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said.

Amir Maqam appealed to all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk so that a clear message could be sent to India that the government and people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir dispute.

He said that the Indian actions were aimed at a process of demographic change and political engineering. As a result, he said that the Kashmiri people are confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered community in their land.

Resolution of Kashmir dispute essential for achieving lasting peace in region: NA Speaker

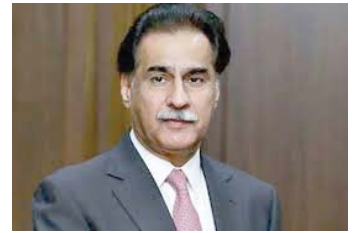
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday said that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute is essential for achieving lasting peace in the region.

He reiterated the need to resolve this long-standing dispute in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stance to support the Kashmiri people in their rightful struggle for freedom and self-determination.

The Speaker expressed these views on the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir, which is observed on the 5th August every year.

The speaker strongly condemned



the illegal annexation of Indian-Occupied Kashmir and stated, "The Indian government abrogated Article 370 and 35-A of its constitution, stripping Kashmir of its special status and imposing a military siege on the territory", he said.

While lauding the resilience of the Kashmiri people he stated, "their struggle for freedom and self-determination is a beacon of hope for the entire region".

President AJK calls India's August 5 move 'darkest day' in Kashmir's history

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while terming August 5 as the darkest day in the Kashmir's history, has said that India's apartheid regime's move to strip the region of its special status was a brazen violation of the UNSC resolutions.

In his video message released on the eve of Youm e Istehsal, the president said that the main motive behind the revocation of Article 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution was to change the political and constitutional status of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"India has been committing state terrorism against the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since a long time, however, the level of brutality and state repression has intensified significantly after August 5, 2019", he said.

He, however, maintained that despite using alleans of oppression and suppression Indian government has failed in its attempt to break the Kashmiris' political resolve.

"India wants to annex Occupied Kashmir forcibly, but the Kashmiri



people have time and again refused to be a part of India", Barrister Chaudhry said.

"The Kashmiri people want to determine their future in the light of the United Nations resolutions, which clearly recognize their inalienable right to self-determination", he said.

He said that the Modi government wants to stage a fake election drama in Occupied Kashmir, but New Delhi needs to realize the fact that nothing short of plebiscite can satisfy the Kashmiris' aspirations.

Barrister Chaudhry made it clear division of the state as a solution was not acceptable to the people of Kashmir.

He said that holding a referendum in the state to allow the Kashmiri people to determine their political future was the only way forward to settle the lingering dispute peacefully.

AJK PM says August 5 will go down in history as darkest day



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that August 5, 2019 will go down in the history of Kashmir as the darkest day.

"It marks the onset of a settler-colonial project that seeks to control, by all means, Kashmir and the Kashmiri people, take hold of their land and other resources", the PM AJK said in his message released on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, today.

"By abrogating article 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, unilaterally, the India's apartheid regime led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed an egregious constitutional fraud", the message said.

"The contentious move, aimed at suppressing the Kashmiris' legitimate political aspirations, ran counter to the UNSC resolutions and other international covenants", the PM added.

Following this illegal, unconstitutional and immoral move, the PM said, "The Hindu supremacist regime intensified its efforts to give a practical shape to its settler-colonial agenda that seeks to alter the region's demography by settling outsiders (Non-state subjects)".

"Bringing Israel's settler-model in Kashmir; the Indian government enacted a series of new laws in addition to modifying Kashmir's age-old

domicile law, which ultimately paved the way for non-Kashmiris to settle in the state", the message said.

In a bid to convert Muslim majority of the state into a minority, he said, the Indian occupation authorities issued fake domicile certificates to millions of non-state subjects since 2019.

"After the unconstitutional, illegal and immoral action of 05 August 2019, the occupied Jammu and Kashmir was turned into an open air prison", the PM said adding that the people of Kashmir were imprisoned in their homes, unable to communicate with each other, express themselves on social media, or make their voices heard through any other means

"A crippling siege coupled with communication blockade was imposed to make sure that no one raises his/her voice against this disgusting move, which pushed the dispute territory deeper into a quagmire of chaos and uncertainty that reigns supreme in the region", he said.

"India's illegal and belligerent military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir continues to pose a serious existential threat to Kashmir's indigenous population that lives in a constant fear of being turned into a minority and eventually driven out of their motherland", the AJK premier said.