

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول ﷺ
بجائے کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جو شخص اللہ اور آخرت کے دن پر ایمان رکھتا ہو اسے اپنے مہمان کی عزت کرنا چاہئے۔ اس کی خاطر داری اس ایک دن اور رات کی سے مہمانی تین دن اور راتوں کی اس کے بعد جو ہو وہ ضرور ہے اور مہمان کے لیے جائز نہیں کہ وہ اپنے میزبان کے پاس آئے دن ٹھہر جائے کہ اسے تک کر ڈالے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6135)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Romina highlights role of women and girls in disaster risk reduction

Coordinator to PM on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday promoting gender equality and ensuring that women and girls are actively involved in all stages of disaster risk reduction (DRR) —from planning to implementation— is vital to enhance the effectiveness of DRR strategies... (Details on Page 3)



Aurangzeb exudes confidence in IMF board's approval of \$7bn loan deal

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that he is confident that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Board of Directors will approve the staff-level agreement by the end of August. Addressing the "Climate Action for Pakistan" event organised by Acumen Pakistan on Tuesday, the finance czar also indicated that there would be discussions with the IMF management board regarding climate financing.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 1, Wednesday, August 7, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 115 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Visit

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrives in Saudi Arabia. He was received by Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, Ahmad Farooq and Director General of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Madinah Branch Ibrahim bin Muhammad Saeed Alsobhi at Madinah Airport on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

DPM Dar arrives KSA to attend OIC extraordinary meeting

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Executive Committee.

At the Madinah airport, the deputy prime minister was received by Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia Ambassador Ahmad Farooq and Director General of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Madinah Branch Ibrahim bin Muhammad Saeed Alsobhi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X account.

DPM Dar arrives KSA to attend OIC extraordinary meeting

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister would participate in the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee on 7 August, which is being convened at the

request of the State of Palestine and the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestine and other regional states, the spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the earlier press release said.

"As one of the staunchest supporters of the Palestinian cause, Pakistan has always been at the forefront in raising its voice at all international fora, including the OIC," it was added.

At the extraordinary meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister would present Pakistan's serious concerns about the dire situation in Gaza and the wider Middle East region.

"He will emphasize the urgency of peace and provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza. On the sidelines, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other OIC member states," the spokesperson said.

Bill barring independents from joining parties passed by Senate

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: After the National Assembly, the Senate of Pakistan also passed a bill barring independent legislators from joining a party after a stipulated time.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented a private bill "The Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024" amid protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The bill is perceived by political analysts and legal experts as an attempt by the government to avert the July 12 verdict of the Supreme Court, declaring the PTI eligible for reserved seats.

According to the bill, lawmakers cannot change the party after joining one within three days of winning the election. Furthermore, reserved seats cannot be allotted to a party, that did not win a single seat in the

election.

"Provided that if a candidate, before seeking allotment of a prescribed symbol, has not filed a declaration before the returning officer about his affiliation with a particular political party by submitting a party certificate from the political party confirming that he is that party's candidate, he shall be deemed to be considered as an independent candidate and not a candidate of any political party," the bill's text read.

Speaking on the occasion, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the authority to legislate rests with Parliament. "A group of 17 individuals cannot be allowed to legislate," he added.

The law minister also criticised the previous PTI-led government, saying that they passed 51 bills in a single day during their tenure, and now they question others' legislative efforts.

"Everyone knows how legis-



lation was done during PTI's tenure," Azam Nazeer Tarar added.

Earlier in the day, the National Assembly also passed the bill moved by PML-N's lawmaker Bilal Azhar Kiyani who presented the bill as a private member.

After passage from the Senate, the bill will be enacted soon after assent by President Asif Ali Zardari.

'Govt intends to override SC

he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the legislation was done aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision declaring the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for reserved seats.

A 13-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, ruled that the PTI is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict, setting aside the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Afghan, Justice Yahya Afridi, and Justice Ameenuddin Khan opposed the majority decision.

Pakistan secures one-year debt rollover assurances from key lenders: report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured commitments from China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to roll over debt for a year, in a bid to secure a crucial \$7 billion International Monetary Fund bailout package, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday.

The New York based news outlet stated that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told reporters in Islamabad after a parliamentary committee meeting that the volume of rollovers would be the same as last year.

Pakistan has \$12 billion in bilateral loans that have been extended for the past few years, he said.

Last month, the finance minister said that Pakistan has initiated a major effort to restructure its debt obligations with key allies, China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

In his first press conference after the Beijing visit on July 28, he stated

that Islamabad has requested above mentioned friendly nations to extend the maturity period of over \$12 billion in annual debt by three to five years, aiming to secure IMF board approval for the 37-month bailout by next month. The government aimed to re-profiling a total of \$27 billion in debt.

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund reached an agreement for a loan programme in July. It would be the country's 24th "longer and bigger" loan programme.

Aurangzeb said the government expected to manage a financing gap of as much as \$5 billion during the fund's three-year programme.

In its statement following the staff-level agreement with Islamabad, the IMF said the new Extended Fund Facility programme was subject to approval from its executive board and obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners".

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry visits PTI hunger strike camp

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday visited the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) hunger strike camp outside Parliament House, set up to press the federal government to release the party's founder Imran Khan from prison.

During his meeting, the PTI leaders brought up the issue of Form 47 — a document detailing unconfirmed results of a constituency, including the number of votes cast and cancelled.

The PTI leaders demanded the government to return their stolen mandate. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry responded, "This is your claim, but the truth will come out later."

Sheikh Waqas Akram said, "We request you to return our seats, as the people are suffering due to the economic burden imposed on them." Chaudhry replied, "We understand that the people's problems should be addressed, and we will work towards that."

When asked about his visit, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said, "I have come here on my own will, and no one has directed me to do so." He also emphasised that protests should be held in a peaceful manner, without causing damage



to public property.

Regarding the rumors of restrictions on Nawaz Sharif's travel abroad, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry clarified, "There are no restrictions on Nawaz Sharif's travel abroad. This is just a rumor being spread intentionally."

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) approved physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan in connection with 12 cases related to May 9 riots.

The development came after Islamabad district and sessions court accepted the appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi against their conviction in the Iddat case.

ISI changed Bangladesh government, claims Indian media

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's premium spy agency — Inter-Services Intelligence — changed the government in Bangladesh, an Indian media outlet reported while quoting an intelligence report.

Tarique Rahman, acting chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, met with officials from ISI in Saudi Arabia, India Today reported. The meetings were part of a broader plan to allegedly destabilise PM Sheikh Hasina's government and restore the BNP.

The plan was reportedly

drafted in London with the intelligence agency's purported involvement.

Protests erupted in Bangladesh over a controversial quota system, which reserved a significant portion of government jobs for veterans' families. Though the Supreme Court reduced such quotas, the protests escalated into a broader anti-government movement, leading to violent clashes.

Social media played a crucial role in the unrest, with numerous anti-Hasina posts, many originating from Pakistani and US-based accounts, the Indian media report said.

Continued on Page 2

Kashmir is long-standing dispute of South Asia: Former PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the leader of Muslim League-N, Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider Khan, has said that the Kashmir issue is a long-standing dispute of South Asia, which is the unfinished agenda of the partition of India.

In his special statement on the occasion of Exploitation Day, he said that the entire nation protested against Indian actions on the occasion of Exploitation Day and told the world that India has occupied Occupied Kashmir by force and its evil army is breaking mountains of oppression on Kashmiris.

No power in the world can weaken the inseparable relationship between

Pakistan and Kashmir, India terminated the special status of illegally occupied Kashmir on August 5, 2019, but the Kashmiris rejected Indian actions. God willing, we have to defeat India's Hindutva and Chanakya policy together, Pakistan and Kashmir are bound in an unbreakable relationship, while paying homage to the martyrs of Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that on behalf of the Pakistani nation. Thanks to him for his unprecedented solidarity with the Kashmiris, Pakistan is our only advocate in the world and its people are our benefactors.

He said that in the recent elections of India, Modi was defeated in Occupied Kashmir despite spending trillions of rupees. Indian actions of August were rejected by Kashmiris



of different religions living in all regions. The sacrifices of Kashmiris will not go in vain, Inshallah Occupied Kashmir will be free. He said that India thought that by abolishing 370 and 35 A, it would suppress the Kashmiris, but it failed.

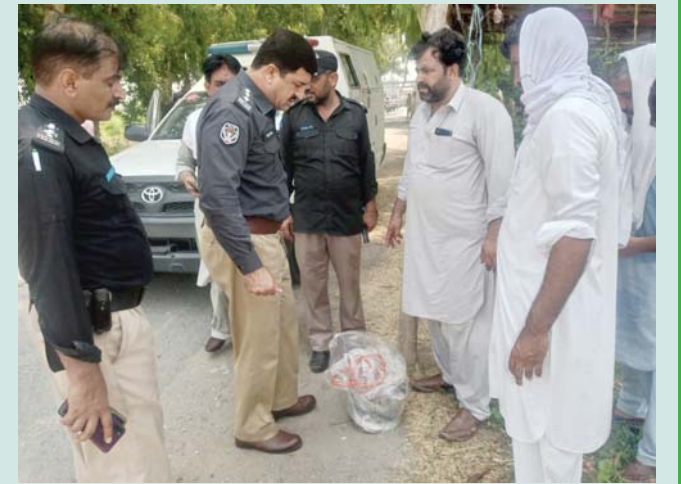
He said that lakhs of Kashmiris have given sacrifices for the love of the green crescent flag and are still giving sacrifices. Distinguished Kashmiri leaders are imprisoned, but the freedom movement has not decreased.

He said that the brave Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives.

This movement has been watered with blood, so we have no disappointment and we will continue to protest against India with all our strength. He also appealed to the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and give Kashmiris their right should play its role to bring self-determination, Inshallah, Kashmiris will get their own land.

All the natural and commercial routes of the state meet with Pakistan.

Takht Bhai, Successful Operation Foils Major Terrorism Plot



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: In a successful operation, local police in the Takht Bhai Circle, Saroshah Police Station jurisdiction recovered a large quantity of explosives, thwarting a major terrorist plot.

According to details, local police received intelligence about unknown terrorists planning sabotage in the Saroshah Police Station area, with a stockpile of explosives. Confirming the information, DSP Takht Bhai Circle Shakeel Khan led the operation with the BDS Squad and police, recovering a significant amount of explosives/IEDs hidden in Kamran Kale, within the Saroshah Police Station limits. This timely operation foiled the terrorists' plan. Local police and the BDS Squad utilized the information effectively, preventing a major terrorist plot. Further investigation is underway.

Telenor's failure to deliver on its promises in Takht Bhai

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Network Woes Haunt Customers. Telenor, a private mobile company, has failed to provide adequate services to its customers in Takht Bhai, rendering its network a constant source of frustration. Despite promising 4G speeds, the company struggles to deliver even 1MB of internet speed, leaving users exasperated. The network's poor performance has become a mere myth, causing immense suffering for users. In Takht Bhai tehsil, Telenor's inability to provide reliable services has reached a boiling point. Calls are frequently disconnected, and the claimed 4G speeds remain elusive. The company's network issues have taken a mental toll on users, who face daily harassment due to the subpar service. The public is fed up with the persistent network problems and poor management. Students, government and private institutions, businesspeople, doctors, lawyers, and other organizations are severely affected by Telenor's shortcomings. Public circles are urging the government and local stakeholders to take notice of Telenor's failures and prompt corrective action.

Multan Police Arrested 357 Criminals Members of 122 Dangerous Gangs and Recovered Stolen Property



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Police Officer DIG Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar while addressing the press conference said that effective patrolling plan, snap-checking, surprise blockade and best strategies of Multan Police have tightened the grip around the criminals. There has been a clear reduction in crime. As a result of strong actions against criminals by Multan Police, the crime rate has decreased by 35% during the current year as compared to the first 7 months of last year.

Multan Police arrested 357 members of 122 gangs and recovered stolen property worth more than 18 crore rupees during the last 07 months. During the last 7 months, Multan police arrested 65 accused of murder, 160 of attempted murder, 20 of murder, 30 of blind murder, 140 of robbery, 1710 of rape, 65 of adultery, rape of minor girls, 69, 280 of kidnapping, 43 of extortion, 820 of vehicle theft and 85 of cattle theft were arrested. Multan police arrested 31 robbers in injured condition during 28 police encounters while 10 robbers were killed. 802 cases of illegal weapons were registered and 802 accused were arrested and 16 Kalashnikovs, 25 rifles, 36 guns, 10 revolvers, 705 pistols and 2213 bullets were also recovered. 2270 cases were registered and 2320 accused were arrested while taking action against drugs and more than 09 and a half kilograms of ice, more than 07 and a half kilograms of heroin, 744 kilograms of hashish, 08 kilograms of opium, 88328 bottles of liquor, 34 chalubhti, 25 liquors, Nosh and 287 kg of cannabis were recovered. Multan police registered 254 cases in gambling and arrested 710 accused, while against kite flying, Multan police registered 480 cases and arrested 490 accused in this year and recovered more than 62 thousand kites, 585 strings while 4 factories were also sealed. Gone. During the last 07 months, Multan Police arrested a total of 2186 criminals, while 573 court fugitives were arrested, while a total of 515 acquitted habitual criminals were also arrested and legal action was taken.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar said that special teams have been formed to eradicate crime in the city and an effective patrolling plan has also been set up by the police, while patrolling by police mobile, dolphin force and security squad has been increased. went Police teams have also been made more active where the information about the incident was being received. CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar also said that the police teams have been given a special task to trace and arrest gangs involved in robbery, robbery, theft, motorcycle and other crimes. Crime Control by Multan Police. All possible and necessary steps are being taken to establish peace and order in the city.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) hosted its 37th Medal and Prize Distribution Ceremony on August 6, 2024, at IMCB, H-9, Islamabad. This annual event honors students who have achieved top three positions in board examinations at the Secondary and Higher Secondary levels. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, as Chief Guest.



Photo: Online

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, Islamabad Press Club mark Kashmir Exploitation Day

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell and Kashmir Committee of National Press Club Islamabad organized a signature campaign regarding Kashmir Exploitation Day at National Press Club Islamabad. Which was inaugurated by the Federal Minister of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Makam. On this occasion, Secretary National Press Club Nair Ali, Chairman Kashmir Committee Khalid Gurdizi, Senior Journalist Abid Abbasi while Raja Khan Afsar Khan Director, Sardar Najeeb Al-Ghafoor Khan and Raja Rashid Raza on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell welcomed the guests. Former Prime Ministers of Azad Kashmir Sardar Atiq Ahmed, Khan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Hurriyat Conference convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, former advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mashaal Hussain Malik, Pakistan Sweet Home chief Zamard Khan, former member of the assembly Dr. Raza Bukhari, Hurriyat Leaders Advocate Perwaiz Ahmed, Abdul Hameed Lone, Chairperson Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Party Nabi-



la Irshad Advocate, National Press Club members, Senior Journalists, Civil Society Representatives, Hurriyat Leaders and Sweet Home children, University students besides Rawalpindi/ Islamabad

A large number of Kashmiris living in India participated and through their signatures

Expressed solidarity with the freedom-loving people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on this

occasion, Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam said that he strongly condemns the illegal decision of the Modi government on August 5, 2019 and the world

We appeal to the community to take notice of the violations of human rights in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir; the power of the world cannot stop the people of Jammu and Kashmir from giving their right to self-determination.

Engineer Amir Maqam while

congratulating Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell and National Press Club, Kashmir Committee said that the purpose of this signature campaign is to send a message to the world that Kashmiris do not accept the illegal occupation of India and Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir. We reject his attack on identity.

Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi said that by taking the action of August 5, India has brought the Kashmiris to the point that this problem will not be solved with tongues but with bullets. Hurriyat leader Mashaal Hussain Malik said that India's move on August 5 is a conspiracy to change the geographical status of Occupied Kashmir, which should be condemned as much as possible. Yes, he said, the signature campaign sends a positive message.

On this occasion, the officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell informed the important persons participating in the signature campaign about the activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, the problem.

Briefed on the current situation of Kashmir and Occupied Kashmir.

LMKT Leads Pakistan's Incubation Landscape, Wins Back Operations of NICs Karachi and Peshawar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: LMKT, Pakistan's leading technology company, is thrilled to announce that it will be continuing its role as the operator of Ignite-funded National Incubation Centers (NICs) Peshawar and Karachi. This brings back the total count of LMKT-operated NICs to three, the largest of any other private organization in the Country.

In this renewed commitment with MOITT and Ignite, the company will further its mission to empower Pakistani entrepreneurs and propel the nation's vibrant startup ecosystem to even greater heights.

Over the past six years, LMKT's incubation network across Paki-

stan has yielded remarkable results. LMKT-operated NIC Karachi, NIC Peshawar, and NIC Hyderabad have become the cornerstones of the national startup ecosystem. Together, the centers have incubated over 600 startups, facilitated the creation of over 1 million jobs, and helped raise investments exceeding PKR 16 billion. These figures solidify their positions as leading incubators and accelerators in Pakistan.

Looking ahead, the company will leverage its experience to propel both NICs to even greater heights.

In this mission, LMKT is joined by many esteemed partners such as YB Group one of Pakistan's largest conglomerates; Orbit Startups, a renowned international investment

accelerator and the Pakistan's most active VC; as well as Accelerate Prosperity, IM | Sciences, and Sybrid to empower the next generation of Pakistani entrepreneurs.

"We are excited to renew our collaboration with Ignite for the operations of NIC Karachi and NIC Peshawar," said CEO LMKT Atif Rais Khan. "LMKT's proven track record in both centers, as well as NIC Hyderabad, demonstrates our commitment to empowering Pakistani entrepreneurs. We are excited to build upon this success by fostering innovation in key sectors, providing world-class support through our partners, and helping our startups achieve global recognition."

"It is fantastic to continue our part-

nership with trusted collaborators for another five years. We are excited to witness the emergence of more startups focusing on Industrial Automation, FinTech, Cyber Security, and women-led ventures. Together, we will further strengthen Pakistan's innovation landscape," said CEO Ignite.

"We believe a nation's prosperity is inextricably linked to its capacity for innovation. As a cornerstone of this country's economy, we recognize our duty to cultivate a thriving startup ecosystem that is able to nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs and propel our country into a future of unparalleled progress," said Mr. Ali Sohail Tabbu of Lucky Landmark, a consortium member with LMKT in NIC Karachi.

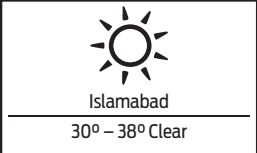
ISI changed Bangladesh government, claims Indian media

Continued from Page 1

According to India Today, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, is allegedly backed by ISI.

The protests turned deadly, with over 300 people killed and hundreds

injured. The situation deteriorated further, leading to Hasina's resignation and the army taking control. President Mohammed Shahabuddin announced the formation of an interim government and dissolved Parliament, also ordering the release of Khaleeda Zia.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:50 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:04 pm
Maghrib	7:03 pm
Isha	8:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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

SC decision in favor of the Qadianis has caused great concern in the entire nation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in favor of the Qadianis has caused great concern in the entire nation.

Yes, in 1953, when the movement for the end of Prophethood was started, at that time our grandfather Diwan Syed All Rasool Ali Khan, Sajjada Nasheen Ajmeer Shareef may God bless him and grant him peace, was staying in Sargodha after migrating to Pakistan.

Mian Ali Muhammad (may Allah have mercy on him) stayed at the house of Sajjada Nashin Basi Sharif, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi may God have mercy on him, Diwan Qutbuddin, may God have mercy on him, Sajjada Nashin Pakpatan Sharif and all the other monks of the monasteries also came there and they openly declared the end of Prophethood.

declared his support, and all went together with Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, may God have mercy on him, and at that time when he was sentenced to be hanged, at that time our grandfather Diwan Syed All Rasool Ali Khan, may Allah have mercy on him, was the Sajjada Nashin of Ajmer Sharif and at that time

All the great Sheikhs supported him, then by the order of Allah, the death sentence that was given to him due to the end of Prophethood was pardoned, we are still ready to make all kinds of sacrifices, we request

Romina highlights role of women and girls in disaster risk reduction

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday promoting gender equality and ensuring that women and girls are actively involved in all stages of disaster risk reduction (DRR) —from planning to implementation— is vital to enhance the effectiveness of DRR strategies and contributes to more resilient communities in disaster vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

Addressing as chief guest here on Tuesday at a national dialogue on 'Role of Women and Girls in Disaster Risk Reduction', the PM's climate aide highlighted that women, particularly those from rural or marginalised communities, hold invaluable local knowledge about environmental conditions, traditional practices and risk management. However, their leadership in these areas not only can help improve disaster

management strategies but also fosters a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and vulnerabilities.

The day-long event was organised here on Tuesday by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with international partner organizations involved in disaster risk reduction activities in the country.

The PM's Coordinator told the participants of the event. As the world grapples with increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, it has become clear that women and girls are not just beneficiaries but pivotal players in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Their unique contributions are essential for building resilient communities and ensuring effective disaster preparedness and response.

Suggesting measures to fully harness the potential of women

and girls in disaster risk reduction, the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid said that it is crucial to enhance their participation in decision-making, policymaking and policy implementation processes at all levels, support and fund women-led disaster risk reduction initiatives and organizations, promote gender-sensitive approaches in disaster management policies and practices and ensure that women and girls have access to education and training related to disaster preparedness and response.

"The present government is highly concerned over the sufferance of the communities, which are frequently affected by climate change-caused disasters, particularly smallholder farming and marginalized communities with poor resources for post-disaster recovery and committed to building disaster resilience of them by providing them necessary knowledge, skill and resources," Romina Khurshid



Alam informed the participants. "Empowering women and girls in DRR efforts can lead to innovative solutions and more

responsive policies. Women's involvement in policy-making and advocacy ensures that disaster management approaches

address the diverse needs of all community members, promoting greater equity and effectiveness in recovery efforts," she said.

Anti Encroachment Campaign

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in demolishing illegal occupied area on a green belt from a local hotel during Anti-encroachment operation in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

OICCI Members inject \$22b in Pakistan in the past 10 years!

Commerce desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), the representative body for the top 210 foreign investors in Pakistan, revealed substantial contributions by its members to Pakistan's economy in its 2023 annual economic contribution survey.

Over the past 10 years, from 2013 to 2023, Pakistan received a net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of \$19.8 billion.

During the same period, OICCI members contributed \$22.6 billion, showcasing a significant commitment to the country's economic development. This robust investment underscores the confidence foreign investors have in Pakistan's long-term potential.

In 2023, the 139 OICCI member companies reported assets amounting to Rs29.6 trillion, capital expenditure of Rs482 billion, government levies of Rs2.4 trillion, and gross revenue of Rs10.4 trillion.

Despite the challenges faced by the country, OICCI members have shown more confidence than other foreign investors over the last decade, as reflected in the investment figures and economic contributions.

Highlighting members' confidence in the Pakistan economy, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh said, "as Pakistan navigates its economic challenges, the sustained confidence and investment by OICCI members provide a solid foundation for future growth and development."

Commenting on the survey findings, OICCI CE/Secretary General M Abdul Aleem said, "The significant contributions of OICCI members underscore the pivotal role of foreign investment in bolstering Pakistan's economy." He added, "The diverse sectoral contributions reflect a broad-based economic engagement, with key sectors such as oil and gas, banking, and consumer products leading the way."

Besides the monetary contribution, OICCI members also play a leading role in the transfer of technology, digital transformation, introducing latest inventions and sharing of best practices in the field of manufacturing operation, supply chain and marketing of internationally renowned brands. By investing Rs13 billion in 2022-2023 in Pakistan's communities through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, the members have positively impacted 40 million individuals across the country

Boy electorates in Hazro

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: years old boy died due to electric shock in Peerzai village in the limits of Hazro Police station on Tuesday, police and hospital sources said. According to sources, Muhammad Yousef was playing in the courtyard of cattle shed when he accidentally touched the electric motor installed in the court resultantly he received electric shock. He was taken to tehsil headquarters hospital (THQ) where he succumbed to injuries. Hazro Police is investigating the case. #

Murder suspect nabbed

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Hassanabdal Police on Tuesday arrested a murder suspect who shot dead a man over some pity dispute in village Tanda on July 28 this year. Police sources said that Ehsan Ali along with his brother was coming towards his house when reached near his house, a man identified as Shah Mir of the same village took out his pistol and shot him dead and fled away from the scene. Police through human and digital intelligence traced the suspect and recovered the weapon utilized in the coldblooded murder of the man. #

In Islamabad Horticulture Society holds 26th Annual Midsummer Flower Show

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 26th Annual Summer Flower Show organized by Islamabad Horticulture Society of Pakistan (NHSP) was organized at PIA Park Murree. The event lasted for two days, from August 3 to August 4, 2024. This exhibition was named as "Midsummer Flower Show" in which colorful and beautiful flowers of different species were planted. They were the center of attention of the participants due to their captivating fragrance and attractive colors.

On this occasion, Chairman of National Horticulture Society of Pakistan Dr. Pervez Ahsan said in his address that the purpose of organizing the annual flower exhibition organized by Islamabad Horticulture Society of Pakistan is to highlight the



importance of flowers and gardening among the citizens. We are proud to have held a successful Midsummer Flower Show as usual. Flowers are a precious gift of nature that creates an atmosphere of fragrance and freshness in our busy lives. He said that the flower exhibition platform is a great resource for

those interested in the field of horticulture. On this occasion Fawad Ahmad Hashmi Secretary Horticulture Society of Pakistan and Asif Razzaq show organizer thanked all the participants who played an important role in making this event successful. For their excellent support Special thanked to the organizers

of Lawrence College Murree, PHA Murree, NARC Islamabad, Barani Agricultural University, PAF Hospital, Floriculture Punjab, Department of Agriculture Murree, Sohail Hotel Murree, Fadia Cottage Murree, Dr. Atta Ur Rehman Murree, PHA Rawalpindi, Islamabad Club and Rescue 1122 Murree.

NEECA and AU will collaborate to promote energy efficiency

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of the prevalent energy sector challenges, the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Air University Islamabad (AU) to collaborate for catalyzing research, development, and innovation in the field of energy efficiency and conservation. Dr. Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director NEECA, and Vice-Chancellor, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan HI (M) graced the signing ceremony and expressed that this collaboration will improve energy efficiency & conservation leading to energy access to affordable energy to the consumers.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-chancellor AU said that, though, demand-side manage-

ment of energy is at the core of all the possible solutions to the energy challenges being faced by Pakistan, it is often overlooked. He said that energy efficiency and conservation are the keys to peak load management and can mitigate national challenges.

Managing Director NEECA, Dr. Sardar Mohazzam said that the surge in prices of energy and the impending global recession demand an enhanced focus on the indigenization of energy-efficient technologies and capacities as well as inculcating a behavior of energy conservation in the masses.

During the past years, NEECA has institutionalized Energy Efficiency and Conservation across key sectors of the economy, especially the Building and Industrial Sectors, and is keen to ensure efficient and sustainable use of

Energy in Pakistan through a business-enabling policy framework. Currently,

Through this collaboration, NEECA and AU will engage the top management of the Air Force and its line departments to adopt energy efficiency and conservation practices in their construction and operational projects across the country.

British High Commission at the forefront of floods response in Chitral

The British High Commission has been amongst the earliest organisations to provide relief interventions, following devastating floods in Chitral.

Between 29 July and August 3, Chitral suffered severe damages

from torrential rains, flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods. 14 drinking water supply schemes, 15 jeep-able bridges, 55 irrigation channels, 9 link roads, 3 schools building, protection walls (4,000 feet), and 20 local shops have been fully/partially damaged.

The British High Commission used their existing presence in Chitral to respond to immediate needs through their partners, Concern

Worldwide and the Agha Khan Foundation. They are supporting emergency relief and restoration of infrastructure and livelihoods.

So far, the UK has funded essential items like kitchen sets, hygiene kits, water storage containers and more for around

300 families. Partners continue to work on immediate restoration of damaged drinking water systems, the restoration of essential irrigation channels, and debris removal to re-enable access and livelihoods, UK support is expected to benefit over 20,000 people in Chitral. The UK are also considering on longer-term recovery plans for affected areas, in close coordination with government counterparts and humanitarian partners.

Chargé d'Affaires of the British High Commission, Andrew Dalgleish said:

"The recent floods in Chitral are devastating. Lives and livelihoods have been destroyed. The UK is here to support Pakistan. These floods are a stark reminder that there is much more to be done to improve Pakistan's climate resilience."

Floods have already led to 141 deaths, 266 injuries and damage to over 1,000 houses in Pakistan this year. Climate change is a priority for the UK Government. During the devastating floods of 2022, the UK helped over 2.3 million people, dedicating a total of £39 million in UK aid. The British public mobilised, and raised £41.5m as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. Support included emergency cash assistance, shelter kits, nutritional support, learning kits and infrastructure repair.

The UK's focus is on improving Pakistan's climate resilience long-term, rather than purely responding to disasters. The UK has already helped 1.5 million people improve their resilience to extreme climate events, and aims to support a further 3 million people in the next 4-5 years.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Social Media Sparks Digital Violence in Pakistan: A Call for Peace Education

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

The beginning of social media platforms has undoubtedly revolutionized the way we communicate, connect, and share information. In countries like Pakistan, where traditional media outlets may be restricted or controlled, social media serves as a powerful tool for the dissemination of news, opinions, and ideas. However, along with its benefits, social media has also become a breeding ground for digital violence, especially in a country like Pakistan, where political, religious and social tension often run high.

The anonymity and reach of social media platforms make them a convenient medium for spreading hate speech, fake news, and incendiary rhetoric. In Pakistan, where several social media platforms are widely used, such as Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp, these tools have been misused to promote divisive ideologies, fuel communal tensions, and incite violence. The spread of misinformation, inflammatory content and extremist views on social media has led to real-world consequences including mob violence, targeted attacks and even loss of life.

The escalating digital violence in Pakistan, there is an urgent need for peace education to promote tolerance, empathy, and respect for diversity. Peace education aims to address the root causes of conflict and violence by fostering critical thinking, dialogue, and understanding

among individuals and communities. By incorporating peace education into school curricula, community programs and online campaigns encounter the spread of hatred to promote a culture of peace both online and offline.

One approach to promoting peace education in Pakistan is through media literacy programs that teach individuals how to critically evaluate, analyze, and verify information they encounter online. By educating people on how to distinguish between credible and false sources, how to question their own biases and assumptions, and how to engage in respectful dialogue with others, we can empower individuals to become responsible digital citizens who contribute to a more peaceful online environment.

Furthermore, promoting interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange through social media can help bridge divides and build connections between diverse communities in Pakistan. Sharing stories of resilience, compassion, and solidarity, we can counter the narratives of hate and division that often dominate social media discourse. Platforms that promote positive messaging, empathy building, and conflict resolution can serve as powerful tools for promoting peace and understanding in a digital age.

Pakistan's population is predominantly Muslim, with substantial minorities of Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, and others. While the nation has the potential for vibrant interfaith interactions due to its multicultural fabric, historical tensions among communities have often led to clashes and misunderstandings. Reported incidents of sectarian violence and discrimination indicate a need for

proactive measures to promote peace and understanding. Therefore, fostering interfaith dialogue is essential not only for social cohesion but also for maintaining the country's political stability and economic development.

Social media allows for the dissemination of information about different religious practices, beliefs, and cultural traditions. Educational campaigns leveraging infographics, videos, and articles can dispel myths and reduce stigma associated with various faiths. For instance, initiatives that highlight shared values, texts, and ethics among religions have the potential to trigger empathy and mutual respect among diverse groups. While the potential of social media to foster interfaith dialogue in Pakistan is considerable, challenges persist.

Misinformation, hate speech, and sectarian propaganda can virally proliferate on social media platforms, necessitating robust mechanisms for monitoring and regulation. It is crucial for civil society, social media companies, government, and religious leaders to come together to create a responsible and conducive online environment.

Social media has the power to either fuel digital violence or promote peace and harmony in a country like Pakistan. By recognizing the dangers of online hate speech, misinformation, and extremism, and by investing in peace education initiatives that promote critical thinking, dialogue, and empathy, we can work towards creating a more inclusive, tolerant, and peaceful society. Online forums, discussion groups, and hashtag campaigns can serve as virtual roundtables that engage diverse voices.

The inclusion of interfaith activists and scholars in these conversations can enrich the dialogue, providing critical insights into the importance of coexistence and acceptance.

Many public figures in Pakistan, including artists, writers, and politicians, have significant followings on social media. When these individuals leverage their platforms to advocate for interfaith dialogue and cultural understanding, they can mobilize support from wider audiences. Their testimonials, encouraging fans to bridge divides, can prove powerful in reshaping public perception and diminishing prejudices.

Pakistan, recognized for its rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and religions, faces significant challenges in terms of sectarian conflict and social divides. However, social media has emerged as a transformative tool, offering unprecedented opportunities for fostering interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange. Through platforms that enable connection, awareness, and engagement, communities can work together to dismantle divisions due to misunderstandings and prejudices. While challenges exist, the commitment to promoting a culture of dialogue and respect can lead to a more unified, inclusive, and peaceful society. Recognizing and harnessing the power of social media is paramount for bridging divides, fostering mutual respect, and nurturing a harmonious coexistence among Pakistan's rich array of cultural and religious communities.

Writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) in International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

China poised to become world's largest economy by 2035

A report, titled 'Decisive Battle: The Progress of China's Comprehensively Deepening Reform and High-Standard Opening Up in the New Era and Prospects for 2029 and 2035' was released at an international seminar held at Renmin University of China where experts and scholars from home and abroad gathered to envision the country's trajectory towards 2029 and 2035.

According to the report, "By 2035, China is poised to become the world's largest economy, with its scientific research and manufacturing capabilities reaching world-class levels across most industries." It outlined seven key transformations expected in China by 2029 and 2035, with most striking changes taking place in fields of economy, life standard, environment, and national security.

It said economically, by 2029, strategic emerging industries will constitute over 20% of China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with more than 40% of fortune 500 companies coming from China.

"I am sure that this new era of Chinese reforms, which a comprehensive and deepening and will be based on modernization, will create the core for the new world economic mode," Sergey Glaziev, Vice President of the VEO of Russia, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, told CEN.

"The global economic landscape will certainly shift," noted Mohammed Saqib, Secretary General, India China Economic and Cultural Council (ICEC), India. He highlighted that this presents both opportunities and challenges for other nations. "It will need a careful cultivation of economic relationships and strategic partnerships," he added.

"What is the point of engaging in development if it does not lead to massive increases in the standards of living of the ordinary people?" Radhika Desai, Professor at the Department of Political Studies, and Director of Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba (GERG), Canada, raised a question. In terms of quality of life, by 2029, it is projected that China's Human Development Index will rise to the "very high" category, with average life expectancy surpassing 80 years. By 2035, the per capita monthly income is expected to exceed RMB 10,000.

Environmentally, by 2029, China aims to achieve peak carbon emissions earlier than expected, with an annual reduction of over 400 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. By 2035, China will form a green, low-carbon, and circular industrial system, becoming one of the countries with the lowest energy consumption per unit of GDP and carbon emission intensity.

In terms of national security, by 2029, China will be recognized as the country with the highest degree of comprehensive security, achieving milestones such as a manned lunar landing and producing over 100 large aircraft annually. By 2035, China will increase its annual large aircraft production to 500, build ten new overseas support bases, and conduct 200-300 space launches per year.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awzat)

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

Minority groups in India, especially Muslims and Christians, have reported instances of discrimination, harassment, and violence. Incidents such as mob lynching, often associated with cow vigilantism, where individuals accused of consuming beef or transporting cattle have been targeted by vigilante groups, have instilled fear and insecurity among minority communities. Such incidents undermine their right to practice their religion freely without fear of persecution.

The enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 triggered widespread protests and criticism both domestically and internationally. The CAA offers a path to Indian citizenship for undocumented migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, or Christians, but excludes Muslims. This legislation has been criticized for discriminating against Muslims and contradicting India's secular constitutional principles.

Concerns have also been raised about laws and policies perceived as discriminatory, such as anti-conversion laws in several states, which are often used against religious minorities and accused of infringing on individuals' freedom to choose and practice their religion. Furthermore, despite legal protections aimed at promoting equality and social

justice, Dalits and Adivasis continue to confront systemic discrimination and marginalization.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, there has been a rise in Hindu nationalist rhetoric and policies promoting a vision of India as a Hindu-majority nation, which has further exacerbated concerns about minority rights and religious freedoms. These developments have sparked concerns among minority communities regarding their status, rights, and position within Indian society. Such ideologies and policies have contributed to an atmosphere of intolerance and exclusion, which undermines the secular foundations of India's democratic framework. Under the Modi administration, India's human rights record has faced criticism from international human rights organizations, foreign governments, and United Nations bodies. There have been widespread calls globally for upholding secularism, pluralism, and the rights of minorities, expressing concerns over the potential erosion of democratic values and constitutional protections for all citizens.

One of the most troubling trends observed during the Modi administration has been the increase in incidents of mob lynching targeting minorities, particularly Muslims and Dalits. These incidents frequently arise from allegations related to cow slaughter or consumption of beef, often fueled by cow protection laws and vigilante groups. In 2015, the lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, based on rumors of storing beef in his home, provoked widespread outrage and underscored the risks of communal violence driven by religious tensions.

Several states in India have introduced anti-conversion laws ostensibly to prevent coerced religious conversions but which have been used to target religious minorities, particularly Christians. These laws have resulted in harassment, arrests, and violence against Christian communities, who encounter discrimination and intimidation for practicing and spreading their faith. Despite legal protections, Dalits and Adivasis continue to confront systemic discrimination, social marginalization, and violence. Incidents of caste-based violence, including sexual assault and homicide, underscore deep-rooted social inequalities and the difficulties in achieving justice and equality for marginalized communities. Ineffective enforcement of laws and policies aimed at safeguarding Dalit and Adivasi rights exacerbates their susceptibility to exploitation and abuse.

Under the Modi administration, there has been a crackdown on dissenting voices, civil society organizations, and human rights advocates critical of governmental policies. Activists, journalists, and academics have encountered harassment, arbitrary detentions, and charges under stringent laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), often utilized to suppress freedom of expression and quell political opposition.

To be continued

HIV/AIDS in Pakistan: A Growing Crisis

Kiran Shaheen

One of the most difficult medical issues of our day is the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Studies in the fields of epidemiology, serology, immunology, and virology have all clearly shown that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the primary cause of this recently identified deadly illness. The last obvious event in the series of events that starts when the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) enters the host is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Sexual contact is the most prevalent way that HIV is spread, and in many parts of the world, this method is now accepted as the cause of the epidemic.

HIV cases were first discovered in Pakistan through blood transfusions and high-risk populations like drug users. The quick spread of the virus inside families especially between husbands and spouses and their offspring emphasized the possibility of heterosexual transmission spreading widely. The socio-cultural background of Pakistan has a big impact on HIV transmission. Certain groups are vulnerable due to factors including migration, urbanisation, and conventional gender roles. Those who inject drugs (IDUs), work in commercial sex (especially Hijras), and have more than one sexual partner are more vulnerable.

National AIDS Programme's efficacy in reducing HIV/AIDS cases and increasing public awareness of prevention. A number of issues still need to be addressed, such as improved coordination between the public and private sectors and health and community organisations, as well as the provision of more funding and other infrastructure to support AIDS initiatives. The construction of several screening and monitoring centres as well as public awareness campaigns about HIV/AIDS through media outlets like television and the popular press, however, allow one to assess the advantages of the existing policy.

In Pakistan, giving blood without conducting the necessary screening is a frequent practice. A study on blood transfusion procedures in Pakistan found that while circumstances in private hospitals are depressing, just five to ten percent of blood transfusions in government hospitals are appropriately

examined. There isn't any legislation in place right now that addresses safe blood transfusion. In affluent nations, there is a well-functioning blood banking system complete with all necessary amenities. Nevertheless, Pakistan's inadequate infrastructure and, when it exists, subpar resources for blood transfusion screening make it challenging to establish comparable facilities. A further issue with blood donations by HIV-positive donors is the "Mafia-like" professional blood system that exists, and the fact that many blood donors are drug addicts.

HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment plans use a variety of techniques. Programs for harm reduction are important, and enhancing results requires assessing how well various harm reduction strategies work. The foundation of HIV treatment is antiretroviral medication (ART), and talking about ART's accessibility and availability in Pakistan helps highlight the problems and advancements that the field is now facing. Furthermore, investigating the possibility of alternative preventive measures, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), emphasises critical tactics in stopping the spread of HIV.

Pakistan's battle against HIV/AIDS is reaching a turning point. The virus is becoming more and more common, especially in high-risk groups, thus immediate and extensive intervention is required. Pakistan can effectively reduce the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and enhance the health and well-being of its population by addressing the underlying social, cultural, and behavioural causes as well as by investing in prevention, treatment, and care services.

Extending harm reduction programs for injectable drug users (IDUs) with a significant emphasis on rehabilitation and financial support is one of the main recommendations for treating HIV/AIDS. Important actions to take include encouraging voluntary blood donation and tightening blood safety regulations. To foster an atmosphere that is supportive of those affected by HIV/AIDS, it is imperative to address stigma and discrimination related to the disease. Long-term success also depends on funding research to comprehend the epidemic better and create efficient treatments. Pakistan can achieve notable advancements in the fight against HIV/AIDS by implementing a multi-sectoral strategy and giving impacted populations' demands top priority.

Kiran Shaheen, a biotechnology student in 5th semester, Capital University of Science and Technology, Islamabad

Exclusive Interview

Federal Board of Revenue has a Great Role in the Economic Development of The Country: Shah Faisal Sahu

Kiran Asim / Syed Nadeem Kazmi

Shah Faisal Sahu Deputy Collector Customs Multan Region During Special Interview For the Daily Spokesman Said that the Federal Board of Revenue has a great role in the economic development of the country. The youth of Pakistan are always striving for the development of Pakistan. The brave children of this beloved country are always ready to destroy the anti-national elements. Enemy elements want to stop the economic development of the country as well as destroy its roots. But these brave youths have dedicated their lives for the development of the country and one of them is Shah Faisal Sahu, Deputy Collector of Customs who has joined Pakistan Customs. He belongs to Multan.

Shah Faisal studied at Bahauddin Zakaria University. In 2000, he did CSS. Shah Faisal Sahu says from the beginning, my mission was to do something for my country, for this purpose I had three options: police force, armed force, or administrative affairs. Then I got selected in customs and in 2011 I got trained in Karachi custom house.. In 2019, I became an Assistant Deputy Collector and was transferred to Quetta



where I served for three years and chanced the illegally smuggled items that entered our borders. Challenged them and deposited revenue of crores of rupees in the country's exchequer.

Explaining the procedure of Pakistan Customs, he said that anti-smuggling is our hallmark. Nothing can enter the country illegally and we are at war with smugglers if they resort to illegal means. In this war, we are sometimes directly fired upon and many of our forces have been martyred. Both

import and export are very sensitive matters. Both are checked very carefully. Sometimes the import documents are fake and if we find out, the goods are seized. If the owner of the property pays his government duty, the property is handed over to him after completing all legal procedures.

Otherwise, this property is auctioned and the money is deposited in the national treasury. Just in May 2024, three containers full of diesel were seized, which contained about two



lakh liters of diesel. Later the money was auctioned and deposited in the national treasury. Talking about the target of FBR, he said that according to the target of IMF, the target is 13 thousand billion. This includes customs duty, sales tax as well as increasing income and increasing the value of the assets. We are facing many challenges for this. This includes increasing border controlling revenue and not allowing imports and exports to be affected.

While talking about the martyrs of

duty employees of Pakistan Customs, he said that where our duty is tough, we always face dangers, often smugglers attack and they are in large numbers, but Thankfully, we still dominate them, while mentioning the customs martyrs, he said that 7 soldiers were martyred in Karachi, and 7 constables were also martyred in Balochistan, while two drivers were martyred in Dera Ismail Khan. Drivers of smugglers often drive away with illegal vehicles at speeds of 150 or 180 and we still chase them

and catch them. Their vehicles are impounded and later auctioned. The money is deposited in the national treasury.

Kidnappers are often active in the border area. A customs official was abducted in Peshawar who was later recovered by the government. Now the government has created joint check posts which include police force rangers and customs officers, first police personnel stop and check them, then Pakistan Rangers personnel check them and finally Pakistan Custom scrutinize the papers carefully

Talking about the location of the joint check posts, Shah Faisal Sahu said that there are six check posts in Dera Ghazi Khan, including Shah Wali Ghazi Ghat, Triman, Taunsa, Sakhi Sarwar and Buata, as well as two non-customs pads in Bahawalpur. Regarding the vehicles, he said that 195 vehicles were seized in 2022 and 2023. While in 2023 and 2024, more than 350 vehicles have been caught, which are later sent to the forensic lab. Regarding the safety of his employees, he said that our lives are also sacrificed for this country, but it is also necessary to be well-armed to fight the enemy. It also requires bullet proof vehicles, night vision cameras and bullet proof jackets which will further improve our performance.

Community Town Hall Meeting in Lahore Brings Urgent Education Issues to the Forefront

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) - an initiative of Society for Access to Quality Education (SAQE), in collaboration with Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA) and Social Development Initiatives (SDI), hosted a town hall meeting in Lahore. This event was part of a series of town hall meetings being organized across selected districts of Pakistan to foster dialogue on gender-responsive, resilient, and inclusive education planning and budgeting. The town hall in Lahore, structured in the form of

a khuli kachehri aimed to address education-related issues by bringing community members face-to-face with their elected representatives and local government officials.

"Our aim is to bridge the gap between policymakers and the community, ensuring that the voices of the people, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, are heard and translated into action," said Ms Areebah Shahid, Executive Director, PYCA. Ms Laraib Kiani, Coordinator, Program Development, Communications and Advocacy, PCE highlighting the objectives of the townhall and the

broader series expressed, "This town hall is a platform for meaningful dialogue, where stakeholders can come together to identify challenges and collaboratively devise strategies to enhance inclusivity and responsiveness of our education system. We need to ensure that no child is left behind, regardless of their gender or socio-economic background."

Members of the Punjab Assembly, Ms. Kanwal Liaquat and Mian Abdul Waheed, listened to the concerns raised by the local community. Ms. Liaquat acknowledged the community's concerns, stating, "The absence

of a post-primary public school in this area is a pressing issue that must be addressed urgently.

Mian Abdul Waheed echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the need for collective action. He remarked, "Education is the cornerstone of progress, and it is vital that we prioritize investment in education.

Mian Shahid Nadeem, Executive Director of Social Development Initiatives (SDI), emphasized the importance of community engagement. He stated, "The Townhall underscores power of collaboration between the government, civil society.

Mobilink Bank introduces affordable E-bike loans for a greener future

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dedicated to promoting positive environmental change, Mobilink Bank has recently announced the launch of E-Bike loans. This initiative, aimed at empowering individuals with accessible and eco-friendly transportation options, was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PakZon Electric Motors (Pvt) Ltd., Pakistan's leading electric bike manufacturer. Through this offer, the Bank is extending exclusive benefits to all its customers, including a 6% discount on E-bikes purchased through PakZon dealerships, three complimentary checkups at PakZon 3S dealerships, and a one-year battery warranty for two, three and four-wheelers. These benefits are designed to make E-bike ownership more affordable and convenient.

"As part of our 'Change to Sustain' program, we are committed to



reducing our carbon footprint and enabling our customers to do the same," shared Atta-ur-Rehman, Chief Business Officer Mobilink Bank. "Our

latest endeavour, the E-Bike loan, offers a practical solution for individuals and the environment. By providing easy financing for electric bikes, we strive

to cultivate a culture of empowerment and self-reliance, particularly among women. This initiative helps us break down gender barriers, promotes equitable access to resources and paves the way for a greener, more sustainable future for all," he added.

"This partnership signifies a shared vision for innovation and excellence in the electric vehicle sector," said Shahzaib Amjad, Managing Director at PakZon Electric Motors (Pvt) Ltd. "We are confident that this collaboration will pave the way for groundbreaking advancements and mutual growth. Here is to a prosperous and transformative journey together. May our collective efforts drive success and set new benchmarks in the industry," he further added.

The Bank's steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship is further solidified by allocating PKR 2.5 billion to renewable energy financing and solarization of fifteen branches in 2024.

NFEH to hosts conference on Nexus of Climate Change and Food Security

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) is set to host a significant conference focusing on the nexus between climate change and food security at a local hotel on August 7th. The event will feature prominent figures including Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Dost Muhammad Rahimoon, and Sindh Energy and Planning & Development Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah as the chief guests.



The theme for this year's conference, "Securing Resilient Livelihoods," underscores the importance of creating sustainable and robust communities in the face of environmental challenges. The conference will gather environmentalists, food experts, Consul Generals, government officials, and other key stakeholders.

Keynote Speakers, Guest Speakers and Panelist include Dr. Zubala Yasir Lutfi, Asst. Professor, Food Science and Agriculture Department, University of Karachi, Omar Nadeem Arif, Environmental Engineer, EMC Pakistan, Rafique Buriro, Secretary, Agriculture Department, Sindh, Wali Haider, Joint Director, Roots for Equity, Rana Awais Khan, Chairman, National Alliance for Safe Food, Shams ul Haq Memon, Advisor, NFEH.

Additionally, the event will host the 21st Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2024 ceremony, recognizing various organizations for their exemplary environmental practices.

NFEH President, Naem Qureshi, emphasized the conference's role in addressing the pressing environmental challenges faced by the country. He highlighted the importance of recognizing the efforts of industries and the corporate sector in adhering to environmental safety standards.

"The Annual Environment Conference is a platform to discuss critical environmental issues and to honor the hard work of industries that ensure their operations are environmentally sustainable," said Qureshi. "This event encourages local and multinational companies to comply with both national and international environmental standards, ensuring their activities do not harm the environment."

"Step Into AI with OPPO Reno12 Series: Pre-Order Your First AI Smartphone Today!"



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, the global leader in smart devices, proudly launches OPPO's First AI smartphone, the Reno12 series in an exclusive event in Lahore. The phone includes three variants Reno12 F 4G, Reno12 F 5G and Reno12 5G. Equipped with smart AI features and protected by the robust All-Round Armour, the AI-packed and durable Reno12 F, is now available for pre-order from August 5, with a starting price of PKR 69,999 for Reno12 F 4G.

The launch event was an impressive showcase unveiling "OPPO's first AI smartphone," and brought together top tech KOLs, influencers, OPPO executives, OPPO Partners and media representatives. The event featured an in-depth briefing on the OPPO Reno12 Series, live demonstrations of AI Eraser, AI Studio, and AI LinkBoost, as well as an exclusive demonstration of their All-Round Armour feature. The interactive experience zone provided attendees with a hands-on experience of the OPPO Reno12 F.

Talking about the Reno12 series, George Long, CEO of OPPO Pakistan said: "We are thrilled to introduce our first AI smartphone in Pakistan at this exclusive event. At OPPO, we are constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation to provide our customers with leading technology that enhances their lives. The Reno12 series embodies our vision of making advanced AI accessible to everyone, combined with unmatched durability and elegant design."

AKU's and Emergencies Partners with PDMA

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Centre of Excellence for Trauma and Emergencies (CETE) at Aga Khan University (AKU), in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), convened a stakeholder meeting under its 'Heat Emergency Awareness and Treatment' project. Funded by Elrha, the project aims to address the escalating threat of extreme heat events in Pakistan through public awareness, exposure treatment strategies and the development of a comprehensive Heat Plan to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The meeting brought together high-profile officials including Assistant Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, and

District Health Officers from various districts across Sindh. Among the notable participants were Dr Sardar Sarfaraz, Chief Meteorologist of the Pakistan Meteorological Department; Imdad Hussain Siddiqui, Director of Operations at PDMA; and representatives from Rescue 1122 and Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services. The presence of these key players highlights the urgency and importance of a unified approach to tackling heatwaves in the region.

"Extreme heat is a rapidly growing public health crisis, especially for cities in Pakistan," said Dr Junaid Razzak, Director, CETE. "Given its impact, cities need to have clear action plans with well defined triggers. We look forward to partnering with PDMA and other partners to

provide necessary technical support to develop such plans."

A consensus was reached on the need for a more effective and institutionalized District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), enhanced coordination on heatwave management across districts and a stronger focus to launch an effective communication campaign between government departments and non-profit organizations.

All stakeholders agreed to regular meetings to tackle this issue and were on board with the development of a Heatwave Management Plan for adversely affected districts.

Dr Sardar Sarfaraz, Chief Meteorologist, Pakistan Meteorological Department stated, "We need to understand the phenomenon of

heatwaves and how they are generated. It's not only the daytime temperature that triggers a heatwave alert; heatwaves are complex events influenced by various factors. Comprehensive understanding and monitoring of these elements are crucial for effective heatwave management and timely alerts."

Imdad Hussain Siddiqui, Director of Operations at PDMA added, "AKU has taken a big step in gathering different stakeholders under one roof on a very important topic, and this should be a continuous process."

As part of the grant, CETE has developed an animated awareness video on heat emergencies and their management, which is being disseminated via social media channels to educate the public.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
77,191.34	77,084.48	
Day's High	Day's Low	
77,746.55	77,035.95	
Index Value	Change	
6,787,646,431	+106.86	
Percentage	Time	
+0.14%	6 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,026.69	+18.46	
Percentage	Time	
+0.23%	6 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,181.97	+478.70	
Percentage	Time	
+1.24%	6 Aug, 12:51 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,675.46	+3,217.04	
Percentage	Time	
+10.23%	6 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.15	186
Bahrain Dinar	738.5	744
Canadian Dollar	203.1	206.00
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.25	40.65
Euro	305.00	307.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.1
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905	912
Malaysian Ringgit	58.85	59.65
New Zealand \$	169.15	171.15
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	724.5	729
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.45
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.65
Swedish Korona	26.65	26.95
Swiss Franc	316	323
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.6	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	356.95	358.8
US Dollar	279.25	280.4

ICCI holds session: 'EU Climate Regulations & their Impact on Exports'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) convened an interactive session 'Dialogue on Climate Regulations by EU and their Impact on Exports', attended by exporters in large numbers and key government officials. It was addressed by Escipion Joaquin Oliveira Gomez, Director International Trade Centre, Geneva, Robert Skidmore, Chief Sector & Enterprise Competitiveness International Trade Centre, Geneva, Atif Aziz, Joint Secretary EU Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Mohammad Shoaib Deputy Executive Director, National Trade Centre, Adnan Yousuf Lodhi, Policy Advisor and other.

In his opening remarks Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI highlighted the importance of understanding and adapting these new regulations. He emphasized that Pakistani businesses need to proactively align with EU's environmental standards to maintain their market access and competitiveness. He said that our exports to the EU are crucial



therefore it is imperative that we should not only be aware of these changes but also ready to comply with these regulations.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari went on to say that Pakistan's carbon emissions are significantly lower as compared to the neighboring countries. Its share of global greenhouse gas emissions is only 0.93% but is one of the worst sufferers of the impacts, therefore, it definitely deserves the benefit of the situation.

On his part, Zafar Bakhtawari by terming the session as very useful for the entire business fraternity underlined the need for some concessions for the developing and least developed countries vis-à-vis the implementation of the mechanism to enable the entrepreneurs to adopt the same conveniently.

Robert Skidmore moderated the session and highlighted the support available to Pakistani businesses to help them transition to

more sustainable practices.

Escipion Oliveira thanked the participants and provided an overview of the new EU regulations, focusing on how they will impact Pakistani exports.

The Ministry of Commerce's representative, Atif Aziz, addressed the government's role in facilitating this transition. He mentioned that the Ministry is actively working on developing policies and frameworks to help Pakistani exporters comply with international environmental standards.

Mr. Adnan Lodhi from ITC briefed the participants that as a major trading partner, Pakistan's exports, especially in sectors like textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing are expected to be directly affected by these changes.

Former President ICCI Mian Shaukat Masood also highlighted the difficulties facing the Pakistani exporters by suggesting some remedial measures.

Those present among other also include Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, Rizwan Chheena, Maqsood Tabish, Malik Shabbir Awan, Mohsin Khalid Malik, Nasir Chaudhry, Naima Ansari, Saddaf Abbasi, and Chaudhry Wasem.

New Era

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a group photo with delegation of Chinese businessmen led by Consul General Zhao Shiren on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

DTI focuses on Skills for Livelihood

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The primary goal for DTI (Descon Technical Institute) is to provide top-quality technical skills' training free of cost to underprivileged youth seeking employment in technical trades. DTI offers a variety of scholarships and a promise of facilitating employment. Leveraging donor support, DTI is committed to providing equitable access to training and employment opportunities for students of all backgrounds and is a strong supporter of inclusivity.

A project of Bilqis Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation, DTI is the leading non-profit technical training institute in Pakistan. Operating since 1998,

DTI has distinguished itself by training over 35,000+ youth in diverse professional trades, with many graduates having gotten the opportunity to work overseas. DTI is currently offering 60+ technical courses. The institute's mission to help underprivileged youth earn a respectful income for themselves and their families is executed through a strategic, multi-faceted approach designed to provide practical skills, support, and opportunities. DTI also prioritizes women empowerment by developing and implementing specialized programs that cater specifically to women, including training in traditionally male-dominated trades like welding and electrical work.

SECP alerts public to fraudulent trading platform "Aviva Investment Group"

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 6: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has identified an illegal trading platform operating under the name "Aviva Investment Group/ H1-Aviva Securities Exchange Academy/ Aviva Investment Limited". The platform is being promoted through various WhatsApp groups and social media channels and is falsely claiming substantial returns on trading in the Pakistan Stock Exchange and international stock markets.

The illegal platform is falsely claiming an association with Aviva Investors, a UK-based asset management company. However, Aviva Investors has issued a scam alert on its website (<https://www.avivainvestors.com/en-gb/site-information/digital-safety/>), warning that operators of the illegal platform are misusing the company's name to conduct unauthorized trading activities on the stock exchanges in Pakistan.

The general public is informed that "Aviva Investment Group/ H1-Aviva Securities Exchange Academy/ Aviva Investment Limited" is neither registered nor licensed by SECP to operate any platform for trading shares on the Pakistan Stock Exchange or



international stock exchanges.

Please note, trading in shares of listed companies and/or commodities should only be conducted through securities and futures brokers licensed by SECP. A list of such licensed brokers can be found at the following weblinks:

<https://www.psx.com.pk/psx/resources-and-tools/TREC-Holders>
<https://pmex.com.pk/pmex-home/existing-tree-holders/>

SECP hereby WARNS THE PUBLIC NOT TO DEPOSIT/ INVEST FUNDS WITH

"Aviva Investment Group/ H1-Aviva Securities Exchange Academy/ Aviva Investment Limited" or any such other trading platform in any form or arrangement.

The name of "Aviva Investment Group/ H1-Aviva Securities Exchange Academy/ Aviva Investment Limited" has been added to the "List of Companies engaged in Unauthorized Activities" available on SECP's website. Furthermore, SECP has also referred the matter to relevant authorities for investigation and necessary action.

Ufone 4G announces a first-in-industry health insurance program for franchise owners and their families

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has announced the launch of an industry-first Franchise Health Insurance Program in partnership with Adamjee Insurance to provide top-performing franchise owners and their families with comprehensive health insurance coverage for enhancing their well-being and financial security. The initiative exemplifies Ufone 4G's steadfast commitment to the well-being of the hardworking individuals who drive its nationwide franchise network.

Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G, Nauman Fakhar, and Ahmer

Shoaib Deputy Executive Director, Adamjee Insurance signed the agreement in Islamabad in the presence of senior officials on both sides.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G, Nauman Fakhar said, "Ufone 4G is a people-centric brand, and we are wholly committed to the well-being of our extended family - our franchisees, who are at the forefront of customer facilitation. This program is an industry-first initiative that offers comprehensive health insurance coverage to the families of our top-performing franchise owners.

Ahmer Shoaib Deputy Executive Director, Adamjee Insurance said,

"We are thrilled to partner with Ufone 4G on this pioneering initiative that sets the right precedent for the business sector. We are grateful to Ufone 4G for trusting our brand for this crucial program, which signifies to our shared vision of providing holistic support to the stakeholders who drive our businesses forward."

The "Franchise Health Insurance Program" exemplifies Ufone 4G's dedication to its stakeholders, and showcases its commitment to enabling franchisees that deliver exceptional service to customers. The initiative sets a new industry standard for franchise support and loyalty programs in line with Ufone



Ufone 4G's mission to uplift its customer facilitation system.

Govt. urged to aggressively lower interest rates to stimulate economic growth



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Leading economists and industry stakeholders are advocating for a significant reduction in Pakistan's interest rates to boost economic growth, stimulate investment, and relieve financial pressures on businesses and consumers.

In a statement, Ismail Suttar, President of the Hub Chamber of Commerce & Industry (HCCI), observes that despite ongoing economic challenges and high inflation, there is widespread consensus among stakeholders that lowering interest rates could be a crucial step in facilitating the nation's economic recovery and achieving sustainable long-term prosperity.

President HCCI said that Pakistan's current policy rate of 19.5% is significantly higher than its neighbours including China and India, giving these countries, as well as Bangladesh and Vietnam, a competitive edge in the export market - acquiring most of Pakistan's textile customers.

"Our manufacturers across all sectors are struggling to keep production costs under control amidst rising inflation and interest rates," said Suttar. "If the current policy rate is maintained, Pakistan risks further losing its export customers, potentially worsening the trade deficit."

PM congratulates athlete Arshad Nadeem on Olympic javelin throw final qualification



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday congratulated Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem on qualifying for the final round of the javelin throw events at the 2024 Olympics.

He lauded Arshad Nadeem's

Arshad Nadeem advances to Paris Olympics' javelin final

Sports Desk

PARIS: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem made it to the Paris Olympics' javelin final with a colossal throw of 86.59 metres in his first attempt on Tuesday.

The throw was well ahead of 84 metre minimum qualifying mark for the final showdown. The remarkable feat not only highlights Arshad's incredible talent but also kept alive Pakistan's hopes to win a medal in the quadrennial spectacle.

The 27-year-old athlete from Mian Channu has been the only beacon of hope for Pakistan as the six other athletes, who were representing the country in different disciplines, saw an early exit in the prestigious event.

outstanding performance, stating he has won the admiration of the entire nation

Following his qualifying performance, Arshad expressed his determination to make a podium finish. "I am deeply honoured to represent Pakistan at the world's biggest sports event. This achievement is the result of years of hard work and support from my coaches, family, and fans. I am focused and determined to give my best in the medal round," he said.

The final is scheduled on Thursday and claiming a medal would not just be a personal accomplishment for Arshad; it would be a historic moment for a country that last won an Olympic medal in 1992 when the national hockey team secured a bronze in Barcelona. Since then, the country has experienced a dry spell in the world's most prestigious sporting arena.

through his exceptional work and relentless dedication.



The prime minister wished Arshad Nadeem success in the 2024 Olympics and praised his contributions for promoting the javelin throw.

He highlighted that Arshad Nadeem's hard work and dedication served as an inspiration for the youth and recalled the meeting with Arshad Nadeem at the PM House in March 2024.

The prime minister noted that Pakistan possessed vast talent that required further development and affirmed the government's commitment to support athletes on the international stage.

First-ever blind cricket training camp in Afghanistan commences



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first-ever blind cricket training camp in Afghanistan began in Jalalabad on Tuesday.

The initiative to hold the camp for Afghan blind cricketers was taken by Syed Sultan Shah, the chairman of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) and President of the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC), said a press release issued here.

Besides providing essential training kits and cricket gear, the PBCC has fully funded the camp, including boarding, lodging, and travel expenses of the players.

"We're also proud to have sent two legendary international cricketers and coaches of Pakistan – Masood Jan and Sanaullah Khan to coach and mentor the aspiring Afghan blind cricketers," Sultan Shah said.

The 11-day training camp will conclude on August 16.

This marks another milestone for the PBCC, following the successful development of blind cricket teams in Bangladesh and Nepal in 2006 and 2008. Both nations have since excelled on the global stage, participating in multiple Blind Cricket World Cups.

"The PBCC remains committed to nurturing talent and expanding the reach of blind cricket throughout the region," Shah added.

Faisalabad and TTS win Azadi Cup Hockey League

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad and Toba Tek Singh (TTS) have won the boys and girls competitions of Chief Minister Inter District Azadi Cup Hockey League 2024 respectively.

District Education Authority (DEA) had organized the Azadi Cup Hockey League 2024 in which boys and girls teams from all four districts of Faisalabad division participated.

However, Faisalabad district won first position in the boys competition whereas TTS district stood first in girls matches. Divisional Director Secondary Education Dr Kishwar Naheed Rana and Divisional Sports Officer Tariq Nazir watched the final events as the chief guests and later they distributed prizes and trophies among position holders.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) DEA Kashif Zia, CEO Education Toba Tek Singh, Tahir Mehmood, District Officer Secondary Education Iftikhar Khan Wardag, Additional Director Secondary Education Muhammad Riaz, Additional Director Elementary Education Arif Bashir and others were also present on the occasion.

France beat Egypt to set up Olympic men's football final against Spain

Jean-Philippe Mateta scored twice and Michael Olise added a third as France came from behind to beat Egypt 3-1 after extra time on Monday and set up Paris Olympics men's football final showdown with Spain.

Thierry Henry's France looked to be heading for defeat in the semi-final in Lyon after Mahmoud Saber put Egypt ahead just after the hour mark.

But Mateta, the Crystal Palace striker, levelled from Olise's assist with seven minutes of the 90 remaining.

Egypt were reduced to 10 men at the start of extra time when centre-back Omar Fayed was sent off, and the hosts made their numerical superiority count as Mateta headed in.

Olise then sealed the win on 108 minutes and France, looking for their second Olympic men's football gold medal and first since 1984, now face Spain in the final at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Friday.

Spain, gold medallists in 1992 and silver medallists three years ago in Tokyo, qualified for the Paris Olympics men's football final earlier on Monday after coming from behind to beat Morocco 2-1 in Marseille.

Egypt and Morocco will meet in Nantes on Thursday in an all-North African play-off for bronze.

France often looked disjointed without suspended midfielder duo Manu Kone and Enzo Millot, with the latter banned after his red card at the end of the fiery quarter-final win over Argentina.

However, they had the majority of the chances and defender Loic Bade hit the post late in the first half with a header from a corner. Egypt soaked up pressure at the start of the second half before scoring in the 62nd minute.

Saber's first effort was blocked but when the ball came back to him he engineered space before slamming a shot past France goalkeeper Guillaume Restes.

The hosts almost equalised immediately as a Mateta header was tipped over by goalkeeper Hamza Alaa.

They then struck the woodwork twice in a matter of seconds, captain Alexandre Lacazette heading off a post and Bade nodding the follow-up against the bar.

Pakistan Shaheens register an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in second 50-over match

M Arif Hafeez

KARACHI: A strong bowling performance from the pace attack helped Pakistan Shaheens register an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh 'A' in the 50-over match at the DXC Arena in Darwin.

Shaheens achieved the 79-run target in 17 overs as Usman Khan top-scored with 39 not out off 45 balls with the help of five fours and one six. Tayyab Tahir returned undefeated on 17 runs off 36 balls, hitting one boundary.

Usman shared a 48-run second-wicket stand with Faseeh and an unbeaten 27-run third-wicket partnership with Tayyab to take Shaheens over the line. Sahibzada Farhan copped a seven-ball duck as he fell prey to Ripon Mondol in the second over.

Mondol was the lone wicket-taker for Bangladesh 'A' as he dismissed the Shaheens opening batters.

Earlier, after opting to bowl



first, the Pakistan Shaheens pacers ran riot with the new ball striking at regular intervals. Khurram Shahzad dismissed Tanzid Hasan and Akbar Ali while Mohammad Imran Jnr struck from the other end to dismiss Jishan Alam, Parvez Hossain and Afif Hossain within the batting powerplay.

The fast-bowling duo left Bangladesh 'A' in deep trouble at 32-5 after 9.4 overs. Only Parvez, the top scorer, managed to enter double figures (19, 30b, 2x4s, 1x6) among the top five batters.

Mahfuzur Rahman (12, 26b, 2x4s) and Shamim Hossain (13, 23b, 1x4) stitched a 21-run partnership before the

wickets started falling again as the Bangladesh 'A' lost their last five scalps for a mere 25 runs. Mubasir Khan dismissed Mahfuzur and Abu Haider Rony (10, 16b, 1x6) in the 16th and 20th overs, respectively.

Jahandad Khan soon joined the wicket-takers column by eking out Shamim Hossain (13, 23b, 1x4) and Ripon Mondol

in 21st over. Rakibul Hasan (5 not out, 9b, 1x4) and Mukidul Islam (3, 17b) added 10 runs for the last wicket before Arafat Minhas dismissed the latter as Bangladesh 'A' were bundled out for 78 in 24.3 overs.

Imran Jnr bagged three scalps while Khurram, Jahandad and Mubasir picked up two wickets each. Arafat had a solitary wicket to his name.

Pakistan Shaheens will play their first match in Top End T20 series against Perth Scorchers on 10 August.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan Shaheens won by eight wickets

Bangladesh 'A' 78 all out, 24.3 overs (Parvez Hossain 13; Shamim Hossain 13; Mohammad Imran Jnr 3-22, Mubasir Khan 2-9, Jahandad Khan 2-19, Khurram Shahzad 2-24, Arafat Minhas 1-3)

Pakistan Shaheens 79-2, 17 overs (Usman Khan 39 not out, Tayyab Tahir 17 not out; Ripon Mondol 2-30).

Pacers lead Shaheens to win in second 50-over match

Sports Desk

DARWIN: A strong bowling performance from the pace attack helped Pakistan Shaheens register an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh 'A' in the 50-over match on Tuesday at the DXC Arena in Darwin.

Shaheens achieved the 79-run target in 17 overs as Usman Khan top-scored with 39 not out off 45 balls with the help of five fours and one six.

Tayyab Tahir returned undefeated on 17 runs off 36 balls, hitting one boundary.

Usman shared a 48-run second-wicket stand with Faseeh and an unbeaten 27-run third-wicket partnership with Tayyab to take Shaheens over the line. Sahibzada Farhan copped a seven-ball duck as he fell prey to Ripon Mondol in the second over.

Mondol was the lone wicket-taker for Bangladesh 'A' as he dismissed the Shaheens opening batters.



Earlier, after opting to bowl first, the Pakistan Shaheens pacers ran riot with the new ball striking at regular intervals. Khurram Shahzad dismissed Tanzid Hasan and Akbar Ali while Mohammad Imran Jnr struck from the other end to dismiss Jishan Alam, Parvez Hossain and Afif Hossain within the batting powerplay.

The fast-bowling duo left Bangladesh 'A' in deep trouble at 32-5 after 9.4 overs. Only Parvez, the top scorer, managed to enter double figures (19, 30b, 2x4s, 1x6)

among the top five batters.

Mahfuzur Rahman (12, 26b, 2x4s) and Shamim Hossain (13, 23b, 1x4) stitched a 21-run partnership before the wickets started falling again as the Bangladesh 'A' lost their last five scalps for a mere 25 runs. Mubasir Khan dismissed Mahfuzur and Abu Haider Rony (10, 16b, 1x6) in the 16th and 20th overs, respectively.

Jahandad Khan soon joined the wicket-takers column by eking out Shamim Hossain (13, 23b, 1x4) and Ripon Mondol

in 21st over. Rakibul Hasan (5 not out, 9b, 1x4) and Mukidul Islam (3, 17b) added 10 runs for the last wicket before Arafat Minhas dismissed the latter as Bangladesh 'A' were bundled out for 78 in 24.3 overs.

Imran Jnr bagged three scalps while Khurram, Jahandad and Mubasir picked up two wickets each. Arafat had a solitary wicket to his name.

Pakistan Shaheens will play their first match in Top End T20 series against Perth Scorchers on 10 August.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan Shaheens won by eight wickets

Bangladesh 'A' 78 all out, 24.3 overs (Parvez Hossain 13; Shamim Hossain 13; Mohammad Imran Jnr 3-22, Mubasir Khan 2-9, Jahandad Khan 2-19, Khurram Shahzad 2-24, Arafat Minhas 1-3)

Pakistan Shaheens 79-2, 17 overs (Usman Khan 39 not out, Tayyab Tahir 17 not out; Ripon Mondol 2-30).

Young Huzaifa makes Pakistan proud at the Hong Kong Junior Championship

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's pride, Huzaifa Shahid, emerged victorious at the Jessica Company Hong Kong Junior Squash Open 2024, held at the Hong Kong Squash Centre on 3rd July. Huzaifa was sponsored by the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation to participate in this prestigious competition.

Showing exceptional skill, Huzaifa defeated the top-ranked Asian player, Wang Ho-kiu of Hong Kong, in the finals. He secured the U-13 title with impressive scores of 11-6, 11-8, and 11-4, indicating his potential as a future squash star in the sport.

In the semi-finals, Huzaifa beat Ruthiran Vidhurran, the second-best

player from Malaysia, with scores of 11-7, 11-6, and 11-5. Earlier, in the quarter-finals, he prevailed over China's Liu Yuanxi, with scores of 11-3, 11-5, and 11-5.

Huzaifa recently achieved a silver medal in the Asian Junior Championship held in Islamabad. He has previously competed in various international squash tournaments with notable success. Internationally, he won the Australian Junior Open Squash Championship in Melbourne in 2024 and the 7th Borneo Junior Open Squash Championship in Malaysia in 2023. He also placed 5th at the British Junior Open Squash Championship in England in 2024.

Abdul Razak Dawood says, "Huzaifa's recent victory is a clear demonstra-

tion of his extraordinary talent and dedication. Defeating the top-ranked player in Asia is no small feat, and Huzaifa's impressive performance reflects the hard work he has put into his training. We are incredibly proud to sponsor such a promising young athlete and are excited to support him as he continues to excel in his squash career."

In Pakistan, it is wonderful to see such talented kids excelling in the world of sports. With the right guidance and direction, they are not only achieving remarkable success but also paving the way for others to follow. Their enthusiasm and accomplishments inspire their peers and set a positive example.

"This news has come as such a delight. We believe in nurturing young talent and providing them with the

resources and support they need to succeed. Huzaifa's success is a shining example of what can be achieved with hard work and the right support, and we are honored to be a part of his journey," says Mehreen Dawood.

The Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by the Foundation believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who



has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

Changing

DHAKA: People wave Bangladeshi flags on top of the Ganabhaban, the Prime Minister's residence, as they celebrate the resignation of PM Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Photo: Reuters

Bangladesh president, army chief decide to form interim govt, order release of prisoners

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Bangladeshi President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Monday ordered the release of jailed former prime minister and key opposition leader Khaleda Zia, hours after her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina was ousted and the military took power.

The president's press team said in a statement that a

meeting led by Shahabuddin had "decided unanimously to free Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia immediately".

Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman, along with the head of the navy and airforce, and top leaders of several opposition parties including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami party, attended the meeting.

"The meeting decided to form an interim government immediately", the statement added.

"The meeting has also decided to free all the people who have been arrested during the student protests," it added.

Meanwhile, the student protesters have pressed for the only demands saying they won't accept any government

not based on their proposals.

Nahid Islam, one of the leaders, said they want Nobel laureate to head the interim government.

Earlier Monday, Waker said in a broadcast to the nation on state television that Hasina had resigned and the military would form a caretaker government.

Hasina had sought to quell nationwide protests against

her government since early July but she fled the country after brutal unrest on Sunday in which nearly 100 people were killed.

Zia, 78, is in poor health and confined to hospital after she was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018.

For the latest news, follow us on Twitter @Aaj_Urdu. We are also on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Ahsan Iqbal commends Huawei's collaboration to build 'Digital Future' for Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Huawei Pakistan met with Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday to discuss the company's latest digitization initiatives in the country.

The delegation comprised the company's CEO Ethan Sun, Director Subsidiary Board and Deputy CEO Ahmed Bilal Masood and Vice CEO Yushaoning, a news release said.

During the meeting, the delegation provided updates on their progress in implementing various projects, including the development of Islamabad as a model smart city, as proposed by the Minister in a previous



meeting.

The emphasis was on the importance of digital infra-

structure in driving the new age economy.

The discussion also

centered on digitizing education infrastructure, improving access to smart devices for

underprivileged students, and establishing smart classrooms as a priority area under ongoing education reforms.

Huawei officials highlighted their online Learning Management System, which enables students across Pakistan to access new ICT courses.

Furthermore, the meeting touched on the need for e-government initiatives to achieve a paperless government.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal commended Huawei's digital transformation plans, stating, "A robust digital ecosystem of learning, innovation, and efficiency is crucial for Pakistan to meet 21st-century digital demands. Huawei's collaboration in building a digital future for Pakistan is indeed commendable."

Raof Hasan released from Adiala jail

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary Information Raof Hasan has been released from Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

According to the details, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad issued Raof Hasan's release order following his bail in a case pertaining to recovery of explosive material.

After being released from Adiala Jail, the PTI leader left for his residence.

Earlier in the day, the ATC granted bail to the PTI leader against surety bonds worth Rs200,000. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra announced the decision and dismissed the plea seeking Raof Hasan's physical remand for seven more days.

Secretary-General Commonwealth, and Chairman PM's Youth Programme visit NUST

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) welcomed a senior delegation of the Commonwealth, headed by its Secretary-General Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC. Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Mr Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, also accompanied the delegation to NUST.

The event underscored the joint commitment to fostering innovation, academic excellence, and youth empowerment. Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, warmly received the guests upon arrival.

In a meeting held in his office, the Rector touched upon various facets of NUST's knowledge ecosystem that have contributed to bringing it among the league of world's leading higher education institutions.

He, inter alia, highlighted one of the flagship initiatives of NUST - the establishment and expansion of Pakistan's first National Science & Technology Park



(NSTP). Leveraging the university's core intellectual and technological strengths as well as its unique position in the global academia, the Rector said that NSTP has been focusing on eight diverse thematic areas, encompassing sectors such as education, health, energy, smart technologies, etc. He also highlighted exceptional entrepreneurship and investment opportunities available at NSTP.

Published by: Almazz Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

CJP Faez Isa donates 31680sq ft land for public for Environmental Centre

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa and his family has announced to celebrate the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan by gifting 31,680 square feet of land from his ancestral property to Balochistan government for establishment of an Environmental Centre.

A letter, duly signed by the chief justice of Pakistan and his family member Qazi Azmat Isa, reads as "We own land measuring 31,680 square feet which lies adjacent to the Quaid-e-Azam's Residency in Ziarat (the Land) which we want to donate free of charge for public purpose and use as an environmental centre, which would sensitize people to the uniqueness of the Juniper forest, impart learning and the principles of environmental conservation."

It may be recalled that Chief Secretary Balochistan, through a letter written to the provincial revenue

authorities, had sought land adjacent to the Quaid-e-Azam's residency for setting up of the environmental center.

In response to public interest, and part of Independence Day celebrations, CJP announced to donate the ancestral land.

"Pakistan is approaching 77 years of Independence and, if the government agrees, we would want this gift for the people to take effect on the auspicious day of 14 August 2024," the letter read.

The letter further declares that the Land shall only be used for the said public purpose in perpetuity. The Government of Balochistan (the Licensee) is licensed to undertake the stated public purpose on the Land, which has been handed over to the Licensee.

It may be mentioned here the copies of the letter, have also been dispatched to the president, prime minister, governor and Chief minister of Balochistan.

Speakers at Pakistan embassy event renew support to Kashmiris' self-determination

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Speakers at the event organized by the Pakistani embassy on Monday expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir, with a fervent call on India to cease human rights violations in the disputed region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires, Dr. Fareha Bugti, underscored Pakistan's steadfast support for the Kashmiri people's inalienable right to self-determination.

She condemned India's illegal actions and called for the international community to play its role for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in line with UNSC

resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris.

The event featured testimonies, among others, from Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Peace & Human Rights Advocate; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of the Kashmir Awareness Forum; Dr. Mohsin Ansari, President of Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA); Col. Wesley Martin, an American political analyst; Dr. Imtiaz Khan from George Washington University; Oussama Jammal Secretary General at US Council of Muslim Organizations (UCMO), and Zahid Bukhari Executive Director at Centre for Islam and Public Policy (CIPP) who highlighted the plight of the Kashmiri people under Indian occupation.

PM Shehbaz extends HEC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed tenure

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended the tenure of incumbent Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed for one year. A summary from the Prime Minister's Secretariat was forwarded to the education ministry's secretary on Tuesday.

The extension was due after the education ministry moved a summary. He completed his two-year tenure on Monday. He was appointed as the HEC chairman on July 29, 2022. Dr Ahmed, a renowned educationist, had earlier held the post from 2014 to 2018.

Under the PTI government, the tenure of the HEC chairman was reduced from four years to two years through an ordinance. This change was apparently made to remove then Chairman HEC Dr Tariq Banuri, who was removed prematurely by the PTI government.

Sindh govt backtracks on taking control of Sarim Burney Trust

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has reversed its decision to take control of the administrative affairs of the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust amid allegations of child trafficking.

The Sindh government had earlier decided to take control of the trust's affairs after the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) requested intervention due to the trust's alleged involvement in smuggling children to the United States and other countries.

However, the Social Welfare Department has retracted its July 18th directive to take control of Sarim Burney Trust's affairs.

The development comes amid allegations of child smuggling against Sarim Burney, who was arrested on June 6th at Karachi Airport on the request of the United States (US) Consulate.

Omer Adil: YouTuber arrested over objectionable content on women

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday arrested YouTuber and host Omer Adil on a complaint filed by private news channel anchorperson Gharida Farooqi.

According to the details, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing arrested Omer Adil for leveling 'fabricated allegations' against Gharida Farooqi.

The FIA spokesperson said that Omer Adil is currently being currently investigated by the Cyber Crime Wing.

It is pertinent to mention here that Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari had also filed a complaint against Omer Adil with the FIA.

Azma Bukhari in her complaint maintained that Umar Adil had made

derogatory remarks against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and other female anchors in his vlog

The Punjab information minister sought action against Umar Adil for his 'baseless and derogatory' remarks.

Earlier, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the government will catch each and every culprit behind Uzma Bukhari leaked deepfake video.

Addressing a press conference alongside the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, Shaista Pervaiz Malik, and other Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) women leaders, she said that the original video and related information had been obtained.