



Naqvi visits residence of martyred deputy commissioner

Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of martyred Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch in Mastung. He met with the father of Zakir Baloch, Kanoor Baloch, his brothers, and other family members. Inspector General Frontier Corps South Balochistan Major General Bilal Sarfraz Khan was also present on the occasion. (Details on Page 8)



Hundreds evacuated as forest fire rages in Turkey

Firefighters are battling a strong forest fire in the Aegean resort city of Izmir for a third day, Turkish media and officials said Saturday, with hundreds more people evacuated overnight. Helicopters and water bombers which were grounded due to strong winds continued their fight against the flames on Saturday morning, the NTV news channel reported. The fire started Thursday and was quickly spread to residential areas by winds blowing at 50kms an hour.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the measures against spread of Monkeypox virus on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM for strict vigilance in wake of global mpox outbreak

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed for keeping strict vigilance on the ad of Monkeypox (mpox) after the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared its outbreak in different parts of the world as a public health emergency of international concern.

Chairing an important meeting on the measures being taken against the spread of mpox virus, the prime minister directed for ensuring effective screening measures at all airports, seaports

and borders of the country, besides asking the border health services to keep complete surveillance of the situation.

He also directed the National Command and Operations Center (NCO) to keep alert and hold daily evaluations of the situation and asked for the provision of all required gadgets and kits for the evaluation of mpox virus.

The meeting was attended by PM's Coordinator on National Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Federal Secretary National Health Nadeem Mehboob, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority

(NDMA) Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, chief secretaries, chief commissioner ICT and other relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister further directed for strengthening of coordination among the provincial governments, governments of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir. He asked for the launch of an effective and complete awareness campaign, besides hinting at getting weekly briefings over the mpox situation.

The meeting was apprised of the situation about the spread of

the monkeypox virus. A person in District Mardan was diagnosed as a carrier of the virus. The resident had just returned to Pakistan from abroad where he was employed. He was quarantined and his condition was out of danger, the meeting was further apprised.

It was told that no local transmission of mpox was detected in Pakistan. The WHO, on August 14, declared the spread of mpox virus a public health emergency after which the NCO issued a national advisory. The required instructions in this regard had been issued, the meeting was

briefed. The federal and provincial governments were launching awareness drives in this regard, whereas the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) would supervise the flights arriving from abroad.

The provincial governments, governments of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad Capital Territory administration had allocated isolation wards and beds in the largest hospitals for the possible mpox virus cases.

All the precautionary measures were in place, it was further added.

Trees are foundation of life

Zardari says he will push for more plantation in coming Monsoon

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As we embark on the Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all Pakistanis for their unwavering dedication to preserving our environment. This campaign is not just a seasonal initiative; it is a crucial aspect of our national duty to protect and nurture the natural beauty and resources of our beloved country.



a greener, healthier future for our younger generation.

Trees are the foundation of life. They provide us with clean air, regulate our climate, and support diverse ecosystems. In the face of escalating environmental challenges, the significance of tree plantation cannot be overstated. Holy Prophet (PBUH) also encouraged planting trees and is reported to have said, "If the Hour (the day of Resurrection) is about to be established and one of you was holding a palm shoot, let him take advantage of even one second before the Hour is established to plant it".

Currently, only about 5% of Pakistan's total land area is covered by forests, which are under severe pressure due to increasing demand for wood and other land uses. Through this Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign, we have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on our environment and secure

I want to emphasize that forestry remains a top priority on Pakistan's development agenda. The 'Upscaled Green Pakistan Programme' has achieved a massive planting target and is recognised internationally. Furthermore, under the Delta Blue Carbon initiative, Pakistan has undertaken successful mangrove restoration, increasing mangrove cover by 300% since 1990. Over 2 million mangroves have been planted in Sindh to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change, which also earned \$27 million by trading carbon credits in the international market. Another restorative initiative is 'The Living Indus Program' which contains components aimed at halting deforestation and received the UN Decade of Restoration Flagship Award.

DPM reviews measures over urea availability

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting to review various measures to ensure ample availability of urea, at suitable rate, during the upcoming wheat cultivation in Rabi season.



The meeting, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed its satisfaction on the availability of urea and its price during the current Kharif season.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and National Food Security Rana Tanveer, Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, Minister

for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, relevant secretaries and other officials, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister said in a press release. The meeting decided that the Petroleum Division would ensure continuous supply of gas to all fertilizer plants for the Rabi season. The decision was taken to avert the negative impacts caused by imports upon the country's reserves.



PML-N under Nawaz Sharif leadership always served masses, launched mega uplift projects: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always done the

politics of services to the masses and provided them maximum facilities.

Nawaz Sharif, during his first term as prime minister, initiated mega development projects including South Asia's first Motorways network in the country, he said while addressing a press conference here.

He said it was Nawaz Sharif who took steps for ease of business, initiated power generation projects and provided facilities to investors.

Tarar said that Punjab government had taken a good step by providing subsidy to electricity consumers.

"Chief Minister Punjab Mariam Nawaz has given a big relief to consumers in Punjab in terms of electricity," Tarar said adding it was historic and unprecedented step which would cost Rs 45 billion. He said a former caretaker minister who was also making hue and cry over power tariff, now should come forward and laud the Punjab government's initiative.

He said that in 2018 when the tenure of the PML-N government ended, inflation was only 4 per cent and GDP growth rate was over 6 per cent. He said that yesterday Nawaz Sharif rightly said that the people were hit by inflation and sky rocketing prices of daily use items during the era when £ 190 million scam emerged, when Tosha Khana and cypher cases emerged and Punjab was at the mercy of Farha Gogi and bad governance was at its worst.

Committee to investigate PTI MNA Iqbal Afridi's comments on woman's 'attire'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A combination of file photos show National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and PTI lawmaker Muhammad Iqbal Afridi. Photos via Facebook/National Assembly of Pakistan

"A committee has been set up to investigate the comments and objections of opposition MNA Iqbal Afridi," a statement issued by the National Assembly of Pakistan said on Saturday.

PTI's Afridi objected to a woman's attire during the National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy (Power Division) meeting at the Parliament House on Friday, drawing treasury members' ire.

"The attire of a female representative from K-Electric was objectionable. Such clothing should not be worn in committee meetings," he said.

He raised the issue after the KE official had briefed the panel and left the meeting room.

Nigh-speed connectivity vital for domestic economy

Pakistan Business Council warns MNCs of possible relocation due to new firewall

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Business Council (PBC) has raised alarms regarding the potential relocation of multinational companies (MNCs) from Pakistan due to recent widespread internet disruptions caused by a newly implemented firewall.

"There are many MNCs planning to relocate their back offices and some have already done so. It is not too late," the PBC said in a post on X.

Internet services across Pakistan have been severely disrupted amid the installation of a so-called 'firewall', causing widespread inconvenience to users. The issue has persisted for several days, affecting

all internet service providers. On Thursday, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja confirmed that the government was upgrading its "web management system" to cope with cyber security threats. Such actions have been blamed for everything from slow browsing speeds, the arbitrary blocking of social media platforms and WhatsApp connectivity issues on mobile data.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has refrained from commenting on the matter. Earlier this week, sources told Aaj News that internet service issues may persist until August 30. The organisation emphasised the negative impact of such disruptions on the burgeoning software sector, which could lead to job losses for thousands of freelance developers.

While acknowledging the security needs that the firewall addresses, the PBC argued that proper testing and implementation could have mitigated the adverse effects on employment and Pakistan's reputation as a dependable source of IT services.

The PBC reiterated that reliable high-speed internet was essential for both domestic economic growth and international competitiveness.

Ali Ihsan, a senior vice chairman of the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has described recent internet disruptions as a "severe threat" to the viability of the country's IT sector.

Such disruptions were not just minor inconveniences, but rather a significant "assault" on the industry, potentially causing financial losses estimated at \$300 million, he added.

The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry echoed such concerns, warning that ongoing internet issues could hinder Pakistan's economic growth.

Aurangzeb attended the BYD Brand Launching in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: BYD, a global frontrunner in electric vehicles and renewable energy solutions, made a significant entry into the Pakistani market today, promising a new era of eco-friendly transportation. The event, held in Islamabad, was graced by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, who delivered a keynote address underscoring the importance of sustainable innovation for Pakistan's future.



Senator Aurangzeb welcomed BYD's arrival, highlighting the company's commitment to cutting-edge technology and environmental stewardship. "BYD's entry into our market is not just about introducing new vehicles; it's

about embracing a sustainable future and aligning with Pakistan's environmental goals, of achieving energy efficiency" Aurangzeb said. He further emphasized that the government is committed to support such initiatives that will not only advance green technology but will also provide a significant boost to the local economy by creating new job opportunities and fostering technological advancements in the automotive sector.

Amer-e Jamaat-e-Islami to call for nationwide strike on August 28

Asim Tanveer

Amer-e Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rahman has said that there will be a nationwide strike on August 28, relief should be given to the people of the entire country on electricity prices for the whole year, if every provision of the agreement between Jamaat-e-Islami and the government is not implemented. Caravans will leave from every city and town, they will reach Islamabad in the form of a long march, the rulers have 37 days left, give the people their right or get ready for revolution, our peaceful resistance should not be considered weakness, Sharif and Zardari Families should learn from Bangladesh, lest the people go abroad and you don't even get an airlift. And I ask the workers to intensify the struggle, on the foundation day of Jamaat-e-Islami on August 26, a nationwide membership campaign will be launched, a mobile app will also be made and villages will also be reached, supporting the traders'



announcement for a strike. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in Multan. Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Usman Farooq, Amir Punjab South Rao Muhammad Zafar, Secretary General Punjab South Soheb Amar Siddiqui, Amir Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi and other leaders were also present on the occasion. A large number of women and families also participated in the meeting.

Hafiz Naeemur Rahman said that he welcomes the first installment of relief on electricity prices in Punjab, it is the result of the struggle of Jamaat-e-Islami that forced the rulers to give relief to the people. During the 14-day sit-in, people were made aware of the looting of IPPs, class education, privileges and luxury of the rulers, the result was that the nation stood behind the sit-in of Jamaat-e-Islami and today Nawaz

Sharif Sitting with his daughter, he announced two months relief in electricity prices. He said that if the people across the country are given relief on the electricity tariff for the whole year, it will amount to around one thousand billion. The rulers can save eight and a half billion annually by gradually reducing the interest. If the privileges and luxuries of the ruling elite end, thousands of billions will be saved. As for the protection of PPPs, these ruling classes become one. He said that he will not allow the looting of IPPs, will pursue the government and will give relief to the people on electricity bills by abolishing the capacity charges of billions of rupees paid to the IPPs. He said that at the time of the agreement, it was made clear to the rulers that they will not sit quietly, on the second day of the agreement, rallies were held in Rawalpindi and then in Lahore, Peshawar and today in Multan, the series of rallies and protests will continue.

PPP's Yasin says Kashmiris will reject India's election drama from September 14

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD /MUZAFFARABAD: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that India is going to hold elections in Occupied Kashmir from September 14, Kashmiris will not accept it under any circumstances. For this heinous purpose, Article 35A 370 was amended on August 5, 2019, and the special status of Occupied Kashmir was illegally abolished, and now, in defiance of international laws, the demography of Occupied Kashmir has been changed under the guise of new domicile laws. He said that Kashmiris will not accept the election drama by India in any case. But India knows that Kashmiris hate India, that's why India is going to pretend elections for its nefarious purposes from September 14. Kashmiris will not accept it at any cost. He said that India is in occupied Kashmir. He said that the United Nations has turned away from its charter and become a facilitator of a few countries and a protector of their interests and objectives, due to which small Countries are suffering from insecurity. OIC needs to be made strong and active.

Dr. Kashif Chishti says we need to end cousin marriage to prevent thalassemia



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Dean of Children's Complex Hospital Multan Professor Muhammad Kashif Chishti has said that to prevent thalassemia disease we have to end cousin marriage and testing for this disease before marriage is very important, thus we can go a long way in preventing thalassemia disease. He expressed these thoughts while talking to a delegation led by Mrs. Saleha Pasha, Chairman of Inner Wheel District 340 Club Dera Ghazi Khan. On this occasion Mrs. Saleha Pasha, Chairman Dera Ghazi Khan of Inner Wheel District 340 Club said that all philanthropists should generously support the children of thalassemia in Children's Hospital and wherever they are being treated so that their lives can be happy. They will play their full role. They distributed juice and other items to the children under treatment in the ward. They were accompanied by Mrs. Iram Mujahid, Mrs. Shehla Mustafa Pasha and Mrs. Iram Nadeem.

Heavy Monsoon Rains in Multan. WASA Has Speed Up the Timely Drainage Operation of Water

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Recent Monsoon rains continue in Multan District Heavy rain continued intermittently on Saturday 17th August and the highest rainfall in 3 spells last day was 92 mm recorded at Chungi No. 9 Disposal Station on Saturday. As per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, as soon as the rain started, on the instructions of Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan, Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu and DG MDA Rana Saleem Ahmed, a rain emergency was implemented in Wasa for drainage of rainwater. Wasa Managing Director Khalid Raza Khan issued a high alert and summoned all the officers of the sewage, disposal station divisions, field staff on an emergency basis and started the operation for drainage in different areas of the city. Meanwhile, the Managing Director WASA directed all the disposal stations to run at full capacity and they monitored the ongoing drainage operations across the city from time to time. Inspected and ordered the WASA to speed up the drainage system and utilize all resources. He also ordered the respective Sewerage Sub-Divisions to clear the rainwater through machinery on priority basis in the low-lying areas of the city. Dia Managing Director WASA visited different areas of the city including Chong No. 9, Samijabad disposal stations and reviewed the working of the disposal stations and the drainage of rainwater from the roads. While taking it, the Deputy Director was ordered to immediately contact the MAPCO officials to restore the electricity and to run the disposal station on the generator. Meanwhile, Director Works Arif Abbas also submitted a report to MD WASA regarding the rain recorded in 3 spells at the disposal stations. According to the report of the highest rainfall, 92 mm at Chungi No. 9 Disposal Station, 83 mm at Kadi Jamandan Disposal Station, 75 mm at Old Shujabad Road Disposal Station were recorded after two spells of rain in most areas of the city, was cleared while the drainage of the spill after 5 pm continued till late evening, during which MD Wasa Khalid Raza Khan directed all the sewerage officers to remove the rain water from the highways as well as the low-lying areas in time.



Fatiha

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Muslim League (Z), Muhammad Ejazul Haq and other offering fathia at the grave of late Gen Muhammad Zia ul Haq in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Kashmir Liberation Cell, Poonch district administration to finalize Nila Butt Day

Bureau Report

BAGH: Preparations for Nila Butt Day have reached a peak, it has been decided to hold a big gathering on August 24 at Nila Butt in Dhirkot, and on August 23, there will be a gathering and recitation of the Quran, while on August 24 the Nila Butt Day will be celebrated. Apart from the political leaders of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, the Hurriyat leadership will also participate. A meeting of the divisional and district administration regarding preparations for Nila Butt Day was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Poonch Division Sardar Muhammad Waheed Khan. Director Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Sajjad Latif Director Informa-



tion Muhammad Bashir Mirza Divisional President of Muslim Conference Retired Nasrullah Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ms Ifat Azam, XCN Electricity Qazi Khalid, DSP Shafiq Mughal, Information Officer Sardar Parvez, DEO Sardar Abdul Aziz, Nadeem Iqbal, Sajid Majeed, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad

Rashid Khan, Saud Ahmed, Syed Tahir Shah, Amjad Khan, Raja Ayaz Ahmed, Mazhar Hussain, Ghulam Murtaza, Syed Habib Hussain, Syed Amjad Gurdizi Advocate, Dr. Abdul Shakur, Raja Munir, Samit others participated. In the meeting, important decisions were taken regarding the preparations of Nila Butt Day and

the responsibilities of all the departments were assigned in the program. Speaking at the meeting, Commissioner Poonch Sardar Waheed said that after the unilateral actions of India, the Nila Butt Day will be celebrated. The importance has increased. The starting point of freedom is the place of Nila Butt. Our forefathers had declared the independence (Jihad) movement from the historical place of Nila Butt under the dynamic leadership of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan and decided that Kashmiris will fight for independence on their own. It will become a part of Pakistan. Kashmiris have carried forward the movement that started from Nila Butt Day till today by giving millions of lives.

Chinese CG discusses Pak-China ties at Addl: Chief Secretary's office Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Additional Chief Secretary of South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, met with the Chinese Consul General, Zhao Shiren. Vice Consular Wang Yaqing Yaqub also attended the meeting. During the discussion, both sides addressed issues of mutual interest. Zhao Shiren emphasized the strong, enduring friendship between China and Pakistan. He said that with the completion of various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC), all provinces, including Balochistan, would achieve new milestones in development. He said that the Gwadar International Airport has been completed and will soon be inaugurated. Zhao Shiren also appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the Additional Chief Secretary to advance education and agriculture in South Punjab. Fuad Hashim Rabbani, in turn, praised the Chinese model of education, research, and development, and expressed gratitude for the solar power plants being set up in

District Layyah and Kot Addu with China's cooperation. Rabbani expressed hope that the establishment of a special industrial zone in Jalalpur Pirwala and the transfer of technology would spur regional progress and reduce unemployment. He said South Punjab, as a significant food-producing region, offers vast investment opportunities, and that research into high-quality seeds and increased per-acre yield could bring about an economic revolution. Rabbani suggested to the

Chinese Consul General the establishment of a model educational institution in South Punjab, based on the Chinese school system, to provide IT education from an early age and ensure immediate employment upon graduation. He proposed expanding the model school after its success and requested support for modernizing technical education institutions. Rabbani concluded by stating that working papers based on these proposals would be prepared within 15 days. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab



presented shield, souvenir, Blue shall and Mulatni sohan halwa to the Consul General. The Consul General also gave away gifts to the Additional Chief Secretary.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:01 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:56 pm
Maghrib 6:52 pm
Isha 8:22 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 921334-43
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

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

Bureau Report

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

In a statement issued here Sunday, JKNF vice chairman Altaf Hussain Wani, while castigating the BJP government for its aggressive designs in the region, said that the August 5 move was an atrocious assault on Kashmir's national identity. Terming it as yet another step in India's history of colonizing Kashmir, the leader of the National Front stated that the colonization of Kashmir has since long been a dream project of the BJP and other Hindu supremacist groups who believe in Savarkar's Hindutva ideology.

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

Condemning in strong terms India's policies of oppression and suppression to subdue Kashmiris, the National Front leader expressed that the fascist regime has turned Kashmir into an open-air prison where people are forced to live in a state of heightened fear of being killed, harassed, and humiliated. He, however, maintained that despite using all possible means of oppression, India has miserably failed to suppress Kashmiris' urge and their passion for freedom.

Surveillance, screening enhanced for Monkeypox: Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad on Saturday said that the government has formulated a comprehensive strategy to protect the people from the Monkeypox (Mpx).

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that people need not worry as only one case of Mpx has been reported in Pakistan. He added surveillance and screening are in place at all airports and points of entry.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that in the provinces including the federal capital, laboratories are allocated for the diagnosis of Mpx. He said that cases of



Mpx have been reported from Africa, America and the Gulf countries will be monitored.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Federal capital and the provinces have taken steps on a joint priority basis. He said

that the Ministry of Health is ensuring continuous monitoring daily and the government is closely monitoring the situation.

He said that the ministry is in full contact with the provinces and on the instructions of the prime minister, a meeting is being conducted

on a daily basis. He appealed to the public to isolate themselves at home if their family has a travel history and Mpx symptoms.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad added in such a situation contact a qualified doctor and follow the doctor's instructions in case of having any such symptoms.

He said that this virus has been found in 99,000 people in the world and only 200 patients died and all others recovered. He said that symptoms may take 10 to 15 days to appear and spending too much time with the patient can spread it.

It is better if the patient is quarantined, he said, adding that fever medicines are used for Mpx.

Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Children bathe in stagnant water at a construction site along Kernal Sher Khan Road.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DC reviews Monkeypox screening measures at Islamabad Airport

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In response to growing concerns about Monkeypox, the district administration has taken proactive steps and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz, personally visited Islamabad Airport to review the screening process for incoming international passengers.

According to a spokesperson for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), the DC visited the airport to evaluate the existing measures for screening travellers. He instructed that the screening process be expedited to ensure the timely identification of any potential Monkeypox cases.



The DC said that health department personnel have been deployed at the airport, where every passenger arriving from overseas is being thoroughly screened. If any symptoms are detected, the individual will be isolated and transferred to PIMS Hospital, which is equipped with special arrangements for treating Monkeypox patients.

DC Islamabad said that Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital has been designated as an Isolation Management Unit for Monkeypox cases. A special focal person has been appointed to oversee the unit's operations, ensuring that all necessary precautions and treatments are effectively managed.

Sher Afzal Marwat returns to party after meeting PTI founder

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Sher Afzal Marwat has announced his return to the party after a meeting with incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan.

Addressing media outside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, Marwat stated that he had met with Imran Khan after a gap of three months saying that Khan warmly welcomed him and discussed various issues.

The PTI leader also announced that he had been given the responsibility of organizing a public gathering on August 22 and the party chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan was witness to Khan's direction about the power show.



Marwat expressed his gratitude to Khan and announced that he was ending his differences with the party and also apologized for the remarks he made against party leaders in the past.

PTI MNA assured that he would now work to organize peaceful public gatherings and would not resort to violent protests.

The development came

after PTI, in a notification, endorsed by PTI Additional Secretary General Firdous Shamim Naqvi, announced to suspend Sher Afzal Marwat's membership, which was denied by the PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, terming the notification "fake".

The PTI leadership was at odds over suspending the basic party membership of MNA Sher Afzal Marwat.

Tehsil monitoring Committee to complete ramp casing at Government Isfandyar Bukhari District Hospital

Razaq Naqvi

ATTOCK: Head of Tehsil Monitoring Committee for Health Attock and ticket holder PP 03 Attock Malik Hameed Akbar Khan has said that in the light of the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all possible facilities are being provided to the patients in Government Isfandyar Bukhari District Hospital Attock. will be made available. He expressed these views on the occasion of laying the foundation of the newly constructed ramp casing in Government Isfandyar Bukhari District Hospital, Attock. CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail MS, Building Imran Ahmed and other related officers were also present. The concerned officers told the Tehsil Monitoring Committee for Health that the construction will be done at a cost of four crore rupees in a period of two months and patients will be able to benefit. Speaking on the occasion, Malik Hameed Akbar Khan said that he is closely monitoring the administrative and other affairs of the Government Isfandyar Bukhari District Hospital.

Educators Elite Campus Celebrates Independence Day



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Educators Elite Campus, Johar Town Branch, marked Pakistan's Independence Day with a vibrant and patriotic celebration on the occasion of Jashn-e-Azadi. The event was graced by the presence of the Executive Director of the Pakistan Federation Baseball, and the CEO of The Educators Elite Campus, Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair, who honoured the ceremony as the chief guest.

In a symbolic display of national pride, the chief guest, accompanied by school staff, raised the national flag, paying tribute to our beloved country. The school's head, Malik Waqas Saleem, and the deputy head, Miss Humaira Ahsan, were instrumental in organizing the event, alongside the entire management team and students, ensuring the ceremony's success.

The event concluded with the chief guest expressing his appreciation for the students' performances and the efforts of the staff. He emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices of our forefathers and urged the students to work hard for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Takht Bhai tehsil celebrates Independence Day with great zeal



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Like other parts of the country, the 77th Independence Day celebrations are being held with great enthusiasm and devotion in Takht Bhai tehsil. A central ceremony was held at TMA Takht Bhai, which began with sirens and flag hoisting. A special cake was cut to celebrate Independence Day. National anthems and patriotic songs were played, and a tree was planted to mark the occasion. Participants congratulated each other on Independence Day. A grand ceremony was held at the TMA office in Takht Bhai, organized by the tehsil administration, which included Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Chairman of Takht Bhai Tehsil, Junaid Khalid, Assistant Commissioner of Takht Bhai, Madam Saharsh Anwar, Additional Assistant Commissioner, Shakeel Khan, DSP, Ali Akbar, SHO, Shaukat Khan, Traffic Incharge, Rahman Sher, TMO, Usman Ali Nashad, Chief Officer, Maulana Muhammad Qasim, Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Mardan District, Haji Gul Dad, Patron of Anjuman Tajran, Sher Mama, Shah Khalid, and others.

The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including political leaders, traders, and citizens.

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed says by planting trees we can make our lives safe

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member National Assembly Sheikh Aftab Ahmed has said that by planting trees we can make our lives safe. Deputy Director of Colleges Professor Arshad Khan, Professor Asim Rashid, Tehsil President Mian Shah Nawaz Shani, District Information Secretary Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq and other officers were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Member National Assembly Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said that this year About 100,000 saplings were planted on the occasion of Independence Day. He said that for the environmental survival of any country, it is necessary that 25% of the area is covered by forests, whereas in Pakistan only 5% of the area is covered with forests. That every citizen should plant trees by playing his full role and pay full attention to its development. Answering a question, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said that Government Graduate College, Attock has a historical status and he should do his best for its development. will continue to pay and no minute will be spared to provide facilities to the students. In the end, Principal Government Graduate College Attock Professor Khalid Javed Siddiqui presented a commemorative shield to Member National Assembly Sheikh Aftab Ahmed.



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Army Committed to Restoring Order at All Costs

The focus of the national discourse, for better or worse, has shifted from the civilian leadership—PML(N), PPP, JUI, and most importantly, Imran Khan—to the army after the high-profile arrest of Lt. General (Retd.) Faiz Hameed and his accomplices. These arrests were related to charges outlined in a short but fully loaded press release by the ISPR, which stated that, in connection with the FGCM proceedings of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Faiz Hameed, three retired officers are also in military custody for actions prejudicial to military discipline. Further investigations into certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of, and in collusion with, vested political interests are ongoing.

This press release opened up an entire Pandora's box and unleashed a genie that engulfed the entire nation, reverberating around the globe. It immediately took center stage in the national discourse, dominating media discussions and shifting focus, which had previously revolved around the judiciary and PTI on one side, and the parliament and establishment government on the other. The high-profile arrest and its repercussions triggered a storm of rumors, hearsay, speculation, and the crafting of numerous scenarios by every analyst and commentator.

One analyst, in a moment of emotion, rushed to link the May 9 incident with the arrest, claiming that the PTI Chief had been instrumental in promoting and encouraging mutiny within the army by inciting junior officers to rise against the senior leadership. He demanded

accountability for all serving and retired army officers, as well as the former PTI chairman, seemingly forgetting that the former chairman's accountability had been initiated in August and is ongoing without any end in sight.

Another commentator argued that the allegations leveled against General Faiz and his accomplices carry no political weight, as it is not a crime for a retired army officer to meet or establish connections with any incarcerated political figure.

A third analyst painted an even more alarming scenario. He suggested that the entire plan was masterminded by Lt. General Hameed, who identified military targets around the country. According to this theory, he had cultivated serving officers of the armed forces manning these installations and planted his own trained people among the mobs that attacked them. The idea was to create chaos from both inside and outside, leading to the replacement of the army leadership loyal to the army chief and the establishment of a new order.

Amongst these speculative and mostly unvalidated observations and imaginary scenarios, let us try to get the clarity of the army's standpoint by decoding the ISPR's Press Release. It used the acronym "FGCM" which stands for "Field General Court Martial". It is a type of military court used to try members of the armed forces who are accused of serious offenses. The

Field General Court Martial is the highest level of court martial in the military justice system, typically dealing with grave charges such as mutiny, treason, desertion, or other severe breaches of military law. The proceedings are conducted by senior military officers, and the court has the authority to impose significant penalties, including imprisonment and even the death penalty, depending on the jurisdiction and the nature of the offense.

The Press Release used the phrase that "three retired officers are in military custody for actions 'prejudicial to military discipline,'" it means that these officers are being held by military authorities because they are suspected of engaging in activities or conduct that undermined or harmed the discipline, order, or integrity of the armed forces. Even though they are retired, these officers are subjected to military law if their actions are deemed serious enough to warrant it, especially if those actions took place while they were still in service or if the offenses are linked to military matters. Being in military custody suggests that they are being investigated or possibly facing legal proceedings within the military justice system for these alleged offenses.

The last para indicated said that, "Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests are continuing". This means that ongoing

investigations are being conducted into the actions of certain retired military officers and their accomplices. These investigations focus on their alleged involvement in creating or promoting instability, such as disorder, unrest, or challenges to the established order.

The phrase "at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests" suggests that these retired officers and their accomplices are believed to have acted under the direction or influence of specific political groups or individuals who have a particular interest in causing instability for their own benefit. "Collusion" implies that these parties worked together, likely in a secretive or deceptive manner, to achieve this shared goal of destabilizing the situation.

Now that we have deciphered the press release to a large extent, let's try to put it in proper perspective. The entire episode was triggered by the events of May 9. The army took action against many serving and retired officers soon after the incident. This fresh wave of arrests, coming nearly a year later, reflects the ongoing investigation. According to the press release, all individuals—whether civilian or military, retired or serving—who masterminded the events of May 9, along with those who aided in fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, will eventually be arrested and subjected to punishment commensurate with the severity of their crimes.

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



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

Int'l community to play its role on Kashmir issue

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the longstanding Kashmir valley issue of the region.

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

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

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

Amir Muqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on August 5. He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which will complete five years on August 5.

He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said.

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

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

"India has increased its oppression in IIOJK since August 5, 2019. Efforts are being made to silence the media. The genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people remains behind bars. The Indian authorities have sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik", he said.

He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, 'cordon and search' operations, and extra-judicial killings have become a matter of routine. The Kashmiri people are unable to enjoy their freedom of expression and assembly. Most importantly, they are unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, he said.

He said on this 'Youm-e-Istehsal', we salute the courage and valour of the people of IIOJK, who have rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of their basic rights.

The international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK, reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal of draconian laws; release of political prisoners and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Voice of the People

Urgent Attention Required: Ongoing Crisis in Palestine

Dear Editor,
 I am writing to draw your attention to the terrible circumstances that have taken place in Palestine, which have gotten much worse in recent months. Numerous lives have been severely impacted by the continuous violence, which has led to a serious humanitarian crisis.

There have been a lot of deaths as a result of the escalating conflict between Israeli forces and Palestinian organizations as of August 2024. There have been uncountable Palestinian deaths, with a significant proportion of civilian deaths. Significant infrastructure damage has also resulted from the fighting, impairing vital services including access to clean water, healthcare, and education.

The international community must step up its efforts to promote ceasefire accords, assist humanitarian relief, and work toward a long-term settlement to the crisis. In order to prevent more deaths and lessen the humanitarian damage, the people of Palestine are in desperate need of aid, and this requires a concerted response.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. I wish for a speedy settlement of the dispute and the return of stability and peace to the area.

Sincerely,
Areeba Liaquat
 areebaliquat793@gmail.com

The Urgent Need to Promote Digital Literacy in Pakistan

Dear Editor,
 I wanted to talk about Digital literacy has become important in a world that is increasingly digital.

Illiteracy still stands as one of the major hurdles in Pakistan. Their competency and even the basic ability to negotiate the digital space are efforts many people in the country struggle with. This digital divide affects not only the development of a person but also our nation's growth in the global economy.

Digital literacy is much more than knowing how to operate a computer or a smartphone. It's today's literacy—the ability to act critically, to perceive information; it's the right online privacy and security use and digital media to use professionally in communication, education, and business. Most of the services, whether banking, health services, or education, have started to very quickly go online nowadays. Thus, those who are not digitally literate are having a serious disadvantage.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to bear further into focus literacy, as millions of students plunged headlong into e-learning that they were ill-prepared for, together with their teachers. Many students are dented on the rock of poor digital skills in hinterland and underprivileged areas.

Therefore, the government and private sectors have to work together to fill this gap and bring digital literacy to all classes. Digital inclusion should be brought to school curricula, community programs, and access to facilities related to those technologies, including the internet. Special focus is thrown to address outreach to the leading marginalized groups including women, rural populations, and the elderly, for they are the most digitally excluded.

In a world where digital skills are becoming as fundamental as reading and writing, we cannot afford to leave giant portions of our population behind. Investing today in digital literacy will help to instill the capacities into the citizens so that they are able to further participate, to spur the economy, and to make sure Pakistan is in a position to be globally competitive.

Your Sincerely,
Ayesha Sabir
 Shalimar housing scheme
 Lahore, 54920
 ayesha.sabir241716@gmail.com

Rising Electricity bills and it's impact on Pakistan's Economy

Editor,
 The continuous increase in electricity bills in Pakistan has become a major concern for the average citizen. Despite ongoing protests, like those organized by Jamat e Islami, the burden on the public continues to grow. This relentless rise in electricity costs is not only squeezing household budgets but is also contributing to the escalating inflation rates in the country.

The government must address the root causes of these price hikes, such as inefficiencies in the power sector, reliance on expensive imported fuels, and mismanagement of resources. The public protests highlight the urgency of the situation, yet the response has been inadequate. If this trend continues unchecked, it will exacerbate the economic challenges faced by the Pakistani people and hinder any prospects of economic recovery.

It is crucial for the authorities to take swift and effective action to stabilize electricity prices. Measures should include promoting renewable energy, improving governance in the power sector, and providing relief to consumers through subsidies or price adjustments.

Sincerely,
Maryum Javed
 Islamabad
 Email Address: maryumjaved112@gmail.com

A New Chapter in Bangladesh: Implications for Pakistan and the Region

Dear Editor,
 The recent ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh, triggered

by student protests, marks a significant turning point in the country's history. As Pakistan's neighbor and a key player in regional dynamics, the implications of this development warrant attention.

The new government in Bangladesh may adopt a more neutral stance towards Pakistan, potentially reducing tensions and creating opportunities for improved relations. This shift could alter the balance of power in South Asia, benefiting Pakistan in terms of regional influence. Moreover, improved relations could lead to increased trade and economic cooperation, benefiting both nations.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the criticisms of Sheikh Hasina's government, including its authoritarian tendencies and anti-Pakistan narrative. The student-led protests reflected widespread discontent with the government's approach, and the new government must address these concerns to ensure stability.

As the new government takes shape, its approach to regional relations, including with Pakistan, will be crucial. Pakistan must seize this opportunity to foster better ties with Bangladesh, focusing on economic cooperation, trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

The region watches with bated breath as Bangladesh embarks on this new chapter. We hope that the new government will prioritize reforms, address economic and social issues, and adopt a more inclusive approach to governance.

Sincerely,
Laiba Aslam
 BS Media and Communication Studies
 International Islamic University Islamabad
 laibaaslam711@gmail.com

Net Loss: The Financial Impact of Internet Disruptions on Pakistan

Dear Editor,
 I am writing to express my deepest concerns

about the growing issue of internet disruptions in Pakistan and their detrimental impact on our economy. With Pakistan's struggling economy and growing socio-political divides, this continuous internet disruption has increased frustration among youth and economic stakeholders.

As, Pakistan is the 4th fastest-growing country in the world, with an impressive 78% growth rate annually. With an estimated 3 million freelancers, the Pakistani freelancing market and E-commerce have generated over \$500 million in 2023 and have become one of the most dominating living sources for around a quarter of the population.

In today's digital age, where the Internet serves as the backbone of commerce, communication, and innovation. Even short-lived disruptions can have far-reaching consequences.

The impact is especially severe on startups, E-commerce platforms, digital payments, and even traditional businesses that have integrated digital solutions into their operations are all affected. These small yet dynamic businesses are the future of our economy which rely heavily on online platforms to operate, and their inability to function due to internet outages poses a serious threat to their survival and growth. According to the Pakistan Software House Authority, these disruptions could cost 300 million dollars in loss. These internet shutdowns affect more than just the tech industry; they disrupt everyday life and erode confidence in Pakistan's economic stability and governance, deterring both local and foreign investors. What's worse, the reasons behind these disruptions remain unclear.

The government must recognize the severity of this issue and ensure stable, uninterrupted internet access nationwide. As young Pakistanis striving to position our country in the global digital economy, these disruptions hinder our progress and hold us back.

Sincerely,
Muhammad Ismail Qaddus,
 ismailmuhammad6875@gmail.com

Flag Hoisting Ceremony solemnly held at the Indonesian Embassy to celebrate 79th Independence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia held the Flag Hoisting Ceremony to celebrate Indonesia's 79th Independence Day this morning at the Embassy's premises, led by the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Rahmat Hindarta Kusuma. It was the culmination of a series of pre-events in welcoming the auspicious day to keep maintained unity and mutual respect among Indonesians, as well as strengthened patriotism to the Homeland.

Embassy's officials along with their families and hundreds of Indonesian Diaspora based in different cities of Pakistan, attended the ceremony in Indonesian traditional fervor. Besides, guests of honor from prominent religious leaders, journalists and experts from reputable think tanks, and representatives of the dynamic business community were also present on the special occasion.

A moment of silence was observed to pay tribute to the national heroes, followed by the reading of the text of proclamation of Independence. The ceremony concluded with the special prayers for the Country and renewed commitment to avidly make Indonesia prosperous, harmonious, advanced, and invincible.

At the Flag Hoisting Ceremony called in Indonesian language by "Upacara Bendera", the Embassy's Flag Hoisting Team which consists of a smartly turned-out group of Indonesian students had the honor to receive the Indonesian flag from the Chargé d'Affaires as an Inspector of the Ceremony. The Team subsequently raised the red-white flag solemnly with the playing of the Indonesian National Anthem, "Great Indonesia," or "Indonesia Raya".

Right after the Ceremony, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires escorted all guests of honor to the Embassy's Hall for small and simple reception by serving Tumpeng, the cone-shaped rice dish as an inseparable part of celebrations and other important events in Indonesia.



"On behalf of the Indonesian Embassy, I express my sincere gratitude and high appreciation to all of you for joining us at the very special moment of Indonesian Independence Day. Indonesia and Pakistan, the two largest Muslim countries in the world, dosti zindahbad!" he said in the spirits of freedom and

friendship between the two brotherly countries.

"Looking forward in Indonesian Expo 2024 in the Centaurus Mall which will officially be opened today's afternoon. See you in Jakarta, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Bandung, and anywhere in Indonesia," he concluded his remarks by inviting all those present to be closer to Indonesia.

Moreover, as appreciation on their great achievement, the Chargé d'Affaires honored a group of Indonesian students in Pakistan with the certificate of appreciation for pursuing their higher level academic programs with distinction.

"Really good experience. Very well-organized event. Happy Independence Day!" said Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, CEO D Watson Group. "Enjoy a lot! Thank you for having me. Looking forward other invitation from the Indonesian Embassy," Mr. Tariq Ullah Sufi, CEO Hamza Veg, Oil Refinery, & Ghee Mills (Pvt.) Limited. "I appreciate the way you organize this special event. My prayers are always on you and the Embassy," said H. E. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, Chairman Musim Institute. "Thank you for inviting all of us. Always miss this event. Proud of you!," said Mia, an Indonesian national from Gujrat.



IBA-ADRIC hosts a seminar on 'Pakistan's ADR Renaissance'

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Alternative Dispute Resolution International Center (ADRIC), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, in collaboration with the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), U. S. Department of Commerce successfully hosted a seminar titled 'Pakistan's ADR Renaissance', at the City Campus.

Director IBA-CEE and SIMI Accredited Mediator, Mr. Kamran Bilgrami, delivered the welcome address, setting the stage for an engaging session. He introduced IBA-ADRIC, and its initiatives, and expressed his gratitude towards Keynote Speakers: Hon'ble Senior Puisne Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Syed Mansoor Ali Shah; Hon'ble Chief Justice, Sindh High Court, Muhammad Shafi Siddique; Hon'ble Justice, Lahore High Court, Jawad Hassan; and Hon'ble Justice, Islamabad High Court, Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb.

The mediators of the event, Mr.

Bilgrami; and Head of Program & Partnerships, IBA ADRIC and SIMI Trained Mediator, Syed Bulent Sohail, engaged in a discussion on Mediation Landscape in Singapore: Opportunities and Future Prospects for Pakistan. Attorney Advisors, CLDP, U. S. Department of Commerce, Eric Ives and Raquel Martinez, shared insights into the U. S. government's services and assistance to Pakistan's ADR movement. This was followed by an enlightening discussion on Mediation by Legal Counsel, SIMC, Sidharth Jha. He conveyed warm regards from the Chairman SIMC, Mr. George Lim.

Executive Director IBA, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi delivered the executive address, offering encouragement and acknowledging the advancements IBA has made in ADR and its promotion in Pakistan.

The second part of the seminar focused on a panel discussion titled 'Bridging Borders: Enhancing International and Regional Connectivity for Economic Growth and Stability'. Mr.



Sohail; and Assistant Professor Law, IBA, Ms. Mehreen Nazar moderated the session.

connectivity. The first bi-panel featured prominent experts from leading ADR centers in South Asia and Central Asia such as, Attorney Advisor US Department of Commerce,

General, CCC-ICLP International ADR Center, Sri Lanka, Dhara Wijayatilake.

The second bi-panel featured the panelists, Senior Fellow, Center for Law & Religion, Emory University & Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Jo DeLaGarza-Chitlik; Vice Chairman Maldives International Arbitration Center, Aseel Hassan; Japan Representative, SIMC, Yulko Nitta; Chairperson, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Mian Sheraz Javaid; and Former General Secretary NEPCA, Nepal, Gyanendra Prasad Kayastha.

Secretary Law and Justice Commission, Pakistan, Ms. Riffat Inam presented a special address where she emphasized the practices that Pakistan is adopting for promotion of ADR in Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Justice Jawad Hassan highlighted that Pakistan is on the right track in adopting ADR practices. During his recent visit to London, a leading jurisdiction in dispute resolution, he observed that Pakistan is making impressive progress in this area.

Justice Attique Shah informed the

audience about the significance of ADR and its effective impact on reducing the caseload of the judiciary. He also emphasized the legal provisions of the ADR Act and their significance.

Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui stressed the importance of focusing on all forms of ADR, not just mediation, especially given Pakistan's significant case backlog. To effectively reduce this backlog, it is essential to leverage the full range of ADR techniques.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah commented on the ADR Renaissance theme and enlightened that various industries can be deduced under ADR for effective dispute resolution. He expressed that Pakistan should focus on keeping ADR as a desired dispute resolution mechanism.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks that reiterated the importance of ADR in Pakistan's legal landscape. Mementos were distributed, symbolizing the collaborative spirit and shared commitment to advancing ADR practices in the country.

Pakistan at 77: Reflecting on Our Journey, Challenges, and the Road Ahead

On August 14, Pakistan celebrates its independence, a day marked by the sacrifices of countless individuals who envisioned a nation where Muslims could live with freedom, dignity, and equality. The establishment of Pakistan was driven by the urgent need to protect the social, cultural, and religious rights of Muslims in the Indian subcontinent. The visionaries of Pakistan, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, sought a homeland where they could govern according to their values and aspirations, free from the fear of oppression.

The roots of Pakistan's creation lie in the historical context of the subcontinent, where Muslims found themselves increasingly marginalized under British rule and the rising tide of Hindu nationalism. The demand for a separate nation was not merely about geography but about identity, culture, and the right to self-determination. The Lahore Resolution of 1940, which called for "independent states" for

Muslims in the northwestern and eastern zones of India, crystallized this demand, ultimately leading to the birth of Pakistan in 1947.

Since its establishment, Pakistan has achieved several milestones that reflect the resilience and potential of its people. The country has made significant strides in various sectors. Pakistan became the first Muslim-majority country to develop nuclear weapons, a milestone achieved in 1998, making it one of the few nuclear-armed states in the world. This has provided a strategic deterrence in a volatile region. In addition, Pakistan is among the world's top producers of wheat, rice, and cotton, contributing to the global food supply. The country's agricultural sector employs nearly 40% of the workforce and is a backbone of the economy. Pakistan has also made progress in the field of technology and space exploration, launching its first satellite, Badr-A, in 1990. The tech industry, particularly in software development, has seen impressive growth, contributing to exports. Moreover, Pakistan

has produced globally recognized scholars, scientists, and artists, contributing to the world in various fields. The rise of a young, dynamic workforce presents an opportunity for innovation and economic growth.

However, the journey has not been without significant losses. Pakistan has experienced multiple military coups, leading to periods of authoritarian rule that disrupted democratic processes and weakened institutions. This instability has hindered consistent policy implementation and economic growth. Despite progress, Pakistan continues to grapple with high levels of poverty, with 24.3% of the population living below the poverty line. Economic inequality has grown, with the wealth gap widening, leaving many regions underdeveloped. The rise of extremism and terrorism has taken a heavy toll, with thousands

of lives lost and a severe impact on the country's social fabric and international reputation. The ongoing security challenges have strained resources and affected overall development. Despite having a large youth population, Pakistan faces an education crisis, with 22.8 million children out of school, one of the highest numbers in the world. The literacy rate remains low, particularly in rural areas, limiting the country's potential for innovation and growth.

Several weaknesses continue to challenge Pakistan's progress. Corruption remains a pervasive issue, affecting every level of government and society. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index ranks Pakistan 140th out of 180 countries, highlighting the need for comprehensive anti-corruption reforms. Frequent changes in

government, along with power struggles between different institutions, have led to policy inconsistency and hampered long-term planning. This instability has deterred foreign investment and slowed economic progress. Pakistan's energy sector struggles with inefficiencies and chronic shortages, leading to frequent power outages that disrupt daily life and economic activities. Despite having abundant natural resources, the country has yet to fully harness its energy potential. With a population growth rate of 2.0%, one of the highest in South Asia, Pakistan faces mounting pressure on its resources, infrastructure, and social services. The rapid population increase exacerbates issues like unemployment, housing shortages, and environmental degradation.

To overcome these challenges and realize the potential envisioned by its founders, Pakistan must adopt a multi-faceted approach. Investing in education is paramount. The government must prioritize increasing access to quality education, particu-

larly in rural areas, and focus on vocational training to equip the youth with skills relevant to the modern economy. Pakistan needs to diversify its economy beyond agriculture and textiles. Encouraging innovation, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and investing in technology and renewable energy can create new avenues for growth and reduce reliance on a few sectors. Ensuring political stability through democratic means is crucial. Strengthening institutions, upholding the rule of law, and promoting transparency will help restore public trust and create a conducive environment for sustainable development. Implementing stringent anti-corruption measures, along with judicial reforms, will be essential in curbing corruption. Establishing independent oversight bodies and ensuring accountability at all levels of government can significantly reduce corruption's impact on development. Developing a comprehensive energy policy that includes renewable energy sources like

solar and wind will help alleviate the energy crisis. Public-private partnerships in the energy sector can drive efficiency and expand access to reliable power.

As Pakistan celebrates its 77th Independence Day, it is essential to reflect on the achievements, acknowledge the losses, and confront the challenges ahead. The vision of a prosperous, stable, and inclusive Pakistan is still within reach, but it requires collective effort, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the principles upon which the nation was founded. By addressing its weaknesses and capitalizing on its strengths, Pakistan can stride forward, realizing the dreams of its founders and securing a brighter future for generations to come.

Muhammad Faiq Shah is the Founder of the Aman Taragqi Party (ATP) in Pakistan and the Founding Chairman of the Friends of Society Organization (FSO). He can be reached via Email: officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com



Muhammad Faiq Shah

Analysis

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,045.30	78,105.98
Day's High	Day's Low
78,619.17	78,041.08
Index Value	Change
8,765,263,421	-60.68
Percentage	Time
-0.08%	16 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,311.41	-35.94
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	16 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,682.84	+119.78
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	16 Aug, 1:11 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,062.67	+1,336.03
Percentage	Time
+3.64%	16 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.9	187.5
Bahrain Dinar	738.2	743.7
Canadian Dollar	202.9	207.25
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	303.5	305.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.45	910.60
Malaysian Ringgit	58.7	59.5
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.4	728.5
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.55
Singapore Dollar	202.15	204.15
Swedish Korona	26.25	26.55
Swiss Franc	319.5	324.50
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.65
UK Pound Sterling	357.9	360.1
US Dollar	279.70	280.4

Myanmar envoy says there is lot of potential for tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan, Wunna Han on Saturday said that there is a vast potential of cooperation between Pakistan and Myanmar in the tourism sector, for which future paths can be determined between the two countries.

There is a lot of potential for tourism in the northern regions of Pakistan, especially Gilgit-Baltistan, which needs to be highlighted at the global level, Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan, Wunna Han told APP. The ambassador said that the northern regions of Pakistan, especially Gilgit-Baltistan, are very beautiful and rich in natural beauty, where there are six major mountain peaks of the world.

He said that he visited Skardu and nearby the world-famous plateau Deosai Park and these places are considered among the most

beautiful tourist places in the world whose natural beauty can be seen.

The ambassador of Myanmar said that Gilgit-Baltistan's tourism potential by drawing parallels with his country's cultural heritage by expressing the hope that the local business community to unlock the tourism potential of the region will bear fruit.

The envoy said that apart from this, there is a lot of potential for religious tourism in Pakistan and Myanmar, for which the dialogue between the two sides should continue.

He said that Pakistan is the centre of Indus Civilization of which Taxila is counted among the centers of Buddhist civilization. He said that apart from Taxila, districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mansehra and Swat also have a historical heritage of Buddhist civilization in which religious tourism can be promoted.

Replying to economic and trade ties between

both of the countries, he said that the present trade volume between Myanmar and Pakistan is US\$70 million far less than their latent potential. He said that Myanmar's exports to Pakistan are fruits, vegetable products, wood, seafood, jute and other textile fibres, and medicinal plants being imported from Myanmar.

Pakistan's exports to Myanmar include military technology, medicament mixtures, cement, medicinal plants, leather, cotton fabrics, and electro-medical apparatus, he said.

It is pertinent to mention that in January 2012, then President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari visited Myanmar, and the visit focused on enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries.

In this visit, the Pakistani side proposed a Preferential Trading Area (PTA) along with a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



During this visit, the establishment of a joint ministerial commission as well as cooperation in the oil and gas sector was also proposed.

A Bilateral Agreement in Science and Technology exists between the two states, and it was inked during former President General Pervez Musharraf's visit to Myanmar in May 2001.

Price hike

ISLAMABAD: A view of activities at I-11 Fruit and Vegetable Sabzi Mandi in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ICCI honors Ambassadors with awards for boosting Pakistan's tourism industry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) successfully hosted the 2nd ICCI Tourism Summit in Skardu from August 13 to 15, bringing together Ambassadors and diplomats from 10 friendly countries along with business leaders and media representatives in large number. It is noteworthy that under the visionary leadership of its current President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, the ICCI is playing a key role in showcasing Pakistan's soft image and attracting tourists from around the globe.

On this occasion, the ICCI honored the visiting Ambassadors and diplomats with awards in a dignified ceremony, acknowledging their significant contributions to promoting business relations and tourism between Pakistan and their respective countries.



This recognition highlighted the ICCI's gratitude for their ongoing support and cooperation in exploring innovative opportunities for tourism growth and economic collaboration. The awardees include: Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union, Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan, High Commission of Malaysia, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, Ambassador of Egypt, Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, second highest mountain and Raja Nasir Ali Khan, Minister for Planning and Development Gilgit Baltistan in appreciation of their exceptional services to the tourism industry.

The ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari warmly congratulated the esteemed Ambassadors on receiving their awards, stating that this recognition is a testament to their invaluable contributions in fostering tourism connections between their respective countries and Pakistan. He expressed his optimism that the awardees will continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening people-to-people contacts among nations, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and enhancing tourism cooperation.

He also demanded of the Pakistan Government to announce a civil award for Mohammad Ali Sadpara in recognition of his services in the field. The ICCI also presented shields to Sajid Ali Sadpara, a Pakistani high-altitude mountaineer who at the age of nineteen climbed K2, the world's

inDrive expands global IT capabilities in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The inDrive, a global mobility and urban services platform, announces an expansion of its global IT capabilities in Pakistan. In the first stage of this development, we are working closely with local talent agencies and engaging Pakistani professionals in Lahore to tackle global inDrive challenges enhancing the expertise of the inDrive Tech Team. This move reinforces inDrive's leading position in Pakistan's ride-hailing market

and underscores its dedication to supporting the local community and economy.

This development aims to create career opportunities for IT professionals, fostering local talent and contributing to the growth of Pakistan's burgeoning tech industry. Amidst an environment where many companies are downsizing or shutting down operations, inDrive's investment in Pakistan is a testament to its confidence in the country's potential and its commitment to sustainable growth.

111,912 arrested across province over electricity theft



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As many as 111,912 people involved in electricity theft have been arrested across the province, including Lahore, according to a Punjab police spokesperson.

A total of 122,166 cases have been registered against those involved in electricity theft. Challan have been submitted for 85,547 cases,

and recoveries amounting to Rs 5.22 billion have been made from suspects who caused losses to the national treasury.

In the provincial capital, Lahore, the crackdown led to the arrest of 38,410 power thieves. A total of 38,403 cases were registered, and challans for 19,705 cases submitted. Recoveries of Rs 1.81 billion were made from the power thieves.

Sarhad Chamber and Business Community Stands with SBA

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The Hajj Umrah Organization and the Export Processing Zone have announced their full support for the Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA). Former Governor and Patron-in-Chief Haji Ghulam Ali Syed Zahir Ali stated that the Sarhad Chamber will be made the premier chamber of Peshawar and the entire province in the true sense.

Events were held yesterday where Ata-ul-Haq Darvesh, Abdul Haseeb Khan, and other colleagues from the Hajj Umrah Group, along with Syed Mahmood from the Export Processing Zone, declared their strong support



for the SBA group. At Syed Mahmood's residence, a grand gathering was organized by the President of the Export Processing Zone, Haji Aul Khan Akbar, Haji Abdullah Abdul Majeed, Jehan-

zaib Khalil, and other members. They announced that it is imperative to support the Sarhad Business Alliance for the welfare of the business community and the resolution of their problems.

They emphasized their complete readiness to support the SBA and consider no one more capable than the SBA in restoring the dignity of the Sarhad Chamber and Peshawar's business commu-

nity.

In the events, the SBA's Patron-in-Chief and former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah, and former President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce, Muhammad Ishaq, expressed their gratitude to the officials and members of the Hajj Umrah Association and the Export Processing Zone for their trust in the SBA. They stressed that this is the time to restore the credibility of the Peshawar business community and the Sarhad Chamber, focusing the attention of responsible institutions on their issues and moving towards practical solutions, for which they are fully prepared.

Launch ceremony of Mobiz Regional Office in Islamabad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The official spokesperson of the government and Coordinator to the Prime Minister, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, said that the government actively working to provide more relief to the people on electricity.



Speaking at the opening ceremony of Mobiz regional office here on Friday, Rana promised that the nation will soon hear good news regarding relief on electricity bills as the government is negotiating with Independent Power Plants (IPPs) to reduce their capacity charges by using local coal.

Rana Ehsan Afzal stated that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is aware of the people's difficulties and plans to provide relief to the salaried class, as the federal government is working to reduce expenses. He said that the government is actively pursuing its agenda of promoting exports and privatizing institutions including PIA and power distribution companies.

Mr. Hamad Riaz, CEO, Mobiz said, "We are very excited to start our regional office in Islamabad, which is a strategic market for us and the presence of Mobiz in Pakistan will support progress of IT industry by providing innovative solutions."

Dr. Akbar Gardezi, Regional Director, Mobiz, said that Mobiz has already partnered with some of the leading businesses in the region such as Microsoft and is looking forward to working with more clients across various sectors such as e-commerce, banking, education, health, and travel.

Audience, present at the launch ceremony appreciated Mobiz's Data and AI solutions, which enable personalized messaging, loyalty programs, customer feedback, and analytics. They also enjoyed a live demonstration of data-driven solutions for customer care.

Mobiz, established in Silicon Valley in 2012, has grown to serve over 100 clients globally, including the US, UK, Switzerland, Malaysia, and Singapore, and is proud to contribute to Pakistan's growing IT community.

AJGL golfers celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day in style

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a patriotic bid to hoist the national flag higher, the Ace Junior Golf League (AJGL) celebrated Jashn-e-Azadi with a series of Azadi Matches across the country in Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and Peshawar.

Around 134 junior golfers registered and 116 competed.

"The AJGL progressive regimen is a telling observation." Lt. Gen (ret'd) Hilal Hussain, patron-in-Chief AJGL said, according to a press release issued on Saturday.

"The participation of a large number of juniors is a source of pride for AJGL Chairperson Dr. Asma Afzal Shami," while expressing her deep commitment to the golf and its development in Pakistan.

Reflecting on the Azadi Matches, the Lahore Azadi Match held at Gymkhana Club was marked by the Club's signature hospitality. The unwavering support of Shaukat Javed, Convener of Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club, has been instrumental in fully sponsoring, thus, establishing AJGL Monthly Medal Matches and an Azadi Match as a permanent fixture in the Club, thus cementing the foundation of the Ace Junior Golf League.



The Garrison Greens in Lahore also holds a special significance in the history of the Ace Junior Golf League, as it was the venue for the inaugural event, marked by a lively atmosphere. Maj. (ret'd) Amjad Chaudhry's persistent backing of the League's founders has enabled AJGL to thrive.

The Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Golf Club in Karachi has become a stalwart supporter of the Ace Junior Golf League's Karachi Chapter, serving as its hub, as per the instructions of Brig. Sheeraz Kashif, the club secretary. The inaugural event to the ongoing Monthly Medal Matches and Azadi Match, DHA Golf Club, Karachi has consistently demonstrated its commitment in nurturing the game of golf at its grassroots level.

In Islamabad, the prestigious Bahria Garden City Golf Club has been

graciously chosen as the new headquarters of the Ace Junior Golf League, a testament to the relentless dedication of Brig. (ret'd) Saeed Dar, the Club Secretary, under the guidance of the President, Air Commodore Muhammad Ilyas, Bahria Garden City Golf Club, has become a hub for junior golfers, providing a sponsorship and a platform for juniors to hone their sporting skills and realize their full potential.

Secretary, KPGA, Col.9ret'd0 Imtihan and Secretary PGC, Sqn Ldr (ret'd) Saqib have gone an extra mile to facilitate and finance the AJGL Monthly Matches. In the recently held Independence Day Cup, Prize Distribution Ceremony, the chief guest not only appreciated the junior, as a token of encouragement; he gave cash prizes to all the participants.

The backbone of the Ace Junior Golf League's success lies in the visionary guidance of Patron-in-Chief, Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Hilal Hussain, the exacting standards of Dr. Asma Shami and the unyielding dedication of its lady volunteers, who faithfully work behind the scenes to bring events to life, President Munazza Shaheen, VP Lahore Ifat Zahra, VP Karachi Nida Huq, VP Peshawar Dr. Ghazala Shams, and VP Islamabad Munazza Azhar

Winners:

A Hole-in-One was won by Master Abdullah Virk of IGC.

Lahore: Mustafa Ahmed (91/18-Albatross), Ahad Aziz (97/18-Eagle), Huzaifa Adnan (46/9-Birdie) (Girls) Humna Irfan (124/18-Elite), Bushra Fatima (80/18-Albatross), Nataliya Chaudry (95/18-Eagle), Zainab Akram (57/9-Birdie)

Karachi: Jameel Khan (74/18-Albatross), Shahmir Ahmed (82/18-Eagle), Saad Hameed (46/9-Birdie)

(Girls) Almeerah Shaikh (101/18-Eagle), Rubab Tabish (58/9-Birdie) Peshawar: Daniyal Durrani (41/9-Elite), Danyal Khan (36/9-Albatross), Abu Hurera (40/9-Eagle), Anas (78/9-Birdie)

(Girls) Sara Amin (41/9-Albatross), Dua Farid (56/9-Eagle), Noori Farid (50/9-Birdie)

Following the international standards, AJGL juniors compete for gross prizes, only.

AJGL management is poised to leave a lasting impact on the legacy of junior golf in Pakistan, providing a platform for young golfers. The AJGL's vision is to create a thriving junior golf ecosystem in Pakistan, and it is heartening to see this vision taking concrete form.

Abrar, Kamran released from first Test squad



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed has been released from the Pakistan Test side and he will now represent Pakistan Shaheens in the second four-day match against Bangladesh 'A', which will start at the Islamabad Club on Tuesday.

The decision has been made after the selectors have opted to go with an all-pace attack in the first ICC World Test Championship match against Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday (21 August). Instead of benching him for the Test, the selectors named him in the Shaheens squad so that he could gain some match practice ahead of the second Test, which will start on 30 August.

Uncapped top-order batter Kamran Ghulam is the other player to be released from the Pakistan Test side and has been retained in the Pakistan Shaheens side for the second four-day match. He has also been appointed as the captain.

This means the Pakistan Test squad has been trimmed to 15 players, but will be back to its original 17-player strength after the conclusion of the second four-day match when Abrar and Kamran will rejoin the side for the second Test.

Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Saud Shakeel, who were part of the Pakistan Shaheen side, have now joined the Test side, while Mohammad Rameez Jnr has been left out for the second four-day match. These eight players have been replaced in the Shaheens side by Abrar Ahmed, Ali Zaryab, Imam Ul Haq, Mohammad Awas Anwar, Niaz Khan, Qasim Akram, Rohail Nazir and Sharon Siraj.

Pakistan Shaheens squad (for second four-day) – Kamran Ghulam (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Ali Zaryab, Ghulam Mudassar, Imam-ul-Haq, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Awas Anwar, Niaz Khan, Qasim Akram, Rohail Nazir (wicket-keeper), Saad Baig (wicket-keeper), Saad Khan, Sharon Siraj and Umar Amin

Pakistan Shaheens vs Bangladesh 'A' four-day match ends in a draw

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The first four-day match between Bangladesh 'A' and hosts Pakistan Shaheens ended in a draw at the Islamabad Club on Friday.

The match, which was largely affected by rain, saw 39.2 overs bowled on the fourth day, as play resumed at 2pm PKT today. The third day's play on Thursday was completely washed out due to rain.

Earlier, Pakistan Shaheens declared their first innings at the overnight score of 367 for four with a lead of 245 runs.

In their second innings, Bangladesh 'A' managed to score 153 for five when play was stopped due to bad light and ultimately resulting in a draw. For Shaheens, fast bowlers Mir Hamza and Mohammad Ali bagged two wickets apiece, while Mohammad Rameez Jnr



grabbed one wicket.

For the visiting team, Nayeem Hasan was the top run-getter,

scoring 55 off 69 balls, laced with 11 fours. Opening batter Zakir Hasan scored a 45-ball

33, which included three fours and a six. Both sides will now feature in

the second four-day game from August 20, which is scheduled at the same venue. The toss will take place at 09.30am, with the first ball to be bowled at 10.00am.

Scores in brief:

Match drawn
Bangladesh 'A' 122 all out, 44.3 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 65; Naseem Shah 3-24, Mir Hamza 3-33, Mohammad Rameez Jnr 2-41) and 153-5, 39.2 overs (Nayeem Hasan 55, Zakir Hasan 33; Mir Hamza 2-13, Mohammad Ali 2-34)

Pakistan Shaheens 367-4, dec 90 overs (Umar Amin 177, Saud Shakeel 76, Mohammad Hurraira 39, Saad Khan 31 not out, Kamran Ghulam 20 not out; Hasan Murad 2-49)

Player of the match – Umar Amin (Pakistan Shaheens)

Second four-day match at Islamabad Club from 20-23 August 18, 2024

Babar Azam eyes major milestone during Bangladesh Tests

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's ace batter Babar Azam is on the verge of a major World Test Championship (WTC) milestone during the two-match home Test series against Bangladesh, scheduled to commence on August 21.

Babar, one of the most consistent batters across formats in the world currently, is just 339 runs away from joining an elusive list of batters, having breached the 3000-run barrier in WTC history.

The right-handed batter has thus far scored 2,661 runs in WTC, the most by a Pakistani batter. He, however, could become the fifth batter to score 3000 runs in the WTC history to amass the milestone.

England's Joe Root leads the way with 4,598 WTC runs, followed by Australia's Marnus Labuschagne with 3,904.



The four batters, who have breached the 3000-run barrier are either from Australia or England as the two crick-

eting nations play the most number of Tests.

Meanwhile, if Babar Azam manages

to score 339 runs in the two-match series against Bangladesh, he will become the first Asian batter to amass 3000 WTC runs as he is ahead of India's senior batting duo of Rohit Sharma (2,552) and Virat Kohli (2,235).

The Test series will commence in Rawalpindi, with the first Test scheduled to begin on 21 August. Following that, the action will shift to the National Bank Stadium in Karachi, where the second Test match will be held from 30 August to 3 September.

Pakistan squad for first Test against Bangladesh: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel, Aamir Jamal (subject to fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Babar Azam, Khuram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Muhammad Hurraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Shaheen Shah Afridi.



Central park Sports Department Celebrating the 77th Pakistan Independence Day at Central park Housing Scheme sports Complex ground. On this occasion Ch. M. Sarwar, Nasir Majeed, M. Kaleem, M. Waseem were the Chief Guests who distributed the prizes among the players.

Irfan's ton steers Pakistan Shaheens to Top End T20 Series semi-final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Muhammad Irfan Khan registered his maiden T20 century as Pakistan Shaheens beat Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Comets by 91 runs in their last league game on Saturday in the Top End T20 series at the DXC Arena in Darwin.

Defending a huge total of 202 runs, the Shaheens made light work of ACT Comets batting line-up as they were bundled out for a mere 111 in 16.1 overs.

Mubasir Khan dismissed opening batters, Esam Rahman (9, 4b, 2x4s), Nicholas Broes (3, 7b) early while Arafat got rid of Michael Menamara (5, 3b) reducing the ACT Comets to 24-3 in 3.1 overs.

Tyler van Luin (29, 17b, 4x4s, 1x6) and Zak Keogh (26, 20b, 2x4s, 1x6) looked threatening as the duo added

49 runs for fourth-wicket off just five overs but fell in the ninth and tenth over respectively with the scorecard reading 79-5.

ACT Comets lost their next five wickets for just 32 runs as the Shaheens spinners ran riot taking all ten wickets. Arif Yaqoob bagged figures of 4-36 while Arafat dismissed three batters. Mubasir had two wickets to his name while Faisal Akram picked up one.

Earlier, after opting to bat first, Pakistan Shaheens lost their opening batters, Abdul Faseeh (8, 3b, 2x4s) and Mohammad Harris (15, 13b, 2x4s) in the first and fourth over, respectively.

Omair Bin Yousuf (7, 6b, 1x4) and Usman Khan (5, 5b) were the other Shaheens wickets to fall in subsequent overs as they stood 48-4 at the end of the field restrictions.

At this point, Muhammad Irfan

Khan and Haseebullah joined forces to take Shaheens out of trouble. The duo put on a mammoth 140-run fifth-wicket partnership off 13 overs.

Irfan struck a brilliant century scoring 106 off 56 balls clubbing 14 fours and two sixes before departing in the 19th over. Haseebullah remained unbeaten for 49 which came off 34 balls hitting four boundaries and a solitary six.

Pakistan Shaheens posted 202-6 in the allotted 20 overs as Hanno Jacobs took two wickets for ACT Comets while Zak Keogh, Tyler Hays, Esam Rahman and Jake Smith picked one wicket each.

With this win, Shaheens secured the top position on the Top End T20 Series standings with five wins in six games and have qualified for the semi-finals along with Adelaide Strikers, Bangladesh 'A' and Northern Territory Strike.

Condolence

MASTUNG: Expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Zakir Baloch DC Panjgur Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi condoled with his father.



Photo: Spokesman

Mohsin Naqvi visits residence of martyred deputy commissioner

Bureau Report

MASTUNG: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of martyred Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch in Mastung.

He met with the father of Zakir Baloch, Kanoor Baloch, his brothers, and other family members. Inspector General Frontier Corps South Balochistan Major General

Bilal Sarfraz Khan was also present on the occasion.

Expressing deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Zakir Baloch, Mohsin Naqvi condoled with the father of Zakir Baloch. He announced the financial assistance of Rs. 2 crores for the family of martyred Deputy Commissioner. He also handed over the allotment letter of a plot to the father of Zakir Baloch. The interior minister

conveyed special condolence messages from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shhbaz Sharif.

He stated that this is not a substitute for anyone's life, but a humble effort to take care of the family of martyr Zakir Baloch.

He assured that it is their responsibility to take care of the family of martyrs. He further said, "we are proud of

the parents like you who have provided higher education to all their sons".

The minister stated that the entire nation salutes the father of the martyr. He said that Zakir Baloch was a dutiful, hardworking, and brave officer who achieved the highest rank of martyrdom and that martyrs are always alive.

He further said, "Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch will always live

in our hearts and we salute his sacrifice as he embraced martyrdom while performing his duties. He prayed that May Allah Almighty elevate the ranks of martyred Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch and grant patience to his family".

Regional Police Officer Gwadar, Deputy Commissioner, and high-ranking civil and military officials were also present on the occasion.

Power Division willing to share IPP agreements with NA standing committee on power

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Secretary Power, Dr. Muhammad Fakhare Alam Irfan, testified before the committee and said the Power Division is ready to share complete details of the IPP agreements in a special session.

However, Irfan suggested that initially, his officers would brief only the committee members who have some knowledge of IPPs, and then the matter would be placed before the entire committee, either publicly or in camera. This suggestion was opposed by Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, who argued that the matter should be presented before



the entire committee, not just a few members, to remove misconceptions among all the members.

Chaudhry stated that their contracts must be placed before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Power.

Chaudhry further said that the government has informed JI that it would explore ways to provide relief to consumers in terms of electricity tariffs, while also keeping in mind the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He acknowledged that

the government wants to take measures to provide relief to the people, but is unable to do so due to other factors. Responding to Shaikh Aftab, the Secretary Power, Dr. Muhammad Fakhare Alam Irfan, stated that the main reason behind the

inflated electricity bills is the capacity payments in dollars and the losses of the Distribution Companies (Discos). He said that the electricity prices were increased due to the pressure of the IMF, which wants full cost recovery from consumers.

posed by climate change. The government was committed to incorporating climate considerations into all aspects of national development to ensure sustainable future growth and resilience to environmental challenges, she added.

Lahore High Court directs police to recover 'missing' YouTuber Aun Ali by Aug 20

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has instructed the provincial police to recover YouTuber Aun Ali Khosa, who was reportedly "taken into custody by unidentified armed men," by August 20.

This urgent order follows a petition filed by Aun's wife, Binish Iqbal, claiming her husband is being held unlawfully by law enforcement agencies. In her petition, Binish expressed concern for Aun's safety, fearing he may be a victim of enforced disappearance.

Justice Shahbaz Ali Rizvi presided over the hearing and mandated that the Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) present Aun in court



by the specified date.

In response, Lahore's Deputy Inspector General Operations, Faisal Kamran, stated that no formal complaint regarding Aun's alleged abduction had been filed, but emphasized that the police would take action as soon as a complaint is received.

Aun Ali went viral on social media for his satirical song "Bill



Bill Pakistan" about exorbitant electricity bills during Independence Day.

On Thursday, his brother Ali Sher Khosa informed the people about the alleged incident. He claimed that armed men took

Aun from their Lahore apartment in the middle of the night.

He urged users to pray for his brother's safe return and to share the news widely, emphasising its importance for their family.

Maritime Affairs minister plans to visit Denmark to sign \$2b investment deal with Maersk

Commerce Desk

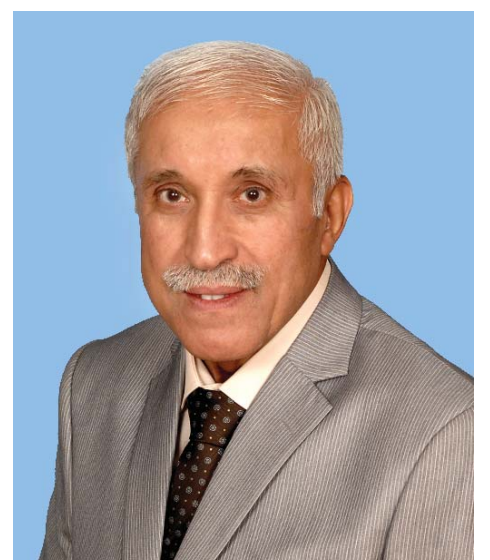
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Maritime Affairs Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh will visit Denmark this month to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Danish shipping company Maersk and the Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

This development comes after Maersk's CEO visited Pakistan earlier and met with officials to explore opportunities in the country's maritime sector.

Maersk has announced that it will invest \$2 billion in Pakistan's port and transport infrastructure over the next two years. This investment is expected to contribute to infrastructure development and economic improvement in the country.

The Pakistani minister stated that Karachi has significant export potential and his ministry is providing a supportive environment for the business community in this regard. Maersk currently has around 20% market share in Pakistan's containerized import-export activities.

In addition, Pakistan has also signed an agreement with the Abu Dhabi Ports Group, which is investing about \$395 million to develop a



container and cargo terminal under a government-to-government agreement between the UAE and Pakistan.

Parliamentary Secretary Bajwa makes inaugural visit to Overseas Pakistanis Foundation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Ehsan Ul Haq Bajwa, Parliamentary Secretary for Overseas Pakistanis, made his inaugural visit to the office of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation today, where he convened an important meeting with the Managing Director and heads of key departments of OPF. During the session, each department provided comprehensive updates on their ongoing initiatives, recent accomplishments, and upcoming projects, marking a significant beginning to his engagement with the foundation.

Reaffirming the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to Overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Ehsan Ul Haq Bajwa emphasized that the current administration is resolute in addressing the challenges and issues faced by the



overseas community with utmost priority.

The Parliamentary Secretary was thoroughly briefed on the initiatives in place to enhance the welfare of Overseas Pakistanis. Mr. Bajwa further stressed the need to expedite the resolution of complaints from Overseas Pakistanis, as it is of paramount importance to their well-being and trust in the government.

Former PM Imran Khan claims to be 'unfazed' by former spymaster Faiz Hamid's arrest

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that he was "not at all afraid" of the arrest of former spymaster Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, asserting that he would not be discussing the need for a judicial commission if he were fearful.

In an informal chat with journalists at Adiala Jail on Saturday, Khan addressed comments from former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who blamed the PTI for the country's economic decline. Khan countered that if one reads the Economic Survey of Pakistan, it is clear that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz left a deficit of \$19.5 billion, necessitating an agreement with the IMF.

While responding to allegations

surrounding the events of May 9, Khan claimed that the real conspiracy was against the PTI.

He alleged that former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Bajwa removed the former spymaster at Nawaz's request, which he termed the "first conspiracy." The second, he claimed, involved Bajwa hiring Hussain Haqqani for lobbying at a cost of \$35,000, which he argued contributed to the downfall of his government.

Khan emphasised that the May 9 incident represents the "third conspiracy" against the PTI, stating the case could be resolved in an hour if the order for his arrest and the CCTV footage were made public. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the events of May 9 but alleged that the establishment was obstructing it.

Govt to integrate climate resilience into National Planning: Coordinator PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, on Saturday, said that the government has initiated various policies aimed at integrating climate resilience into national planning.

According to PTV News, she said that national adaptation plans, climate change policies, and water policies must be aligned to effectively manage climate risks. She highlighted Pakistan's significant vulnerability to climate change, referencing the substantial losses the country has endured over the years due to climate-related events.

Romina Khurshid Alam underscored the urgent need for climate and disaster risk financing to enhance resilience against the growing threats



posed by climate change. The government was committed to incorporating climate considerations into all aspects of national development to ensure sustainable future growth and resilience to environmental challenges, she added.