



CM takes notice of firing on school van in Attock

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif took notice of a firing incident on a school van in Attock, and sought an immediate report from the Inspector General of Police in this regard. Madam Chief Minister expressed profound sorrow and grief over the death of two female students, and directed the authorities concerned to provide the best medical treatment facilities to the injured in this incident.



More rains expected in various parts of country: PMD

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rainfall in most parts of the country over the next three days. In response, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a high alert. It has forecast rain-thundershower associated with windstorm/gusty winds likely at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Islamabad, northeast Punjab, northeast/south Balochistan, southeast Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 17, Friday, August 23, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

f

Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 130 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters relating to aviation sector on Thursday.



Photo: PID

ADB Country Director calls on President Zardari



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yong Ye Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari.

In the meeting, the ADB country director briefed the president about the role of the Bank in the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The president appreciated the assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank to Pakistan during the floods.

He also highlighted Pakistan's measures to deal with climate change, saying

that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests on millions of acres of land.

President Zardari also appreciated the bank's services to Pakistan in the fields of agriculture, irrigation and education.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan Konstantinos Moatsos paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari.

He emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral relations with Greece.

The president also expressed his best wishes for the outgoing Ambassador of Greece.

Five-year economic plan unveiling soon: PM Shehbaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that he would unveil a five-year economic revival plan in the coming weeks, ARY News reported.

"Broad parameters had already been finalised through months-long deliberations with the stakeholders for the five-year economic plan," he said while addressing the Buna-Raast connectivity project.

The prime ministersaid the "Home-Grown Economic

Program" would envisage measures to boost the country's economy by uplifting agriculture, information technology and other untapped sectors.

"Our program is under discussion and I will announce it very soon. Recently we have finalised its broad parameters. By next week or so, we will finalise it. I will go to the people to announce the program for the next five years," the prime minister remarked.

Highlighting the challenges of reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and power

sector, PM told the gathering that he was personally monitoring the digitisation of FBR and that the government was hopeful of positive outcomes of power sector reforms.

"There is no magic band. It is all about hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Our nation is robust and strong. Our people are full of hope and energy. Let us put our work together. Let us not waste time on debates as we had done in the past. Let us now use this time for actual implementation on the ground. Insha Allah, you will see we will have

dividends and will find our place in the comity of nations through hard work, hard work and hard work," he added.

Under the Buna-Raast connectivity project, the Raast payment mechanism is being linked with the Arab Monetary Fund's Buna system to facilitate millions of overseas Pakistanis in Arab countries to send remittances through a swift, affordable and effective mechanism.

The prime minister said that besides easing the remittance-sending process digitally,

it would also help boost the country's foreign exchange and further strengthen the already cordial relations between Pakistan and the Arab world.

Calling it a great step forward in promoting financial transactions through modern techniques, he said the project would expand the reach of Pakistan's digital payment infrastructure.

He thanked the Arab Monetary Fund, State Bank of Pakistan, Finance Ministry, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Karandaaz for their support in launching the project.

PTI calls off rally as Islamabad Red Zone sealed, schools closed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has sealed the red zone and announced a holiday for both public and private schools in Islamabad on Thursday.

The decision to keep schools closed today was made in the backdrop of the announcement of a PTI rally and a call for protest by a religious party over the proceedings of the Mubarak Sani case in the Supreme Court.

However, PTI announced early on Thursday that party founder Imran Khan has instructed that the rally be postponed. A party notification quoted Imran Khan as saying that the government wanted to spread chaos under the garb of the rally.

The party has now announced that the rally will be held on September 8 for which permission has been granted by the district authorities.

The notification stated that the individuals holding the gathering will not infringe upon the fundamental rights of any citizen. People are to assemble at 4:00 PM and the gathering must end by 7:00 PM.

On the instructions of the Interior Ministry, the District Commissioner of Islamabad decided to keep the schools closed given the prevailing situation, with the safety of the children being the primary concern.

According to the Education Board spokesperson, the ongoing Matric supplementary

exams and paper in Rawalpindi will continue as per the normal schedule today.

The board spokesperson, Arsalan Chima, stated that there are only 6 exam centers for the Matric supplementary exams in Rawalpindi.

Due to the rallies and protests planned for August 22, the Metro bus service in Rawalpindi and Islamabad will remain suspended for the day, and the security at the Metro bus stations has also been enhanced.

The Government of Punjab had also imposed Section 144 across the province. As per

the notification, Section 144 will remain in effect in Punjab from August 22 to 24. Under Section 144, all kinds of political and public gatherings will be prohibited in Punjab.

Section 144 has been imposed to maintain law and order, and to protect human lives and property. The restriction has been implemented given the potential threats of terrorism.

Islamabad administration and the police have placed containers on the GT Road and dug up the venue to prevent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from holding a potential rally

in Tarnol.

However, a day before the rally, the Islamabad district administration revoked the NoC (No Objection Certificate) for the rally. The Islamabad administration stated that it would be difficult to control the crowd at the rally, and a few days ago, the protesters had also reached the Supreme Court, so permission for the rally could not be granted under these circumstances.

The district administration has decided to completely shut down the Metro bus service from the President station to the Pak Secretariat.

Former bureaucrat and anchor Oria Maqbool Jan arrested



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The FIA Cyber Crime Wing has arrested former bureaucrat and anchor person Oria Maqbool Jan.

According to sources, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing arrested Oria Maqbool Jan from his residence in Defence Housing Society (DHA) Phase 6.

The FIA has also registered a case against Oria Maqbool Jan. The former bureaucrat is accused of spreading religious hatred and inciting hatred against institutions. The case has been registered under the Cyber Terrorism Act.

Oria Maqbool Jan's lawyer, Azhar Siddique Advocate, has confirmed that Oria Maqbool Jan is being held at the Gulberg Cyber Crime office. Oria Maqbool Jan was taken into custody for his social media posts, as he was discussing the Mubarak Sani case.

Azhar Siddique Advocate further said that they have not been provided the details of the FIR. Oria Maqbool Jan will be presented before a Judicial Magistrate today.

Mubarak Sani case: SC omits paras 7, 42 on govt's plea



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Thursday omitted paragraphs from its previous judgments on February 6 and July 24 in the Mubarak Sani case.

The SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan accepted the government's urgent plea seeking omission of specific sections from the judgment.

The CJP read out the order, deleting paragraphs No. 7 and 42 in the judgment in Mubarak Sani case. "We can also make mistakes. If we make a mistake, instead of making an issue out of it, it should be corrected," the CJP remarked.

The conviction of Mubarak Sani, who was charged with a crime in 2019 under the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing

and Recording) (Amendment) Act, was overturned by a SC bench headed by Qazi Faez Isa on February 6.

The court stated in its ruling that the defendant's alleged offense would not become a crime until 2021. As a result, the petitioner was granted instant release by the supreme court, which also overturned the conviction.

The government then challenged the decision on the grounds that paragraphs of the order, regarding Article 20 of the Constitution, needed to be modified as the rights of the citizens as envisaged under the provision were not absolute and instead subject to law, public order, and morality.

While accepting the plea, the Supreme Court ruled on July 24 that the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion and the right to practice one's religion were subject to morality, public order, and the law.

Sher Afzal briefly arrested by police in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Police in Islamabad briefly detained Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat, before releasing him after he assured authorities he would not incite unrest.

A heavy police contingent apprehended Marwat and took him to Golra Police Station. The arrest was confirmed by Marwat's official Twitter account.

A police spokesperson later confirmed Marwat's release, stating he was let go after promising not to disrupt public order.



Officers of Information Department must be accountable to state: Pir Mazhar Saeed

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Information Minister of Azad Kashmir Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah has said that obedience to the state and its interpretation is included in the responsibilities of the officers of the Information Department. Effective publicity of government activities should be ensured by using modern means of media. For the unity and harmony of the nation, you have to provide timely and truthful news so that people can get correct information and get informed about government policies and decisions. We have to prepare ourselves to face the fifth generation war. The officers of the Information Department



are the representatives of the government, anti-state narratives and negative propaganda must be responded to in a timely and effective manner. The officers will perform their duties with diligence, dedication and integrity, and will solve their problems.

He expressed these views while addressing the review meeting of district and western officers at Secretariat Information here on Thursday. Secretary Information Ansar Yaqub Khan, Director Information Amjad Hussain Minhas, Director Information

Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Deputy Secretary Information Sardar Imran Saleem, Deputy Director Mirpur Division Tariq Jameel Durrani, Deputy Director Rawalkot Division Saadullah Bhatti and all district officers attended the meeting. Speaking

on this occasion, the Information Minister said that the Ministry of Information is a difficult portfolio which has been accepted as a challenge. No work is difficult if you have the passion to work. He said that now social media has become a strong source of

modern media. It is the responsibility of Information Officers to respond to false narratives spread on social media in a timely manner. The head of the organization succeeds because of his team, we all need to work together through effective coordination.

Azad Kashmir is the base camp of the freedom movement, we have to fulfill the requirements of the base camp. He said that Pakistan is our benefactor, despite all human shortcomings, we have a clear stand on Pakistan's accession.

High Court Bar Association Multan Organized a Grand Ceremony in the Honor of Multan Bench Judges



Ayaz Ali Sheikh

MULTAN: High Court Bar Association Multan organized a grand ceremony in the honor of Multan Bench Judges Mr. Justice Ali Baqir Njafi Mr. Justice Nadeem

Arshad. President High Court Bar Association Multan Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi Vice President Ali Raza Alvi Library Secretary Muhammad Rafiq Dogar Former President High Court Bar Malik

Haider Usman Former Additional Advocate General Ramzan Khalid Joya Mian Abbas Ahmed Chaudhry Ashfaq Ahmad Wasim Mumtaz Miss Muniba Zohaib Hasan Dildar Barula Muhammad Imran Ghazi Chaudhry Umar Hayat Miss Sami-

na Rana Junaid Mumtaz and a large number of lawyers. On this occasion of participation, Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla and General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi presented bouquets to the honorable judges

Muslim Conference to celebrate Nila Butt Day in grand manner this year: women's wing

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: Muslim Conference Women's Wing Chairperson Samia Sajid Raja has said that the women's wing will also participate fully in the preparations for Nila Butt Day. Participate. He said that the movement started from Nila Butt will die only after the Muslim Conference reaches its completion. Under the leadership of party President Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, the

Muslim Conference, the women's wing will participate fully to celebrate Nila Butt Day in a grand manner. Despite trying all tactics of oppression in occupied Kashmir, India has failed to suppress the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris and will continue to fail. The Indian government can't hurt the spirit of freedom by inflicting atrocities on Kashmiris in any way. August 24 of this year. At the place of Nila Butt, not thousands, but millions of Kashmiris will come together and pledge that they will make the movement started from the place of Nila Butt a success in any case and Kashmiris will not avoid any sacrifice for a strong and stable Pakistan. Neela Butt will give proof that the Muslim Conference is working day and night for the success of the idea of accession to Pakistan.

Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign launched in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: In order to implement Green Punjab to prevent environmental pollution, PHA is continuing to plant shade-ready plants at different places in the city. In this regard

Commissioner Maryam Khan along with DC Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu and Director General PHA Asif Rauf Khan planted saplings during the monsoon plantation campaign. DGP PHA Asif Rauf gave a detailed briefing on the plantation campaign.

Commissioner Maryam Khan said that under the direction of the Punjab government, plantations are being done across the division. Every individual should play his role in environmental change by planting his share. DC Waseem Hamid Sindhu said that the dream of a clean environment can be realized only through plantation. DGP PHA Asif Rauf said that more than 2 thousand trees have been planted by PHA since August 13. Eco-friendly plants like Arjun, Pulkan, Tabobia, Terminaria are being planted. In the planting campaign, special prayers were also offered for the security and stability of the country.

Pakistan People's Party says it will strongly condemn shooting of school children

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin had a long meeting with the Central Secretary General of Pakistan People's Party Nayyar Hussain Bukhari was informed about the current political situation of Azad Kashmir.



Later, while talking to the journalists, President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that Pakistan is currently going through difficult situations and is facing many challenges, on one hand, economic crisis, on the other issues including Kashmir issue to be on resolution. On the other hand, Parliament is being weakened by putting the traditions of referring to the courts for political decisions instead of the political field.

The monster of terrorism has surrounded the country. Terrorism has also started, so the nation needs unity and agreement more than ever. There is a need to be united to fight the enemy. People can kill innocent children, they can neither be Muslims nor human beings. Strongly condemn the shooting of school children.

Taking the kidneys as an example, he said that such people do not deserve any concession.

EU-Supported Programme Strengthens Stakeholder Collaboration to Combat Malnutrition in Sindh

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The high rates of malnutrition continue to impact Sindh province adversely. The situation is dire, with nearly half of the children under the age of five suffering from stunting, wasting or being underweight. The consequences of malnutrition are far-reaching and have long-lasting impact, not just on the directly affected individuals but also on the rest of the family and the nation's development.

Amid these challenges, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), in collaboration with consortium lead International Rescue Committee (IRC) and partner Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF), organized a day-long Provincial Networking Workshop. This event brought together stakeholders such as relevant departments of the Government of Sindh, including the Planning and Development Department, the Accelerated Action Plan Task Force Secretariat, and the Sindh



Social Protection Authority. Moreover, representatives from the World Health Organization, PPHI Sindh, Nutrition International, HANDS, CSO networks such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUNCSA) Pakistan and Sindh Climate Action Network (SCAN), and local organizations were also part of a concerted effort to combat

malnutrition and address its severe impacts on the region.

Through this event, 15 local Civil Society Organizations from across Sindh were also provided a platform to explore opportunities, build alliances, share knowledge, and enhance collaborative efforts. The proceeding of the event featured a contextual landscape of Malnutrition in Sindh,

insights and reflections from local organizations, and sharing and endorsing a provincial-level policy advocacy plan.

Dr. Nadeem Mir Bahar, Planning Officer at the Planning and Development Department Sindh, and Dr. Sahib Jan Badar, Nutrition Consultant at the AAP Task Force, appreciated the initiative and acknowledged the efforts of IRC and its partners in combating malnutrition through the support of the European Union. They highlighted the importance of multisectoral approach and assured support for the project interventions.

Dr. Ranomal Lohano, Program Coordinator at IRC, emphasized the need for networking and coordinated efforts in policy advocacy, social behavior change communication, outreach and facility-based nutrition care services, and capacity building to effectively address malnutrition in Sindh. SUNCSA and SCAN ensured support by working together with the 15 local organizations for positive policy outcomes.

South Punjab Secretariat should not be shifted to Lahore: Khawaja Rizwan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Senior Vice President of PPP South Punjab, Khawaja Rizwan Alam, gave his strong reaction to the transfer of the powers of the South Punjab Secretariat to Lahore and the termination of the development budget of South Punjab. The transfer of the South Punjab Secretariat to Lahore is a heinous act of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz government against the residents of South Punjab.

The previous PTI government also took part in the 2018 elections from this region in the name of the provincial front. Six crore people were given the lollipop of South Punjab province, but the province was not made, but a secretariat was made nominally, even though the secretariat was formed, it was not given full powers.

Now the PML-N government has limited the few powers that South Punjab Secretariat had and transferred them to Lahore. protesting and demanding from Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz that the South Punjab Secretariat should not be shifted to Lahore and full powers should be given to the Secretariat, if this does not happen then the Punjab Government should open its ears and listen to the wishes of PPP Wasib of the Punjab Government. It will expose the face of the biting snakes in the form so that the people will crush them forever by the power of vote in the next election.

People's Party will not allow the residents of Saraiki region to be subject to the throne of Lahore. Khawaja Rizwan Alam Bey further said that the throne of Lahore Punjab government has been in



the form of Nawaz Sharif, Shabbaz Sharif and now Maryam Nawaz for the past several decades. But South Punjab has always been unnecessary for them. Due to the flood in the city of Rajanpur and Dear Ghazi Khan Districts, the people are help-

less The provincial government is just following the policy of rhetoric and showing off. In these situations, the biggest injustice is the people here.

With this, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has canceled the budget of three and a half billion for the development schemes of South Punjab, which was equal to salt in flour, while a budget of one trillion 37 crores has been kept for Lahore city alone. League only comes to give lollipops to the residents here on the days of elections.

The Members of Provincial and National Assembly Saraiki Wasib are raising their voice for the rights of South Punjab and are repeatedly convincing the ruling class to stop playing dirty games with the people of South Punjab and immediately stop the transfer of the secretariat to Lahore.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:06 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 4:52 pm
Maghrib 6:46 pm
Isha 8:14 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Zong introduces high-speed network connectivity in more than 15 cities of Gilgit Baltistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading telecom operator brings its seamless and high-speed 4G services in Gilgit Baltistan. Network is live city wide in Gilgit, Hunza and Skardu with further roll out ready for launch. This initiative is Zong's commitment to provide connectivity across country and provide top-notch affordable 4G services.

Sharing his insight on the project, The CEO of Zong stated, "Ensuring 4G availability in GB marks a significant step in our mission to provide excellent products and services and enable digitalization in Pakistan. 4G connectivity not only serves the connectivity need of the local communities but also opens new opportunities for businesses, tourism, and education in these areas. This development has been a challenging job in such remote areas and harsh conditions and I commend all the hardworking people involved".

BISP chairperson for carrying out need assessment to make skill development program more beneficial

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Rubina Khalid, on Thursday, emphasized carrying out a need assessment of the industrial sector while designing a skill development program so that students could be able to get employment instantly after completion of their training.

She expressed the views while chairing a review meeting and addressing a ceremony held at Lasbela Industrial Estates Development Authority (LIEDA) in Hub town of Balochistan on the occasion of handing over of 4 Mobile Registrations Vans (MRVs) to BISP Balochistan Zone to facilitate registration process in far-flung areas. Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan for Industries and Commerce Mir Ali

Hassan Zehri, Directors General of BISP, Managing Director LIEDA Fareed Muhammad Hasni, local leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party, and others were also present at the occasion.

Senator Rubina Khalid terming BISP as a ray of hope for the deserving and destitute segments of society said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto envisioned the social security program aimed at economic empowerment of women folk and later President Asif Ali Zardari has transformed the dream into a reality. The BISP has given identity to millions of women around the country who earlier were deprived of their fundamental right of recognition, she said adding that PPP has always taken the lead in initiatives for the development and economic empowerment of women as well

as elevating dignity and status of women in the society.

She said that BISP is going to open more offices in Balochistan while 4 new Mobile Registration Vans were provided to extend registration services to those females of far-flung areas who were left unregistered due to lack of accessibility or other issues.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, addressing the ceremony, highlighted the measures taken by the government for the development of the area and facilitation of the people. He said that PPP believes in the service of people and it was various steps for their welfare. He said that the provincial government was ready to work with BISP across the province for the betterment of the citizens and it will extend fullest cooperation to BISP for the achievement of the set objectives.



Director General BISP Islamabad Naveed Akber and Director South Zone Munir Saroli, briefing at the occasion informed that BISP centers were operational in 43 tehsils and 158 sub-tehsils

of Balochistan while 2 million beneficiaries in Balochistan were taking benefit of income support initiatives of BISP.

Later, Senator Rubina Khalid and the ACM Mir Ali Hasan

Zahri cut the ribbon to make the handed-over MRVs operational. They planted a sapling at LIEDA and also visited a food manufacturing factory in the industrial zone.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan at D-Chowk, after Supreme Court decision of Mubarak Sani ase, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers, Bakers Association tributes former President Mian Aslam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community of the twin cities declared their support for the Mian Pervez Aslam group And said that if the economy of this country is to be run, the industry and business community of Pakistan must be taken along. No policy can succeed without consulting the business community. The current government has to understand the ground realities, keeping in mind the policy in consultation with the business community, then the economic problems will be solved. Keeping in view the performance of the current leadership of the chamber, the future leadership has to be selected, Mian Pervez Aslam Group is the true spokesperson of the business community.

Chairman Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets



and Bakers Association Mumtaz Ahmed managed to pay tribute to the services of former President Mian Parvez Aslam (deceased) and Organized a corner meeting of Mian Aslam Parvez Group in connection with the election. In which Mian Humayun Parvez, son of former president Mian Pervez Aslam (deceased) and former president Rawalpindi Chamber, Sohail Altaf Group Leader of Rawalpindi Chamber, President Saqib Rafiq, Muhammad

Farooq Chaudhry President of Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, Finance Secretary Sheikh Munir, former presidents of Rawalpindi Chamber, Dr. Hasan Sarosh Akram, Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Raja Amir, Senior Vice President of Rawalpindi Chamber Hanzala Sarosh, Members Executive Committee, Sumera Hameed, Farzana Saif, Farhana Nauman, Rizwana Khalil, Iram Habib, including

A large number of the commercial market and the business community of the surrounding area were specially attended.

President Rawalpindi Restaurants Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that Let us all pledge together that we will all play a positive role in organizing and strengthening this country, this city, and the business community.

Former president Hasan Sarosh said that we all have to strengthen the chamber together. Chamber President Saqib Rafique said that after a long journey, the Chamber become organized institution for business community which is due to our members. Members are our identity symbol of unity. We all aim to strengthen the chamber and the business community.

CCP issues show cause notices to GM Cables and Newage Cables

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to GM Cables & Pipes (Pvt) Ltd. and Newage Cables (Pvt) Ltd. for their alleged involvement in Resale Price Maintenance (RPM), pursuant to completion of enquiry a potential violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Resale price maintenance (RPM) is a contract between a manufacturer and its distributors, where the distributors must sell the product at specific prices, and if not maintained, the manufacturer may terminate business. This practice hinders competition by restricting dealers' ability to offer lower prices, ultimately disadvantaging consumers.

The CCP initiated an enquiry after taking suo motu notice of circulars issued by both companies, which restricted their dealers across various regions from offering discounts beyond a certain percentage on credit and cash sales. These circulars required dealers to stick to the specified rate limits, prohibiting them from selling below the designated discounts.

GM Cables and Newage Cables, which operate nationwide through an extensive dealer network and online platforms, were found to have established a resale price maintenance system through their respective circulars. GM Cables issued a 'Notice for Rate Control' in August 2021, while Newage Cables introduced a 'Retail Discount Policy', both of which enforced strict pricing rules on their dealers. These rules were accompanied by penalties, including fines and termination of dealerships for non-compliance, further reinforcing the companies' control over market pricing.

The CCP's enquiry further established that this anti-competitive behavior has wide-ranging implications, as cable products are produced and sold nationwide, with sales volumes differing across regions. As a result, these restrictive practices create a spill-over effect throughout the entire market.

She's Next Club: Visa's Initiative to Boost Entrepreneurship Among Pakistani Women

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Following the successful launch of the first edition of She's Next global advocacy program in Pakistan, Visa, a world leader in digital payments, will now initiate the She's Next Club to further support women entrepreneurs.

Umar S. Khan, Country Manager for Pakistan & Afghanistan for Visa, commented: "The response to She's Next in Pakistan was overwhelming, with more than 2,500 applications received in its first year. This reflects the strong demand and enthusiasm among Pakistani women entrepreneurs for learning and networking opportunities that can help them grow their businesses. The program has also provided a platform for showcasing the success stories and best practices of women-led SMBs across various sectors, such as fashion, education, health, and technology. We wanted to ensure we stay connected to these bright minds and we believe She's Next Club will help to sustain growth and support for these women entrepreneurs with the skills, resources, and connections they need. Such efforts will eventually contribute to Pakistan's economic development and social progress."



Tunisian envoy visits ICCI, announces Trade Minister's upcoming visit to sign PTA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan, Ms. Dorsaf Maaroufi Arfaoui has said that in near future his country's Trade Minister will visit Pakistan to sign the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) which will mark a major milestone in strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and Tunisia, paving the way for increased cooperation and mutual benefit.

She said this while giving a presentation here at the Chamber House on Thursday about the forthcoming 'Festival of Coffee, being held from October 1-5, 2024 and the 10th OIC Halal Expo-

2024, being held from 8-12 October 2024 in Tunisia. She said that both the mega events will provide a distinctive opportunity to the investors especially the Pakistani businessmen to foster business to business relations between the two countries. She expressed the hope that Pakistani businessmen in general and those belonging to ICCI will especially take part in large number to explore new avenues of cooperation.

On his part Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while appreciating the Ambassador's initiative to visit ICCI and apprise the members about the forthcoming significant events taking

place in Tunisia said that the Chamber will extend fullest cooperation to the Embassy for the maximum participants of its members in both the Festival of Coffee and the Hilal Expo which can prove a gigantic opportunity for the Pakistani exporters.

He said that Tunisia is a country of great importance in terms of geographic proximity, which on one side is connected to developed European countries and on the other at the crossroads of emerging African markets, which could create opportunities for Pakistani economy and trade.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Paki-

stan's foreign policy in Africa is based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and solidarity with African nations. He said that the direct interaction between the private sectors of Pakistan and Tunisia is key to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation. He also hailed the acting Ambassador for her proactive role in enhancing the relations between the two countries.

ICCI Member Sajid Iqbal highlighted the importance of ICCI and the Tunisian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's close contact for the purpose.

Those present also include Kashif Qureshi, Zareef Ahmed, Zaher Naqvi, Mudassar Nawaz Malik, Chaudhry



Assadullah Khan and Nazir Ahmed Khan.

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

Don't Steal My Religious Identity: It's Against the Law

Section 171 of Chapter X of the PPC states: "Whoever, not belonging to a certain class of public servants, wears any garb or token used by that class of public servants, with the intention that it may be believed, or with the knowledge that it is likely to be believed, that he belongs to that class of public servants, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both."

The text of this section has some very important implications. It is categorically stated in the act that "with the intention that it may be believed or with the knowledge that it is likely to be believed"; therefore, it becomes abundantly clear that "impersonation" is a crime. The fine of 500 rupees was set when the Penal Code was enacted. If we consider the inflation rate of an average of 8 percent per year, this fine would approximately amount to 266,000 PKR. This shows that it's a crime of great magnitude. Similarly, identity theft under the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act of 2016 carries imprisonment and a fine of PKR 5 million.

If we look at different countries around the world, impersonation and claiming to be someone one is not is a crime punishable by jail time. It is due to this reason that if someone isn't a Muslim but uses Islamic symbols and pretends that the religion they are following is Islam when, in fact, it is not, such a person is committing a moral,

ethical, and legal crime.

Believing that Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) is the last and final messenger of Allah forms the core of the Islamic faith. There is no debate on the issue. Muslims are those people who believe that Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) of Arabia completed the message of Allah. We believe in all the prophets that came before the last messenger (ﷺ) and that with him, the door to Prophethood was sealed and closed. Therefore, any person who believes otherwise is not a Muslim and cannot call their faith Islam, even if their religious practices resemble those of Muslims; they cannot call themselves or show themselves as Muslims to the world.

I would like to ask them: what about my rights and the rights of the Muslim community? Why is it all right if someone tries to use my name to propagate their faith, and how can that community play victim when, in fact, it is victimizing Islam and the followers of the Islamic faith? I would like to pose the question here: if a person claims to be Indian, American, or Pakistani, doesn't he or she need a certificate from the concerned authorities of these countries? Wouldn't he or she be committing a crime if they traveled on fake passports? Not long ago, when Israeli intelligence executed its operation in Dubai using passports that belonged to dual nationals of Israel, they used British and Australian passports. In response, their otherwise close allies, Britain and Australia, protested

in the strongest manner, terming this as "insulting." If one can't use a fake passport, how can the confused desi liberals expect the Muslim community to allow someone to steal their identity?

If this is not enough, let's explore it from another angle. Why did leading brands such as Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent sue the Chinese company Alibaba for facilitating the sale of counterfeit products that weren't actually Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent? Was that against human rights, freedom, and liberty? How can you agree that counterfeit versions of luxury products are wrong and that the original manufacturer has the right to sue the one committing the crime, but not agree that something on which Muslims across the board have a consensus—that the particular community is outside the fold of Islam?

Some say that it's a harmless thing if they claim to be Muslims, and hence one shouldn't worry. Well, in that case, we shouldn't worry if someone who is not a police officer claims to be one, and we all know what the consequences are. In some of the horrific terrorist attacks, such as the APS incident and others, the terrorists disguised themselves in FC and law enforcement uniforms. In the same way, using a Muslim identity, if they are able to lead even one person astray, it's catastrophic for the whole Ummah. And to prevent this, laws and legislation are in place.

With the grace of Allah, Pakistan is

blessed to have laws against the use of Muslim identity by this group. The constitution clearly defines a Muslim and has termed the people who don't believe that Prophethood ended with Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) as non-Muslims. If someone has a problem with this being against human rights or freedom of religion, I would refer to my passport analogy once again and ask them to answer: why can't someone travel with a fake identity? Because apparently, freedom would entail that there shouldn't be any bounds at all. Sections 298-B and 298-C prohibit the group from impersonating as Muslims. And violation of these acts is a crime.

Therefore, the members of that community should understand that they have to follow and respect the laws of this country just like all other citizens. They also have to bear in mind that since the country was made in the name of Islam, the people of the subcontinent sacrificed their wealth, health, and even lives just so this nation could be made. This country came into existence as a fort of Islam. And despite all the problems this country has been through, it has played a role globally and regionally. So, in this country, no one can be allowed to impersonate a Muslim identity. The members of the community have to accept and express this fact that theirs is a different religion, a different faith, and has nothing to do with Islam. As a Muslim it falls within my fundamental rights to record my protest if the said group uses the name of my religion and steals my identity.

Writer is Lecturer in Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. He can be reached at fida@pide.org.pk, X: [defensecon](https://twitter.com/defensecon)



Analysis
Dr. Fida Muhammad Khan

'New thinking'

Pakistan has called for "new thinking" to shape effective approaches to prevent conflicts, resolving disputes — such as Kashmir & Palestine — and building peace in conflict-hit countries.

"What is required is a comprehensive and integrated strategy which offers regional and international support to national efforts for conflict prevention and dispute resolution", Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council which held a high-level debate centred on preventing conflict and building and sustaining peace.

Such a strategy, the Pakistani envoy said, must include: economic and financial support to the States in distress — to create employment and generate trust and hope; capacity-building, to enable governments to provide the basic services needed by local populations.

He also called for an end to external exploitation, which fuels violence and terrorism; good faith efforts at resolution of conflicts — at the local and regional levels; regional and international support for security and counter-terrorism operations; and a review of ill-considered sanctions that mostly punish the poor.

The meeting — convened by Sierra Leone, the Security Council president for August — was held against the backdrop of a rise in conflict globally. "The root causes of these conflicts range from the legacies of colonialism, internal struggles for scarce food, water and pastures, external competition for precious national resources and interventions designed to suppress the struggle of peoples to reclaim their own political and economic destinies," Ambassador Akram said.

"The consequences of foreign occupation are nowhere as clear as in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine," the Pakistani envoy said, as he called on the Security Council to end Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

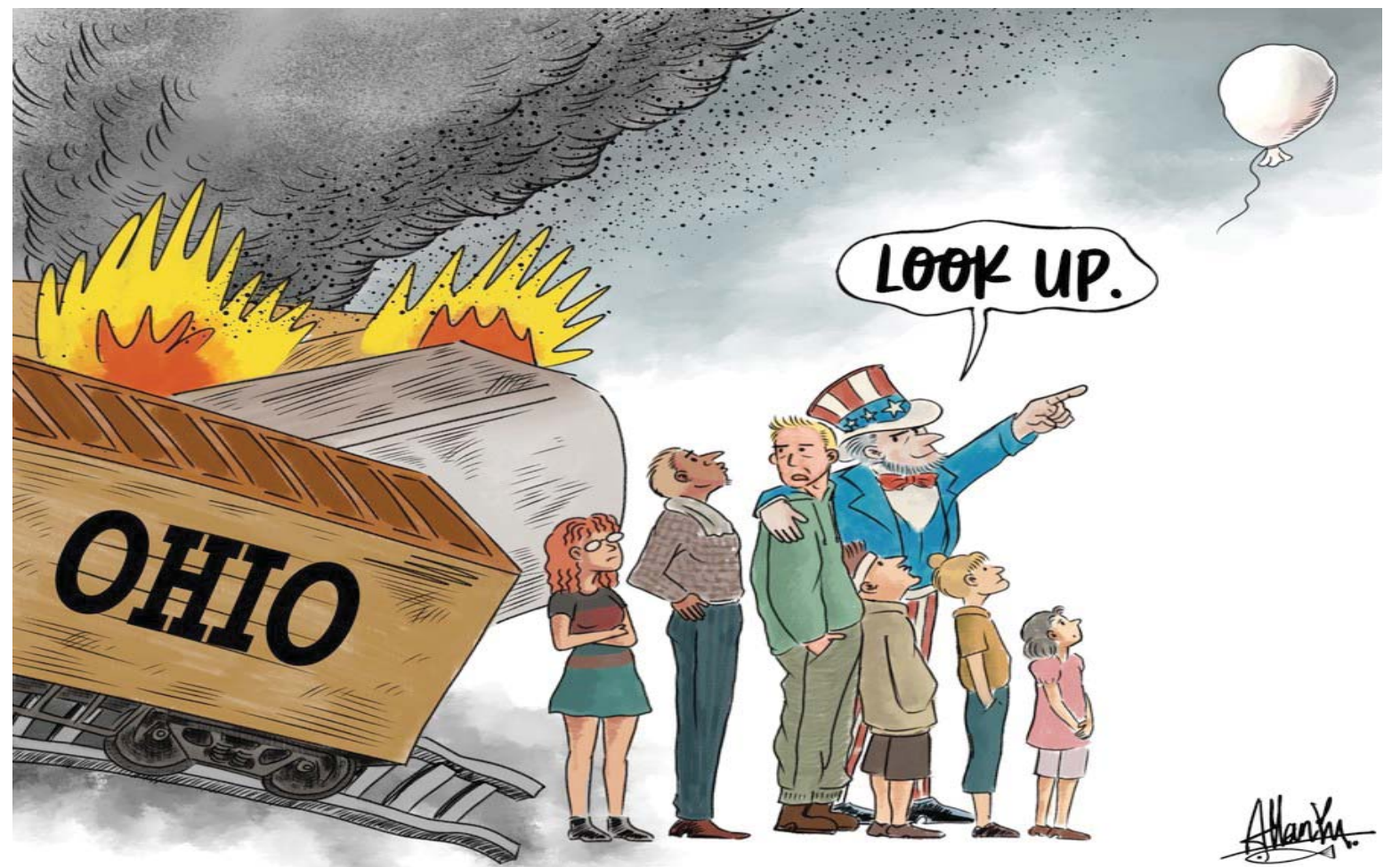
While acknowledging the provision of security and basic needs and services is essential to build social cohesion and success against the forces of violence and terrorism, Ambassador Akram said such national strategies were not sufficient to address the complex crises we face in Africa and elsewhere.

"The proliferation of most of these conflicts has been caused by both endogenous and exogenous factors that must be understood and addressed."

While the concept of nationally-led violence prevention strategies, as outlined in the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, was valuable, Ambassador Akram cited Pakistan's experience in fighting terrorism, noting that "Pakistan's updated National Action Plan to combat terrorism, called 'Azam-e-Istehkam', relies on working with local communities to exclude and eliminate violence extremism and terrorism."

"In Pakistan's experience too, fighting terrorism on our border regions was successful due to the support, assistance and participation of the local communities," he added.

Opening the debate, a senior UN official said that violence cost the world nearly \$20 trillion last year, but investment in peace and conflict prevention has been steadily decreasing.



Letter to the Editor

Addressing the Public Health Threat of the Mpox Virus

Dear Editor,
I write to express my concern regarding the recent Mpox virus outbreak in Pakistan, which has been declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO). The emergence of this new variant is alarming, especially considering the significant public health challenges Pakistan already faces.

The alarm regarding the Mpox virus in Pakistan, related to a new variant of the virus, was raised in August 2024.

This situation underscores the urgent need for a coordinated national response. The government, along with public health agencies, must intensify efforts to contain the spread of the virus through widespread awareness campaigns, robust testing, and vaccination programs. Public education on symptoms, transmission, and prevention is critical to curbing the spread of this virus.

Moreover, our healthcare infrastructure must be strengthened to handle such outbreaks more effectively. The lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic should guide our response—early intervention, transparent communication, and international cooperation are key.

It is crucial that we do not underestimate the threat posed by the Mpox virus. Timely action can prevent this outbreak from escalating into a more severe public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Laiba salam, Wah cantt
laibasalam444@gmail.com

Addressing the Inflation Crisis in Pakistan

Dear Editor,
I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing inflation crisis in Pakistan. Despite recent reports indicating a slight decrease in the inflation rate to 11.1% in July 2024*, the impact on the average Pakistani household remains severe. The cost of essential goods and services, particularly food and non-alcoholic beverages, continues to rise, placing an unbearable burden on families across the nation.

The recent protests by Jamat-e-Islami (JI) against the increase in electricity bills highlight the frustration and desperation felt by many. Despite these protests, electricity charges have continued to climb, exacerbating the financial strain on households. This situation is further compounded by the rising costs of housing, water, and gas, which have seen significant increases over the past month.

It is imperative that the government takes immediate and effective measures to address this crisis. This includes implementing policies to stabilize prices, providing subsidies for essential goods, and ensuring that any increases in utility charges are justified and transparent. Additionally, there must be a concerted effort to improve the overall economic stability of the country to prevent such crises in the future.

The people of Pakistan deserve relief from this relentless inflation.

It is time for the government to act decisively to protect the welfare of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Fatima Bibi
Bhaiwala Barki road Lahore
fraz56297@gmail.com

Impact of Bangladesh Government Crisis on Pakistan and Pakistani People

Dear Editor
As the news of the Bangladesh government crisis spreads, I couldn't help but think about its potential impact on Pakistan and its people. The toppling of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the installation of an interim government is a significant development that requires attention.

The crisis in Bangladesh is a result of student protests and demands for democratic reforms. While it is understandable that students want to see change in their country, it is also important to acknowledge the potential risks and consequences of such actions. The crisis has already led to violence and instability in the region, and it is unclear what the future holds for Bangladesh.

For Pakistan, this development is significant because it has implications for regional stability. The crisis in Bangladesh can potentially create a power vacuum that could be exploited by extremist groups. It is also important for Pakistan to recognize the potential impact of the crisis on its own economy and people.

Conclusion, the crisis in Bangladesh is a significant development that requires careful consideration. It is important for Pakistan to recognize the potential impact of this crisis on regional stability and its own economy and people.

Momal Naeem
City, Kot Radha kishen, District Kasur
momalnaeem2202@gmail.com

Current internet situation in Pakistan

Dear Editor,
I am writing to bring to your attention the current internet situation in Pakistan. As of today, August 17, 2024, the internet landscape in Pakistan is facing several notable challenges that are impacting the accessibility and freedom of information for its citizens.

One of the key issues affecting the internet in Pakistan is the ongoing government censorship and restrictions imposed on online content. There have been reports of websites being blocked, social media platforms facing intermittent shutdowns, and online communications being monitored by authorities. Such restrictions not only limit the fundamental right to freedom of expression but also hinder the flow of information and access to diverse perspectives.

Furthermore, the infrastructure for internet connectivity in rural and remote areas of Pakistan continues to be inadequate, leading to disparities in access to online resources and opportunities. This digital divide restricts the ability of individuals in

these regions to fully participate in the digital economy and benefit from the educational and economic opportunities that the internet offers.

Sakeena ali
Sakeenaali007@gmail.com

Divorce Epidemic: A Call to Action

Respected Editor,
In a country of rich traditions and cultural values like Pakistan, the rising divorce rate is a topic that demands attention and exploration. I am writing to express my concern about the alarming rise in divorce rates in our country. The overall divorce rate in Pakistan is estimated to be around 0.45% of the total married population per year. The recent statistics reveal a disturbing trend, with an increasing number of marriages ending in divorce.

This phenomenon is a clear indication of the breakdown of family values and the erosion of the institution of marriage. The consequence of the trend is far-reaching, affecting not the individuals involved but also the lives of their children, families and societies as a whole.

The reasons for this rate are complex and however, some contributing factors for instance lack of understanding between partners and rising expectations and decreased tolerance.

I urge our society to take a closer look at this issue and work towards finding solutions. We need to promote healthy relationships and marriage counseling, encourage open communication and conflict resolution and support families and children affected by divorce. We should raise awareness

about its complications. Let us work together to address this critical issue and create a stronger, more adaptable society.

Yours Sincerely,
Zoha Maqbool, Burewala, Punjab
Maqboolh045@gmail.com

Not ready for the Stone Age

We have become dependent on the internet to the extent that if it suddenly disappears we are not ready to live through it. The communication will be impacted badly. Economy will collapse and the society will be under chaos. Most importantly a panic will loom over the society that has now become dependent on the internet for one thing or the other.

We have already experienced the internet issues and observed its consequences in the past few days. Slow internet has caused harm to the tech companies and the freelancers, impacting our economy. Moreover, the people are also irritated by the slow internet for basic use as well. Sending pictures or downloading voice notes has become a problem.

Under these circumstances we can only compare the current situation with the stone age. But the people in the stone age had their own way of survival. Whereas we cannot live well if the internet is not working well. Leave alone competing with others we cannot even support ourselves with slow internet. Thus, the authorities should try to solve this issue as our generation is not ready for the stone age.

By Iffa Naseer, Rawalpindi
iffanaseer002@gmail.com

Chinese premier says China ready to join Russia for cooperation in emerging areas

Xinhua

MOSCOW: Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here Wednesday that while consolidating cooperation in traditional areas, China is willing to work with Russia to explore cooperation in emerging areas.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin after he co-chaired the 29th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

Li conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings and best wishes to President Putin. He said that the two heads of state have met twice this year, drawing a new blueprint and injecting strong momentum into further deepening bilateral relations and cooperation, especially at the historical juncture of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Russia.

The steady development of China-Russia relations not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, but also contributes to regional and world peace, stability and prosperity, Li noted, expressing China's willingness to work with Russia to implement

the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain the sound momentum of the development of bilateral relations, expand all-round mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve more practical results.

Li pointed out that the current round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is deepening, which implies huge development opportunities. China is ready to further highlight the role of scientific, technological and industrial innovation in powering bilateral cooperation with Russia, to constantly foster new economic growth points, he added.

The two sides should continue to deepen cultural, tourism, education, youth and sub-national exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding between the two peoples and pass on the cause of China-Russia friendship from generation to generation, Li said.

Against the backdrop of accelerating changes in the world unseen in a century, China is ready to work with Russia to further strengthen multilateral coordination, deepen mutual trust and cooperation with developing countries, firmly promote a multipolar world and economic globaliza-

tion, and better safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and basic norms governing international relations.

Putin asked Li to convey his cordial greetings and best wishes to President Xi. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Russia and China, which is a memorable year in the history of the development of bilateral relations, Putin said.

Noting that Russian and Chinese heads of government held their annual meeting this morning, during which they had in-depth exchanges on economy, trade, people-to-people and cultural cooperation and signed a series of cooperation documents, Putin said this is a strong implementation of the important consensus reached between President Xi and him and has yielded fruitful results.

Russia is willing to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with China, expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and step up communication and coordination within BRICS and other multilateral mechanisms, so as to push for greater development of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era, said Putin.



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan hosted 'Seeds to Smiles,' a thought leader-

ship event underscoring the company's support of Pakistan's farmers, growing the agricultural ecosystem, and investing in Pakistan's food systems security.

PepsiCo Pakistan Cultivates Change: Localizing Seeds for a Brighter Agricultural Future

The event brought together a distinguished assembly of stakeholders, farmers, industry experts, partner organizations and PepsiCo leaders including Eugene Willemsen, CEO of PepsiCo Africa, Middle East & South Asia (AMESA) and CEO of PepsiCo International Beverages, and Mohammad Khosa, CEO of PepsiCo Pakistan & Afghanistan.

Their interactive dialogue centered on a target to develop regenerative agricul-

ture and a positive value chain, brought to life through digital exhibits and a panel discussion, culminating in a ceremony to honor female farmer contributions to PepsiCo programs such as She Feeds the World (SfW) and others.

Mohammad Khosa further added, "As a leading food and beverage company, localizing our supply chain is of utmost importance to us. We aim to provide farmers access to markets, competitive selling rates, and a stable

income.

Adil Sheraz highlighted the impact of women-centric programming, "Our work focuses on strengthening the resilience of those at the heart of food systems—particularly women farmers who face unique challenges. The She Feeds the World program, in partnership with PepsiCo, is about more than just increasing agricultural output; it's about empowering women with the tools, knowledge, and support they need

to transform their livelihoods.

The event also featured a digital exhibit educating the visitors on the journey of potato from seed to crop via innovatively showcased digital screens, inner workings of the Tissue Culture Lab and the various seed varieties used to ensure better yields for farmers across Pakistan. Moreover, guests also took part in a digital interactive afforestation drive under which they pledged to plant 6000 trees locally.

Pre-CEO Summit dinner held at the Indonesian Embassy in Balinese Vibes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a move to foster deeper business connections and enhance bilateral trade relations, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta hosted an exclusive Pre-CEO Summit Dinner for Pakistani CEOs, Business Leaders, and their spouses on 21 August at the Embassy of Indonesia in Islamabad. The event was in collaboration with the CEO Club Pakistan and World CEO Forum.

This distinguished event precedes the much-anticipated CEO Summit Islamabad scheduled to take place on 5 September 2024, and Trade Expo Indonesia, to be held on 9-12 October 2024.

At his remarks, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires said that Indonesia is offering opportunities to the Pakistani business communities to participating in the Indonesia-South and Central Asia (INASCA) Business Forum 2024 and Trade Expo Indonesia 2024 and to bring fruitful results for the benefits of two brotherly countries, as the more concrete actions of Indonesia and Pakistan existing close bilateral relations.

"Indonesia will proudly host the CEO Summit in Bali and warmly welcome Pakistani business communities in Jakarta and Bali. We will give you opportunities, insya Allah," he added before significant numbers of Pakistani outstanding businessmen. Special Assistant to the Prime

Minister with the status of Minister on Energy, H. E. Muhammad Ali was among the attendees. "I extend my high appreciation to the Indonesian Embassy to host the Pre-CEO Summit Dinner and wish that the dinner will bring closer business-to-business relations, as well as explore more opportunities between Indonesia and Pakistan," he said.

President and Founder, CEO Club Pakistan & World CEO Forum, Mr. Ijaz Nisar, conveyed the plan of collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy and the CEO Club Pakistan to host the CEO Summit Bali as part of the World CEO Summit.

Along with this, the session also present the respective speakers that includes Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Pres-



ident, CEO Club Islamabad Chapter; Mr. Sameer Piracha, MD Floret Commodities; and Mr. Sameer Hayat

Mir; CEO TM Rubber.

The participants were served by Balinese food such as Betutu Chicken

and Sate Lilit to bring the Balinese vibes to the businessmen and CEOs in welcoming the CEO Summit Bali.

Mayor DE CONTENSON Leads Groundbreaking Dialogue at The Sovereign Club

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Recently, The Sovereign Club, an international business network launched in Pakistan and hosted an exclusive session with the Mayor of Cuzon, Christophe de Contenson from France in its sovereign dialogue monthly series. This dialogue was specifically tailored for small and medium enterprises, the event focused on strategies for acquiring businesses in Europe, expanding sales, and securing technical support to drive growth.

An official statement from the club's chancery emphasized the club's commitment to supporting the new generation of business leaders: "As businesses transition to a new generation more open to change, our mission is to provide them with the tools and insights needed to succeed internationally. Through our business intelligence model, we equip members with critical data and expert analysis to make informed decisions that drive success."

The club also highlighted its commitment to engaging European leaders



locally: "We are working to bring European leaders who are active in their communities to engage with our members, offering valuable insights into the real needs of their target markets. This approach not only provides our members with more opportunities but also encourages speakers to deliver maximum value,

aligning with the club's mission."

In a notable development, Mayor de Contenson announced plans to write a book showcasing Pakistan's untapped potential as a soft power on the global stage. Scheduled for release in September 2025, proceeds from the book will be donated to humanitarian efforts in Palestine and Ukraine.

Jazz Partners with MediQ to Enhance HealthTech and InsureTech Services in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has joined forces with MediQ, a pioneer in digital health and insurance solutions, to revolutionize healthcare and insurance services, making comprehensive, accessible, and affordable healthcare a reality for millions across Pakistan.

This strategic partnership will provide Jazz customers with access to essential healthcare services, including 24/7 tele-consultations with medical professionals and e-pharmacy services for online prescription fulfillment and medication delivery. The collaboration also offers home collection of lab samples, along with special discounts on ambulance services and home nursing care. Additionally, MediQ will offer Jazz customers a range of insurance solutions, including comprehensive health coverage, accidental coverage, income protection, and life insurance.

Sharing his thoughts on the development, Ali Fahd, Vice President Marketing at Jazz, said, "Jazz is revolutionizing the healthcare and insurance business by simplifying product offering through AI/ML. This commit-



ment is represented in our partnership with MediQ, which offers affordable, high-quality medical and insurance services. Together, we are empowering millions across Pakistan with the healthcare they deserve, right at their fingertips. This collaboration aligns seamlessly with Jazz's recent shift to a ServiceCo model, where our focus is on delivering impactful services that enrich the lives of our customers."

Dr Saira Siddique, CEO of MediQ, also shared her thoughts on the partnership, saying, "Our collaboration with Jazz marks a significant milestone in our quest to make healthcare both accessible and affordable for every individual. By leveraging Jazz's extensive reach, MediQ is poised to bring its innovative digital healthcare and insurance solutions to

an even broader audience, ensuring that people across Pakistan have timely access to the care they need, precisely when they need it. This partnership is not just about expanding services; it's about fundamentally changing the way healthcare is delivered, making it more inclusive, responsive, and aligned with the needs of our communities."

This partnership underscores Jazz's dedication to improving healthcare accessibility and affordability throughout Pakistan. By integrating MediQ's digital health solutions with Jazz's extensive reach, the collaboration aims to bridge gaps in the healthcare system and extend coverage to underserved communities, ensuring that even the most remote areas have access to quality healthcare services.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,793.41	78,260.85	
Day's High	Day's Low	
78,996.22	78,442.25	
Index Value	Change	
8,248,720,904	+532.56	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	22 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,288.00	+4.57	
Percentage	Time	
+0.055%	22 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
40,672.57	-217.92	
Percentage	Time	
-0.53%	22 Aug, 1:44 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,211.01	+259.21	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	22 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.75	185.25
Bahrain Dinar	737.2	742.29
Canadian Dollar	202.9	207.25
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	310.00	312.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.98	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.45	908.53
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.13	727.21
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.73	74.43
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	324.52	329.48
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.78	76.23
UK Pound Sterling	363	367.3
US Dollar	279.10	280

State Life-Summit

Jam Kamal highlights State Life Insurance's vital role in supporting families

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, emphasized the significant impact of State Life Insurance policies on families across the country during his address at the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) Summit 2024.

The event, held at a local hotel, celebrated SLIC's achievements and highlighted the contributions of its leadership and team.

Jam Kamal acknowledged the longstanding support that State Life Insurance has provided, helping numerous families sustain themselves over the years. "State Life Insurance policies have been a lifeline for many, enabling families to survive and thrive," he stated.

The minister commended the SLIC team, especially the executives, chairman, and board members, for their dedication to the corporation's success.

He also addressed criticisms regarding the healthcare program managed by State Life, noting concerns over financial manage-



ment and resource allocation. "There has been criticism about the costs and manage-

ment, but overall, the services provided to the private sector and citizens are substantial. The program's scale and reach are something we often underestimate," he remarked.

Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal recalled how the province actively pursued the federal-level healthcare initiative, integrating it into the provincial budget despite reservations regarding costs and auditing challenges.

He further highlighted the crucial role of data management in improving healthcare delivery. "The extensive data preserved by SLIC offers valuable insights not just into disease trends but also into patient demographics, travel patterns, and regional healthcare needs," he noted.

Looking ahead, the minister expressed optimism about further collaboration between federal and provincial governments, with a focus on extending healthcare services to underprivileged communities. "Strengthening these initiatives will ultimately benefit the people of Pakistan, especially those in underserved areas," he concluded.

MOU

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI and Ms. Maria Jose Poddey, Country Director, GIZ Pakistan, are signing the MoU between FPCCI & GIZ in the esteemed presence of Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Pakistani Minister, Ms. Svenja Schulze, Germany. Minister, Mr. Tariq Khan Jadoon, Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, Malik Sohail Hussain, and others were also present on the occasion.



Jam Kamal & German Minister for Economic Cooperation Witness MoU Signing

Commercc Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI and Ms. Maria Jose Poddey, Country Director, GIZ Pakistan, have signed the MoU between FPCCI & GIZ to establish Responsible Business Helpdesk (RBH) at FPCCI in the esteemed presence of Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan and Ms. Svenja Schulze, Honorable Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ), Germany, highlighted that the general objective of this memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to establish - within the Business Coordinating Council - an advisory center for companies on environmental due diligence and human rights.

Mr. Tariq Khan Jadoon, VP FPCCI; Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, In-Charge Capital Office, FPCCI; Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination, FPCCI; Mr. Majid Aziz, former President, Employer Federation of Pakistan (EFP); Sahibzadi Mahin Khan, President of Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Korangi (WCCIK); Ms. Anela Iftikhar, Women Chamber Multan; high-ranking officials from stakeholder institutions and prominent business personalities were also on the august occasion.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, apprised that the business community of Pakistan deeply appreciates the unwavering support of German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for its substantial contribution to Pakistan's economic development.

Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan, elaborated that the government of Pakistan is committed to promote international best practices and human rights standards in Pakistan to enable swift

growth in Pakistani exports. Underscoring the importance of FPCCI and GIZ initiative, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan added that there has been a growing recognition of the importance of human rights in business globally.

Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room inaugurated by Beatrice Guillaume-Grabisch

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room at The Trust School Lahore to foster and promote nutrition awareness. The N4HK program is part of Nestlé's global nutritional awareness initiative to ensure that children understand the value of nutrition as they grow older. So far the program has reached out to 360,000 kids, trained more than 2300 teachers and has developed 17 N4HK Rooms with 11 partners from private and public sector.

Inaugurating the room, chief guest Béatrice Guillaume-Grabisch, Global Head Human Resources Nestlé S. A. said, "It is an honor and privilege to be here today to celebrate the achievements of the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) program in Pakistan. This initiative goes beyond simply educating children about the importance of nutrition and physical



activity; it is about shaping a healthier future for generations to come."

Speaking on the occasion, Jason Avanceña, CEO Nestlé Pakistan said, "We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with The Trust school who have been one of our oldest partners, having established 3 N4HK rooms and training more than 400 of their teachers and reaching out to more than 10,000 children across

different branches."

Highlighting Nestlé's partnership, Tahir Yousaf CEO The Trust School, said, "We are thankful to Nestlé Pakistan for partnering with us. The Trust School has been providing quality education at subsidized rates or free of cost to meritorious students from underprivileged sections of society with 13 campuses in Lahore."

PBA and NADRA discuss ways to advance digitalization of Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) cohosted an insightful session focused on advancing NADRA's national digitalization efforts and to strengthen support for the banking industry. The session was spearheaded by Brigadier (Retd) Dr Monis Akhlaq, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) - NADRA, joined by NADRA's team of technical experts. The event saw participation from over 25 banks operating in Pakistan.

This collaborative session provided a common platform for the banking industry to engage with NADRA's leading technical experts. The discussion centered around NADRA's role in enhancing the banking sector's capabilities, particularly in the verification of the existing and onboarding of the new banking customers.

Brigadier (Retd) Monis Akhlaq said, "NADRA is actively developing new Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and integrating advanced technologies to bolster its national digitalization efforts. These advancements are intended to significantly improve the banking sector's operational efficiency and security, particularly in customer verification and onboarding processes."

Commenting on the initiative, Muneer Kamal - CEO & Secretary General - PBA said, "The session underscores the importance of PBA's ongoing collaboration with NADRA in tackling emerging challenges related to customer data protection. We look forward to future collaborations with NADRA to effectively enhance our cybersecurity efforts, and further strengthen the banking industry's digital infrastructure."

Firewall sinking the promising IT industry: Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that efforts to control social media through firewall is causing irreparable damage to the country's economy.

He said firewall installation is destroying the fast-growing IT industry while online businesses are shutting down.

He added that companies and capital are fleeing the country, and the country's reputation is being affected globally.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a

statement issued here today that the so-called experts have not been able to install firewalls properly; therefore, it is ruining the economy, increasing unemployment, and killing the business of freelancers.

The business leader said that it is not wise to harm the weak economy of the country to deal with digital terrorists. In many countries, including China and Arab countries, the Internet is controlled, and social media is monitored to prevent anti-state propaganda.

State-controlled firewalls block unwanted websites, social media platforms, and specific content, but such measures do not affect legitimate businesses. An attempt to do so

in Pakistan has brought the Internet to a standstill, which shows the expertise of the so-called experts working on the project.

The imposition of the firewall has triggered a perfect storm of challenges, with prolonged internet disconnections threatening a complete meltdown of business operations and financial losses of up to \$300 million.

It is creating distrust among global clients, who fear their proprietary data and privacy will be compromised. He warned that a mass exodus of IT companies is not just a possibility but an imminent reality if immediate and decisive action is not taken.

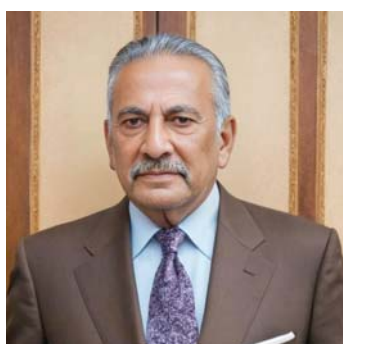
The new system allowed the author-

ities to target and block specific components of mobile apps, such as voice notes, photos, and videos on WhatsApp, while allowing text messages and voice calls.

Digital rights groups have warned that the system could eventually enable the authorities to trace messages posted online to the phone or computer where they originated, as well as to block specific content.

Some suspect the new technology is not configured correctly for Pakistan's internet infrastructure, prompting the recent slowdown.

Since the February general elections, Pakistanis have had only intermittent access to social media sites like X.



He said that thousands of companies have migrated to Dubai due to slow Internet, a significant loss for our economy. Foreign companies did not like to do business with Pakistani companies before. Still, the situation has worsened, and it is like playing with the country's future.

He said such steps should be avoided, as they would harm businesses and employment and deprive the country of its income.

KE submits request for July FCA at PKR 3.09 per kWh

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: K-Electric submits provisional monthly fuel charge adjustments (FCA) requests for July 2024, at PKR 3.09 per kWh. Following a public hearing The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) will issue a decision clarifying the FCA amount to be passed on to customer bills and the

period for which they will be applicable. Fuel charge adjustments are incurred by utilities due to global variations in fuel prices used to generate electricity, and the changes in generation mix. These costs are reflected in customer bills following NEPRA's scrutiny and approval. Customers also benefit from lower FCA in their bills when global fuel prices decrease.

Pakistan's father-son team sets Guinness World Record

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's multiple Guinness World Record holder Irfan Mehsood and his five-year-old son martial artist Sufiyan Mehsood has broken India's Guinness World Record of the fastest time to climb around a person. They achieved the feat in 7.87 seconds of the fastest time to climb around a person in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, on June 19.

They broke the record of India's five-year-old MV Arjun Priyan's whose fastest time was of 9.78 seconds.

Mehsood said it was a very difficult and a challenging record. This record is also called Koala Challenge which became quite popular during COVID-19, he told APP.

Sufiyan has become Pakistan's youngest Guinness World Record holder, Mehsood claimed who has achieved 100 Guinness World Records holder for Pakistan.

Mehsood has broken World Record of Italy's Marcello Ferri by lifting a 40-pound weight with his toe for 1 minute and 32 seconds.

Meanwhile, Mehsood broke the dead-lift by lifting 40 pounds for 3 minutes and 20 seconds. Mehsood lifted 70 kg weight with his toe and set a new world record. He said he was the first Pakistani to hold 100 Guinness World Records in less than 8 years. I have set 46 Guinness World Records for the most world-level pay in the push-ups category and 31 records with a weight of 100 pounds, he said.



Mehsood said he has so far held

the world record of 100 lbs, 80 lbs, 60 lbs and 40 lbs. I have set records for pushups, squats, jumping jacks, step ups, knee strikes, elbow strikes, side jumps, high jumps, star champs etc. I

have broken world records of 16 countries so far including America, Great Britain, India, China, Norway, Germany, France, Finland, Philippines, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

Rizwan, Saud put Pakistan in control

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan took control of the first Test match against Bangladesh on the second day, declaring their innings at 448 for six at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi.

Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel provided a 240-run fifth wicket partnership thus putting Pakistan in a commanding position on Thursday.

Rizwan, who resumed second day's play at 24 in Pakistan's 158 for four, returned unbeaten on a career-best 171, while Saud, who started the proceedings at 57, was dismissed after scoring 141. When play ended on an extended day, Bangladesh were 27 for no loss in 12 overs.

It was a third century each for Rizwan (31st Test) and Saud (11th Test) as the two batters sent the Bangladesh bowlers on a leather chase on a wicket that continued to assist the fast bowlers. For Rizwan, whose previous best was against South

Africa, it was a second century at this venue, while the third was in Karachi against Australia.

For Saud, it was his first century at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium after his previous two were in Karachi (125 not out) and Galle (208 not out).



Rizwan's 239-ball knock was punctuated with 11 fours and three sixes and Saud struck nine fours in a 261-ball innings. Rizwan was dropped twice during his innings, while Saud survived a close run-out before being stumped off Mehidy Hasan Miraz that gave wicket-keeper Litton Das his third scalp of the innings.

After the 240-run fifth wicket partnership that ended with Saud's dismissal, Rizwan put on 44 runs for the sixth wicket with Salman Ali Agha (19) and an unbroken 50 runs for the seventh wicket with Shaheen Shah Afridi, whose 24-ball 29 not out included a four and two sixes.

Neither Hasan Mahmud nor Shoriful Islam managed to pick up any wickets on the second day in which Pakistan scored 290 runs in 72 overs and finished with two for 70 and two for 77, respectively.

Speaking after the end of play of Day 2, Pakistan's Saud Shakeel reflected on his team's performance in the ongoing Test match, saying, "I focused on playing attacking cricket on the first day, and as our partnership grew, who is doing better on the day continues with the form."

Shakeel, who achieved the fastest 1000 runs in Test cricket, humbly stated, "I wasn't aware of the milestone, my

priority is Pakistan's victory." He emphasized the importance of partnerships in both batting and bowling, saying, "Partnerships play a vital role in a team game."

On being named vice-captain, Shakeel expressed honor and hoped for crowd support on the weekend. He acknowledged the need to adapt to situations and improve, saying, "I enjoy performing in difficult situations, but there's always room for improvement."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's batting coach David Hemp discussed the pitch conditions and said, "Reverse swing comes from the surface, but this pitch has more grass than usual in Pakistan, and the outfield is lush."

Hemp emphasized the challenges ahead, saying, "Pakistan has four excellent seamers, so our approach will be to stay positive and focus on scoring."

With plenty of cricket still to be played, Hemp prioritized batting on Friday and assessing the situation on Days 4 and 5.

Scores in brief (day 2 of 5): Pakistan (1st innings) 448-6d (Mohammad Rizwan 171 not out, Saud Shakeel 141, Saim Ayub 56, Shaheen Shah Afridi 29 not out; Hasan Mahmud 2-70, Shoriful Islam 2-77). Bangladesh (1st innings) 27-0.

Over 5,000 women to feature in next edition of Pink Games: minister

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that around 5,000 females will participate in the next edition of Women's Pink Games in 2025. "The Pink Games will also be included in the Annual Sports Calendar and besides this, a brand ambassador will be appointed for Pink Games, he expressed these views while addressing a general body meeting of Sports Board Punjab at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

MNA Saad Wasim, MPA Ajmal Khan Chandia, Home Secretary Punjab Nur ul Amin Mengal, Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, DG PITB Sajid Latif, Marketing Head of Bank of



Punjab Asad Zia, Director GC University Waseem Akhtar, Umer Aslam from PTV, Director Sports Kinnaird College Ammara Rubab and officers from Finance, Schools Education, P&D and Industry Departments also participated in the meeting.

DG Sports Punjab gave an in-depth briefing to participants of the meeting about multiple features, achievements and functions of Sports Board Punjab. The performance report of 2023-24

was presented in the meeting. The meeting also decided to increase the salary of the engagement staff of SBP by 15%. The audit report from 2017 to 2023 was also presented in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Punjab Minister for Sports and Chairman SBP Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that an official Complaint Cell of Sports Board Punjab will be established. "Through this cell, all the players will

lodge any kind of complaints and their complaints will be removed instantly. Besides this, a youth channel of Sports Board Punjab will also be launched".

He further said that 10 lakh athletes will participate in the next edition of Khaalta Punjab Games. "The honorarium of young talented athletes of the province has also been increased to Rs 15 thousand," he informed.

He said that we believe in transparency and our every sports activity and management affairs will be crystal clear. "Punjab Games will be played in four phases—inter-club, inter-tehsil, inter-district and inter-division. Record payments of Rs 70,000, Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 will be given to the top performing players for one year through the Sports Endowment Fund".

Jashan-e-Azadi Intra-District (East) Taekwondo Championship held



Sports Desk

The Jashan-e-Azadi Intra-District (East) Taekwondo Championship was successfully held today, August 18, 2024, at the Muhammad Siddiqui Memon Scouts Gymnasium. The event was organized by the Sindh Scouts Taekwondo Academy in collaboration with the District East Taekwondo Karachi.

Over 120 students from various clubs within District East participated in the championship. The event was supported by Taekwondo Karachi and Sindh Taekwondo, with technical partnership from the Taekwondo Karachi Referee Association, which played a crucial role in the event's success.

Mr. Akhter Meer, Provincial Secretary of the Sindh Boy Scouts Association, was the chief guest and distributed team trophies to the winners. Markhor Taekwondo Academy secured 1st place, PECHS Taekwondo Academy earned 2nd place, and Karachi School of Taekwondo claimed 3rd place in this championship.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Kamran Qamar Qureshi (President, Sindh Taekwondo), Mr. Noor Ahmed Abbasi (Deputy Secretary, Sindh Taekwondo), Mr. Faraz Usman (President, Taekwondo Karachi), Mr. Saqib Ikram (Secretary, Taekwondo Karachi), Mr. Khalid Raja (Head Referee, Taekwondo Karachi), Mr. Jawed Khalid (Schools Chairman, Taekwondo Karachi), and Mr. Fasihuddin (Head Coach, Taekwondo Karachi) for their unwavering support and invaluable contributions to the success of this event.

Cage Tussle Indoor Cricket Championship: Bulls Team Clinches Victory



Sports Desk

KARACHI: In an exhilarating conclusion to the Cage Tussle Indoor Cricket Championship, organized by Owais Automobiles, the Bulls team emerged victorious against the Panther team in a gripping final. The championship, known for its competitive spirit and high energy, showcased some outstanding performances throughout the tournament.

The final match saw the Bulls team outperforming the Panthers in a thrilling contest. With strategic play and remarkable skill, the Bulls secured their win, capping off a memorable championship.

Talha Ahmed Butt was named Man of the Series for his exceptional performance throughout the tournament. His contributions were pivotal in leading his team to success and earning him this well-deserved accolade.

Congratulations to the Bulls team and Talha Ahmed Butt for their impressive achievements!

Rain-delayed match sees Bangladesh 'A' dominate on day three

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: After two days of rain and a wet outfield, the second four-day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' finally saw action at the Islamabad Club on Thursday. Bangladesh 'A' capitalized on the conditions, posting a commanding total of 346-6 at the close of play.

Winning the toss and opting to field, Pakistan Shaheens found themselves on the back foot as Bangladesh's top order delivered solid performances. Jakir Ali was the standout performer for the visitors as he remained unbeaten on 136. His was well-supported by Saif Hassan, who scored a composed 111. Mahidul Islam Ankon contributed 39 runs, while Shahadat Hossain chipped in with 23.

The Shaheens' bowlers had a challenging day, with Ghulam Mudassar taking 2-59 and Mehran Mumtaz claiming 2-67. Abrar Ahmed managed a wicket but conceded 85 runs in the process.

Pakistan Shaheens vs Bangladesh 'A' - Second four-day match - Islamabad Club

Score in brief: Bangladesh 'A' 346-6, 98 overs (Jakir Ali 136 not out, Saif Hassan 111, Mahidul Islam Ankon 39, Shahadat Hossain 23; Ghulam Mudassar 2-59, Mehran Mumtaz 2-67, Abrar Ahmed 1-85)

NA body lauds Olympic gold-medalist Arshad Nadeem

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Thursday commended 2024 Paris Olympics gold medalist Arshad Nadeem for making the nation proud by achieving such feat for the country.

The IPC Committee which met here today under the Chairmanship of Sana Ullah Khan Mastikhek, Member of the National Assembly also acknowledged the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) initiatives to promote sports activities in the country.

In the meeting, Secretary IPC briefed the Committee on the Ministry's functions, including coordination between the Federal Government and the Provinces in economic, cultural, and administrative fields.

The briefing also highlighted efforts to promote uniformity in policy formulation and implementation between the Provinces and the Federal Government.

The Committee was informed about the attached departments, including the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), the Department of Tourist Services (DTS), the Gun and Country Club (GCC), the National Internship Program, the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council, and the Federal Land Commission (FLC). Additionally, discussions covered the signing of MOUs with other countries and international organizations related to sports, tourism, and youth.

The Ministry also provided the Committee with updates on the latest status of human resources within the Ministry and its affiliated organizations. The Committee was informed about the budget allocations for the Ministry and

its associated departments. Additionally, the Committee was presented with the organograms of these departments.

A comprehensive briefing was also given on the sports infrastructure, the composition of the Pakistan Sports Board, and its various initiatives. Meanwhile, the Department of Tourist Services presented an overview of its activities from its inception to the present. It was also noted that the National Internship Program was active from 2006 to 2009 but became dormant and has not undertaken any assignments since 2019.

The Committee directed the Secretary IPC, to provide complete details of the organizations under the Pakistan Sports Board, including their Presidents and other position holders, as well as medals awarded to the players during



the last five years. Furthermore, the illegal orders/decisions made by PSB shall be reversed,

with a report submitted to the Committee. The Committee inquired about the

selection criteria for the Chairmen and Members of the Federal Land Commission, along with their performance, and requested that this information be provided to the Committee.

The Committee recommended assigning the subject of the Council of Common Interest to IPC.

The Committee also expressed concern over the non-framing of rules for the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council and directed the Secretary to finalize them without any further delay.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Muhammad Aftab, Anjum Aqeel Khan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir, Ms. Shaista Khan, Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, Syeda Shehla Raza, Muhammad Miqdad Ali Khan, Jamshaid Ahmad, and Adil Khan Bazai, Secretary IPC and heads of the attached departments.

Congregation

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir in a group photo with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS) Trek-2024 at the GHQ on Thursday.



Photo: ISPR

COAS Munir cautions against perils of misinformation in digital age

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has cautioned against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, according to the military's media wing.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS) Trek-2024, representing nine

different countries, at the General Headquarters on Thursday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said that the session provided a platform to share perspectives on Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability, its "unwavering efforts against terrorism, and its commitment to upholding democratic values."

The army chief emphasised

the significance of education, critical thinking, and innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges. He highlighted Pakistan's "vast" potential and encouraged the attendants to form their opinions based on personal experiences.

COAS Munir urged the students to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The Harvard students expressed their gratitude to

the army chief for facilitating a "constructive and enlightening" interaction.

The engagement follows COAS Munir's earlier interaction with students from various universities at the GHQ on August 20, underscoring his commitment to "nurturing and inspiring the nation's youth."

On Wednesday, COAS Munir said that the state has a responsibility to protect its citizens

from the harmful effects of social media.

While addressing the youth convention, he urged the youth to learn from the struggles of people in Libya, Syria, Kashmir, and Gaza. The army chief went on to add that those who had predicted Pakistan's default were "silent." He urged the youth to remain optimistic, reminding them that as Muslims, they are forbidden from despair.

Turkish Business Groups Heads held session with Federal Ministers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting was held to review the various problems and difficulties being faced by Turkish Business Groups and Investors in Pakistan.

Under the leadership of the Ambassador of Turkey in Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, the Turkish business community heads called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment & Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadaq Malik.

In the meeting with Turkish Business Heads, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan assured them that those who are investing and working in various sectors in Pakistan will be



provided with all possible support by the Government of Pakistan.

Business delegations active in Textile, Chemical, Energy and other sectors, including Turkish Airlines, Al-Buraq, OzPak, informed the Federal Ministers about the problems related to various departments, upon which

Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Board of Investment will provide 24-hour services to the business community of Turkey. He said that relations with Turkey are based on mutual love, bilateral brotherhood and they are very close to our hearts.

Abdul Aleem Khan assured that providing a

favorable environment to all foreign investors is our main and foremost priority.

He said that most of the problems related to State Bank have already been resolved while immediate steps will be taken regarding FBR and other departments, as well. Abdul Aleem Khan said that those working in

Special Economic Zones have special tax exemption and it is understandable that foreign investors will pay taxes if they earn profits. Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Pacaci and heads of Turkish companies thanked Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for his cooperation.

Two children killed, 5 injured in Attock school van shooting

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: At least 2 children were killed and five others injured in a gun attack on a school van in Punjab's Attock district on Thursday morning.

According to the police, the unidentified gunmen opened fire on the school van in the Dheri Kot area of Attock, resulting in the death of 2 children.

The children were aged between 10 and 12 years.

The unidentified persons fled the scene after the crime, according to Rescue 1122 Punjab.

As soon as the incident was reported, the rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the injured and deceased to nearby hospital.



Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, expressing deep sorrow over the inci-

dent, has sought an immediate report from Commissioner Rawalpindi.

She also directed authorities concerned to provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

President Asif Zardari also condemned the school van firing incident, saying that targeting innocent children is a very cruel and shameful act.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident and said that the attack on innocent children is extremely cruel and barbaric.

He has directed the authorities to take strict action against those responsible.

Punjab Governor Saleem Haider Khan has also strongly condemned the targeting of the school van.

ECC approves Rs20b as 'special allocation' for Azm-i-Istehkam



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved Rs20 billion as a special allocation for counterterrorism Operation Azm-i-Istehkam during the company fiscal year 2024-25.

The ECC also approved Rs1,951.995 million on account of payment of security charges for the Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South).

Azm-i-Istehkam is a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism

campaign, according to the government. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved it in June with the consensus of all stakeholders including provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, at the Central Apex Committee on National Action Plan meeting.

"Azm-i-Istehkam will integrate and synergise multiple lines of effort to combat the menaces of extremism and terrorism in a comprehensive and decisive manner," according to a government statement.

Finance Minister held a Meeting with Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a virtual meeting with Dr. Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank, to discuss Pakistan's economic trajectory and explore potential avenues for increased investment in the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State Mr. Ali Parvez Malik, Secretary Finance, and other senior officers from the Finance Division.

Senator Aurangzeb welcomed Dr. Chilwan and expressed gratitude for Dubai Islamic Bank's continuous engagement with Pakistan's financial sector. He highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening economic ties with international partners, particularly in Islamic banking, and expressed optimism about future collaborations with Dubai Islamic Bank.

Dr. Adnan Chilwan expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's economic policies and initiatives, and empha-

sized that Pakistan remains a strategically important market for Dubai Islamic Bank.

Dr. Chilwan reiterated the bank's interest in playing a larger role in the country's financial growth, particularly in sectors such as Islamic banking, infrastructure, and SME development.

During the meeting, while exploring the potential areas for investment in Pakistan, the Minister invited the Dubai Islamic Bank to enhance its investment in the country and reaffirmed the government's dedication to maintaining a stable macroeconomic environment and ensuring that all necessary measures are in place to facilitate foreign investment.

The discussion underscored the importance of strengthening economic cooperation between Pakistan and Dubai Islamic Bank. The meeting reflected the shared commitment of both parties to fostering sustainable economic development and further deepening financial ties between Pakistan and the UAE.

Riverine dacoits kill 11 police officers in Rahim Yar Khan's Machka

Correspondent

RAHIM YAR KHAN: At least 11 police officers were killed and seven injured when a group of dacoits attacked two police vehicles with rockets in the riverine area of Rahim Yar Khan's Machka.

The two police mobiles were carrying more than 20 officers when the dacoits launched a rocket attack, according to police. Vehicles were stuck in rainwater. The dacoits surrounded the stranded officers and opened fire.

This incident highlights the ongoing challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in combating the threat of dacoits, particularly in the riverine areas of the region.

Authorities have vowed to take strict action against the perpetrators and strengthen security measures to prevent such attacks in the future.

They had established a camp in Machka to monitor the movement of dacoits. The officers were returning from their duty when they were ambushed by around 25 armed dacoits.

A large contingent of police from across the district was mobilised to the crime scene, led by District Police Officer Imran.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the attack and expressed deep grief and sorrow over the "martyrdom of the 11 police officers." He paid tribute to the slain police officers.

PTA to block THESE SIMs in October 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) announced to block all the SIM cards issued in the names of deceased person, ARY News reported on Thursday.

The PTA in its announcement stated that the SIMs issued in the names of deceased persons will be blocked from October 15, 2024.

Meanwhile, the authority directed the citizens interested in transferring such SIMs to their name can process the required documents at the franchise/service center of the concerned SIM provider to avoid any inconvenience.

Earlier to this PTA devised a plan to block Subscriber Identity Modules (SIMs) of users in three phases.

According to sources within PTA, the authority has received data from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the



process to block the sims will start on August 16.

The details stated that SIMs registered on the fake and canceled CNICs would be blocked in the first phase, while in the second phase, SIMs registered at expired CNICs to be blocked.

In the third and final phase SIMs registered under CNICs of deceased persons will be blocked, the sources said.

Furthermore, the subscribers have started receiving messages on their SIMs.