



PCB chairman felicitates Bangladesh cricket team

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi Sunday lauded the Bangladeshi cricket side over their exceptional game, acknowledging their momentous win. He said in a statement: "Bangladesh played their best game." He also extended his "heartiest congratulations" to the Bangladesh team, recognising their hard-earned victory.



Mobile phone service to remain suspended in Karachi today

Sindh Home Department decided to suspend cellular services in various districts of the province including Karachi, today. The service will be entirely shut down in Karachi and Hyderabad as part of security measures. Additionally, mobile phone services will be unavailable in several other districts, including Dadu, Thatta, Sajawal, Khairpur, and Larkana. However, services will remain operational in Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Sukkur.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the closing down of the Public Works Department, on Sunday.



Photo: PID

President strongly condemns terrorist attack on Police check post in Kurram



ly condemned the terrorist attack on a police check post in Kurram.

In a message, he paid tribute to the police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the attack.

He offered his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members, praying for grant of courage for them to bear the loss with equanimity.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday strong-

ly condemned the terrorist attack on a police check post in Kurram. In a message, he paid tribute to the police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the attack. He offered his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members, praying for grant of courage for them to bear the loss with equanimity. He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack. President Zardari also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant high ranks to the martyred in Jannah.

PM sets one-month deadline for govt offices to switch to paperless system

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday assigned the Ministry for Information Technology and other relevant departments, the task of implementing the e-office system in all govern-

ment offices.

Directing to ensure paperless office work within a month, the prime minister warned that delay in the implementation of e-office in government offices would not be tolerated.

"There should be no file work without e-office in the

government offices from next month," the prime minister said adding that implementation of e-office to speed up transparency in the system was the top priority of the government.

He further directed that all the officers in the government

offices should ensure file work through e-offices.

On the direction of the prime minister, the staff of the PM Office has already completed the e-office training.

Last week the prime minister also received the files through e-office system.

PM Shehbaz said that the e-office was an important step towards improving governance and promoting digitization in the country.

He also directed to present a report on the progress of launching e-office in next two weeks.

PM reviews legal aspects, final stages of PakPWD closure

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the legal aspects and final procedures regarding the closing down of the Pak Public Works Department (PakPWD).

The prime minister directed that the financial package for employees who will be laid off due to the dissolution will not be applicable to those who have been proven guilty of serious corruption charges.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also instructed that the final plan for transferring ongoing projects under the PakPWD to provinces and relevant departments should

be presented soon.

He further directed that all final recommendations regarding the closure of the PakPWD should be presented to the cabinet.

The prime minister also ordered the implementation of the age relaxation proposal to re-employ hardworking and honest individuals with short period of employment in the PakPWD.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada and high officials of the relevant departments.

Interior Minister visits Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh's shrine

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) on the occasion of his Urs.

He laid a chadar and floral wreath at the shrine. Thousands of devotees are participating in the Urs celebrations.

The interior minister prayed for the country's progress and well-being of the people. He also offered special prayers for the oppressed Muslims of Indian occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

The federal interior minister also reviewed the project for the decoration and renovation of Data Darbar.

In this regard, the Secretary of Auqaf Punjab briefed him on the project and apprised him regarding the progress.

The interior minister extended



greetings to the devotees of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) in Lahore and around the world on the occasion of the Urs.

He highlighted that Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) and other reli-

gious scholars preached peace and harmony in the Subcontinent.

He emphasized the need to follow the teachings of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) and other religious elders.

13 pilgrims killed as bus meets accident in Balochistan's Lasbela



Bureau Report

KARACHI: At least 13 pilgrims were killed when they crashed into a ravine on the Makran Coastal Highway in Lasbela, Balochistan, after being prevented from crossing into Iran.

"An army crane is on its way to help lift the bus from the ravine to check if passengers are pinned underneath the vehicle. Therefore the death toll may rise," police official Aslam Bangulzai, who was at the scene, told media.

"This is a particularly treacherous tract of road, with many twists and turns. The driver was speeding and the bus fell into a deep ravine," he added.

The accident occurred in a mountainous area, around 100 kilometres (62 miles) from

the nearest town of Uthal and 500 kilometres from the Iran border town of Pishin.

"The bus was carrying pilgrims on its way to Arbaeen [pilgrimage] but was turned back at the Iran border because their documents had some problems," said Hamood Ur Rehman, a senior government official in the nearby district of Gwadar.

The bus, carrying pilgrims returning from Iran, is believed to have veered off the road and plunged into a ravine due to brake failure caused by excessive speed.

Police confirmed that the bus was travelling to Punjab.

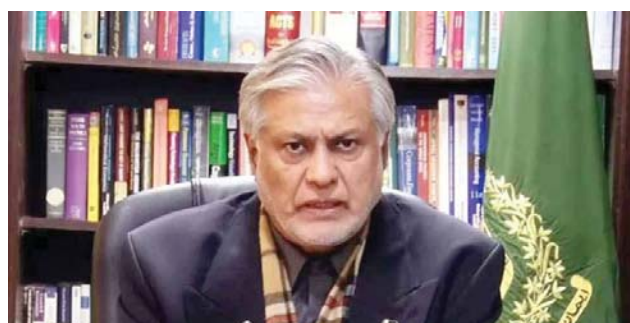
Police officials stated that the pilgrims were from Lahore and Gujranwala in Punjab. Rescue operations were under way, involving police, Levies, and other agencies.

PM working day and night to reform national institutions: Ishaq Dar

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was working day and night to bring reforms in national institutions while the economy would soon be restored under his leadership.

He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of participating in the urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh. He said when the country's economy was taking off, obstacles were created. "May Almighty Allah not let this happen this time; let us make Pakistan an econom-



ically prestigious country in the world," he prayed. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin and others were also present.

The deputy PM said he had already served the country as the

finance minister, and this time he had been assigned many responsibilities. He said there was no doubt that Pakistan had suffered a lot economically during the past years, adding that "it was being

predicted that the country would take 15 years to come out of the severe crises. But with the grace of Allah, it took only three-and-a-half years for Pakistan to come out of the crises."

In 2013, the country was experiencing up to 18 hours load-shedding, and dozens of terrorist incidents were taking place daily, affecting the economy badly. But, the PML-N government solved all those problems in just three-and-a-half years with the grace of Allah, and the load-shedding issues was also resolved. It was admitted by major forums, and it was said that the way Pakistan was developing, it would soon join the

G20. But after that, in the next four years, Pakistan was ranked at the 47th position economically and it was not a small loss, the problems of the country today are due to that duration.

Ishaq Dar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, "we are making all-out efforts to restore economy and create ease for Pakistanis again". He said a 14 rupees per unit relief in electricity bills had been given by the provincial government to the people of Punjab, and the prime minister allocated Rs. 50 billion subsidy to electricity users of up to 200 units, with the approval of the cabinet.

Pakistan invites Modi to SCO summit

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, scheduled to be held in Pakistan on October 15 and 16.

Pakistan has sent invitations to all heads of state of the SCO member countries, including India.

According to Indian media, the Indian government has not yet made a decision on the invitation. There is speculation that India might send a minister instead of Prime Minister Modi to attend the conference.

It's worth noting that the

last time an Indian official visited Pakistan for the SCO summit was in 2015 when then-Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the event.

The invitation comes amidst strained relations between



Pakistan and India. The two countries have been engaged in a long-standing territorial dispute in Kashmir, and relations have further deteriorated in recent years.

It remains to be seen whether Prime Minister Modi will accept the invitation and attend the SCO summit in Pakistan.

Coaster accident in Azad Kashmir kills 25 people, PM calls for report

Bureau Report

AZADPATAN/MUZAFFARABAD: Coaster tragic accident took place at Azad Patan Coaster who came from Rawalpindi to Palandri to participate in Palandri Nalian Urs 25 passengers lost their lives. As a result of the assistance of the rescue teams, the bodies of 25 passengers were recovered from the deep ditch.

Azad Kashmir Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of life in the Palandri coaster accident and said that 25 people have died in this horrific accident. Passenger bus/coaster number LES744 was going from Rawalpindi to Pilindri when it met with an accident near Girari Bridge on Azad Patan Road due to brake failure. Due to brake failure, the passenger bus fell into a deep ditch. Rescue teams, police and heavy machinery were dispatched to



the accident site after the accident was reported. One injured has been shifted to a nearby hospital. The Information Minister said that according to

the initial information, the accident occurred due to brake failure, however, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has called for a report of the accident

in which all aspects will be reviewed. The reasons for the accidents should be ascertained. He said that the people riding in the coaster that had the accident were going to an Urs ceremony in Palandri, where most of the dead people belong to Rawalpindi. I prayed for patience for the family members.

Azad Kashmir Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of life in the Palandri coaster accident and said that 25 people have died in this horrific accident. Passenger bus/coaster number LES744 was going from Rawalpindi to Pilindri when it met with an accident near Girari Bridge on Azad Patan Road due to brake failure. Due to brake failure, the passenger bus fell into a deep ditch. Rescue teams, police and heavy machinery were dispatched to the accident site after the accident was reported. One injured has been shifted to a nearby hospital.

Negligence

FAISALABAD: Passengers traveling in a risky manners on the roof of a bus on Gutwala Road.



Photo: Online

Reject Labor Code Punjab 2024. National Labor Federation

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In a joint meeting of all the leadership of labor unions and federations against the Labor Code Punjab 2024 organized by the National Labor Federation, it was announced to fight against the anti-labour measures while rejecting the Labor Code Punjab 2024. The Punjab Labor Conference will be held in Lahore on August 31, in which the provincial and district leadership of unions and federations from across Punjab will participate and the protest plan will be announced. Muhammad Amin Minhas, President of National Labor Federation Punjab, Muhammad Hanif Ramey of Muttahida Labor Federation, Chaudhry Mahmood Al-Ahad, Vice President of National Labor Federation of Pakistan, Pasban High S Wagon Workers Association and Pasban Rickshaw Taxi Drivers were present in the meeting held at Al-Markaz-ul-Islami Chiniot Bazar. Leader of Union Punjab Mian Ijaz Hussain, Chief Organiza-



er of Railway Prime Union Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Chairman of Pakistan Workers Federation Pakistan Chaudhry Abdul Rehman Asi, Chairman of Labor Qaumi Movement Pakistan Haji Ashfaq Ali Butt, President of Labor Qaumi Movement Pakistan Rana Muhammad Tahir, Pakistan Muhammad Sarwar Baba of Food Workers Federation of Pakistan, President and General Secretary of Pakistan Road Transport Faisalabad Mian Shahbaz Ahmed, Vice Chairman of Phoenix Armor All Pakistan Pervez Iqbal, District General Secretary of Paki-

stan Labor Qaumi Movement Rana Riaz, Organizing Secretary of Pakistan Federation United Irrigation Pakistan. K. Shahid Majeed, as the leader of Pasban Labor Movement, Muhammad Naveed Gul, General Secretary of Pakistan Irrigation Employees Federation, FSH Abdul Majeed of Serena Hotel, Phoenix Armor All-Pakistan President Pwant Hussain, Leader of Textile Power Loom Garments Workers Union Punjab Shehzad, Ali, Leader of Textile Power Loom Garments Workers Union Muhammad Saad Aslam, Chair-

man Textile Power Loom Garments Workers Union Pakistan Aslam Meraj, Vice Chairman Labor Qaumi Movement Pakistan Malik Nazir Ahmad, Chairman Faisalabad Labor Federation Rana Ahmed Ali, Faisalabad Labor Union K Malik Muhammad Afzal Awan, Vice President of Pasban Latif Saleem Weaving Factory Ghulam Rasool, District President of Pasban High S Wagon Workers Association Rana Amjad, Majid Jat of Fits Urban Transport, District General Secretary of Pasban High S Wagon Workers Association Nasir Ijaz, Syed Ghazanfar Abbas Shah, General Secretary of Pakistan EPCA, Rana Manoor Hussain, Mazda Transport General Secretary, Rana Muhammad Atiq, Mazda Transport District President, Sohail Maqsood of Workers Ibrahim Fiber Limited, Noor Hussain, District President of Taxi Drivers Union, District General Secretary Ayub Butwegar, presidents and secretaries were present. The leaders said in their conversation that they will not back down if it is necessary to sacrifice their lives for the rights of workers.

Faisalabad Divisional Commissioner sacks principal of DPS school over corruption

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Divisional Commissioner sacked the Principal of Divisional Public Schools Shahid Mehmood and immediately evicted his family from his official residence and seized it by force, while more than 50 employees who were recruited against merit in DPS were also dismissed. It was done. Shahid Mehmood has been determined for the past fourteen years. His speech was given by the former commissioner, the current secretary of the National Assembly, Syed Tahir Hussain. Alleged corrup-

tion charges have been imposed on Shahid Mehmood, while all the construction projects are approved by the divisional commissioner. The current Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed has the power to appoint people of his choice on DPS School College and other important posts. According to the Bureau Office, Divisional Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed has dismissed Shahid Mehmood, principal of DPS School in Faisalabad, the third largest city of Pakistan, alleging corruption, abuse of authority and other serious charges in alleged construction



projects. The official house has been forcibly evacuated, while the ongoing press note of the Director Public Relations, Faisal-

abad Division, Faisalabad, has stated that Principal Divisional Public School Shahid Mehmood, who was posted in the school for 14 years, was also dismissed after completing the inquiry and regulation process. Terminated on conduct and other corruption complaints. More than 50 employees who were recruited against merit have been dismissed. 12 Divisional Public Schools, Divisional Model Colleges and Sandal College are playing a historic role in providing quality education to students across the division managed by the Commissioner's Office.

Young Women Forcibly Coerced into Religious Conversion in IIOJK

Bureau Report

SRINAGAR: The living conditions for minorities in India have deteriorated significantly, with women facing particularly harsh challenges. Women are especially vulnerable, making it very difficult for them to live and work freely in the country. India has become a hostile environment for women, especially in recent times. An alarming trend has emerged where young women are being forcibly pressured into changing their religion. This situation is particularly concerning in IIOJK, where young girls are being deceived and coerced into converting from Islam to Hinduism under the guise of love. A recent case involving Humera Mohi ud Din, whose conversion certificate was highlighted in the Indian media, clearly indicates that this girl from Baramulla, IIOJK, was forcibly compelled to change her religion. The international community and the UN must urgently take notice of these egregious human rights violations and press India to cease such heinous acts.

IG Police says sacrifices of police have led to lasting peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Adma Khan Wazir

SWAT: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan, has said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police are playing a frontline role in the war against terrorism, and their sacrifices have led to the establishment of a peaceful environment in the province. The provincial government is providing all possible resources for the police, including modern weapons, to maintain lasting peace.



He expressed these views while talking to the media at his office. He said that the law and order situation in the province is satisfactory, and the police are working 24/7 to protect the public. He added that the history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police is filled with sacrifices, and they are capable of handling all kinds of challenges.

He emphasized that the children of martyrs are the capital of the police force and the family's priority, and their education and upbringing are of utmost importance. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have made sacrifices to establish peace in the province, which makes him proud.

Food fortification is a simple and low cost-effective way to address malnutrition nutrition: Amjad Ali



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Nutrition International in collaboration with Health Department District Dera Ghazi Khan on Benefits of Edible Oil Fortification, Vitamin A and D Deficiency in Pakistan, Consumption of Open and Unrefined Edible Oil and its Adverse Health Effects. Organized an awareness session, lady health supervisors and lady health workers from more than 6 union councils of district Dera Ghazi Khan participated in this awareness session. Educated the participants about the consumption of unrefined oil and its negative effects on health. Talking to the participants, he said that more than half of the population of women and children in Pakistan are suffering from nutritional deficiency, with iron, vitamin A and vitamin D being the top. People suffer from bone density, including 7.2 million (72 million) women, moreover, fortification is a simple and feasible method to address nutritional deficiencies, reducing the availability of vitamins and minerals. makes it possible at a lower cost and that there is no need to change people's dietary habits, Zonal Manager Amjad Ali added that open and unrefined oil causes various deadly diseases, on the occasion of IRMNCH program Dera. Nausheen Zahra from Ghazi Khan was also present, she emphasized in her address that more awareness should be given to the people so that they buy fortified edible oil, ghee and flour available in the market, adding that Punjab Govt. It is trying to cure diseases caused by lack of nutrition, but everyone has to work together in this regard. He urged the participants to pass on the information gained from here to the people, he thanked Nutrition International for this awareness session and appreciated the efforts of Nutrition International.

PPP South Punjab strongly protests government's decision to close down utility stores

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: PPP South Punjab Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator PPP South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen reacted strongly Condemn cruel decision of the federal government to Close the operation of utility stores across the country. The policy is not the end of poverty, but the poor People Killed policy is seen, which has left the lives of the poor people miserable. Instead of giving relief to the poor people, the present government is burying the poor people alive by either abolishing the government subsidy given to various institutions or by abolishing the institutions themselves. The poor people here demand that the government should immediately withdraw the orders to close the Utility Stores Corporation because this decision taken by the government in a hurry is unwise and a dirty joke on the poor people. Income earners will be severely affected. Poor people will get flour, ghee at subsidized rates. Sugar, rice, pulses etc. were available at cheap prices in the utility stores from the common market. The Utility Stores Corporation is currently providing direct subsidies to 26 million families. Those who work at utility stores will be unemployed. He further said that Utility Stores Corporation was established by the founder of Pakistan People's Party Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1971. The government of Pakistan has been providing relief and easily supplying ration to the poor people in difficult situations such as earthquake, flood, corona virus or any natural calamity. Providing thousands of employees working in this organization are associated with the entire country, in addition to this, millions of people get relief from this organization. There are 4500 stores and around 2000 franchise stores across the country.





Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:09 am
Zohr 12:10 pm
Asr 4:50 pm
Maghrib 6:42 pm
Isha 8:10 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

Thirteen new campuses to be established in Karachi: Dr. Khalid

KARACHI, AUG 25 (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training and MQM-Pakistan Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday said that after the 18th amendment, only campuses could be established in Karachi instead of erecting any new university buildings here.

The minister witnessed the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National College of Arts (NCA) and Preston Institute of Management Science and Technology (PIMSAT) for the provision of space to establish the NCA campus.

Talking to media persons after that MoU, he said that thirteen new campuses would be established in the city.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that NCA was a proud institute of the country and that Karachiites deserved its campus.

Expressing his concerns over the low rate of education, he was of the view that every empty building should be established for education.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that MQM-Pakistan gave two young leaders to the city.

He said that Karachi was not as it was in 2008.

Murad approves Rs502 million for replacement of Sukkur Barrage gates

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs502 million for the Irrigation department to meet the expenditure on account of work done in connection with the repair and replacement of damaged gates He approved the funds while presiding over a meeting here at CM House. The meeting was attended by Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro and other concerned officers. Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro briefing the CM said that at the Sukkur Barrage damages were detected in Gate Nos. 44 and 47 on June 20, 2024. Preliminary assessment revealed that Gate No. 44 twisted but intact in full section (geometry) but Gate No. 47 was substantially damaged. To avoid further damages and to facilitate the emergency repair works of Gates No. 44 and 47, all Sukkur Barrage Gates were fully opened to evacuate the upstream pond. Consequently, the supply to all Canals off-taking from the Left and Right Side

of Sukkur Barrage, such as Nara, Rohi, Khairpur East, Khairpur West, Northern Dadu, Rice, and NW Canal was reduced until the restoration of Gates No. 44 and 47 of Sukkur Barrage on an emergency basis. After the day-night efforts, the Engineers of the Irrigation Department rebuilt and maintained the Sukkur Barrage Pond level on June 26, 2024 - two days ahead of schedule. They also restored the supplies of water in Irrigation Canals off-taking from the Sukkur Barrage. The chief minister appreciated the efforts and hard work of Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro, and their engineering team. Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro thanked the chief minister for his appreciation and mentioned that Sindh was saved from unimaginable financial loss and the resulting unrest. Secretary Irrigation informed the CM that Gate No. 44 had been fabricated and brought to Sukkur, placed in the Mechanical Workshop. Due to the flood season, replacing Gate No. 44 is considered risky and therefore halted. Deflection is being monitored, and since 20-06-2024, no increase

in deflection of the gate has been observed. Therefore, Mechanical Expert Mr. Jam Smith, CRBC & PIC, has suggested additional strengthening works on the gate to withstand the flood season temporarily, secure the gate, and prevent further structural movements. Additional C-Channels, H-Beams (Horizontal & Vertical), and Fish Plates have been attached. Corroded and damaged parts of the gates were repaired using advanced welding techniques. The CM was informed through a pictorial presentation.

The CM was told that two gates were replaced and fabricated at Karachi Shipyard. The logistics—materials, jumbo bags, shutters, machinery, and manpower were supplied, including labour, technical divers, and welders. M. S. plates, oxygen cylinders, cranes, and other items were procured for the construction of a Buddha along damaged Gate No. 47, activation of the second old caisson gate, stripping of old Gate No. 7 of Sukkur Barrage, required repair works on Gate No. 44, and strengthening of other gates—24 to 59 of Sukkur Barrage on an emergent basis.

Spillway Opened

ISLAMABAD: District administration opened the spillways of Rawal Dam on Sunday at 6am, and is actively monitoring the situation at rivers and bridges and has completed preparations for potential flood scenarios.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Writers to pay tribute to Pak forces on Defense Day: Asma Butt

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Under the direction of Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt, the artists of the twin cities will express their solidarity with the Pakistani forces on the occasion of Defense Day under the supervision of the well-known writer and director Asma Butt. Artists Will pay tribute to the martyrs of Pak forces who sacrificed their lives while protecting the nation.

Yesterday, writer and director Asma Butt along with a delegation of artists had an important meeting with the leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N and Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt. During the meeting, Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt highly appreciated the artistic services of Asma Butt and said that artists are the spokespersons of the culture of the country. Defense Day is around the corner, so like every sector of the country, it is the duty of artists to pay homage to the services of their army.

Asma Butt thanked Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt and said that the love



and devotion of artists towards Pakistan and Pakistan Army does not need any introduction.

The artist community has always valued the services of Pakistan forces.

Be it Quaid-e-Azam Day, Independence Day, Takbeer Day or Defense Day, artists have always expressed their love for the country in the form of plays and national songs.

AIOU Hosts Workshop on EdTech Skills



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to align the teaching profession with the demands of the modern era, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), has urged teachers to transform themselves by leveraging modern technological tools. Addressing the closing ceremony of a two-day training workshop on "EdTech Skills for Content Development," Dr. Nasir highlighted the rapid shift from traditional education methods to online learning, emphasizing the importance of teachers mastering these new technologies to shape their students' futures effectively. Dr. Nasir called on teachers to move beyond the conventional role of mere instruction and to take on the mantle of wisdom providers. He stressed the need for educators to stay updated with contemporary technical and social demands, as well as the latest trends, to enhance both their personal growth and teaching effectiveness. The workshop was organized by the University's Secondary Teacher Education Department, under the Faculty of Education, in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC). Over 30 faculty members and students participated in the two-day training. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Tooba Saleem, with Kamran Mir serving as the resource person. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the workshop, noting that they had acquired numerous EdTech skills during the sessions.

Restaurants, Bakers Association hold grand ceremony in Benani Nakar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Restaurants Caters Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry organized a grand ceremony in his native Benani Nakar Hilan. In which the residents of Hilan, Nakar, Benani Darband, Satta Karam Rakhala, Sigana, Hanjhoth Gahoni participated in full participation. Former Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and General Secretary Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Murtaza Javed Abbasi participated as a special guest in the ceremony. The program was started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat Rasool Maqbool (peace be upon him). The hosting duties were performed by Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry, who delivered the welcome speech. Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry thanked the residents and guests and said that they are loyal people who walk one step with him, they walk ten steps with him. Roads, schools, and hand pumps were built by late Haji Javed. Whose honor we kept in every election. He is grateful to the Murtaza Javed Abbasi for getting these schools, water schemes and roads done. We always rewarded loyalty with loyalty. Murtaza Javed Abbasi gave five million rupees for the construction and repair of the road, which was needed by the people of the area. We are not only grateful to them but also assure them that we will stand by their side at every opportunity. Later, Chaudhry Fayyaz, Chaudhry Abdul Rahim gave a brief address on the situation of the changed PC One. After which Former Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and General Secretary Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Murtaza Javed Abbasi thanked to Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry and his entire team for organizing the wonderful program and announced five million rupees for Sigana to Hilan Nakar Road. Former

Multan CPO: Police force on high alert during Chehlam

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN:

During the visit, SP City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi, SP Gulgasht Division Saifullah, DSP Delhi Gate Maher Muhammad Wasem, DSP Gulgasht Rana Zaheer Babar and organizers of the procession were also present with him. Meanwhile, City Police Officer DIG Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar also met the organizers of the Majlis and processions and the members of the Peace Committee. SP City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi gave a complete briefing to DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar regarding the security arrangements, routes and important issues of Chehlam Hazrat Imam Hasan and Hazrat Imam Hussain processions. City Police Officer DIG Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar told the organizers of the Majlis and processions and members of the Peace Committee that the police force is on full alert during Chehlam and is performing its duties efficiently. City Police Officer Multan He said that in order to maintain law and order, he is in touch with all the schools of thought and the peace and order situation in the district has been maintained with the mutual cooperation of members of the Peace Committee, Association of Traders and the administration. CPO Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar said that on this occasion all measures are being taken for the establishment of peace and order, religious tolerance and harmony



Dr Safdar says August 28 strike will determine direction of country's politics

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Ameer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami District Multan Dr Safdar Hashmi Said The August 28 strike will determine the direction of the country's politics. The country's economy will only grow if the oppressive taxes and electricity price hike charges are removed immediately. A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami under the leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi met with the delegations of Anjuman Traders of various markets and announced the traders' full support for the strike. The Jamaat-e-Islami delegation met with the representatives of Chamber of Small Traders, Sharif Plaza, Hussain Awazahi, Chowk Kamharanwala and other Anjuman Tajran. On this occasion, Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Mian Asif Ikhwan, Hafiz Aslam and others were also present. Dr. Safdar Hashmi further said that the government has made it difficult for the common man to live. Along with the merchant community, the salaried class is also troubled by the cruel taxes. Businesses are being destroyed by the brutal tax slab system. At present, the industrial sector of the country is worried. All the parties in the country are currently engaged in a quarrel with each other. Jamaat-e-Islami is fighting for the interests of the people everywhere. Through our membership drive starting September 1st, activists will reach out to a large number of citizens and appeal to them to contribute to the Haq Du Public Movement.

SIEHS 1122 steps up in national crisis: Facilitates return of martyrs & injured pilgrims

City Desk

KARACHI: In the wake of the devastating bus accident in Yazd, Iran, which tragically claimed the lives of 28 Pakistani pilgrims and left 16 others injured, the Government of Sindh's not-for-profit organization under the Health Department, SIEHS 1122, played a vital role in managing the on-ground operations. The Pakistan Air Force's special C-130 aircraft transported the victims to Shahbaz Airbase in Jacobabad, where SIEHS 1122 took charge of their transport across various districts in Sindh. SIEHS 1122's team efficiently managed the logistics,



ensuring the dignified return of the 28 deceased and 4 injured patients to their hometowns, including Larkana, Kandhkot, Khairpur, Sehwan Sharif, Dadu, Shikarpur, Jamshoro, Qambar Shahdadkot, and Karachi. They also

facilitated the transportation of the injured to hospitals in Karachi, Larkana, and Khairpur for immediate care. Brigadier Tarique Quadir Lakhari (R) - SI(M), CEO-SIEHS, highlighted the organization's commitment during

this national tragedy: "Our mission was to ensure that the victims were treated with the utmost respect and that the injured received the urgent care they needed. SIEHS 1122 remains dedicated to providing critical support in such challenging times." He also acknowledged the unwavering efforts of the Government of Sindh's political leadership, civil administration, media, and armed forces for their invaluable support. As the nation mourns this profound loss, SIEHS 1122 stands steadfast in its commitment to offering compassionate and reliable emergency services to those in need.

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**

Praise-Worthy Efforts of the Pak Army in Community Engagement-I

Recently, the Pakistan Army has increasingly focused on social entertainment and youth engagement to promote national unity, civic responsibility, and personal development among the younger generation. This approach demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of how structured recreational activities and community involvement can influence the nation's future. The Pakistan Army actively engages with youth through sports and cultural events. It organizes various sports tournaments, such as football, cricket, and basketball, open to both military personnel and civilians. These events aim to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and a sense of national pride and unity. Additionally, the Army supports and hosts cultural events that celebrate Pakistan's rich heritage. These occasions offer young people a platform to display their talents in music, dance, and the arts, fostering cultural identity and appreciation. By engaging youth in these activities, the Army helps them connect with their heritage and gain a deeper understanding of their national identity. Recognizing the significance of education and skill development, the Pakistan Army has introduced several initiatives to empower young people. These initiatives include scholarship programs, vocational training centers, and collaborations with educational institutions. The Army's educational programs are crafted to equip youth with the necessary skills for success

in their chosen fields, whether they aim to join the military or pursue other careers. Skill development programs, often in partnership with private sector entities, provide training in various trades and professions, enhancing employability and personal growth.

The Army also emphasizes community service and volunteerism as a means to engage youth. Through activities like clean-up drives, disaster relief efforts, and community development projects, the Army encourages young people to actively serve their communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and civic duty while reinforcing the values of service and solidarity.

In addition to hands-on community involvement, the Army engages in educational outreach by visiting schools and colleges to discuss military life, leadership, and national service. This provides students with valuable insights into the Army's role and may inspire them to consider careers in the armed forces or other public service fields.

In today's digital age, the Army has adapted by leveraging technology to connect with young audiences. The Army's social media presence allows it to share updates, promote events, and interact with young people in real time. Tournaments organized by the Army offer both entertainment and opportunities for

young people to engage with the Army in an enjoyable and interactive way.

Furthermore, the Army's various programs focus on developing leadership skills and teamwork among youth. Leadership camps, team-building exercises, and workshops are designed to help young people build essential life skills, such as problem-solving, communication, and resilience. These programs aim to prepare individuals for future challenges, both personally and professionally, by providing structured environments for learning and growth. In a rapidly

changing world, the role of youth in shaping the future of a nation is crucial, and the Army's initiatives play a significant part in fostering the next generation of leaders and contributing to societal development. Acknowledging the importance of youth engagement, the Pakistan Army has made notable efforts to connect with younger generations through a range of initiatives. These activities are crafted to foster leadership, enhance education, and promote community service, thereby supporting the comprehensive development of young people across Pakistan. The Army organizes numerous educational workshops and seminars designed to impart valuable knowledge and skills. These events cover diverse topics such as leadership, career development, science

and technology, and personal growth. Often conducted in partnership with educational institutions and industry experts, these workshops offer students insights into various fields and career paths. These sessions feature practical demonstrations, interactive discussions, and Q&A segments, enabling participants to interact directly with experts. By emphasizing educational advancement, the Army equips youth with essential tools for success in both academic and professional spheres. A major component of the Pakistan Army's youth engagement strategy is developing leadership skills. Leadership camps and training programs are organized to instill traits such as responsibility, teamwork, and resilience. These programs are designed to prepare young people for leadership roles in their communities and careers.

The Pakistan Army also actively supports and organizes talent competitions and showcases to highlight the skills and creativity of young individuals. Events such as music and dance contests, drama performances, and art exhibitions are often hosted by military schools and colleges, offering students a platform to showcase their talents and gain recognition. The Army's involvement not only promotes the arts but also encourages youth to pursue their passions and develop their skills, fostering confidence and a sense of achievement among participants.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Monsoon Rains expected in KP, Punjab, AJK and GB

The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) anticipated more rain and thundershower in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) from August 26th to 29th.

"Heavy rainfall may trigger landslides in hilly areas and flood may also occur in low laying areas of Gujranwala Division, Lahore Division, Sahiwal Division, Twin Cities, Attock, Murree, Galliyat, Chakwal, Tala Gang, Jhelum, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan; Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Layyah, Muzaffargarh; Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Chiniot, Multan, Khanewal, Lodhran, Khanpur, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Bhakkar in Punjab, and Malakand Division, Hazara Division, Peshawar Division, Mardan, Swabi, Hangu, Karak, Kohat, Orakzai, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Kurram, Waziristan Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may experience rainfall with heavy downpour," the NDMA's news release said on Sunday.

Heavy rainfall may trigger landslides in hilly areas. Flows in local nullahs and river tributaries may increase during the forecast period.

The NDMA urged all relevant authorities and the public to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flooding in low lying areas and landslides in hilly areas. It issued instructions to all relevant departments to alert Emergency Response Teams and mobilized resources to ensure a swift response to any arising situations.

The public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities, the NDMA advised the public and said they should stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports.

"Rain with heavy to very heavy falls are expected in the next 72 hours in Hyderabad Division, Karachi Division, Larkana Division, Mirpur Khas Division, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Ghotki, Sukkur and Khairpur," the NDMA news release said on Sunday.

Heavy rainfall may cause Urban flooding in the urban centers including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah and Larkana.

The NDMA urged all relevant authorities and the public to take necessary precautions to mitigate the potential impacts of flash and urban flooding as well. It issued instructions to all relevant departments to alert Emergency Response Teams and mobilized resources to ensure a swift response to any arising situations.

The public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities, it said and advised the public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports.

Fake Certifications in Food Business: A Growing Concern

Food science and technology is beyond the Safety Certifications. In today's world, the field of food science is increasingly being targeted by organizations that offer fake or non-accredited certifications. These organizations, often found on platforms like LinkedIn, provide certificates that lack proper accreditation and are not recognized by reputable standardization bodies. They exploit students by charging high fees for credentials that hold little to no value in the professional world. This growing issue has serious consequences for those trying to advance their careers in food science.

One major problem is that students who invest their time and money in these fake programs often end up with certifications that are not recognized by employers or industry professionals. This means that their efforts and financial investment can be wasted, leaving them with no real advantage in the job market. Additionally, these unaccredited programs usually do not provide the essential skills and knowledge required by the industry, leaving students inadequately prepared for real-world challenges. For instance, certifications like HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards, and Halal certifications are critical in ensuring food safety and quality. Fake certifications often fail to

meet these rigorous standards, leading to gaps in knowledge and expertise. Moreover, many of these fake certification providers are using CPD Certification Service without even becoming their registered providers.

The proliferation of such certifications also creates confusion among employers. With so many unrecognized credentials, it becomes difficult for hiring managers to determine the true qualifications of job candidates. This can lead to legitimate certifications, such as HACCP or ISO 22000, being devalued, making it harder for qualified professionals to stand out. The confusion is further compounded when employers cannot distinguish between valid and fraudulent Halal certifications, which are essential for compliance in various markets.

Strong regulations and oversight are needed to address these issues. First, there should be clear guidelines for what constitutes an accredited and legitimate certification program. Reputable standardization bodies should be responsible for accrediting certification providers to ensure that only credible programs are available. Some of internationally recognized certification platforms include Coursera, which partners with universities and institutions to offer accredited courses, and Alison, which provides a wide range of courses with some certifications recognized by industry leaders. These platforms often work with repu-

table organizations to ensure the validity of their certifications.

Additionally, educational institutions and professional organizations should work together to educate students about how to identify and avoid fraudulent certification programs. It is also crucial to develop transparent verification systems that allow students and employers to easily check the authenticity of certifications. By improving access to information about accredited programs and creating a standard for certification validity, students can make more informed decisions and avoid falling victim to scams.

The lack of strict rules and enforcement against these fraudulent practices allows these scams to continue with little risk of being caught or punished, which keeps spreading false information and exploiting people in the field of food science and other areas. Also, having access to real company data and documents designs allows scammers to falsely link their fake certificates to well-known organizations, making it easier to deceive people.

Ending with the words that the rise of fake food science certifications (like HACCP of various Levels, ISO, HALAL Leads, Food Safety etc.) is a pressing issue that needs urgent attention. By implementing stronger regulations and providing better resources for verification, we can protect students from unethical practices and ensure that their hard work and investments lead to genuine career advancements.

(Writer is From Department of Food Science and Technology, BZU Multan)

Analysis



Jibran Ahmed



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



The story of an Indian female doctor's brutal murder...

Dear Editor,
 I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent tragic incident in India involving Dr. Moumita Debnath, a young medical trainee, who was brutally raped and murdered within the premises of RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata. This shocking case has sparked nationwide protests across India, and it has also highlighted an issue of grave concern that transcends borders — the safety of women, especially in public institutions. As a concerned observer in Pakistan, I believe this tragedy speaks to the shared challenges faced by women in South Asia. Whether in India or Pakistan, women continue to face security threats in educational and medical institutions, spaces that should be safe for personal and professional development. However, these demands resonate beyond India, as the safety of women in public and professional spaces remains a challenge across the region.

In Pakistan, too, there are similar concerns about the need for better security protocols and gender-sensitive policies in our own educational and public institutions. As this case continues to unfold, it serves as a powerful reminder for all South Asian countries to take more robust action in ensuring the safety and dignity of women. We must learn from this tragedy to improve secu-

riety measures, enforce stricter regulations, and create a culture where women feel protected, no matter where they are. I hope that this case leads to meaningful dialogue and changes in both India and Pakistan, as we collectively strive to make our institutions safer for women. Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,
 Tania Devi
 Tania.akueb@gmail.com

Concern over Karachi drainage, sewerage system

Dear Editor,
 I am writing to express my concern regarding crumbling state of Karachi drainage and sewerage system which is severely affecting the city's population and infrastructure. The city which is capable of supporting a large population is suffering from rotten and outdated infrastructure particularly in its drainage and sewerage system. The drainage system which is supposed to carry away wastewater is often found filled with solid trash causing blockage and water to stagnate and sometimes overflow on the street. In some neighborhood situation is grave and devastating as open drains frequently overflows especially in rainy season.

Is all that effort of cleaning worth it when the waste eventually finds its way back to the drain? What is the purpose behind leaving waste matter deliberately on pathways, roads and footpath making life of residents excruciating? The consequences of neglecting city's drainage and sewerage system are uncountable. These open drains have increased the risk of malaria and dengue due to the stagnant water becoming

breeding place for mosquitos. Additionally, the foul smell of the waste and its presence on the roads and everywhere is making residents life difficult. Therefore, I urge the authorities to take immediate step to resolve this crisis and come up with an effective waste management plan to cope with this devastating issue and to improve drainage and sewerage management that goes through regular maintenance.

Rameesha Imran
 Lahore
 meeshaim78@gmail.com

Gender Equality and Enhancing Women's Role in Politics

Respected Editor,
 Pakistan has made strides in gender equality, yet significant challenges remain in enhancing women's roles in politics. Deep-seated societal biases and limited access to education and resources continue to hinder women's political participation. Despite their right to vote and stand for office, women remain underrepresented in political spheres.

Addressing this issue requires a shift in societal attitudes and robust support from political parties. Implementing policies that promote female candidates, providing mentorship, and ensuring a safe environment free from discrimination are crucial steps. Strengthening legal protections and creating opportunities for women to engage in politics will lead to more inclusive governance.

By overcoming these barriers, Pakistan can ensure that women contribute effectively to our political landscape, benefiting the nation as a whole.

Best regards,
 Sweera Sajjad, Rawalpindi
 Sicerajasajjad22@gmail.com

Exploring Nuclear Fuel Production: Insights from Kazakhstan's Ulba Metallurgical Plant

News Desk

ASTANA: Kazakhstan is preparing for a public referendum to determine the location of its first nuclear power station. Many experts believe this move will pave the way for the development of nuclear energy in the country. If the public votes in favor of nuclear power construction, a critical question arises: where will the fuel come from?

A potential answer lies in Oskemen, home to the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (UMP). Kazinform agency recently visited this unique facility in Central Asia to learn more about its operations.

Founded in October 1949, the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (UMP) has established itself as one of the world's leading manufacturers of uranium, beryllium, tantalum, and niobium products. It caters to the needs of nuclear energy, electronics, metallurgy, and other industries. Since 1997, UMP has been part of the Kazatomprom national atomic company, representing Kazakhstan's interests in the nuclear industry.

A fuel assembly is a specialized engineering product designed to generate thermal energy in a nuclear reactor. Photo credit: Soltan Zheksenbekov/Kazinform

At the Ulba-TV5 plant, a facility within UMP, uranium fuel components for nuclear power plants are produced. According to Yulia Antonova, head of the company's public relations department, the Ulba-TV5 plant is a joint Kazakh-Chinese venture, with 51% of shares owned by UMP and 49% by China's CGNPC-URC.

"The plant is unique in that it is the only enterprise in Kazakhstan and Central Asia that produces fuel for nuclear power plants. The design production capacity is 200 tons of low-enriched uranium per year, equivalent to about 440 fuel assemblies annually. In 2024, it is planned to reach full design capacity. Equipment manufactured in France, Germany, the USA, China, and Kazakhstan is installed here," Antonova explained.

A fuel assembly is a specialized engineering product designed to generate thermal energy in a nuclear reactor. Inside the assembly, fuel pellets made of uranium are placed, which play a crucial role in the nuclear energy generation process.

The production of a fuel assembly begins with natural uranium mined in Kazakhstan. Photo credit: Soltan Zheksenbekov/Kazinform



The production of a fuel assembly begins with natural uranium mined in Kazakhstan. However, before it can be used as nuclear fuel, natural uranium must be converted into hexafluoride (UHF) and enriched in the isotope 235, usually to less than 5%. This process involves sending natural uranium to Russia for conversion and enrichment. The enriched uranium is then delivered to UMP to produce powders and fuel pellets.

The journey from uranium to fuel pellets is meticulous at the UMP. Acting Head of the Uranium Production Shop Vladislav Kogai described the steps involved.

The plant operates continuously, with employees working in three shifts to ensure uninterrupted production. Photo credit: Soltan Zheksenbekov/Kazinform

"First, we add a dry porous agent to the uranium. This is followed by the molding and sintering process. Then, the pellets are ground and inspected for defects. The entire process, from powder to finished pellet, takes about 12 days," Kogai said.

The plant operates continuously,

with employees working three shifts to ensure uninterrupted production.

The fuel pellets are transported for export and assembled into fuel assemblies. This process occurs on a dedicated fuel assembly line that includes a lifting platform, an assembly rotary platform, and a table for pulling fuel rods.

Fuel rods are created using advanced technology. The cladding tubes are manually placed on a buffer table before being automatically moved along the transport line. The operator monitors the process, ensuring that any deviations are addressed promptly. After stages such as purging, purity control, welding, and visual inspection, the tubes are filled with pellets using a vibration loader.

Each fuel assembly stores 450 kg of uranium, and the plant's design capacity allows for producing 440 fuel assemblies annually. Photo credit: Soltan Zheksenbekov/Kazinform

The process does not end there. The fuel elements are then attached to a skeleton—a tetrahedral frame made of tubes and gratings that form the structure of the fuel assembly. A special robotized machine welds this assembly and checks for precision using a coordinate measuring machine.

Each fuel assembly stores 450 kg of uranium, and the plant's design capacity allows for producing 440 fuel assemblies annually. Under strict control, these finished products are exported to China by rail, thanks to the partnership with CGNPC-URC. In the last few years, five shipments of fuel assemblies (up to 150 tons of low-enriched uranium) were made to Chinese nuclear power plants. As of July 2024, eight deliveries had been completed, or 240 tons of low-enriched uranium.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) frequently inspects the plant. Since its founding, the UMP has had a flawless safety record, with no emergency situations reported so far.

The UMP is also home to the Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank, a reserve of low-enriched uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF6) controlled by the IAEA. The LEU Bank is a guaranteed reserve for IAEA member states in case of supply interruptions.

The LEU Bank officially started operations in December 2019, with a current volume of 90 tons of low-enriched uranium. The reserve has yet to be utilized, highlighting the robustness of the global nuclear fuel supply chain. Courtesy Astana Time

Beijing to stage grand lantern show to mark Mid-Autumn Festival, National Day

Xinhua

BEIJING: Beijing is set to host a spectacular lantern show in celebration of the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday.

The show, to display over 200 creative lantern sets and approximately 100,000 colorful decorations, will take place at the Beijing Garden Expo Park from Sept. 14 to Oct. 31, the Beijing Tourism Group announced on Saturday.

The custom of attending lantern fairs during festivals is a time-honored tradition in Chinese culture. The intricate lanterns that will feature in this show were crafted by hundreds of artisans from Zigong, a city in southwest China renowned for its lantern-making history.



Shen Hongyue, president of the city's lantern industry association, said that the Zigong

lantern show has been recognized as a national intangible cultural heritage. What makes this upcoming show special is its blending of Zigong's traditional lantern artistry with Beijing's rich cultural heritage.

About 70 percent of the planned lantern displays have been inspired by iconic elements of Beijing, including the city's historic Central Axis, traditional courtyards and folk culture, Shen said.

In addition to the visual spectacle, the event will include more than 150 specialty shops and over 20 themed performances. Visitors will also have the opportunity to engage in a variety of interactive activities like traditional handicraft workshops and riddle-solving games.

Pakistan to participate as 'Guest of Honor' in 8th Silk Road International Exhibition in Xi'an

News Desk

BEIJING: Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir on Sunday said Pakistan, as the guest of honor, will participate in the 8th Silk Road International Exhibition scheduled to be held in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, from September 20 to 24.

He highlighted the close exchanges between Pakistan and Shaanxi in recent years across various fields. He noted that during a visit to Xi'an in early June this year, the prime minister expressed a strong willingness to deepen exchanges with Shaanxi in areas such as economy, trade, energy, agriculture, education, and sister city relationships, with economic cooperation serving as the focal point.

Qadir emphasized that Pakistan's participation as the guest of honor at the Silk Expo will significantly contribute to promoting pragmatic cooperation between the two sides in various sectors, as reported by China Economic Net.

He also mentioned that a large delegation from Pakistan will attend the event, showcasing a wide array of Pakistani products to further strengthen ties and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

China says 'strongly dissatisfied' with fresh US sanctions

A general view shows a school that was destroyed in a recent Russian airstrike in Pokrovsk, Ukraine, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine on August 23, 2024. — Reuters

A general view shows a school that was destroyed in a recent Russian airstrike in Pokrovsk, Ukraine, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine on August 23, 2024. — Reuters

BEIJING: China is "strongly dissatisfied" and "firmly opposed" to the fresh United States sanctions on Chinese companies over ties to Russia's war in Ukraine, the commerce ministry said Sunday.

"China urges the US to immediately stop its wrong practices and will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," a ministry spokesperson said.

Washington on Friday imposed sweeping sanctions against almost 400 individuals and companies it believes are aiding Russia's war in Ukraine, including several Chinese firms, expanding existing measures to curb Moscow over the invasion of its neighbour.

These include companies in China involved in shipping microelectronics and machine tools to Russia, according to a State Department fact sheet outlining its sanctions.

The sanctions target individuals and companies both inside and outside of Russia "whose products and services enable Russia to sustain its war effort and evade sanctions," the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

China's commerce ministry on Sunday said the move was "typical unilateral sanctions" that "disrupt international trade order and rules, hinder normal international economic and trade exchanges, and threaten the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains". AFP

Israeli settlers, Israeli extremist right in Gaza escalating their war of genocide: Foreign Ministry

News Desk

The settlers, their organizations, terrorist elements, and settlement associations are participating in the war of genocide against our people and their just and legitimate national rights, under the direction, protection, and support of the ruling Israeli extremist right.

The settlers are exploiting the regional and international preoccupation with the crime of genocide taking place in the Gaza Strip, and are escalating their attacks and theft of more Palestinian land, whether by establishing more random settlement outposts, as is happening in Beit Furik, the Al-Auja area, and Deir Qarunful in Jericho and Masafer Yatta, or by expelling and displacing Bedouin communities, as is happening in the northern Jordan Valley; in flagrant violation of international law, international legitimacy resolutions, and signed agreements.



It has become clear that the settlement organizations and their terrorist elements are an executive tool for the directives of the right-wing government

and its extremist ministers in the occupying state, who carry out their attacks under the protection of the occupation army.

The escalation of settler attacks is evidence of the failure of the interna-

tional community to put an end to their systematic attacks on defenseless Palestinian civilians, their lands, properties and holy sites, and further proof that international responses have not risen to the level of the risks facing the Palestinian people.

The Ministry stresses that protecting the two-state solution requires international courage in calling things by their names and holding the Israeli government and its Prime Minister Netanyahu fully and directly responsible for these crimes. It requires all countries to link the level of their relationship with the occupying state to the extent of its commitment to halting settlements and its compliance with international law and the international will for peace. In this context, the principle of accountability, prosecution and prosecution of terrorist elements and those behind them is of great importance.

Hezbollah launches missile barrage at Israel to avenge top commander

Reuters

A view shows smoke and fire on the Lebanese side of the border with Israel, after Israel said it had noted armed group Hezbollah preparing to attack Israel and had carried out pre-emptive strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, as seen from Tyre, southern Lebanon August 25, 2024. Photo via Reuters

Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones against Israel on Sunday in retaliation for the assassination of a senior commander in Beirut last month, the Iranian-backed movement said, as Israel's cabinet met to prepare a response.

Israeli jets hit targets in Lebanon shortly before the strikes as the military assessed that Hezbollah was preparing to begin the barrage, the mili-

tary said. Hezbollah said it had launched more than 320 Katyusha rockets towards Israel and hit 11 military targets. It said the barrage had completed "the first phase" of its response to the assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior commander, in Beirut but that the full response would take "some time".

Israel's cabinet was to meet at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would do whatever necessary to defend itself.

"We have conducted precise strikes in Lebanon in order to thwart an imminent threat against the citizens of Israel. We are closely following developments in Beirut, and we are determined to use all the means

at our disposal in order to defend our citizens," Gallant said in a statement.

Most of the Israeli strikes were hitting targets in southern Lebanon but the military was ready to strike anywhere there was a threat, an Israeli military spokesperson said.

Gallant declared a state of emergency, and flights to and from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv were suspended, but the airports authority said normal operations were expected to resume by 7 a.m.

In northern Israel, warning sirens sounded and multiple explosions were heard around several areas as Israel's Iron Dome aerial defence system shot down rockets coming from southern Lebanon. Israel's Magen David Adom ambulance service said it was on high alert

all over the country.

The Israeli military issued civil defence instructions limiting gatherings but authorising people to go to their workplaces as long as they were able to reach air raid shelters quickly. There were no casualties immediately reported in Israel, according to the ambulance service.

A resident of the southern Lebanese town of Zibqeen, some 7 km (4 miles) from the border, told Reuters it was the first time he had awakened "to the sound of planes and the loud explosions of rockets—even before the dawn prayer. It felt like the apocalypse."

Fears of regional conflict Expectations of an escalation between the two sides had risen since a missile strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last month killed 12 youngsters and the Israeli military assassinated



Shukur in Beirut in response.

The escalation has drawn fears of a wider regional conflict, potentially involving both the United States and Iran. President Joe Biden was following events closely, the White House said.

"At his direction, senior U. S. officials have been communicating continuously with their

Israeli counterparts. We will keep supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and we will keep working for regional stability," said National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett.

The strikes came as negotiators were meeting in Cairo in a last-ditch effort to conclude a halt to fighting in Gaza and a return

of Israeli and foreign hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel immediately after the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas gunmen on Israel. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging fire constantly ever since, while avoiding a major escalation as war rages in Gaza to the south.

That precarious balance appeared to shift after the strike in the Golan Heights, for which Hezbollah denied responsibility, and the subsequent assassination of Shukur, one of Hezbollah's most senior military commanders in Beirut.

Shukur's death in an air strike was quickly followed by the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, which led to vows of reprisal against Israel by Iran.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 78,801.42 | 78,793.41 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low | |
| 79,173.94 | 78,760.02 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 9,503,126,515 | +8.01 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.01% | 23 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 8,327.78 | +39.78 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.48% | 23 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 | |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 40,925.79 | +213.01 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.52% | 23 Aug, 12:17 pm GMT-4 | |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 38,364.27 | +153.26 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.40% | 23 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9 | |
| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 185.25 | 189.83 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 737.2 | 742.29 |
| Canadian Dollar | 202.65 | 207.00 |
| China Yuan | 38.25 | 38.65 |
| Danish Krone | 40.03 | 40.43 |
| Euro | 309.40 | 311.89 |
| 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 | 328.94 |
| Thai Bhat | 7.57 | 7.72 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 75.78 | 76.23 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 363.41 | 367.71 |
| US Dollar | 279.10 | 280 |

Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan calls for grand national dialogue to address country's challenges

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Governor Sindh, Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan has emphasized the importance of rejecting the narratives aimed at creating a rift between the armed forces and the people. He stressed the need to maintain unity and support for the armed forces, who are making immense sacrifices for the country. Dr. Khan highlighted the importance of respecting and honoring the armed forces and law enforcement personnel, who are dedicating their lives for the nation's future. He also noted that there may be individuals who commit wrongdoings in any institution, it is crucial to hold them accountable rather than tarnishing the reputation of the entire institution.

He warned that when the bond between the government and the people weakens or disintegrates, enemies, both internal and external, exploit the situation to their advantage. He specifically highlighted the enemy's strategy of driving a wedge between the masses and the armed forces by propagating a narrative that the latter is solely responsible for the people's problems. This, he emphasized, is a deliberate attempt to create divisions and undermine national unity.

He praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif



as one of the best administrators, emphasizing the government's crucial role in maintaining public hope amidst challenging circumstances. He stressed the need for a grand national dialogue to address the country's issues, led by the current political leadership. Additionally, he called for across-the-board accountability to tackle the country's multiple challenges.

Dr. Khan also explained that his slogan

'Merhi Pechan, Mera Pakistan' is inspired by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's principles of 'Unity, Faith, Discipline,' which are essential for the country's and people's well-being."

In his address Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid the richest tributes to Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan for his services as Governor Sindh.

He said that the difficulties and polarization the country is facing at the moment and the services of Dr Ibad are much needed in the country to pull it out of all the odds by his vision and wisdom. Therefore, he should come back and the way he served the Sindh province should serve the country.

Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group by terming Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan as the shining star and the charismatic personality of the country's politics said that he successfully ruled the Sindh province for 14 long years. He mentioned that business community leaders of Karachi, especially my mentor S. M. Munir, my elder brother Khalid Tawab, President UBG Zubair Tufail and others always held Dr. Ibad in high esteem because of his services for the business fraternity.

He also appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government for its efforts to strengthen the country's economy especially for containing inflation and dollar rate.

Zafar Bakhtawari said that today the country is not only facing the political and economic crisis but the law and order situation and terrorism as well and highly appreciated the armed forces of Pakistan as well as the law enforcing agencies for their sacrifices for the cause of the country.

Price hike

LAHORE: Consumers buying food items, vegetables and fruits at the Shadman Sunday Market in the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

HVACR pledges to stand with PPP Alliance in LCCI polls in Sept

Commerce Desk

Nawaz.

LAHORE: The Heat Ventilation Air Condition Refrigeration Society Pakistan (HVACR-Lahore Chapter) has announced to support the newly-launched PPP Alliance (PIAF) Pioneer Progressive Alliance in the LCCI polls being held in Sept 2024.

The delegation of Heat Ventilation Air Condition Refrigeration Society Pakistan arrived at PPPA to show solidarity with the Alliance, holding a meeting with pattern-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar and Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol. The executive committee members Malik Khalid Gujjar, Ahsan Shahid, Rana Nadeem Abbas and other businessmen participated in the meeting. Coordination duties were performed by Executive Committee member Mian Muhammad

While addressing the meeting Secretary General Safdar Ali Mughal, Ahmed Naeem and others said that Heat Ventilation Air Condition Society will support PPPA in Lahore Chamber Election.

It is to be noted that the biggest alliance of the three strong groups of LCCI has been established for the first time in the history of Lahore business community to contest Lahore Chamber's election.

In the meeting, other issues including the Lahore Chamber election campaign were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Pattern-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar and Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigol thanked the delegation and said that we have been working for the rights of traders. He said that HVACR has a very important role in the country's economy.

Businessmen warn of strike as FBR excessive tax notices spark panic among traders



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Warning the government of observing a shutter-down strike countrywide, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) and the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) have asked the FBR to stop harassing the traders and delay the implementation of the so-called tajir scheme, as the undue and excessive tax notices of the FBR have sparked panic among the business community.

The Businessmen Panel (BMP) chairman and patron-in-chief of PIAF Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the traders are being issued undue notices to submit monthly tax of Rs60,000, which is totally unaffordable and unjustifiable, as the tax department has been ignoring what it has agreed with the traders.

He urged the government to introduce special measures broadening the tax base by taking the business community on board, besides forming joint committees at district levels to address the challenges faced by local trade and investment.

He said that the BMP and PIAF will fully back the shutter-down call given by the traders' organization on August 28 (Wednesday) against unjust taxation and government anti-traders policies.

Mian Anjum Nisar strongly opposed the collection of double taxes on imports and demanded to immediately withdraw it. He presented these demands, which were unanimously approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the PIAF through a resolution here in the PIAF office on Sunday.

Faysal Bank and Patients' Aid Foundation Unite for Thalassemia Patients with 'Bike A Cause'

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Faysal Bank and Patients' Aid Foundation are excited to announce the 'Faysal Bank x Patients' Aid-Bike A Cause' event, aimed at raising funds for the treatment of marginalized Thalassemia patients at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). The event will take place on Sunday, August 25, 2024, and will see the Karachi Cyclists Community riding to JPMC to show their solidarity with the Patients' Aid Foundation.

This partnership highlights Faysal Bank's commitment to supporting Patients' Aid Foundation, which has been instrumental in transforming public healthcare at JPMC. Since its inception in



1990, Patients' Aid Foundation has revolutionized JPMC, making it a state-of-the-art hospital that provides free, world-class healthcare to economically disadvantaged patients from across Pakistan.

Mr. Mushtaq Chhapra, Chairman of Patients' Aid Foundation, shared

his enthusiasm: "This event will unite cycling enthusiasts and the community while raising awareness about the healthcare revolution at JPMC. Our work has enabled advanced, free healthcare for thousands of patients daily, including 12,000 patients visiting OPD and 2,000 patients in the A&E every day. In the fiscal year 2023-24, we facilitated over 12,000 free dialysis sessions, 25,000 quality childbirths, 11,000 cancer treatments, and 782,000 free radiological diagnostics."

The event aims to gather support for this noble cause, ensuring that free, quality treatment remains accessible to Thalassemia patients across Karachi, interior Sindh, Balochistan, and other rural areas.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Anjum demands duty-free import of solar panels

Commerce Desk

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum has suggested that solar panel assemblers in Pakistan should be granted the same incentives as importers. He emphasized the need for a unified policy and the elimination of taxes and duties on components.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, a renowned industrialist Group Chairman SM Food and Volka Food International and member of the National Development Export Board for Agro and Processed Foods, has proposed to the government that a Chinese company, interested in manufacturing solar panels in Pakistan, seeks duty-free



import of machinery. The company has approached the government, requesting the removal of duties and taxes on the machinery and

components used in the local production of solar PV panels to ensure that they receive the same incentives as importers.

According to the details, all sales taxes and duties on the import of machinery for the assembly of solar panels and the manufacturing of components should be eliminated. This measure would encourage investment, especially since the sale of finished products is exempt from sales tax. Such a change would enable assemblers and manufacturers to be competitive in both the local and export markets.

Currently, imported panels in Pakistan are subject to 0% customs duty and 0% sales tax, while most components of solar



panels are subject to 18% sales tax, except for solar cells, which can be imported duty-free. Since imported panels are tax-exempt, local manufacturers incur losses when purchasing components. Therefore, the government should announce the removal of all sales taxes and duties on the import of machinery for the assembly of solar panels and the manu-

facturing of components in the national interest. In our opinion, a unified policy should be established, and duties and taxes on the machinery and components used in the local production of solar PV panels should be removed so that local manufacturers can receive the same incentives as importers. This will help the industry thrive in the country.

Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy Win International Inter Navies Sailing Championship In Sri Lanka

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy won the Commandant Cup Sailing Regatta held at Naval & Maritime Academy Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. Teams from Navies of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China and India took part in the competition.

The competition was held on internationally recognized classes of boats including Laser Radial and Enterprise categories. Pakistan Naval Academy won the competition with Silver medal in Laser Radial and Gold medal in Enterprise category.

The victorious team of Pakistan



Naval Academy comprised Officer Cadets Syed Sakhr Ali Shah, Saad Bin Khalid and Muhammad Abdullah Akram.

Sri Lankan Naval Chief Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera was the Chief Guest of closing ceremony and gave away medals and trophy to the winning team.

The competition provided competitive environment for young cadets to polish the skills of sailing in general and competing on international arena in particular. Inculcating quality curricular & co-curricular training to future leadership of Navy remains the hallmark of Pakistan Naval Academy.

Usman Khawaja opens up on possibility of coaching Pakistan in future

A Sports

Australian opening batter Usman Khawaja has recently opened up about the possibility of coaching the Pakistan cricket team in future.



Usman was recently featured on the 'Backward Point' podcast on YouTube, where he was asked if he would be open to coaching the Pakistan cricket team after his retirement.

The Pakistan-born batter shared that while he would love to consider the role, the instability in Pakistan cricket makes him think against it.

"[After retirement] I would love to share some of the things I've learned about the game. However, the Pakistan cricket team lacks stability," said Usman Khawaja.

"In the past, it has always seemed like it's forever changing, the coach is forever changing, the selectors are forever changing—there's no stability," he added.

The southpaw acknowledged the need for stability in the Pakistan cricket team from the top. "I mentioned this a few weeks ago, the stability in Pakistan cricket needs to be established from the top," he further added.

Usman Khawaja made a comparison between the instability of the Pakistan cricket team and that of other countries. He expressed his openness to potentially taking on a coaching role in the future, provided there is greater stability within the team.

Bangladesh achieve milestone with maiden Test win over Pakistan

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh made history on Sunday when they outplayed Pakistan in the first Test at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi by 10 wickets, marking their maiden victory out of 14 matches played against the Green-shirts.

This was also Bangladesh's 20th overall win in 143 Tests. Meanwhile, Pakistan, trailing by 117 runs on the first innings and starting the final day's proceedings requiring another 94 runs to remove the deficit, slipped to 108 for six at lunch before their innings folded at 146, 93 minutes into the second session.

Bangladesh achieved the 30-run target without any loss to bury the ghost of their one-wicket loss at the Multan Cricket Stadium 21 years ago when Inzamam-ul-Haq scored a magnificent 138 not out to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. That was the only time when Bangladesh ever came close to winning a Test against Pakistan. Pakistan's 12 Test wins over Bangladesh include six by an innings, four by seven wickets or more and one by 328 runs.

Pakistan had declared their first innings at 448 for six. This total marked their second-highest first innings total in a losing cause, where they had declared their innings. Their highest remains 574 for eight declared against Australia in Melbourne in 1972 before the home side won by 92 runs.

Bangladesh had replied Pakistan's 448 for six declared with 565 to secure 117 runs first innings lead. Mushfiqur Rahim with a gallant 191, which later earned him the player of the match, and half-centuries by Shadman Islam, Mehidy Hasan

Miraz, Litton Das and Mominul Haque were the cornerstones of the tourists' mammoth total. Sunday's 10-wicket defeat also extended Pakistan's win drought at home grounds to nine Tests. Their last victory was against South Africa here in Rawalpindi in February 2021, before they drew two Tests and lost one to Australia, lost all three Tests against England and drew both the Tests against New Zealand.

The architects of Bangladesh's victory were the spin duo of Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan, who shared seven wickets between them, while the pace trio of Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana picked up one wicket apiece.

Mehidy finished with impressive figures of 11.5-2-21-4, while Shakib returned figures of 17-3-44-3. Mehidy accounted for Mohammad Rizwan (51), Salman Ali Agha (0), Shaheen



Shah Afridi (2) and Mohammad Ali (0), while Shakib picked up with the scalps of Abdullah Shafique (37), Saud Shakeel (0) and Naseem Shah (3).

However, it was the Bangladesh fast bowlers who put Pakistan on the back foot before the spinners mesmerised the home team batters. After Shoriful Islam had dismissed Saim Ayub (1) last evening, Hasan Mahmud provided an early breakthrough by finding the outside edge of the bat of Shan Masood (14), which was confirmed by technology.

Babar Azam walked out at the score of 28 for two and was dropped at the wicket on the very first ball before he played Nahid Rana onto his stumps after scoring a 50-ball 22 with three fours. Babar's dismissal at the score of 66 opened all floodgates as Pakistan batters fell like nine-pins, slipping to 118 for eight shortly after lunch.

Saud Shakeel was stumped while trying to play a walking shot, Abdullah Shafique was caught at backward-point while attempting to hit the ball out of the park, Salman Ali Agha picked up a golden duck when he was caught in the first slip, Shaheen Shah Afridi was pinned in front of the wickets and Naseem Shah's extravagant drive ended in a simple catch at mid-wicket.

Mohammad Rizwan followed up his 171 not out with 51, but when the team wanted him to take the match as deep as practically possible, he missed

the line of a straight delivery to inside edge one onto his stumps. His 80-ball innings included six fours.

The innings was wrapped up when Mohammad Ali was trapped by Mehidy in front of the wickets. While this was Bangladesh's only second victory outside Bangladesh in the ICC World Test Championship (first was against New Zealand at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui), the 10-wicket defeat has severely dented Pakistan's hopes of featuring in the ICC World Test Championship final in July 2025 although they still have eight Tests (six at home) in hand.

The second Test against Bangladesh will commence on 30 August, followed by three Tests against England in October. Pakistan will travel to South Africa for two Boxing Day and New Year Tests and will then host West Indies for two Tests in January. Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim was declared Player of the Match. The second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh would be played from August 30 to September 3 here at the same venue.

Speaking after the game in a press conference, Pakistan Test Skipper Shan Masood said the pitch had enough for seamers in four days, but Bangladesh batters were very disciplined in their batting.

In the end we gave them a few chances as well when Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mushfiqur Rahim were



playing. We got Mushfiqur Rahim and Shadman Islam out but it was over turned, he said.

As a bowling unit where we lost the game was the second new ball as we were 200 runs ahead in the game and there were 5 wickets down and Litton Das and Mushfiqur were playing that were we could have imposed ourselves in the game. It's been a couple of mistakes.

Masood said the fast bowlers were played by looking at the conditions and extreme weather. Naseem Shah and Shaheen Shah Afridi hadn't played Test cricket for a while and the Pakistan team hasn't also played for ten months.

He said if we had taken one session without losing wickets then we would have been in a good position. About second Test he said we will look at the conditions and then will decide the Playing XI.

Masood said as a team in the first four days we were very pro-active and declared the first innings quite early.

I apologize to the fans that we couldn't give them the result they wanted. We accept our mistakes as a team. All players gave their 100 per cent in the game but mistakes happened. We will try to give good results in the next game, he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said Pakistan's strength is pace bowling while we did good with seamers along with spinners.

Their bowlers did well so did ours but our batters batted well especially openers, he said.

Wining is an amazing feeling. When



we came here in the morning we had a mindset that we can win this match. We believed that if we bowled on the right areas we can beat Pakistan, he said.

About the second Test, he said the next match is very important and we have to prepare ourselves on how we have to play session by session, he said.

I don't want to give credit to any individual performance. But credit goes to all the batters on how they handled the new ball, he said.

A difficult situation was going in Bangladesh, but this win gave them a bit of smile on their face. I'm really happy that the crowd came to support us and I'm very thankful to them, he

said. Scores in brief (day 5 of 5): Pakistan 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) and 146 all-out (Mohammad Rizwan 51, Abdullah Shafique 37, Babar Azam 22; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 4-21, Shakib Al Hasan 3-44). Bangladesh 565 all-out, 167.3 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 191, Shadman Islam 93, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 77, Litton Das 56, Mominul Haque 50; Naseem Shah 3-93, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-88, Mohammad Ali 2-88, Khuram Shahzad 2-90) and 30-0.

Pakistan debuts in major US ice hockey tournament, defeats Brazil after two losses

Sports Desk

NEW YORK: For the first time ever, Pakistan is competing in an international ice hockey tournament being held in Coral Springs, a city in the U.S. state of Florida, with the young team performing satisfactorily in its very first appearance in a major contest, according to reports received here.

Team Pakistan, a combination of players of Pakistani descent, hastily put together by Donny Khan, a Pakistani-American who is a senior official in the US National Hockey League (NHL), a highly popular ice hockey league in North America comprising 32 teams - 25 in the United States and 7 in Canada. It has been growing and now teams from all over the world

are taking part, according to a NHL publication.

Pakistan made its debut this year after Donny Khan worked hard and found 18 players of Pakistani origin from across the United States who now are sporting the national green and white colours, representing Pakistan at the Latin America (LATAM) Cup at the Florida Panthers IceDen in Coral Springs. Umar Khan, also a Pakistani-American and former NHL intern, helped Donny Khan find players through word of mouth and scouring social media, the publication said.

The tournament features 52 men's, women's and youth teams and more than 1,100 players representing 17 countries and territories, including Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia,

Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Pakistan is the latest addition to the tournament.

After initial losses, the Pakistani team rebounded on Friday to record its first victory in this prestigious tournament, defeating Brazil by 5 goals to two. Earlier, Pakistan went down fighting to Mexico 6-5 on Thursday and in the opening match on Wednesday, lost to Chile 8-3.

Pakistan team's defenceman Saem Iftikhar, a student at City College in New York, won a berth in the national team after playing just five games.

"Three games at City College and now I'm representing my country," an elated Iftikhar was quoted as saying in the NHL publication.

"Ever since I got into (ice) hockey, I've

been dreaming about bringing it back to Pakistan," he said.

"I look around and I see Pakistani heritage players. This is a dream come true. I think it's the first step in a much larger operation," Saem Iftikhar added.

On his part, Umar Khan said, "My father always taught me to be very passionate about my heritage. Just being able to represent my father's country, my grandfather, who came from Lahore in the 1940s, and just to represent them and put it in the game that I love, I was ecstatic about it."

Also, Donny Khan said Pakistan's LATAM Cup debut won't be a one-off; he and the other players already are talking about returning with another men's team, and a women's team.

"We're actually in conversations right



now with the Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan," he said. "We have their official blessing. We're trying to fully establish ourselves as a club and part of the sports federation of Pakistan.

"The long-term goal is that we inspire people in Pakistan and eventually have a team Pakistan in the Asia Winter Games and one day, God willing, in the Winter Olympics."

Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain(AS)

ISLAMABAD: Central procession of Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) started from the Imambargah G-6/2 Asna Ashari, passed through its designated routes, and concluded. More than 500 officers of the Islamabad Traffic Police performed their duties in a professional manner.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Strict security in place for Iman Hussain's chehlum across Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan / Bureaus

ISLAMABAD: Security measures have been heightened across Pakistan for the Chehlum of Imam Hussain, the 40th day of mourning after his martyrdom. Alternative routes have been planned for the main procession in Karachi, while Islamabad has deployed strict security measures and Peshawar has mobilized nearly 4,000 police officers.

Islamabad

Strict security measures have been implemented for the Chehlum procession in Islamabad.

The procession, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and the martyrs of Karbala, will start from the Imambargah Athna Ashri G-6/2 and will return to the same location after following its designated route.

Streets and roads along the procession route have been sealed. Participants will be screened at designated checkpoints.

Walk-through gates have been set up for participants, and the Capital Police have deployed security personnel along the route.

Karachi Traffic police in Karachi have announced alternate routes for the main Chehlum procession. The MA Jinnah

Road will be closed from Gurumandar to Tower during the procession.

Traffic from Nazimabad will be diverted from Lasbela Chowk to Nishtar Road. Traffic from Liaquatabad will be diverted from Teen Hatti to Lasbela Chowk. Vehicles heading to the Exhibition from Shahrah-e-Quaideen will be diverted to Kashmir Road.

The main procession will start from Nishtar Park and culminate at the Husainia Irania Imambargah, following its traditional route.

A ban on double riding on motorcycles has been imposed across Sindh. **Peshawar**

Two processions will be held in Peshawar today to mark the Chehlum of Imam Hussain. The first procession will start from the Imambargah Agha Syed Lal Shah at 3:00 PM, while the second procession will start from the Imambargah Husainia Hall at 10:00 PM.

Strict security measures have been implemented along the procession routes. Police checkpoints have been set up at entry points, and water stations have been arranged for mourners.

According to a police spokesperson, nearly 4,000 police officers will be deployed across Peshawar for security purposes. All procession routes will be swept by bomb disposal units and sniffer dogs. CCTV cameras will monitor the processions.

Security has been enhanced at entry and exit points of the city. Checkpoints have been set up in the city's interior. Hotels and guesthouses are being checked regularly as part of the security plan.

Plainclothes police officers and armored vehicles have been deployed at important and sensitive mosques. Additional traffic officers have been deployed to manage traffic flow during the processions. Snipers have been positioned on high-rise buildings along the procession routes.

Govt facilitated Khan, PTI leaders meeting after offering to cancel rally: Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government facilitated the meeting between ex-prime minister Imran Khan and others at 7am on August 22 after the former ruling party offered to cancel its rally, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Sunday.

"What objection the administration could have when the talk was about cancelling the rally," Asif told reporters in Sialkot while speaking about PTI leader Azam Swati's early morning meeting with Khan at the Adiala Jail.

"Conversations in jails are

not confidential and every movement is recorded, as I myself was in a cell with 16 cameras installed."

The PTI postponed its Islamabad rally on Thursday, citing the government's "conspiracy to spread chaos". The party changed its plans at the eleventh hour, prompting ire from supporters and some party leaders.

The Islamabad district administration announced a holiday in government and private schools on Thursday, sealing the Red Zone, after the party decided to stage a rally despite not giving the NOC.



Metro bus service in the twin cities had also been suspended.

Earlier this week, Khan told reporters in the jail that he postponed the rally due to

concerns over potential unrest.

Asif went on to add that the conversation between Khan, Bushra Bibi, Raouf Hasan, and Aleem Khan was in the public domain after the cancellation of the rally. He claimed that the differences within the PTI were evident and "if the rally was meant to be successful, it would have never been cancelled."

While reacting to the PTI's claim that it did not do anything on May 9, the defence minister challenged the party to explain "whose faces" were visible in the videos. "The May 9 events were witnessed

by millions and the involvement of certain elements can be clearly seen in the videos."

He criticised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and former Punjab CM Usman Buzdar. "Gandapur is even worse than Buzdar," he said and claimed that the KP CM was making derogatory remarks about his cabinet members.

The defence minister added that it does not matter whether Democrats or Republicans come to power in the US as the country's fate was not determined by America, but by itself.

Salik highlights vital role of women in religious, community awareness at Cairo conference

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Sunday emphasized the indispensable role of women in fostering religious, cultural and community awareness.

Addressing the 35th International Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, held in Cairo, he highlighted the theme, 'The Role of Women in Building Awareness,' stressing the crucial impact women have in various domains,



including religious enlightenment, community service

and family development. Minister Salik referred

to the Holy Quran and the Hadith to underscore the recognition and reward for women's contributions in Islam. He quoted the Quranic verse, "Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while being a believer, We will surely cause him to live a good life," emphasizing that both men and women are equally responsible for creating a just society.

He further cited a hadith from the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, which praised the women of Ansar for their

pursuit of religious knowledge, highlighting the importance of women's education and understanding of faith as a cornerstone for building awareness.

Highlighting the contributions of women in community services, the minister noted their transformative role in healthcare, education, social work, and advocacy. He acknowledged women's leadership in global health initiatives, mental health advocacy and disease prevention, emphasizing their dedication to the well-being and development of communities.

PM expresses deep grief over loss of lives in two separate bus accidents

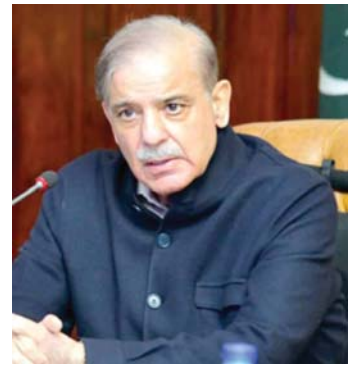
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the death of Zaireen in a bus accident on Makran Coastal Highway and other casualties in another road mishap near Rawalpindi.

The prime minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed the local administration to fully cooperate with the bereaved families. He also directed for timely treatment and caring for the injured in the accident.

According to media reports, a bus carrying Zaireen fell into a ravine on the Makran Coastal Highway,



resulting in a number of deaths and injuries to other passengers.

In another mishap, scores of passengers were dead and injured after a coaster plunged into a gorge near the Azad Pattan Pana Bridge Rawalakot road. The unfortunate bus was en-route to Rawalpindi.

Atta Tarar launches operation clean up on PTV, axes 25 shows: Report



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar has launched a comprehensive overhaul of Pakistan Television (PTV), "shutting down 25 low-rating shows" and introducing a new policy aimed at promoting openness, professionalism and constructive criticism.

According to a news report published by a local daily on Sunday, the minister had vowed to root out "sifarishi culture, incompetence and fake news" on PTV.

Tarar said this is just the beginning of the "Operation Clean Up"

initiative.

The report said the minister had faced resistance from "vested interests and mafias but remains resolute in his mission to transform PTV."

The minister has announced the recruitment of professional anchors and producers, while warning that fake and incompetent staff would be sent packing.

The report said the minister had also engaged multiple experts to revamp PTV's programming, aiming to make it comparable to private channels.

Tarar has addressed concerns about the rating of talk shows on PTV, stating that the policy has been changed to allow for openness and criticism of the government.

According to the report, the minister has also hinted at taking action against those behind a malicious social media campaign resisting the changes.

"With a focus on marketing and sales, Tarar aimed to make PTV's shows profitable and vibrant, starting with the successful coverage of the ICC T20 World Cup," the report noted.

Abdul Aleem Khan grieved over bus accident of pilgrims

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Ishaq Khan and Federal Minister of Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has expressed deep sense of grief and sorrow on the bus accident of pilgrims from Iran. He has said that loss of human lives on the Coastal Highway he was deeply saddened to hear about this incident in which precious lives were lost. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan prayed that may Allah Almighty grant a place in mercy to all deceased ones and give



speedy recovery to the injured. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that we all share the grief of the affected families of this bus accident and express our heartfelt sympathies and sorrow to them.

Aleema to launch campaign to free Imran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has announced that she will be launching a campaign with PTI workers to demand the release of her brother.

According to PTI sources, Aleema Khan visited Peshawar and Mardan yesterday, where she met with party workers who have been imprisoned. During these meetings, the workers voiced a litany of complaints against the current Chief Minister and other

party leadership.

"Aleema Khan met with PTI workers in PK-83 and addressed their grievances," a party source said.

MNA Shandana Gulzar and PTI leader Khadija Shah were also present, and they expressed strong displeasure with the party leadership.

PTI sources reveal that Aleema Khan has decided to take the workers along with her to launch a campaign for the release of the party's founder, Imran Khan. She did not consult the Chief Minister or any cabinet member regarding this campaign.

Aleema Khan also visited the Gora Gattkhel tehsil of Peshawar, and later traveled to Mardan where she met with local PTI workers. During her visits to both cities, Aleema Khan appeared to be deeply upset with the PTI leadership.

