



Law minister rebuffs speculations on extension in CJP Isa tenure

Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday rebuffed speculations centred on the imminent retirement of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, saying that the top judge does not want extension in his tenure. The top judge is set to retire in October this year, but as his retirement draws near, rumours of an "extension" in his tenure through judiciary-centric legislation in parliament have been rife.

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عثمان بن عفان نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے
خوف سے بیان کیا ان سے ابو جہل نے ان سے
عمران نے اور ان سے نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا
کہ میں نے جنت میں جہانک کر دیکھا تو اس کے
آکھڑے والے غریب لوگ تھے اور میں نے
دوزخ میں جہانک کر دیکھا تو اس کے اور رہنے
والی اکڑ عورتیں تھیں۔ اس روایت کی متابعت
ابو یوسف اور مسلمین نے کرتے کی ہے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5198)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



Pakistani child won the 4th award in the International competition

The distinguished talent, a ten-year-old Pakistani boy, Muhammad Bashar, from Swat, participated in the International Quran Recitation Competition in Algeria "Mazamir Dawood" which was organized from August 18 to 31, by the private media channel "Echorouk" with the participation of more than 15 countries, and won fourth position with a prize of one thousand five hundred (1500) dollars. (Details on Page 5)

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: DPM chaired the 2nd meeting of the Petroleum industry Committee. Ministers for Planning & Special Initiatives, Petroleum & Power attended the meeting. DPM reaffirmed the government's commitment to support the petroleum industry & achieving energy self-sufficiency in Pakistan.



Photo: Online

DPM vows to fast-track petroleum industry reforms, achieve energy autarky

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to supporting the petroleum industry and achieving energy autarky in Pakistan.

He expressed these views while chairing the second meeting of the committee constituted by the prime minister to tackle challenges facing the petroleum industry. DPM vows to fast-track petroleum industry reforms, achieve energy autarky

Among others, the meeting was attended by Ministers for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Petroleum and Power, senior government officials besides repre-

sentatives from the petroleum sector.

The committee reviewed progress on actionable points from the first meeting and expressed satisfaction with the advancements made.

The DPM urged continued pursuit of all initiatives, focusing on key areas like developing an integrated energy plan; evaluation and optimizing gas utilization from dedicated fields; restructuring sui companies; establishing a one-window facilitation cell for petroleum exploration; automating and digitalizing workflows at DGPC.

Dar urged finalizing a framework for implementing CCI's petroleum sector decisions and rationalizing port charges according to international standards.

PM hails 'major achievement' as inflation rate downs to 9.6% in August

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed satisfaction over the single-digit inflation rate of 9.6 percent in August 2024, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), attributing this achievement to the hard work of the government's economic team.

that this decrease in inflation is a reflection of the government's effective measures to improve the economy.

He credited the economic team for achieving the lowest inflation rate in the last three years, said a press release issued by Prime Minister's Office.

According to the Ministry of Finance's Economic Outlook Report, the inflation rate was

predicted to be between 9.5 percent and 10.5 percent in August 2024.

Economic experts also forecast a further decrease in inflation in September, which the prime minister hailed as good news for the nation.

In 2018, the inflation rate was also brought down to a single digit, but the subsequent years saw a record increase in inflation due to criminal negli-

gence and anti-people policies.

The prime minister emphasized that his government has saved the country from economic bankruptcy and put it on the path to stability and growth.

He reiterated his commitment to fulfilling his promise to the people to alleviate their sufferings.

The prime minister acknowledged Allah's blessings in

achieving this milestone and noted that the positive results of government economic reforms are now reaching the people, improving their lives and contributing to Pakistan's development.

Achieving Pakistan's development goals is unattainable without improving the lives of ordinary people and ensuring economic prosperity, PM concluded.



Bill tabled in Senate to increase number of Supreme Court judges

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A bill to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court was presented in the Senate on Monday and the august house's chairman has referred the bill to the relevant committee.

"A significant number of constitutional cases are being filed in the Supreme Court," PPP Senator Abdul Qadir said while presenting the motion in the House. "Larger benches are often formed for these cases, which can overshadow critical issues faced by taxpayers."

He added that there were over 53,000 pending cases in the top court, with some cases taking two years to be heard. "The number of judges should

be increased by 16, as there is a growing influx of constitutional matters requiring attention from larger benches," Patel said.

The PPP senator was of the view that the country was burdened with thousands of billions in debt and with the "population steadily increasing it is essential to approve the bill to expedite the resolution of cases."

The opposition protested against the bill, chanting "No... No..." slogans in the assembly.

In response to the motion, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar highlighted the pressing realities of the judicial system, stating that death penalty cases remain pending and that life imprisonment cannot exceed 25 years.

Inflation comes down, stands at 9.6%, lowest in last three years: NA told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar informed the National Assembly that as per the statistic issued by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday, inflation in the country came down to a single digit and stood at 9.6 per cent for the first time in last three years.

Responding to various supplementary questions during the Question Hour, the minister said inflation was mere 4 per cent during the tenure of PML-N government led by Nawaz Sharif in 2018 which then surged to 22 per cent. Inflation in a single digit is a proof of success under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said.

The minister said the Punjab government has given subsidy to the electricity consumers of entire province including Islamabad from



its development budget. Similarly, the federal government has already given Rs 50 billion subsidy to the consumers utilizing upto 200 units, he added.

Attaullah Tarar said it would be better if other provinces could also give subsidy to the electricity consumers. It would also be good if those who took money from the timber and tobacco mafias, would also facilitate the consumers of their province.

In response to a supplementary query, he said that the interior minister regularly attended the session but today due to some pressing engagements, he (inter-

rior minister) could not attend the sitting. However, he assured the House that the interior minister would be present in the next sitting.

Responding to another question, the minister said as per Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Zoning Regulation 1992, Islamabad was divided into five Zones. Private Housing Schemes were allowed to be developed in Zone-2, 5, E-11 and selected locations of Zone-4 after seeking permission from CDA.

Under these regulations, CDA has permitted number of private housing schemes in Islamabad and CDA has uploaded the status of approved housing schemes on its website www.cda.gov.pk, he said.

The minister said there were number of housing schemes which have been developed without permission of the authority which were called illegal/unapproved/un-authorized housing schemes.

Mohsin Naqvi commends police for foiling terrorist attack on check post in Mianwali

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended the police for foiling a terrorist attack on a check post in Mianwali.

He said that the Punjab Police

has once again thwarted the nefarious designs of the Fitna Al Khawarij terrorists.

The minister praised the police personnel deployed at the Isa Khel police station checkpoint for bravely repulsing the attack by 14 Khawarij terrorists. He



said that the police gave a befitting response to the terrorists who attacked under the cover of darkness.

He saluted the brave police personnel who foiled the terrorist attack, saying that the Punjab Police had once again thwarted

the evil intentions of the Khawarij terrorists. He added that the police have always shown bravery and courage in the fight against terrorism.

He highlighted that the police are a bulwark against terrorism, which is highly commendable.

IHC to resume hearing contempt plea over 'malicious campaign' against Justice Jahangiri

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad High Court's full bench would hear a contempt plea over a "malicious campaign" against Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri on September 19.

IHC Chief Justice Aamir Farooq would lead the bench. It includes Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Babar Sattar, Arbab Muhammad Tahir, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Saman Rafat Intiaz.

This comes following a controversy over Justice Jahangiri's LLB degree, which

first emerged in July, but resurfaced last week as the Karachi University's syndicate reportedly cancelled his degree.

The decision was made during a syndicate meeting held on Saturday afternoon, after Dr Riaz Ahmed, an associate professor and syndicate member, raised objections regarding the agenda item related to the judge's degree, which had been under scrutiny for 40 years.

The full court bench conducted its first hearing before the summer break, during which notices were

Cutting-Edge Initiative

Punjab Government Launches Innovative Smart Classroom Project with Huawei

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif today unveiled the AI-powered Huawei Smart Classroom Project at Government Kinnaird Girls High School, Empress Road. This cutting-edge initiative, developed in collaboration with Huawei, represents a major leap forward in transforming education in Punjab by integrating advanced technology into the classroom.

The Smart Classroom Project is a key component of the "Back to School" enrollment campaign. It introduces state-of-the-art technology, including cameras that record lectures, allowing students to review and engage with lessons outside of class time. This initiative aims to enhance educational quality and make learning more interactive and accessible.

Huawei's support is remarkable to this project, highlighting its strong commitment to advancing educational innovation. By integrating Huawei's advanced technology, Punjab is setting a new benchmark for educational excellence and technological integration in schools.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif during her visit to Huawei Smart Classrooms highlighted the significance of this project, stating, "Incorporating Huawei's technology into our classrooms is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality education to every student in Punjab. Our goal is to elevate every government school to the standards of the best private institutions."



ment to providing high-quality education to every student in Punjab. Our goal is to elevate every government school to the standards of the best private institutions."

This initiative is also a part of Punjab's broader strategy to boost its IT industry

and establish itself as a hub for technological innovation. The Smart Classroom Project aligns with the government's vision of nurturing talent and driving economic growth through technology.

Key figures at the event included

Parliamentary Secretary for School Education Noshreen Adnan and Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat, underscoring the collaborative efforts that made this project possible.

With this partnership, the Punjab government and Huawei are making



progress towards enhancing the educational experience, providing students

with the resources necessary to thrive in a digital era.

Incharge Chief Minister Compliment Cell arrived in Multan for two days visit

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Brigadier (R) Babar Ala-ud-din, Chairperson of the Chief Minister's Directorate of evaluation, feedback, inspection and monitoring (DEFIM), has arrived in Multan for a two-day visit. He met with the Commissioner of Multan Division, Marryam Khan, to receive a detailed briefing on the progress of ongoing development projects and the initiatives of the Punjab government. Brigadier Babar emphasized that Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, is focused on the timely completion of development schemes. Stabilizing the prices of essential commodities is a top priority for the government. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is committed to ensuring that affordable Roti is available to the poor. The Punjab government is dedicated to providing relief to the common people.



The "Clean Punjab Campaign" and the "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" initiative are practical steps towards providing a clean environment for citizens. Commissioner Maryam Khan noted that Maryam Nawaz Sharif's people-friendly vision is being implemented in the Multan Division. To protect the public from inflation, farmers have

been given direct access to markets. Special attention is being paid to markets as part of the price control campaign in the division. Farmers' platforms have been established in all four districts to ensure the affordable supply of food items. Live screens have been installed in central loca-

tions to inform the public about the rates of these affordable items. Pushcart markets have also been activated to deliver quality and affordable food items to people's doorsteps.

In August, 169 price control magistrates conducted over 200,000 inspections across the division. As a result, 80

cases were registered, 1,128 profiteers were arrested, and fines totaling Rs. 21,358,025 were imposed. The prices of seven essential items, including flour, ghee, tomatoes, and lentils, are being closely monitored. A web portal is also being monitored to control price hikes.

Jaishankar's remarks a futile attempt to distort historical realities about Kashmir: DFP

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Terming the Indian foreign minister statement as an attempt to hoodwink the international community, the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory that awaits final settlement in line with the UNSC resolutions.

While reacting to Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar's recent remarks on Kashmir, the DFP

spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that such a baseless statement by a person like Jaishankar reflects his wilful ignorance of over a dozen UN-mandated resolutions that not only bear witness to the region's disputed status but also call for a referendum to allow Kashmiri people to decide their political future.

"Kashmir, a long outstanding dispute, has been pending on the UN agenda for the past seven decades", Iqbal said, adding that the Indian minister was in the habit of issuing

such misleading statements aimed at distorting historical facts about Kashmir.

The DFP spokesman, while reminding the UN of its obligations towards the peaceful settlement of the lingering dispute, said that it was high time that the international community, especially the UN, should come forward and play its much needed role to resolve the Kashmir issue and stop the ongoing violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

Referring to the highly volatile situation in the troubled region, he said that since 1947 the unresolved dispute has led to widespread deaths and destruction in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the Indian government needs to realize that it cannot suppress Kashmiris' legitimate struggle by killing innocent civilians, imprisoning Hurriyat leaders and activists or simply caging dissent and dissenters in the region.

School Education Department of South Punjab to initiate second phase of 'Zero out of School' project in Layyah

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, has directed the School Education Department of South Punjab to initiate the second phase of the "Zero out of school children" project following the success of its pilot. In this second phase, the project will be implemented across all union councils of District Layyah. In this regard, the CEO Education Layyah has been instructed to collect data



of out-of-school children and nearby schools.

This direction was issued during a meeting with CEO Education Layyah. Secretary

Services South Punjab, Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen also participated in the meeting. The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab empha-

sized that under this campaign, newly enrolled students will be provided with free uniforms, shoes, stationery, and school bags with the support of philanthropists.

Fuad Hashim Rabbani stated that once all arrangements are finalized, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif will be invited to Layyah for the project's inauguration. He said that the "Zero out of School Children" project would be gradually expanded to all districts of South Punjab.

The meeting also agreed on the proposal to gather data on children from the Health Department's Polio Program and other sources. It is worth noting that with the cooperation of UNICEF and JICA, the School Education Department South Punjab had initially launched the pilot project in six union councils of Layyah, Multan, and Bahawalpur. The decision to move forward with the second phase was made in light of the successful results of the pilot project.

Jamaat-e-Islami hails Takht Bhai business community for successful strike

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Takht Bhai's 77-year history has seen the most successful and effective shutter-down strike, and we congratulate the people and business community of Takht Bhai for their unity in response to Hafiz Naeem's call.

This was stated by Jamaat-e-Islami leader and former candidate Numan Yousaf Khan while talking to journalists at the Takht Bhai Press Club. He said that, like the rest of the country, the business community in Takht Bhai has also protested against the FBR's oppressive taxes, increasing prices of essential items, corruption, looting, insecurity, terrorism, unemployment, and injustice. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman and the All Pakistan Traders Organizations had also closed all business centers in Takht Bhai. He further said that the government should come to its senses, end its luxuries and privileges, and not burden the people and traders with more than they can bear. The government should sincerely try to face a Bangladesh-like situation.

Protest rally held in Attock against PML-N's education policies

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The protest rally of Post Graduate College Attock was held in the premises of the Post Graduate College on the call of the central leadership of Professor Lectures of Post Graduate, Syed Hub e Ali, the president of the rally. Local Unit Punjab Professors and Lecturers Association government post Graduate College Attock talking to the media on the occasion of the protest said that we are more concerned about our existing students, more responsible than the government. The feeling of justice is in us, we will not allow even a single stain on the bright future of any student, the government should reconsider its harsh policies, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said in the last protest. They had promised to solve our problems before nightfall, but now they have come to the government, the negation of their promise will spoil our lives, the bureaucracy under them deliberately made such decisions, which has weakened his public popularity, Syed Hub e Ali Naqvi said that I am an 18 grade professor and can get a house on rent of 5800, we did not ask any student in today's protest their classes are on, privileges class which is lower in grade than us some are living comfortably in a 4 kanal house and some in a 10 kanal house with mixed land. On this occasion, Vice President Aitzaz Aziz, Basit Khalil, on this occasion, teachers are struggling to brighten the future of the country's children with less than half of these privileges or privileges. Prof. Nasir Mahmood, Prof. Aurangzeb, Prof. Abdul Rahman, Prof. Nasir Ahmad, Sohail Basit, Faiz Hussain and Prof. Usman Siddiqui also participated in the rally. After that, the displacement of employees, changes in the laws of leave encashment, pay and service protection and elimination of taqwat in the salaries of various departments and other issues were raised.

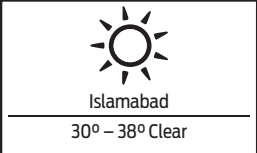
Sardar Attiq congratulates all elected officials of All Kashmir Newspaper Association

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attiq Ahmad Khan has congratulated all elected officials including President of All Kashmir Newspaper Association Chaudhry Amjad, Secretary General Raja Amjad Hussain, Secretary Finance Ijaz Khan, Secretary Information Nisar Kayani. In his felicitation message,



President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the state newspapers of Azad Kashmir are playing an important role in the welfare of Azadi Kashmir and protection of Kashmir struggle. In this sense the organization of state newspapers is very important. He hoped the newly elected by the state newspapers and the officials of the organization will live up to the trust of their voters and the people of Kashmir. He said that journalism is a sacred profession that carries out the duty of guiding the people and urged that the newly elected officials of AKNS should serve the journalists with enthusiasm and take the losers along with them so that the dignity of the journalism sector increases and unity among them. Stay he added.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:16 am
Zohr 12:08 pm
Asr 4:42 pm
Maghrib 6:32 pm
Isha 7:58 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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

TikTok organizes workshop in Karachi to empower Small and Medium Businesses

Commerce Desk

PAKISTAN: TikTok recently concluded its eagerly awaited workshop in Karachi, aimed at empowering Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) in Pakistan. The #GrowWithTikTok Masterclass brought together a diverse group of SMB owners, marketers, and entrepreneurs, all eager to learn how to harness the power of TikTok to grow their businesses on the platform.

Over the course of the day, participants were provided with in-depth training on how to leverage TikTok's unique features to increase brand visibility, connect with younger demographics, and creatively showcase their products and services.

The workshop featured a series of expert-led sessions that covered various aspects of promotion through TikTok. Attendees were introduced to the platform's powerful content creation tools, best practices for audience engagement, and effective strategies for optimizing TikTok campaigns. They learned how TikTok's engaging platform meant small businesses do not have to break the bank to reach current and potential customers.

BISP-JAZZ cash team up for digital empowerment of bisp beneficiaries

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), met with a delegation from JazzCash led by Ibrar Khan, Vice President Corporate Affairs, and Ali Naseer, Chief Strategic Officer. The meeting focused on enhancing the financial and digital inclusion of BISP's women beneficiaries by providing them with smartphones.

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the directive from both the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan to ensure that BISP beneficiaries receive their payments with complete transpar-



ency and respect. She highlighted that digital empowerment through smartphones is vital in bridging the communication gap between BISP and its beneficiaries, enabling them to be fully aware of their rights and reducing the risk of fraud.

The Chairperson also stressed BISP's commitment to improving the lives of its beneficiaries by offering market-driven skill training that aligns with employment opportunities.

During the meeting, the JazzCash team presented potential initiatives for collaboration. Senator Rubina Khalid urged the team to develop a detailed implementation plan for the digital empowerment of BISP beneficiaries.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Employees of PWD burning their professional degrees during a sit-in protest (Dharana) in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FFC and Farmdar Partner to reduce yield-gap with AI and Space Technology

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company and Farmdar are proud to announce a groundbreaking partnership aimed at reducing the yield gap across Pakistan. By integrating AI-driven precision farming with cutting-edge space technology, this collaboration will empower farmers with real-time data and insights to optimize their agricultural practices.

Through this strategic alliance, FFC and Farmdar will provide farmers with advanced tools to monitor crop health, soil conditions, and weather patterns, enabling them to make informed decisions that improve efficiency, reduce cost, and increase productivity. This initiative represents a significant step forward in modernizing agriculture and promoting sustainable farming practices across the country.

Brig. Zulfiqar Ali Haider, Company Secretary and Col. Salar Malik, Chief Sustainability, emphasised the trans-



formative potential of this partnership: "By combining FFC's expertise in agri services with Farmdar's innovative technology, we are poised to drive a new era of smart farming in Pakistan."

Farmdar's co-founders Muzaffar Manghi, Ibrahim

Akbar Bokhari & Muhammed Bukhari echoed that this collaboration will not only enhance the livelihoods of farmers but also contribute to food security and economic growth in the region.

This partnership underscores the commitment of both

companies to leveraging technology for the betterment of Pakistan's agricultural sector, ensuring that farmers are equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

Team Sustainability Shafiq ur Rehman and Israr Ahmed also joined this ceremony as well.

Emirates opening opportunities for travellers to reach nearly 1,700 global cities beyond its network

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In the past year, Emirates has significantly expanded its global reach, doubling the number of cities it offers beyond its own network, unlocking travel opportunities to nearly 1,700 additional cities. This expansion has enabled over 61,000 passengers to seamlessly connect on the shared networks of Emirates and its partners every week.

Emirates has achieved this growth by forging new partnerships and deepening existing ones across the transport ecosystem. The airline now collaborates with 162 partners, including 31 codeshare, 118 interline, and 13 rail and helicopter service partners, spanning over 100 countries. This extensive network provides travelers with enhanced connectivity, seamless single-ticket itineraries, improved baggage transfers, frequent flyer benefits, and lounge access, ensuring a smooth travel experience at every touchpoint.

Adnan Kazim, Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer of Emirates Airline, highlighted the strategic importance of these partnerships: "In the last year, we've deepened our global presence and expanded our footprint across six continents by forging new partnerships with like-minded airlines, rail partners, and air mobility operators. While organic growth remains central to our strategy, we'll continue to leverage our partners' networks to help our customers reach every corner of the globe with ease."

Over the years, Emirates' partnerships have created robust networks, connecting customers to unique destinations while offering schedule optimization and reciprocal loyalty benefits. Key partnerships, such as the one with flydubai, exemplify how collaboration enhances customer journeys. Since 2017, more than 17.5 million passengers have connected through the joint networks of Emirates and flydubai.

inDrive honors top riders at 2024 Couriers Champions Event

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a leading transportation and delivery platform, proudly concluded the "Courier Champions 2024" competition across Pakistan's major cities: Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. This championship competition, held from 19th July to 14th August, 2024, to celebrate and reward the top-performing couriers who demonstrated exceptional delivery performance throughout the competition period.

Muhammad Usman, Business Development Manager, Pakistan-SA region at inDrive, "We are incredibly proud to host the inDrive, Courier Champions event 2024.

Usman further explained that "the focus of this competition was on enhancing performance. Our objective was to improve the completion rate among couriers, providing them with a fair and competitive environment to showcase their skills. We believe that this initiative will lead to a significant improvement in both the quality and quantity of deliveries across all participating cities."

Sidra Kiran, Communication Manager of inDrive Pakistan-SA region, stated "We are thrilled to have successfully hosted the Courier Champion 2024 event across Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

The event also emphasized inDrive's dedication to fostering strong relationships with its partners and drivers. "We hope that this event strengthens the connections we've built and serves as a milestone in celebrating the achievements of our courier partners," added Ms. Sidra Kiran.

ICAP Awards Pak-Qatar Group Accreditation as an Approved Training Organization outside Practice (TOoP)

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), Pakistan's premier and pioneering Islamic financial services group, proudly announces its recent accreditation by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) as an Approved Training Organization Outside Practice (TOoP). This prestigious recognition marks a significant milestone in PQG's ongoing commitment to nurturing and developing Chartered Accountancy professionals.

The official accreditation ceremony was graced by senior officials from both organizations, including Mr. Farrukh V. Junaidy and Mr. Muhammad Kamran Saleem, Board Members of Pak-Qatar Group, and Mr. Farrukh Rehman, President of ICAP. The event underscored the importance of this partnership in advancing the accounting profession within Pakistan.

Mr. Farrukh Rehman, President of ICAP, highlighted the significance of this collaboration, stating, "ICAP is delighted to partner with Pak-Qatar Group in offering a comprehensive Chartered Accountancy Training Program.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Mr. Muhammad Kamran Saleem, Director of Pak-Qatar Group, said, "We are honored to be recognized as an accredited Training Organization Outside Practice by ICAP.

The Chartered Accountancy Training Program is designed to provide hands-on training and real-world experience to emerging chartered accountants. By equipping them with essential practical skills and strategic insights, the program aligns with ICAP's mission to enhance the quality and impact of accounting education and training in Pakistan.

AIOU reaffirms commitment to transparency and merit



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Academic Staff Association (ASA) General Body Meeting was held yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), where Vice Chancellor Profes-

sor Dr. Nasir Mahmood reiterated the university's strong commitment to transparency and merit-based practices. He assured the faculty that all appointments and promotions would be conducted fairly, with strict adherence to

established rules and no room for discrimination.

During the meeting, Dr. Nasir addressed various concerns raised by the faculty, including the need for increased medical subsidies and ODL allowances, prom-

ising to advocate for these in the university's Executive Council. He also expressed openness to revisiting the newly proposed departmental promotion criteria after faculty members voiced unanimous objections. ASA President Dr.

Muhammad Iqbal Ahmed highlighted the timely resolution of key issues, such as the advertisement of vacant positions and the swift convening of the Selection Board, and thanked the Vice Chancellor for his proactive approach.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
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 (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

Pakistan in the SCO: Silent or Strategic?

China has emerged as the prime driver and a leader of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) not only in the political, economic, and commercial sectors but also by providing the backbone of infrastructure, including roads, railroads, and air links. China has invested a total of \$150 billion, reinforcing its broader Eurasian strategic sectoral development. This figure includes direct investments, loans, and financial support provided through various Chinese financial institutions such as the AIB and the Silk Road Fund.

Seeing is believing. During my visit to China in August 2024, I witnessed the breathtaking development taking place at a neck-breaking speed, particularly in Xinjiang and Shaanxi provinces, aimed at uplifting the SCO. While the SCO may not yet be equal to it, it is becoming competitive with other regional organizations such as NATO, ASEAN, the EU, and BRICS. With two superpowers, China and Russia, as the engines of influence, weight, and financial might, the SCO, currently strong in Central Asia, is likely to expand its integration and scope to eventually become a global force. This will help balance Western influence, particularly in Eurasia, and serve as a platform for China and Russia to collaborate on regional issues.

During the visit, we observed that China has established sectoral hubs for all initiatives under the purview of the SCO, including security (counter-terrorism, regional stability) through the institutional framework of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS). Economic cooperation is being advanced through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with China committing over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects such as

roads, railways, and energy pipelines to enhance connectivity within the SCO region.

In Tajikistan, China has invested approximately \$3 billion in road and power infrastructure projects, while the Khorgos Gateway on the China-Kazakhstan border, a major logistics hub, has seen \$2 billion in investments. Energy and industrial projects in Uzbekistan have attracted about \$4 billion, and agricultural cooperation with Kazakhstan has involved around \$1.5 billion. The China-Russia energy cooperation, particularly through the Power of Siberia gas pipeline, represents a \$55 billion investment, while the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor has seen investments of \$15 billion to enhance connectivity and trade.

The dividends of China's aggressive integration with other SCO members have been immense. Since the formation of the SCO, bilateral trade and investment with its members have significantly expanded. Trade with Russia reached a record \$190 billion in 2022, fueled by energy cooperation and infrastructure investments. In Central Asia, China's trade with Kazakhstan surpassed \$25 billion. Uzbekistan saw trade grow to around \$8 billion, complemented by Chinese investments in agriculture and industrial sectors.

During our discussion, a key factor regarding Pakistan's inability to fully utilize the SCO forum became clear: Pakistan, with its limited road connectivity, has failed to establish direct road, air, or rail links with other SCO members, especially Central Asian countries (CAC), Belarus,

and Russia.

Unlike other SCO countries, which have multiple transportation links, Pakistan's reliance on the KKH as its only road connection with China makes it vulnerable to disruptions and limits its scope for increasing trade or engaging in regional transportation networks.

Pakistan lacks direct railroad connections with other SCO member countries, including the CAC. In contrast, China, Russia, and the CAC are connected via major rail corridors that facilitate trade and transportation.

These countries are also connected through a network of highways, road links, and regional infrastructure projects. Pakistan, however, has not yet integrated into this network beyond its bilateral connection with China through the KKH. While Pakistan has air links with China, it lacks extensive air transportation routes with Central Asian SCO members. Air transport between Pakistan and other SCO states is relatively underdeveloped compared to the routes between China, Central Asia, and Russia. Pakistan's limited transport links with other SCO members restrict its ability to fully benefit from the economic and trade opportunities within the organization. CAC, Russia, and China can trade and cooperate more seamlessly because of their physical connectivity, while Pakistan's relative isolation limits its engagement beyond its bilateral relationship with China.

This lack of connection to Central Asian markets and other SCO member states means Pakistan cannot easily participate in the expanding trade routes that

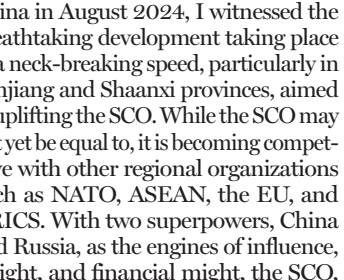
China and Central Asia are developing. This isolation reduces Pakistan's potential role as a transit country for SCO trade and restricts its access to CAC markets.

Pakistan's limited integration into the SCO system compared to Central Asian states, Belarus, Russia, and others can be attributed to geopolitical tensions, infrastructural and economic limitations, security concerns, and internal political challenges. While Pakistan plays a vital role in China's bilateral strategy, particularly through CPEC, its integration within the broader SCO framework remains limited due to these complex factors.

China is making concerted efforts across all dimensions to create enabling conditions for Pakistan through the bilateral platform of CPEC, providing a gateway to fully capitalize on the SCO's opportunities. However, our inability to rise to the occasion stems from a national attitude marked by lethargy, lack of seriousness, and a failure to harness our inherent potential. It is crucial that we move beyond the petty issues that drain the energy of our already strained state structure. Now is the time to proactively enhance our regional connectivity, diversify our economic ties, deepen security cooperation, and take on a more active leadership role within the SCO. By leveraging our strategic position and engaging more deeply with other SCO members, Pakistan can maximize its benefits from the organization and play a stronger role in shaping regional affairs. The path forward requires decisive action, focused on long-term national interests, to unlock the full potential of our participation in the SCO.

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

Analysis



Qamar Bashir

New Initiatives and EVs discussed

As the China-Africa Cooperation Summit 2024 approached, the Belt and Road Initiative Green Coalition (BRIGC) Monday organized a pivotal session, "Sino-African Cooperation on Green and Low-Carbon Development: New Initiatives and EVs."

The session was not merely a glimpse into future collaboration, but a beacon of hope for a new development model that places people's needs at the forefront, eliminates poverty, and steers nations toward growth and development, all while upholding a steadfast commitment to environmental sustainability, a news release said.

It marked a significant stride towards fostering partnerships for sustainable development and realizing our collective aspirations.

It is widely anti-dialogue and gave us a glimpse of Chinese and African priorities, which they will discuss and finalize at the upcoming summit. A wide range of experts and speakers from Africa contributed to the session. They unanimously highlighted the importance of Chinese investment, especially in green sectors. They urged China to invest more in green infrastructure and industrial development.

It is pertinent to highlight here that Africa desperately needs investment and development assistance. It was pointed out by some studies Africa is looking to bridge the infrastructure investment gap, which is around US\$ 100 billion annually.

Africa considers BRI to be an excellent opportunity to bridge this gap. Moreover, they rely on China as a trusted friend. It is not rhetoric; it is based on the data and facts. For example, from 2000 to 2022, Chinese institutions extended US\$ 134.1 billion as loans and development assistance to African countries. It is important to mention here that the assistance was without any lectures or strings on democracy or development models. The development assistance helped Africa their agenda of development.

The BRI is expected to increase further investment, accelerating the continent's development because it touches many points of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The process has already started, and China is investing in transport, energy, agriculture, and many other areas through the Forum and BRI. A comprehensive list of projects can be assessed at the Forum website and the National Development and Reform Commission of China.

In conclusion, the participants were of the view that the China-Africa Cooperation Summit 2024 and "Sino-African Cooperation on Green and Low-Carbon Development: New Initiatives and EVs" indicate that China is committed to the development of less developed countries and the welfare of common people without any distinction or strings of conditionalities, such as so-called democracy or human rights. China is striving to create a fair, equal, and dignity-based global system where everyone has the right to a decent life, development, and independent choices according to their needs and circumstances.



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

Essential role of Media: How publicity of Kolkata incident altered civic opinion

Ayesha Fatima

Democratic societies, where the distribution of information empowers citizens to form informed opinions, advocate for change, and hold institutions responsible, rely heavily on the media's ability to shape public opinion. Sensitive problems have generated a lot of public debate in recent years, especially when it comes to social justice and human rights. One such instance that has had a great impact on civil opinion is the 2024 Kolkata rape case, which highlights the media's responsibilities and power in shaping societal perceptions.

The horrifying event happened when Moumita Deb Nath, a resident physician at the R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Belgachia, Kolkata, West Bengal, India went missing on August 9, 2024, and was subsequently discovered dead. At approximately 11:30 am., reports stated that the doctor's body was discovered partially naked, with her lips, eyes, and genitalia bleeding in one of the college's seminar rooms. She subsequently passed away. The doctor was sexually raped before being strangled, according to an autopsy. Her vaginal system, lips, left leg, right hand, ring finger, neck, and face all had serious wounds, according to the findings. Additionally, the postmortem reports disclosed that a vaginal swab containing around 150 mg of semen indicated she had been subjected to gang rape.

The ferocity of crime, combined with the victim's quest for justice, drew worldwide attention. The media began covering the case extensively as soon as details became available, emphasizing not only the crime but also the structural problems such as police ineptitude, social misogyny, and weak legal frame-

works that contribute to such atrocities. The way the case was reported in the media played a significant role in turning it from a small-town tragedy into a national scandal. The use of graphic facts, victim testimony, and public protests raised awareness and incited moral outrage. Social media trended kept the public informed about the case by posting frequent updates and trending hashtags.

The 2024 Kolkata case bears striking similarities to Nirbhaya case not only in the nature of crime but also in the public response. In Nirbhaya case, the media shaped public views and that public outcry led to significant legal and political changes. These included the establishment of fast-track courts, the Nirbhaya Fund, and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013. The Criminal act also known as Nirbhaya Act was one of the most significant legislative responses to the Nirbhaya tragedy. This legislation, which was largely focused on enhancing the legal framework to prevent sexual offenses and assure victim protection, significantly altered the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.

A precedent for how the media could shape public opinion and promote social change was established by the Nirbhaya case. It proved that consistent media coverage could result in observable changes to the law and increased public knowledge of gender-related issues. The Kolkata case carries on this tradition by demonstrating the media's ongoing potency as a weapon for promoting justice and structural change. Many hashtags are circulating throughout the international platforms like #JusticeForMoumita, #KolkataRapeAndMurderCase, #ViolenceAgainstWomen, #JusticeForWomen and many more. Not only this but due to media this incident has come under international scrutiny. Nationwide protests are being done by Indian doctors. Feminist groups rallied on the

streets in protests titled "Reclaim the night" in Kolkata on the eve of Indian Independence Day.

The role of media here is important because due to media coverage or social media people get to understand the exact facts instead of the statements made by the officials by having an ostrich approach to the crime. For the daughters of India, every day means a rape every 16 minutes, 86 rape cases daily, 99% offenders go unpunished daily with many more going unreported daily. According to a report 21 rape cases have been received in India in 10 days from August 9 to August 18. These are the cases who are reported by either the victims, or their families or by any acquaintances. But there are hundreds of cases which get unnoticed because people do not want to limelight their adversity. In many cases these assaults are recorded and then are used to blackmail the victims to have their mouth shut.

In conclusion, this issue is not new daily according to the report of NRCB in 2022, 90 such heinous crimes take place. The capital punishment will block the way of these kinds of these culprits. The role of media in the 2024 Kolkata rape case has multiple dimensions. Media focused on tiny or specific details, gave every evidence a sense of perception that the people followed, leading to less authentication in the case. As media have potential so where it can guide you for the truth, their it can perpetuate opinions that can cause hindrances in the judicial proceedings. Even if there has been progress since the Nirbhaya case, the battle against women violence in India is still ongoing, as the 2024 Kolkata rape case serves as a sobering reminder. Despite being almost ten years apart, the Nirbhaya and Kolkata cases are linked by the continuous fight for justice and equality.

Writer is Student of BSIR at NDU She can be reached at ayeshafatimah198@gmail.com

No Compromise on Kashmir Issue, Nuclear Program & Pak-China Friendship - I

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a discussion with a prominent figure where several issues were deliberated upon, including Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its core concerns. During the session, it was strongly affirmed that Pakistan and its leadership have consistently upheld their clear stance on three critical issues without compromise: the Kashmir conflict, our Nuclear Program, and Pak-China Friendship.

It is noteworthy that Pakistan's foreign policy has consistently upheld firm positions on critical issues such as the Kashmir dispute, its nuclear program, and the strategic partnership with China. Over the decades, despite encountering numerous challenges and fluctuations in international relations, Pakistani governments and leaders have consistently upheld these fundamental principles, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to national sovereignty, security, and strategic interests. The Kashmir issue has been a pivotal component of Pakistan's foreign policy since independence in 1947. Following the partition of British India, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir became a flashpoint between India and Pakistan. Pakistan has steadfastly advocated for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, as guaranteed by United Nations resolutions. Pakistan's efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully have involved various dialogues, peace processes, and international mediation attempts. Periods marked by heightened tensions and military conflicts, including the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1947-48, 1965, and 1999 (Kargil War), have

tested Pakistan's resolve. Despite encountering setbacks and challenges, successive Pakistani governments and leaders have remained resolute in their commitment to the Kashmir cause, emphasizing the necessity for a fair and equitable resolution that respects the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan's nuclear program emerged in response to security threats, particularly from India, which conducted its first nuclear test in 1974. Pakistan perceives nuclear deterrence as essential for maintaining regional

stability and deterring aggression. Despite facing international pressure, sanctions, and diplomatic challenges, Pakistan has consistently developed and upheld its nuclear capabilities. The evolution of Pakistan's nuclear program has been marked by periods of international isolation, sanctions, and scrutiny from global non-proliferation regimes. Nevertheless, Pakistani governments and leaders have steadfastly defended the program as crucial for deterring existential threats, adhering to principles of responsible nuclear stewardship. Despite fluctuations in international relations, Pakistan remains committed to ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of its nuclear arsenal.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1951, the friendship between Pakistan and China has grown into a robust strategic partnership. Grounded in mutual respect, shared interests, and geopolitical considerations, this relationship spans political, economic, and military dimensions. The Pak-China friendship has navigated geopolitical shifts and global dynamics.

To be continued

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

Special Message of High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan on the occasion of Malaysian 67th National Day

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

The evening before that historic day, Malaysians stood united at the Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, witnessing the lowering of the British Union Jack and the hoisting of our flag—Jalur Gemilang. The following morning, in a moment that has been etched in the annals of history, thousands gathered at Merdeka Stadium, where the Duke of Gloucester, representing Her Majesty the Queen, handed a symbol of independence to our first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. It was here that Tunku, with the strength of timbre accompanied by the people's spirit, declared "Merdeka" seven times, marking the dawn of a new era for Malaya.

This moment did not only signify the birth of a new nation but also laid the foundation for the formation of the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 when Sabah and Sarawak joined hands with the federation. Together, we have grown, through trials and tribulations emerging stronger as a united nation.

Independence Day, or Hari Merdeka, is a time when Malaysians from all walks of life come together to celebrate their rich heritage and

shared achievements. The significance of this day lies not only in remembrance of the struggles and sacrifice of the founding fathers but also in recognizing the diverse cultural tapestry that defines Malaysia today. The principles of unity, tolerance, and mutual respect remain central to the Malaysian identity, reflecting a nation that has learned to embrace its multiculturalism as an indelible strength.

The journey from 1957 to 2024 has been one of remarkable transformation. Malaysia has evolved from a newly independent state with a burgeoning economy to a thriving, modern nation that is increasingly influential on the global stage. From advancements in infrastructure to progress in technology and education, the country's development over these decades has been nothing short of impressive. Key achievements such as the growth of Kuala Lumpur into a bustling metropolis and Malaysia's prominence in regional and international trade highlight the nation's dynamic progress.

Merdeka Day is not just about waving the Jalur Gemilang or participating in grand parades; it is a day of reflection. It is a day for all Malaysians to look back at the sacrifices of our past leaders and heroes, who fought tirelessly for the independence we cherish today. It



Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan and his spouse

is a day for us to honour their legacy by continuing to uphold the values of unity, tolerance, and respect that they envisioned for Malaysia.

For our friends here in Pakistan and around the world, Merdeka Day offers a glimpse into the vibrant and diverse culture of Malaysia. It is a time of colourful celebrations, marked by the National Day Parade—a spectacular display of our nation's unity, strength, and cultural richness. This year, the grand celebration will be held in Putrajaya, the heart of our nation's administration, where we once again come together as one people to celebrate our shared identity and future.

With the theme 'Malaysia MADANI: Jiwa Merdeka', this year's celebration highlights the spirit of togetherness across all segments of society, reflecting the holistic unity of a developed and progressive nation that safeguards its diverse populace and fosters a shared national identity.

As we celebrate our 67th year of independence, we must also recognize the significant strides Malaysia has made in building a resilient and dynamic economy. Our country has grown into a key player in the global market, with a diversified economy that spans sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and services. This

economic progress is not only a reflection of our nation's hard work and determination but also a crucial foundation for our future aspirations.

In this regard, our strategic partnership with Pakistan holds immense potential. Both Malaysia and Pakistan share a deep-rooted bond, and we are committed to further strengthening our brotherly ties, particularly in areas such as trade, investment, and technological collaboration. The upcoming visit of YAB Prime Minister Dato' Sri Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan underscores the importance we place on this relationship. This visit is expected to elevate our partnership to the next level, fostering greater cooperation for mutual benefit between our nations.

Dear fellow Malaysians, moving forward, let us renew our commitment to building a better Malaysia for future generations. Let us embrace our diversity as our strength and work together to achieve greater heights.

Thank you, and with the grace of Allah SWT let us pray that may Malaysia continue to be blessed with continued peace, progress and prosperity.

Selamat Hari Kebangsaan!

Wabillahitaufik walhidayah, wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

25-year lease for Royal Palm Golf & Country Club, Lahore

City Desk

LAHORE: A joint venture comprising Pakistan Services Limited (owners and operators of Pearl Continental Hotels), Warm Waters Advisory Group, Platinum Construction Limited, and Golfscape LDA Portugal has successfully secured the 25-year lease for Royal Palm Golf & Country Club, Lahore. This marks the highest-ever lease value and upfront premium for a club in Pakistan's history. Unprecedented Financial Achievement The financial bid, a landmark submission by the joint venture conceived and led by Warm Waters Advisory Group and Pakistan Services Limited, was officially opened today at Railways Headquarters. The bidding process, initiated in January 2022, was meticulously managed by Pakistan Railways under the stringent supervision of the Supreme Court of



Pakistan, with top-tier consultants M/s A. F. Ferguson & Co. Chartered

Accountants and M/S NESPAK ensuring best-in-class oversight. A New Era for Royal Palm This milestone represents a significant commitment by Warm Waters Advisory and Pakistan Services Limited to elevate the leisure, hospitality, and sporting landscape in Pakistan. The partnership is poised to transform Royal Palm Golf & Country Club into the country's premier destination for family entertainment, leisure, and golfing. Under the stewardship of Pakistan Services Limited, Royal Palm, known for its world-class golf course and luxurious amenities, will undergo extensive enhancements. This 25-year lease reflects Pakistan Railways' dedication to preserving the club's legacy while introducing innovative services and facilities designed to attract a broader audience and maximize revenue potential, even in challenging economic times.

Quran Recitation Competition in Algeria

Pakistani child won the 4th award in the International

The distinguished talent, a ten-year-old Pakistani boy, Muhammad Bashar, from Swat, participated in the International Quran Recitation Competition in Algeria "Mazamir Dawood" which was organized from August 18 to 31, by the private media channel "Echorouk" with the participation of more than 15 countries, and won fourth position with a prize of one thousand five hundred (1500) dollars.

It is worth noting that the Echorouk channel competition is organized annually, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments of Algeria organizes the International Quran Recitation Competition annually under the high patronage of the President of the Republic, H. E. Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and Pakistan participates in it regularly, which strengthens the cultural and spiritual relations between the two peoples and the two brotherly countries, Algeria and Pakistan.



Dubai-Based Pakistani Edupreneur Launches Educational Initiative for Gaza Children

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: In a heartfelt response to the ongoing crisis in Gaza, Amna Khaishgi, a renowned Dubai-based Pakistani edupreneur and chairperson of a Canada-based Early Learning and Child Care company, has announced a significant initiative aimed at providing education to Palestinian children affected by the war. As a resident of the UAE for over 20 years, Khaishgi is committed to empowering as many Gaza children as possible and ensuring they have the tools to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Khaishgi's vision is clear and ambitious. When asked how many Pales-

stinian children she aims to educate, she responded, "As many as we can. Children are the first collateral of any war and conflict. They need to be protected with the right education. We, at Coded Minds, want to play our bit to support them as much as we can." This underscores her belief in the transformative power of education, especially for children living through conflict.

Given the challenging situation on the ground, Khaishgi's initiative will leverage the flexibility of modern technology to reach these children. She explained that despite being a Canada-based education company, geographic distances are no longer

barriers in today's interconnected world. "It all depends on where and how we are getting interest and admission inquiries," she added. This approach highlights the adaptability and resilience of her educational model, ensuring that learning can continue despite the adversities.

The educational initiative will primarily target children at the early education stage, specifically from kindergarten to grade 5. By focusing on this crucial developmental phase, Khaishgi aims to lay a strong foundation for these young minds, equipping them with fundamental skills and knowledge during their most formative years.



When asked about the motivation behind this initiative, Khaishgi's response was rooted in a deep sense of responsibility and empathy. She emphasized the urgency of reaching out and empowering Gaza's children, irrespective of their current locations. "We are aiming for Gaza children wherever they are. As I said, the place is irrelevant, reaching them out and empowering them is more important," she stated. This sentiment reflects a broader commitment to social responsibility and humanitarian efforts.

Khaishgi is committed to this initiative, emphasizing that the impact is far more critical than the financial investment. "Numbers are irrelevant. We

have resources to support the project and we will ensure that each child coming into our wings is empowered with education," she affirmed. This philosophy underscores a dedication to meaningful and sustainable change rather than mere statistics.

Amna Khaishgi's educational initiative for Gaza children is a beacon of hope during a time of profound crisis. In a world where children often bear the brunt of societal upheavals, initiatives like Khaishgi's offer a lifeline, paving the way for a brighter and more empowered future. Those who want to apply or seek more information may contact her at amna@coded-minds.org **

Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum will be held in Dubai

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: 6th Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum will convene in Dubai, UAE on September 09, 2024 to explore and discuss innovative risk management and financial inclusion strategies that can create clear pathways to financial and economic solutions. With the support of the National Insurance Authority of Somaliland, Somaliland Banking Association, Islamic Finance Research Institute - Ghana, and Al-Barakah Multi-purpose Cooperative Society Limited, the forum featured a diverse range of topics, including Developing effective regulations and supervision for the Takaful and Re-Takaful industries, Ensuring adherence to Islamic principles in Takaful and Re-Takaful operations, Exploring new investment avenues and innovative financial products, Analyzing the latest trends and challenges facing the global Takaful and Re-Takaful market.

The upcoming international event will unite representatives and distinguished speakers from over 15 countries to concentrate on creating regulations for Takaful and re-Takaful.



The aim is to facilitate seamless operations and expansion in order to keep abreast of the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities within the global Takaful industry including Banca-Takaful, Micro-Takaful, and re-Takaful. Takaful provides a practical solution for the requirements of the financial industry including banking and insurance sectors. The forum will explore a range of topics including the forefront of Takaful and re-Takaful, industry regulation and supervision, Shariah governance, and investment prospects.

The summit aims to acknowledge the significant advancements in global Islamic Financial Infrastructure, as

well as the regulations and supervision of the Takaful and re-Takaful industry. It also focuses on establishing linkages between the global Islamic finance industry and the international financial market. The event will provide a platform for sharing best practices in the international Takaful and re-Takaful market, and assessing innovations in Islamic financial markets, particularly through the growth of newly developed research-based products. The summit is open to the public with a nominal entrance fee. We highly encourage organizations, Takaful operators, re-Takaful companies, and banks to participate to fully benefit from this international

event in Dubai, UAE.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, the CEO of AlHuda CIBE-UAE, emphasized the rapid global growth of Islamic finance. He noted that Islamic finance is not only gaining traction in Muslim-majority nations but also being embraced by non-Muslim countries. AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is dedicated to providing specialized Training, Advisory, and Research services globally, particularly in Africa, since 2006. Mr. Mughal mentioned that AlHuda CIBE has established its presence in various countries, such as Uzbekistan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Somaliland, Uganda, South Africa, Albania, and Nigeria, and plans to expand its reach to new countries worldwide within the next six months.

Following the successful conclusion of the 6th Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum, we are pleased to announce a dedicated post-event workshop dated September 10-11, 2024 focused on the "Operational aspects Takaful, Re-Takaful, Banca-Takaful, and Micro-Takaful", providing valuable insights for industry professionals.

Azerbaijan's ruling party retains parliamentary majority after snap vote

BAKU: Azerbaijan's ruling party retained its majority in Sunday's snap parliamentary election, preliminary results showed, in the country's first vote since staging a lightning offensive a year ago to recapture the breakaway territory of Karabakh.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a rights watchdog, criticised the vote, saying it had fallen well short of democratic standards.

President Ilham Aliyev's party was on course to win 68 out of 125 seats in parliament, according to preliminary results from the Central Election Commission reported by the TASS news agency. It had 69 seats in the outgoing parliament.

Just over two million people in the energy-rich nation cast their ballots, bringing the turnout at the time of the close of polling stations to 37.3%, said Central Election Commission chief Mazahir Panakhov.

Exit polls suggested dozens of other seats would go to candidates who are nominally independent of political parties but in practice back the government as well as to minor pro-government parties.

OSCE election monitors said the election campaign had been "barely visible".

"The September 1 early parliamentary elections took place in a restrictive political and legal environment that does not enable genuine pluralism and resulted in a contest devoid of competition," the OSCE mission said in a statement.

Opposition party Musavat refused to recognise the legitimacy of the new parliament and called for another vote. Other opposition groups had boycotted the election. "The voting was accompanied by widespread violations, including multiple voting by the same individuals and groups, ballot stuffing, and pressure on observers," Musavat said.

Karabakh

It was the first parliamentary vote since Azerbaijan recaptured Karabakh, where ethnic Armenians had enjoyed de facto independence for three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Aliyev, in power since 2003, moved swiftly to capitalise on that victory and won a fifth presidential term in February with more than 92% of the vote, according to election authorities. Armenia accused Azerbaijan of ethnic cleansing in Karabakh after almost all of its more than 100,000 ethnic Armenian residents fled the area.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,283.29	78,488.21	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,014.68	78,240.36	
Index Value	Change	
7,773,907,032	-204.92	
Percentage	Time	
-0.26%	2 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,363.84	-12.79	
Percentage	Time	
-0.15%	2 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
41,251.32	-83.73	
Percentage	Time	
+0.98%	29 Aug, 1:11 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,700.87	+53.12	
Percentage	Time	
+0.14%	2 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189.58	191.83
Bahrain Dinar	729.65	737.65
Canadian Dollar	206.85	209.25
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	305.50	308.25
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.50	913.00
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	721.00	729.50
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.81	74.36
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	322.20	325.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.51	76.16
UK Pound Sterling	362.85	366.35
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

'Turkey, Azerbaijan & Pakistan can boost dev. together'

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov called on Abdul Aleem Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Pakistan H. E. Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in which bilateral cooperation and various important issues were discussed. In the meeting both dignitaries exchanged views on the business forum being held in this month in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan while talking to Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov said that it is welcome to organize this business forum on September 16 to promote business activities between Pakistan and Azerbaijan after which more opportunities will flourish for both countries to invest in various sectors and promote joint projects.

He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan can invest in Food Security, IT, Health, Agriculture, Manpower and other sectors. Federal Minister said that Turkey, Azerbaijan and Pakistan all three together can play a significant role in the development in the region for which we have to implement the agenda of mutual investment and cooperation.

Abdul Aleem Khan indicated that the plat-



form of Pakistan Business Forum will be a new opening for Pakistan and other countries in Central Asia which will have positive effects on development and prosperity.

In the meeting with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, it was decided that Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan will visit Baku, Azerbaijan on September 16 where they will lead the Paki-

stani delegation at the Business Forum.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov welcomed Federal Minister of Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan's participation in the Business Forum and said that Azerbaijan can invest in LNG Gas, Urea, Electrical and other sectors for Pakistan for which the private sector of Azerbaijan will be taken on board for Pakistan.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan assured the Ambassador of Azerbaijan of his all possible support and asked him to consider him as his Ambassador in Pakistan for a friendly Islamic country like Azerbaijan.

Abdul Aleem Khan reiterated his commitment to strengthen this relationship further which will ultimately benefit both the countries of Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Appointment

Islamabad: Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI giving letter of appointment to Waqas Khan Swati for Deputy Conner Central Committee on Fairs & Exhibitions and Events Management Malik So-hail Hussain Chairman Coordination and Convener of The Fairs & Exhibitions & Events Committee and Karim Aziz Malik Chairman Capital office FPCCI are also present at the occasion



ORA:07 Lands in Pakistan: An electric car that is set to redefine the ultimate driving experience!

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The ORA 07, the latest addition to the New Energy Vehicle (NEV) lineup from Great Wall Motors (GWM), marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's automotive landscape.

Introduced by the Sazgar Group, the ORA 07 embodies the perfect blend of luxury and high performance, setting new standards for electric vehicles in the region. This fully electric saloon combines the heart-pounding performance of a sports car with the unparalleled comfort of a family sedan, offering a driving experience that is both thrilling and sophisticated. With its sleek design and cutting-edge technology, the ORA 07 is poised to redefine the way we think about driving, bringing the future of mobility to the present.



The launch for the ORA 07, held on Sunday, September 1st, 2024, at the prestigious Haval Club in Lahore, was nothing short of spectacular! The exclusive reveal event by Elysium, attracted a host of socialites, influencers, entrepreneurs, car enthusiasts and prominent personalities, all eager to get a firsthand experience of this groundbreaking vehicle.

The latest launch is a testament to GWM and the Sazgar Group's commitment to bringing innovative and sustainable automotive solutions to the Pakistani market, and it set the stage for what promises to be a bright future for electric cars and sustainable modern technology.

Dragons of Pakistan: Faysal Bank Secures A Silver Dragon

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The "Dragons of Pakistan" which is an extension of the international 'Dragons of Asia' are considered as one of the most definitive and credible Marketing & Advertising Awards in the country celebrating excellence in results-driven marketing communications.

Amidst fierce competition from both multinational and national companies across various industries, Faysal Bank's campaign, "Barho Aik Mukammal Islami Pehchaan Ke Saath" which announced its full conversion to Islamic Banking, distinguished itself by winning a Silver Dragon in the coveted Best Brand Building and/or Awareness Campaign category.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Shakeel Akram, Head of Marketing at Faysal Bank said, "Alhamdulillah, this honor reflects our unwavering commitment to crafting impactful marketing communications that truly resonate with our audience. We are grateful to Almighty



Allah and thankful to our agency partners and senior management at Faysal Bank without whose support and guidance this would not have been possible. Faysal Bank

remains committed to delivering exceptional advertising and marketing experiences to our customers in the future also, Insha'Allah."

Media must promote Pakistan's ideology among youth: Zafar Bakhtawari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was founded on the basis of an ideology and it is our collective responsibility to keep this ideology alive and vibrant in the minds of our youth, ensuring its continuation and relevance for generations to come. The media, in particular, has a prime responsibility to play a pivotal role in this endeavor, serving as a catalyst to inspire and educate our young people about the country's founding principles and values.

This has been stated by prominent philanthropist, vibrant business leader, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari during a banquet recep-



tion hosted in honour of a large group of senior journalists belonging to Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) which visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of senior and well-known journalist Nawaz Raza.

Zafar Bakhtawari made a resolute pledge to thwart at all costs the enemy's attempts to undermine our armed forces'

morale. He stressed that our army's sacrifices are unmatched and it is imperative to support and boost its morale at this critical juncture. He cautioned that demoralization of a country's armed forces can have catastrophic consequences, therefore, it must be prevented.

He also praised the current government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for its bold initiatives aimed at stabilizing the economy, particularly its efforts to control inflation, manage the dollar exchange rate, and regulate petrol prices, which are key indicators of economic health.

Nasir Qureshi, President of the Industrial Area Association and candidate for the presidency of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged media professionals to promote positivity among the youth,

rather than negativity, to inspire it to work hard and contribute to country's economic growth and nation-building efforts.

Nawaz Raza, in his remarks, lavishly praised Zafar Bakhtawari, describing him as Pakistan's Ambassador at Large in recognition of his selfless services to the nation in various fields and his generosity and hospitality. He also expressed his strong support for inspiring hope and optimism among the country's youth, empowering them to effectively tackle the current challenges facing the nation.

He also commended Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his outstanding leadership as President of the Chamber, which has significantly enhanced its reputation through his dynamic and visionary approach.

During the Sarhad Chamber elections Haji Ghulam Ali, made an emergency visit

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The Patron-in-Chief of the Sarhad Business Alliance and former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, conducted an emergency visit in connection with the Sarhad Chamber elections. He toured Shoba Bazaar, Pak Medical Center, Japan Market, Madina Market, Sharjah Market, Japan Plaza, and surrounding areas. Former Minister and President of the Traders Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Malik Meher Elahi, former Nazim Muhammad Umar Sirajuddin, Bakht Mir Jan Durani, Ghulam Bilal Javed, Shah Rukh Khan, Jalaluddin Sami, Syed Majid Ali Shah, Salahuddin, Niaz Muhammad Khan, Raza Khan, and other notable figures accompanied him.

The traders gave a warm welcome to Haji Ghulam Ali, showering the entire Shoba Bazaar with flower petals and garlands. On this occasion, Salahuddin, Majid Ali Shah, Dr. Noor Muhammad, Raza Khan, Sartaj Khan, Mudassar Malik, Izzat Kiani, and other members assured their full support.

PPMC reviews LESCO performance

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Power Planning & Monitoring Company (PPMC) has organised a Zoom meeting to evaluate the performance of LESCO (Lahore Electric Supply Company).

The LESCO spokesman told media here Monday that in the meeting, the PPMC General Manager Saqib Jamal and LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider represented their respective organisations.

The LESCO chief briefed the meeting about the company's recovery, losses, meter replacement and electricity theft. LESCO Director (Customer Services) Sarwar Mughal and Chief Engineer (Operation) Muhammad Abbas and all SEs (Superintending Engineers) were also present in the Zoom meeting.

Mobilink Bank and CARE Pakistan join forces to empower 50,000 women

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has joined forces with CARE Pakistan to unlock the potential of 50,000 women through the Strive Women program. Under this partnership, Mobilink Bank and CARE Pakistan will invest in their financial literacy and skills development, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous society.

Over the next three years, both organizations will offer 30,000 women the financial resources they need to establish or expand their businesses.

"Mobilink Bank is steadfast in its commitment to empowering women and fostering financial inclusion," shared Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO Mobilink Bank. "Our Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program has been instrumental in equipping 15,000 women with the knowledge and skills necessary to build and expand their businesses effectively. Our partnership with CARE Pakistan is a strategic alliance that combines our expertise in microfinance with their



commitment to women empowerment. Together, we are amplifying our impact and are dedicated to reaching even more marginalized women, helping them to thrive financially and become catalysts for change in their communities."

Adil Sheraz, Country Director, CARE Pakistan, said, "We are excited to partner with Mobilink Bank to enhance the empowerment and financial well-being of women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. The Strive Women program exemplifies our dedication to fostering a robust support system for women-led businesses. Recognizing women entrepreneurs' pivotal role in driving economic growth, we are committed to addressing their unique challenges to unlock their full potential and enhance our economy. By joining forces with Mobilink Bank and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, we reaffirm our commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for women to succeed in business. Together with our partners, we aim to create an environment where women entrepreneurs can thrive, innovate, and contribute significantly to society."

Bangladesh sniff series victory as bad light forces an early closure on Day 4

A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh opener Zakir Hasan played a quick knock to put 42 runs on the board without a loss before bad light forced an early closure on Day 4 of the second Test against Pakistan.

Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam will resume their innings at 31 and nine respectively with Bangladesh needing 148 runs to sweep the series on Day 5.

Prior to that, Hasan Mahmud led the bowling attack with his maiden five-wicket haul to help Bangladesh bundle Pakistan for a meagre 172 in the second innings.

Salman Ali Agha remained Pakistan's top-scorer with an unbeaten 47 from 71 balls, laced with seven boundaries and one six.

He added a crucial 27-run partnership with last man Mir Hamza (4), who became Hasan Mahmud's fifth scalp.

Other than Hasan, Nahid Rana was the key bowler for Bangladesh with the figures of 4-44.

Pakistan lost Mohammad Rizwan early in the second session as he got caught behind off Hasan's delivery. Rizwan scored a gutsy 43 off 73.

Mohammad Ali fell on the first ball, while Abrar managed to play 12 balls before Nahid Rana got rid of him, bringing Mir Hamza to the crease.

Earlier, Bangladesh pacers wreaked havoc in the first session, taking four key wickets to leave Pakistan reeling at 117-6 at Lunch on Day 4.

Mohammad Rizwan launched Pakistan's recovery with an unbeaten 38 amidst a breathtaking spell of pace bowling by Bangladesh bowlers. Mean-

while, Salman Ali Agha was unbeaten at seven when the Lunch was called.

Saim Ayub and captain Shan Masood started the fourth day's play with the scoreboard reading 9-2.

The two batters started positively with boundaries and regular intervals before Taskin Ahmed removed Saim after he had scored 20 off 35.

Shan soon followed his partner as he got caught behind off Nahid Rana. The Pakistan captain scored 28 runs from 34 balls.

Nahid dismissed Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel in his next two overs as Pakistan slipped to 81-6.

Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha then joined hands to help the team recover, with the former scoring the bulk of runs to avoid further damage before lunch.

Pakistan had lost opening batter Abdullah Shafique and nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad in the dying minutes of the third day.

Prior to that, Salman Ali Agha took the final two wickets, including top-scorer Litton Das, to book Bangladesh for 262.

Khurram led Pakistan's bowling charts with figures of 6-90, while Mir Hamza and Salman bagged two each.

Litton scored a gutsy century as he singlehandedly Bangladesh's total from 193 to 262, courtesy of a 69-run stand with Hassan Mehmud (13).

The wicketkeeper top-scored with 138 runs from 228 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and four sixes.

He was unbeaten at 83 as Bangladesh went to Tea with 193-8 on the board after dominating the second session against Pakistan.



Litton along with Mehidy Hasan Miraz helped Bangladesh recover from 26-6 as they stitched a partnership of 165 runs, scoring their individual half-centuries.

They attacked Pakistani bowlers and scored boundaries across all parts of the ground before Khurram caught and bowled Mehidy.

The all-rounder departed after scoring 78 runs from 124 balls with the help of twelve boundaries and one six.

Meanwhile, Taskin Ahmed also fell to Khurram on the stroke of Tea on Day 3.

Earlier, Bangladesh openers Shadman Islam and Zakir Hasan

started the day with 10/0 on the board.

However, they could not add much to the total as Khurram Shahzad bowled a brilliant spell of classic pace bowling, leaving the Bangladesh batters completely bewildered.

In just the fourth over of the day, he took out Zakir with a skilful delivery on the last ball courtesy of an easy catch by Abrar Ahmed.

On the first ball of his next over, Khurram cleaned up Shadman with an inswinger. He missed the hat trick but he castled Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto in the same over.

Mir Hamza also joined the party as

he dismissed Mominul Haque in the next over.

Bangladesh veterans Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan then fell prey to Mir and Khurram respectively with the scoreboard reading 26-6.

Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz showed resistance as they knitted a gutsy 49-run stand for the seventh wicket to push the team's total to 75-6 runs at the end of the first session without further damage.

Earlier on Day 2, Bangladesh bowlers bowled out Pakistan on 274, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz leading the pack.

Mehidy was the pick of the bowlers for Bangladesh with a five-fer, followed by Taskin Ahmed, who bagged three wickets. Nahid Rana and Shakib Al Hasan shared two wickets between them.

From Pakistan, Salman Ali Agha offered a notable fight against the momentum-filled Bangladesh bowling attack with his 54 off 95 deliveries, laced up with three fours and two sixes.

Prior to that, Pakistan found themselves in a state of bother when Taskin Ahmed cleaned up their right-handed opener Abdullah Shafique a duck with an in-dipper.

Following the early hiccup, Masood joined Ayub in the middle and launched an astounding recovery.

The pair batted sensibly against in-form Bangladesh bowlers with Masood leading the charge.

Masood scored 57 off 69 deliveries with the help of two boundaries, while Ayub played a 58-run knock which featured four fours and two sixes.

For the unversed, the opening day of the second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh was called off due to persistent rain here on Friday.

Playing XI's

Bangladesh: Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mominul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana.

Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Abrar Ahmed, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Khurram Shahzad.

Gwadar Cricket Academy

Gwadar Cricket Academy layers with Sponsored Complete Cricket Attire (Dress) to Istighlal Cricket Club Chababar Islamic Republic of Iran. Providing equal opportunities to sportsmen without any Limitations. Farming the Best friendship among sports plat farms to Spread the slogan of peace and harmony. Born to Develop the Skills. Gwadar Cricket Academy.



Alhaj Naseer to Congratulations to Rehman Ishtiaq (Hira Butt) for receiving the Presidential Award

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Pakistan's first kabaddi player Rehman Ishtiaq (Hira Butt) was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz medal by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari. He returned to Pakistan today after a successful tour from Canada. Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra President of Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan, former captain and head coach of Pakistan Kabaddi Team Ghulam Abbas Butt, former captain of Pakistan



Kabaddi Team Noor Nabi Randhawa, Secretary Pakistan Amateur Circle Kabaddi Federation Muhammad Sarwar Butt Advocate High Court Former Vice President District Bar Association Faisalabad and thou-

sands of Kabaddi lovers warmly welcomed Heera Butt (Hilal-i-Imtiaz) on this occasion Kabaddi lovers threw Bhangra to the beat of the drum. Fireworks were set off and sweets were also distributed. Everyone congratulated Rehman Ishtiaq (Hira Butt) on receiving the Medal of Distinction and also raised the slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, Pakistan Army Paindabad. May Allah allow Pakistan and its teachers to shine in this world, Aameen

Turkish Olympic shooter Yusuf Dikec aims to trademark viral stance



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Turkey's Olympic pistol sharpshooter Yusuf Dikec has filed to trademark his nonchalant stance at the Paris Games that went viral around the world, his coach told AFP on Monday.

His coach Erdinc Bilgili said that the move to protect the commercial use of his pose with the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office came in response to others trying to trademark it without Dikec's say-so.

"After being informed of numerous trademark registration initiatives carried out without Yusuf Dikec's knowledge, we submitted an application about a week ago," Bilgili told AFP, adding that the "other applications have been rejected".

Dikec's apparent sangfroid inspired a flood of memes online, some comparing him to fictional spy James Bond, while billionaire Tesla founder Elon Musk shared a video of himself striking the stance.

His pose also became widely imitated among his fellow athletes since he won silver, Turkey's first medal in the mixed-team 10m air pistol, with teammate Seval Ilayda Tarhan.

Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson also copied it on Sunday as he celebrated scoring against Crystal Palace in the English Premier League.

Various bits of memorabilia bearing his likeness have gone on sale, T-shirts, mugs and mobile phone covers among them, Turkish news channel TRT Haber reported.

The Turkish trademark office did not immediately respond to AFP's requests for comment.

Hockey Olympian Shehbaz Ahmed meets with Faisalabad Deputy Commissioner



Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Hockey Olympian Shehbaz Ahmed Senior met with Deputy Commissioner Captain (Rtd) Nadeem Nasir. District Sports Officer Sajda Latif was also present in this meeting. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the outstanding performance of Shehbaz Ahmed Senior. He has further said that young hockey players need to learn from Shehbaz Ahmad Senior. He will use the experiences of Shehbaz Ahmad Senior for the promotion of hockey. On this occasion, Shehbaz Ahmad Senior assured his full cooperation.

Pak team to feature in World Youth Scrabble C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Scrabble Association (PSA) has named a 14-member team to feature in the 19th World Youth Scrabble Championship to be played in Sri Lanka from September 6 to 8.

The team comprises 12 boys and 4 girls, Tariq Pervez, Director Youth Program of Pakistan Scrabble Association told APP.

Players selected include Affan Salman, Aehzam Ahmed, Bilal Asher, Ahmed Salman, Manaal Asher, Muhammad Yadaan, Muzammil Hassan, Manhamah Mukarram, Syed Maaz, Misbah ur Rehman, Ibrahim Mansoor, Ayesha Naqvi, Shanzay Fazil, Zayan Zaman, Muhammad Usman, Syed Musaab.

Pakistan was the winner of the 2022 championship but finished second behind Sri Lanka in the 2023 championship played in Thailand.

The team led by Tariq Pervez will depart on the early hours of September.

Arshad Nadeem picks realme as his first-ever smartphone brand partnership

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The world's fastest-growing smartphone brand, realme, continues to solidify its position at the forefront of innovation and quality by proudly announcing its partnership with Pakistan's national hero, Arshad Nadeem. Known for his awe-inspiring victory at the Olympics via unwavering determination, Arshad embodies the spirit of resilience and excellence—qualities that resonate deeply with realme's brand ethos, "Dare to Leap."

This partnership is a testament to

realme's ongoing commitment to celebrating national heroes who inspire millions. Following in the footsteps of cricket sensation Shaheen Afridi, Arshad Nadeem's association with realme further highlights the brand's dedication to recognizing and empowering those who represent Pakistan on the global stage.

Arshad Nadeem has recently captured the world's attention with his historic performance in the javelin throw. After placing second a year ago at the World Athletics Championships, Arshad returned stronger than ever, hurling the javelin an astonishing 305

feet—longer than the distance between the goal lines of a football field. This remarkable throw set a new Olympic record and earned him a well-deserved gold medal, as well as his moment of pride with the Pakistani national anthem playing on the podium.

Ethan Yin, CEO of realme, expressed his excitement over Arshad's entry into the smartphone industry with realme as his first choice, stating, "We are incredibly proud to welcome Arshad Nadeem to the realme family. His dedication to his craft and his record-breaking achievements make him the perfect ambassador for the realme C61.



Together, we aim to inspire the youth of Pakistan to 'Dare to Leap.'

As the first-ever smartphone brand that Arshad has partnered with, realme

is set to redefine what it means to support and celebrate national heroes. The realme C61, with its unmatched durability, superior performance, and

exclusive 24-month warranty, is poised to become the go-to device for those who demand the best in every aspect of their lives.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM seeks enhanced collaboration with China in key sectors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan aims to enhance its collaboration with China in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, modern

agriculture, and other sectors.

In a conversation with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister remarked that the friendship between Pakistan and China has endured and remained strong throughout the years.

He stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, with China providing unwavering support to Pakistan during every challenging period.

The prime minister praised the Chinese leader-

ship's vision to consistently enhance Pakistan-China strategic relations and collaborate on upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He emphasized that the friendship between Pakistan and China is essential not

only for both nations but also for regional and global peace and development.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, and other relevant officials were also present in the meeting.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator meets with Minister for Finance

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Muhammad Yahya, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division in Islamabad.

Mr. Muhammad Yahya briefed the Finance Minister on the work of UN and its agencies undertaking development and humanitarian assistance projects in Pakistan. He also shared the success of UNESCAP and its work on debt consolidation in middle income countries. Mr. Yahya noted that energy transition was an important area for possible cooperation with Pakistan.

The Finance Minister shared the commitment of the government towards policy reforms and sustainable economic



development and appreciated the cooperation provided by the UN and its agencies in this regard. The Minister reiterated that climate finance and energy transition were essen-

tial areas for improving energy sector viability in the country and welcomed the cooperation with UNESCAP in this regard.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing their

resolve to continue working closely to address Pakistan's development challenges and to implement sustainable solutions that benefit all segments of society.

Denmark Delegation Explores Heavy Investment Opportunities in Pakistan's Mining Sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Denmark, led by the Global CEO of FLSmidth, Mr. Mikko Keto, accompanied by Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jakob Linulf, met with Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, to discuss potential investment opportunities in Pakistan's mining sector.

The Danish delegation expressed strong interest in making substantial investments, particularly in mining zones.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted vast mining potential in Pakistan, with a special emphasis on Balochistan's untapped resources.

And opportunities where small scale mining and processing can be empowered.

He suggested that FLSmidth and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) could organize awareness sessions and workshops, aimed at enhancing industry



knowledge and skills. The Minister also proposed the establishment of sectoral councils of Mining and Cement to facilitate deeper business coordination and matchmaking between local and international stakeholders.

In addition to discussing investment opportunities, the Minister emphasized the importance of adopting

a green framework and the transfer of technology to ensure sustainable development in the mining and cement sectors under Pakistan Denmark Green Framework Engagement, which will also help in complying with EU's Green Deal related regulations like Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

Mr. Mikko Keto, CEO of FLSmidth, acknowledged

government efforts to protect and promote foreign investment and expressed a strong desire to increase investment, particularly in the mining sector. He also highlighted the company's commitment to upskilling and training the local workforce, including the youth, to ensure that the benefits of these investments are widely shared within the community.

Kashmir struggle for self determination will continue till end of Indian rule: PMAJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self determination would continue till the people of the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir achieve their cherished goal of freedom. While addressing a symposium held under the aegis of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, he said that India cannot keep Kashmiris hostage for too long. "Sooner or later India will have to resolve Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions", he said. Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian held territory, the PM said, "Rights situation in Occupied Kashmir has worsened after August 5 2019". Indian troops deployed in the region, he said, were involved in war crimes.

He said that India continues to violate Security Council resolutions that guarantee right of self determination to the people of Kashmir. He said that demographic change in Occupied Kashmir pose a serious existential threat to Kashmiris who he said were being turned into a minority. Terming it as a conspiracy against the Kashmiri people, he said that the international community must take effective notice of the matter.

Lauding the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri nation, the PM Haq expressed the hope that the day was not when the people of the occupied Kashmir would achieve their cherished goal for which they offered matchless sacrifices. Paying tributes to Kashmiri martyrs, he said that Kashmiris would uphold the mission of Syed Ali Geelani and other martyrs who laid down lives for the noble cause. The Prime Minister said that Kashmiris had already decided to join Pakistan by passing the historic resolution on 19 July 1947. The symposium was attended and addressed by former federal minister Qamar-ul-Zaman Kaira, APHC convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Mushahid Hussain Syed and others.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem mother-in-law passed away



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Khush Daman of Punjab Governor Sardar Salim Haider Khan who passed away due to divine

reasons was offered funeral prayers in his native village Malal, Fateh Jang. The deceased was the wife of former Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan. Sardar Ali Khan and Sardar Ahsan Khan's mother was Smt.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, son of Governor Punjab Sardar Faizan Haider Khan, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Raja Parvez Ashraf, Zamrad Khan and other important personalities including Commissioner Rawalpindi participated in the funeral prayers of the deceased. The funeral prayer was led by Syed Shamsuddin Shams Geelani, Sajjada Nashin Astana Aliya Golra Sharif.

President condoles death of Governor Punjab's mother-in-law

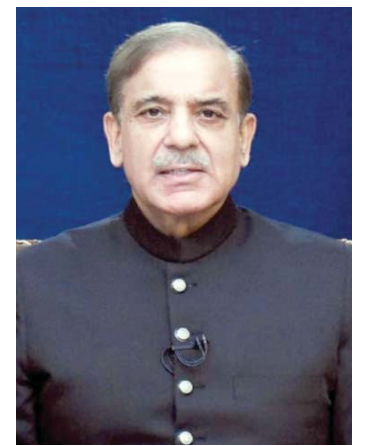


City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of mother-in-law of Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

Offering his heartfelt condolence to the governor, the president prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family members to bear the loss with equanimity.

PM condoles death of Punjab governor's mother-in-law



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed grief over the death of the mother-in-law of Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

The prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss, according to a PM Office press release.

Netanyahu invents obstacles to the truce agreement with the aim of prolonging the war: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing war of extermination and displacement against our people for the 332nd consecutive day, which leaves more martyrs and wounded, deepens the comprehensive humanitarian catastrophe among defenseless civilians, and imposes on them more forced displacement and migration in search of any safe area that is not available to them in the Gaza Strip. The latest of these crimes was the bombing of the Safad School, which shelters displaced people, and left a large number of martyrs and wounded.

The Ministry believes that the failure of the international community to achieve and impose an immediate ceasefire gives Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ruling right-wing coalition the opportunity to gain more time to prolong the war and extend his stay in power. For this reason, it has become clear that Netanyahu continues to impose new facts on the ground in the Gaza Strip and has appointed military officials to manage its civil affairs, and is consecrating the occupation of the Strip and controlling its borders under flimsy pretexts and excuses, and is disrupting and sabotaging the truce negotiations. The Israeli government is also resorting to the cycle of violence and igniting fires in the conflict arena and is seeking to expand its circles to include the occupied West Bank and the region to achieve the same goals. Netanyahu is negotiating for the sake of negotiations



as usual and has turned the regional and international efforts exerted to reach a ceasefire agreement into a crisis, which he oversees and deepens without resolving.

The Ministry confirms that the conditions promoted by Netanyahu for the day after the war and his rejection of the return of the Gaza Strip to Palestinian legitimacy fall within the framework of his policy based on continuing the separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to undermine the opportunity to embody the Palestinian people's state.

The Ministry warns of the dangers of the international community coexisting with this expansionist colonial policy and calls for exposing it and taking the necessary practical measures to reject it and achieve an immediate ceasefire as a more positive climate for continuing negotiations on the armistice and exchange agreement, which will protect our people from the scourge of the escalating war of extermination and displacement and lead to the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the land of the State of Palestine, considering this the correct approach to achieving security, stability and prosperity in the region, its countries and its peoples.

IHC to resume hearing...

Continued from Page 1

issued to journalists Gharida Farooqi, Hassan Ayub, and Ammar Solangi, seeking their responses.

The bench had also issued notices to the Federal Investigation Agency director general, the Pakistan Elec-

tronic Media Regulatory Authority, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority.

It directed the institutions to submit reports within four weeks, requiring them to identify individuals involved in the "smear campaign and sharing related content."