



US says 'time to finalise' Gaza deal after hostage deaths

The United States on Tuesday called for urgency and flexibility to finalise an agreement between Israel and Hamas for a truce in Gaza, after the recent deaths of six hostages. "There are dozens of hostages still remaining in Gaza, still waiting for a deal that will bring them home. It is time to finalise that deal," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.



Akhtar Mengal resigns from National Assembly over Balochistan crises

Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Tuesday resigned as the National Assembly member over the worsening situation in the province, declaring no confidence in the state, the president and the prime minister. "I announce my resignation from the Assembly today. I made this decision after witnessing the situation of Balochistan," said Mengal during the National Assembly session.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Corps Commanders' Conference

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir presides over the Corps Commanders' Conference at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on September 3, 2024.



Photo: ISPR

Army top brass underscores need for stringent cybersecurity measures

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ. Participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan. The forum was briefed on the

prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats. In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and KPK, the forum deliberated on a range of measures to neutralize these threats. The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the hard-earned successes against

terrorism to be reversed. The forum emphasized that the Army is a disciplined institution, upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution. The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality. This strict adherence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny. Recognizing the urgency and

significance of a robust and effective legal system, COAS emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias. The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks. The critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent cybersecurity measures was also underscored.

In a show of solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, who continue to suffer gross human rights violations, the forum honored the martyrs of the Freedom Movement. The blatant continued violence and genocide of Palestinians by Israel were also condemned in the strongest terms. The forum expressed confidence in the operational preparedness and readiness of the Pakistan Army and vowed to continue to uphold the standards in pursuit of professional excellence.

Bill seeking increase in number of SC judges to deferred in NA session

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly decided to defer a bill calling for an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court. The session began at 11 am under the chairmanship of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Among the key legislative proposals on the agenda was a private member's bill by Daniyal Chaudhry, a government member, to increase the number of Supreme Court judges. The bill proposes to amend the 1997 Act to increase the number of judges to 23. Other notable bills include constitutional amendment bills by Noor Alam Khan, aiming to amend Articles 51, 59, 177, 193, 208, and 184 of the Constitution. Sohail Sultan will present a bill to amend various criminal laws, while Changaiz Ahmed Khan will present a bill to amend Article 198 of the Constitution. The assembly will also discuss several resolutions pertaining to minority protection measures, the provision of improved healthcare facilities in government hospitals of the federal capital, and the promotion of national sports programs. Furthermore, separate attention-grabbing notices will be presented regarding the allocation of 4.8 million acres of land for corporate farming and the activities of Pakistani mafia operating abroad. The session is expected to witness lively debates and discussions on these crucial issues.

Imran approaches IHC to prevent being handed over to military custody

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has approached the Islamabad High Court seeking protection from being handed over to military custody for trials related to the May 9 incidents.

A petition was filed with the court through lawyer Uzair Bhundari, naming the Secretary of Law, Secretary of Interior, and the Federal Government as respondents. The petition also includes the Inspector General of Islamabad Police, Inspector General of Punjab Police, Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the Inspector General of Prisons as parties. The petition requests the court to prevent the PTI founder from being placed in military custody and to ensure that he remains under the jurisdiction of civilian courts and in civilian custody. Khan is currently imprisoned in Adiala Jail under a number of different cases including corruption and the May 9 riots. This is not the first time Khan has expressed a fear of being handed over to military custody and being tried in a military court.

Ahsan for capacity building of youth in advanced computing education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the need for capacity building of youth in advanced computing education, as digitalized education could play an important role in achieving the national goal of development and prosperity. He expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting of the National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), which was attended among others by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Mukhtar Ahmed and senior officials of the Ministry of Planning. Ahsan Iqbal said the country needed to focus on teachers' training along with curriculum education, regretting that students were still being taught a 100-year-old curriculum. He said, "We need to increase capacity in the field of advanced computing. An action plan should be made to become signatories of accords." The minister emphasized the need to train teachers to improve the quality of education in line with modern requirements. "There are many opportunities available in digital computing and hardware. Equipping the youth with the jewel of education is the most important need of the hour," he said, stressing that no society could develop without education.

PM stresses redoubled efforts for economic stability as inflation down to single-digit



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that after bringing the inflation rate down to the single digit of 9.6%, more efforts were required to bring in economic growth and stability besides addressing the challenges of circular debt and tax evasion. "Alhamdulillah, the burden of inflation is reducing gradually. A single-digit inflation rate of 9.6% was reported in August this year which was 27% this month of last year. But we have to keep up our efforts to achieve economic growth and stability, create productive employment,

reduce expenditures by right-sizing and downsizing, shrink circular debt, curb evasion of receipts and eliminate smuggling," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him. He congratulated the finance minister, State Bank governor and other economic team members for the achievement and said that serious and tireless efforts were underway to achieve the challenging task. Prime Minister Shehbaz told the cabinet members that the prerequisites of IMF program were under supervision and all-out measures were being taken to fulfill the conditionalities. "Insha Allah, we will fulfill all the IMF conditionalities timely which will follow the consideration and approval by the IMF Board. This will start a new journey. But we should keep in mind that this should be the last IMF program in Pakistan's history," he remarked.

PM condoles demise of Saudi Princess Latifa Bint Abdulaziz

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Princess Latifa Bint Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The prime minister, in a social media post on X, conveyed his condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "Deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of Princess Latifa. We convey our deepest condolences to the Royal family, the leadership and the people of Saudi Arabia," said the prime minister.

DPM Dar, US envoy discuss bilateral ties, cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday

called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release. They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

New taxes on retailers, traders won't be taken back, says Finance Minister Aurangzeb

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has reiterated that the government would not reverse its decision to bring retailers and distributors into the tax net despite threats of country-wide strike, as the country seeks an International Monetary Fund bailout. "One thing I want to be

very clear [about] ... This is not going to be taken back," Aurangzeb said in a televised speech that urged wholesalers, distributors and retailers to contribute to the economy.

Chairman Senate calls for urgent action on human development to address challenges of climate change

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has emphasized the need for concerted and comprehensive endeavors in order to effectively prioritize focus on human development, invest in human capital, and address the challenges of climate change. In this regard he called for forging robust partnerships between government institutions, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to ensure a cohesive and effective humanitarian response. The Chairman Senate was addressing at the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) annual report launch event to acknowledge INGOs' contributions to Pakistan. He acknowledged PHF and its member organizations for consistently providing the much-needed relief and assistance to the deserving and the affected during challenging circumstances over the years.

He said that true strength of a nation lies in its ability to empower the marginalized and vulnerable communities. "Coming from South Punjab, I can personally relate to the struggles and aspirations of communities seeking opportunities and support to not only uplift their own lot, but also fuel national progress", the Chairman Senate remarked in his address.

He observed that inclusive development is not just a moral imperative but it is essential for the progress and prosperity of our country. "This belief is deeply rooted in the political ideology that has guided me throughout my career. An ideology that prioritized humanitarian values and betterment of deprived communities", he said. Former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto championed this ideology.

He lauded PHF for playing a crucial role in building a more inclusive and

resilient Pakistan. While referring to the report, the Chairman Senate stated that the achievements highlighted in the Annual Report 2023 are a testament to their dedication and unwavering humanitarian zeal.

He expressed his appreciation that PHF member organizations have reached over 21.2 million beneficiaries across 152 districts of Pakistan, with a funding volume exceeding 450 million dollars. He said that humanitarian assistance and development initiatives have not only alleviated the sufferings of flood-affected communities, but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable development in marginalized areas. Natural disasters like floods can devastate entire regions, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair, he added. The challenges we face are great, but so too is our resolve.

He assured his support for humanitarian and development endeavors



besides acknowledging the contributions made by INGOs in addressing the needs of our people, especially in times of crisis and make humanitarian

assistance even more timely, comprehensive, and inclusive.

He hoped for positive outcomes of the discussions from this event saying

that it will inspire us all to continue working together, fostering hope, resilience, and prosperity for every community in Pakistan

Dua

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani offering fateha on the sad demise of brother of the senior journalist Mohsin Baig at his residence in federal capital.



Photo: Online

Skilled Youth Guarantees Strong Economy: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Youth will be trained in modern market-driven technologies to excel in global job market," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing a review meeting on matters related to Punjab Skills Development Fund in order to make youth a productive human resource. She added, "Through Punjab Skills Development Fund, youth will be guided on the path of financial independence." She highlighted, "Talented youth is a valuable asset of any country."

Madam Chief Minister was briefed by the authorities concerned that youth will be given IT skills and on-job training through Punjab Skills Development Fund. She was also apprised on complete roadmap of Punjab Skills Development Fund in this regard.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was apprised, "Chief Minister Internship Program has been started in Punjab." She was further briefed, "Admission to courses for internships and IT skills has been made merit-based for youth."

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Chairperson Task Force on Skills Development MPA Adnan Afzal Chatha attended the meeting. Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretary Implementation Danish Afzal, CEO PSDF Ahmed Haleem Khan and other relevant officers were also present.



Pakistan Ulama Council is celebrating Ushra Tahfiz Aqeedah Khatm Nabubat

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahir Al Hassan said that Pakistan Ulama Council is celebrating Ushra Tahfiz Aqeedah Khatm Nabubat and martyrs of Pakistan with great enthusiasm and devotion in the whole country. Leaders will attend. Martyrs of Pakistan raised the head of the entire nation with pride and foiled every conspiracy of India and made it clear to the whole world that we consider the protection of Pakistan as part of our faith and belief in the Khatam E Nabuwat is the foundation of Islam. By declaring the Khatam E Nabuwat as non-Muslim, the assembly made the message clear to the whole world that there can be no compromise on the belief of Tahaffuz E Khatam E Nabuwat, we have sacrificed everything, life and property on this issue, but this wish of Europe has never been fulfilled. They will give that they can make any change against the law of Khatam E Nabuwat sallallahu alayhi wa sallam. Our nobles and the Muslim Ummah have sacrificed their lives on this issue and no power in the world can impose non-Muslim Marzais in Pakistan are excluded from and global metaphorical forces are backing their self-cultivated plants at every level to end the non-Muslim minority decision and include the Qadianis in the ranks of Muslims, but they forget that Pakistan is the country of the beloved Prophet and We will defeat every such conspiracy together on every front. On September 7th, conferences on the belief in the Khatam E Nabuwat are being held all over the country. Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi will deliver the speech.



Punjab govt's free milk scheme for children to commence in DG Khan from next month: Babar Ala-ud-Din

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Chief Minister's Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection and Monitoring (DEFIM) Chairperson Brig. (Retd) Babar Ala-ud-Din on Tuesday said that the Punjab government's free milk scheme for children from pre-school to Class-5 would commence from Dera Ghazi Khan in the coming month.

Addressing a press conference at the Circuit House here, he said the Punjab government was initiating the scheme from backward areas of the province and later on it would be expanded to other areas.

Mentioning about his recent visit, he informed that he was visiting the city to evaluate on-ground performance of different departments including health, police, education, MDA and many others.

He expressed satisfaction over the performance of different departments. However, he expressed annoyance over the poor management and issues at Cattle Market. He remarked that he would seek explanation from Managing Director Cattle Management Company in Lahore. He further added that all the ongoing projects would be completed within stipulated time period. About Vehari-Multan road, he remarked that the work on the road would commence soon.

There was no political interference in affairs of the officers working at district level, he said and added the government had given free hand to the officers and they were bound to resolve public problems.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal believes in the process of service: Rana Waris Hussain

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The problems of the citizens will be reduced soon and an effective solution will also be suggested. This was said by Rana Waris Hussain, Information Secretary, Pakistan Muslim League-N Faisalabad Division and Coordinator Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Faisalabad Division while talking to the media. He has further said that the office of Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal is located in De Grawand and many poor people are assisted by this institution. There is a deputy director in each of our hospitals. If they can't, they can get their treatment free by filling a form from there. Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal pays their expenses. Monthly assistance to the people who are suffering from poverty is also done



by this organization. Waris Hussain. He further said that when Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif was elected as the Chief

Minister of Punjab, she has taken many steps. Because at this time the resources are very less and the problems are

many. The poor people did not get their right and our leader. The mission is also that we can give access to resources to poorer people than Zahada. Muslim League-N is the government. We are trying to fulfill the expectations of the people. I can give. It can also be in the form of dowry fund. And he has been able to contribute to the relief of the common man. Through the identity card of Nadra, he is checked from his area. Is it eligible or not? Rana Waris Hussain said that our entire team is doing the work with utmost honesty. The amount of Amdar is from five thousand to seven thousand but now the Chief Minister of Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif has started the Himat Card which is worth Rs. 10500 per month. This department is mostly approached by those who are eligible.

BA adopts resolution against Balochistan massacre

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution against the wave of foreign funded terrorism in the province, condemning the ghastly killing of innocent people by banned outfit B.L.A.

Speaker Balochistan Assembly Caption Retired Abdul Khaliq Achakzai chaired the session also attended by the Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

The house unanimously adopted the resolution presented by the Pakistan People's Party Minister Ali Madad Jatak.

Expressing his annoyance over the incident of Musakhail massacre

and martyrdom of personnel of Law Enforcement Agencies, Mir Jatak said elements behind Balochistan unrest are the enemies of Baloch tribe.

Without naming Baloch Yakjehti Committee, he said champion of human rights and Baloch norms did not condemn the 26th August massacre.

Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar said that the unprecedented sacrifices rendered by our valiant forces have protected the boundaries of Pakistan.

He deplored those ordinary citizens, government officials, personnel of LEAs are the victims of this terrorism. Terrorists are challenging the government writ, which cannot be allowed under any circumstances, he said,

vowing to take concrete steps against the menace of terrorism.

Provincial Minister of Food said that Pakistan has made the most sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

"Balochistan Assembly is the only platform to raise voice for the rights of the people here through which the problems can be resolved," he said, urging that there is a need for concrete measures against terrorism.

Rahila Hameed Durrani, Education minister, said that the killing of innocent people in Rara Sham is condemnable. "Killing an innocent person is an insult to humanity," she said.

She called upon all the political parties and others to think seriously about the youth, emphasizing the need for an in-camera briefing to get the way

out of the issue.

Mir Saleem Khosa said an attempt was made to create a divide between the brother people, living together in this country for 70 years.

We have strong relations with each other, but the enemies tried to push Balochistan towards civil war as planned, terrorists only want to spread terror.

Zareen Khan Magsi said killing innocent people is a sheer act of terrorism.

Opposition Leader Mir Yunus Aziz Zehri, on the occasion flayed the 26th August killing as saying "We are Pakistani and strongly condemn the incident in which terrorist took lives of innocent people.

Earlier the house unanimously adopted the resolution.

Peshawar Women Chamber ordered to hold elections, not selections, by DGTO

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The first attempt at manipulation by vested interests in the Peshawar Women Chamber has been exposed and failed. On September 25th, they will be given another historic surprise, said SBA Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah.

The women officials of the Women Chamber Election Commission not only set an example by standing for truth and justice but also sent a message of courage and integrity to those with a weaker mindset. We wholeheartedly welcome the DGTO's decision, said Muhammad Ishaq and Ghulam Bilal Javid in a joint statement.

In their joint statement, SBA Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah, former President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Ishaq, and trade leader Ghulam Bilal Javid praised the Peshawar Women Chamber Election Commission and DGTO for rejecting the illegal and unconstitutional selection process of August 23rd by the DGTO (Director General Trade Organization) Islamabad. The women officials of the Election Commission who submitted a complaint against Ilyas Bilour, Malik Niaz, and Ghazanfar Bilour, despite immense pressure, should serve as an example for those with weak mindsets. The statement further emphasized that those who always follow the path of self-interest should know that they will face surprising challenges in the Sarhad Chamber elections as well. The law of "Might is Right" will no longer prevail.

Allama Iqbal Open University announces end of admissions for 2016-17 academic year

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Regional Director, Allama Iqbal Open University Rawalpindi Region Nasreen Akhtar said that the students who are already enrolled in the university are informed to send their admission on time, the last date for sending the admission of matriculation, FA students is September 5, while The last date for sending admission to BS Science Subjects Program is 10th September. For the convenience of students, Roll Number Slip Online App can be downloaded by installing AIOU. The university helps you to get higher education on modern lines. Students should benefit from the facilities provided by the university so that their future is bright.

Mrs. Nasreen Akhtar Regional Director, Allama Iqbal Open University Rawalpindi Region

in her keynote message to the students said that the motto of the University is "Education for All". On which the university is proceeding with full force. She said that Under the direction of Vice Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mehmood, the education campaign about the importance of education and its achievement was successful in Rawalpindi region. Special attention was paid to this campaign in rural areas.

She said that Currently Matric, FA, BA, BS (two years), BS, BBA (two and a half years), BS, BBA (four years), Post Graduate Diploma, Associate Degree BA, B. Com B. Ed program and certificate courses are ongoing. Those students who despite being regular have not yet submitted their admission for this semester. They are advised to easily access the required information by opening the student portal,

online app AIOU, or enrollment.aiou.edu.pk with the help of internet.

She further said that the university administration is there to support the students in every way. Students can also contact the university's local number. WhatsApp number to get the required information. Mrs. Nasreen Akhtar, Regional Director, Allama Iqbal Open University Rawalpindi Region said that the fee of the university is very reasonable. The aim is to popularize higher education. Thirteen year old student is eligible for matriculation. Fee waiver facility is available for white color students who are unable to pay fee. But fee must be paid in first semester. She said that there is a fee discount available for the blind, prisoners, transgenders, orphans, widows and disabled people. Therefore,



students are requested to contact the university without wasting their valuable time, so that they can become an active citizen of the society by getting higher education.

Implementation of law

ISLAMABAD: Policemen arresting protesters during PWD employees protest in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Role and Impact of Think Tanks in Government Policy-Making

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) held an insightful Policy Research Clinic on the pivotal role of think tanks in government policy-making, led by Dr. M. Aman Ullah, Senior Advisor on SDGs at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The session, titled "Which are the Star Think Tanks for a Government: Listening from an Insider," shed light on the significance of think tanks in shaping public policy and the challenges they face in influencing government actions, policy-making, and legislation.

In his lecture, Dr. M. Aman Ullah emphasized the critical role think tanks play in government decision-making, particularly in complex environments like Pakistan, which grapples with political instability and the absence of economic development. He highlighted that without political stability,

economic progress and investments remain unattainable.

Dr. Aman Ullah expressed concerns over the parallel model in Pakistan's development sector, where global donor agencies fund think tanks, potentially leading to reliance on external influences rather than home-grown solutions.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director of SDPI, praised the session for its enlightening dialogue and actionable recommendations. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between think tanks, development partners.

The session concluded with a call for increased collaboration and partnership between think tanks, academic institutions, and government bodies. Dr. Aman Ullah urged think tanks to focus on evidence-based research, strategic communication, and active participation in policy dialogues to ensure their recommendations are considered and implemented.

Interview of Sheikh Sheraz Saleem, CEO of American Solar Company 'American Solar' First National Solar Brand in Pakistan

Interview by Tahir Amin Malik

I have great honour to achieve the International Solar Award, 2024 which I received from KPK Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Sheikh Sheraz Saleem who is the CEO of American Solar Company "American Solar" is the First National Solar Brand in Pakistan. He said that this is great honour for me that I received the International Solar Award, 2024 from KPK Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Lahore. Talked about his business and education career Sheikh Sheraz Saleem said that I started my business in 2005 at Lahore. He said that I have completed 3 education degrees I have done the Bsc honour from Uet in 1999-2002 from UET, Lahore. Then I completed another Masters degree from UET Lahore as well in Artificial Intelligence in 2003-2005 and last degree I got in MBA from LUMS University Lahore 2010-2012.

He said about American Group has 3 major Businesses 1-American Electronics which include consumer Goods such as American GENERAL Inverter Air Conditioners. He further said that our Air Conditioner have Life Time Compressor Warranty and



The CEO American Solar is receiving the International Solar Award from KPK Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Nishat Hotel, Lahore.

4-year warranty of PCB. He further added that there is also ampere Lock function in our inverter and customers can save the 75% to 80% energy. Talked about LED Tv he said that our clients can enjoy smart life with our Led products as well, which are available in 32, 40, 43, and 50,55, 65 and 70 inch which are at very affordable prices.

He said that American General is providing comfortable and economical Air Conditioning Systems that fit architectural trends and environmental awareness in America from business and Life Style. Talked about American

Solar Sheikh Sheraz Saleem said that American Solar provides easy solar installation with hassle-free solar energy solutions and making the transition to renewable energy simple and efficient. He further said that American Solar Systems are designed for low maintenance and offering reliable and hassle free energy solution. He said we are committed to making solar power accessible and offering high quality system that could fit your budget.

He said our customer can empower the future with affordable solar solutions and American Solar is dedicated to revolutionizing the energy by offering affordable solar solutions that empower individuals and business alike. Sheraz said we are committed to sustainability and innovation and we are harness the power of sun to provide reliable renewable energy options tailored to meet the diverse needs out customers. He said American Solar also provides Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Solar solutions with our dynamic solar systems designed to save your money and can reduce your carbon footprint. He said we have high quality solar panels and expert for installation services to ensure you get the most efficient and reliable energy solution for your home, commercial and industrial and you can join

the green revolution with American sustainable energy today. He said American Solar is also providing N-Type 580 W, 590 W and 710 W Bi-Facial Modules with dual class and we give the 15 year Quality and 30 Year Power Guarantee which are OEM by Tier-1 (Bloomberg) company SunProPower. He said World needs cleaner energy and American Solar can provide you better solar quality with bigger savings solutions.

Last but not the least we have 11 offices with warehouses nationwide which includes our Head office

which is located at 38-Shadman Colony, Lahore while our factory is in Faisalabad, While other 10 offices are located in Multan, Peshawar, Karachi, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Sahiwal & Sialkot. At last he said my message is that the people come into the solar and they should install Solar and should save the money because electricity bills are destroying the budget of people so they should take the step to install the solar in Residential, Commercial & Industrial Sectors.



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Two Secrets to China's Rise

Twelve years ago, I visited China as a participant in a Seminar on Press and Publication for Developing Countries, alongside participants from over twenty nations. During our month-long training and informative visit, we toured many leading organizations, departments, and industrial undertakings. At that time, China was still grappling with the challenge of opening up to the world while maintaining its one-party structure and socialist ideals, all while striving for nationwide progress and development.

In the industrial sector, we observed strict government control. Although industrial and manufacturing processes had begun to improve, the focus was still largely on quantity rather than quality. However, it was evident that the leadership recognized the need to adopt modern management and administrative methods. These practices were just starting to take root in the industrial sector but had not yet reached the desired level of effectiveness.

To accelerate progress and create a highly skilled workforce capable of transforming the industrial and manufacturing sectors, the government established numerous institutes across the country to teach English at the school level. Additionally, they began sending hundreds of thousands of students to universities in the US and Europe to acquire critical knowledge, skills, and leadership abilities necessary for modernizing Chinese enterprises.

With increased financial resources, the state would gain the financial space necessary to further invest in human resource development. As the state becomes wealthier and more prosperous, it would earn respect, dignity, and value in the international community. This financial space could then be used to secure raw materials from around the world and invest

in research and development, fostering a culture of innovation that would allow China to compete globally by producing high-quality products that rival those of other nations.

Over the past decade, China has significantly increased its investment in developing high-quality human capital, aiming to make its people happier and more prosperous. In education, spending rose from USD 349 billion in 2013 (4% of GDP) to USD 870 billion in 2023 (5.3% of GDP), with a strong emphasis on vocational training, digital literacy, and STEM education to create a more skilled and adaptable workforce.

Healthcare investment similarly grew from USD 357 billion (5.5% of GDP) to USD 1.1 trillion (7% of GDP), focusing on improving access to modern healthcare services, addressing public health challenges, and ensuring better overall well-being. Additionally, the widespread adoption of WeChat has revolutionized how people meet their obligations toward the government and manage everyday tasks, from making purchases to accessing public services, further enhancing convenience and efficiency in daily life. China's per capita income also saw a substantial increase, rising from approximately USD 7,000 in 2013 to over USD 12,000 in 2023, reflecting the overall improvements in living standards and economic prosperity driven by these investments.

The second major transformation in China over the past decade has been the adoption of ultramodern management, administration, and marketing practices across all companies, corporations, and bodies, whether in the govern-

ment or private sector. Ten years ago, many Chinese companies were primarily focused on manufacturing and cost efficiency, often lagging behind in advanced management practices and innovation. However, by 2023, these companies have evolved into world-class entities, rivaling top-notch global competitors.

In 2013, China's corporate sector was still emerging on the global stage, with many companies struggling to adopt best practices in customer focus, quality assurance, and innovation. The emphasis was largely on scale and production capacity rather than high-quality management. Research and development (R&D) spending by Chinese companies was around 2% of GDP, with most of it concentrated in state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

By 2023, China's corporate sector has undergone a dramatic transformation. Companies across the board have embraced best management practices, such as customer-centric strategies, rigorous quality assurance, aggressive marketing, and extensive automation. The corporate R&D spending has surged to 2.5% of GDP, with private companies playing a significant role. This shift has resulted in Chinese companies rising to the ranks of world-class firms, competing fiercely in global markets.

For example, in 2013, China had only two companies in the top 100 of the Fortune Global 500 list. By 2023, this number had grown to 14, with many more companies gaining international recognition for their innovation, quality, and customer focus. Additionally, the adoption of cutting-edge technologies like AI,

big data, and automation has further propelled Chinese companies to the forefront of global competition.

This transformation is evident in sectors such as technology, where companies like Huawei and Alibaba have become global leaders, and in automotive, where Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are challenging traditional automakers worldwide.

Pakistan can draw valuable lessons from China's transformation into a highly efficient, innovation-driven economy. Firstly, shifting focus from an export-led growth model to a more balanced, high-value economy is crucial. This requires upgrading industries to compete globally by adopting best practices in management, quality assurance, and innovation. Government-led initiatives, similar to China's "Made in China 2025," can play a pivotal role in guiding this transformation, supported by increased funding for research and development and incentives for private sector growth. Embracing technological advancements, particularly in digital transformation and automation, is essential to enhancing efficiency and global competitiveness. Investing in education, especially in STEM fields, will help create a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation. Additionally, addressing urbanization challenges and meeting rising domestic demand for quality goods can fuel further innovation. Finally, adopting sustainable practices and complying with environmental regulations can give Pakistan a competitive edge in both domestic and international markets. These lessons can help Pakistan build a more resilient, prosperous, and innovation-led economy.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan's meat exports to China

Pakistan's meat exports to China have surpassed the US\$2.6 million mark from January to July 2024, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

This notable achievement underscores the growing demand for Pakistani meat products in the Chinese market, further solidifying Pakistan's position as a key exporter of quality meat.

Owais Mir, Chairman of the DEA Group and a leading meat exporter, highlighted that boiled beef has been the primary export item driving this growth. "The surge in popularity of Pakistani boiled beef among Chinese consumers is due to its exceptional quality and competitive pricing, making it an attractive option for importers in China," he said.

Mir emphasized that this development reflected the concerted efforts by both Pakistan and China to further strengthen their economic ties. "This growth in meat trade is a testament to the collaborative initiatives by both governments to explore new avenues of cooperation," he remarked while speaking to China Economic Net. "We anticipate continued growth in this sector, further enhancing the economic partnership between the two countries."

Chaudhary Javed Saleem, a prominent figure in the meat and agriculture products industry, expressed optimism about the sustained positive trend in meat exports. He noted that both governments are committed to further strengthening economic ties and exploring new opportunities for collaboration in the agricultural sector.

The successful expansion of Pakistan's meat exports to China highlights the country's dedication to diversifying its export portfolio and increasing its global competitiveness. Pakistan's boiled meat exports to China during the first seven months of 2024 amounted to 540 tons, valued at \$2.607 million. Mongolia and Pakistan are currently the top exporters of boiled meat to China, with Mongolia exporting 1,640 tons in the same period.

It is noteworthy that the GACC allowed Pakistani companies to export boiled meat to China last year, and to date, three Pakistani companies have been registered with the GACC for this purpose. The continued rise in meat exports is expected to bolster Pakistan's economy and contribute to the deepening economic ties between Pakistan and China.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmii. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

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

Positive developments include strengthened economic ties under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has transformed Pakistan's infrastructure and boosted bilateral trade and investment. Military cooperation and joint strategic initiatives have enhanced regional stability and served mutual security interests. Challenges, such as occasional strains in bilateral relations due to differing geopolitical alignments and economic issues, have been managed through diplomatic dialogue and strategic reassessment. Both nations reaffirm their commitment to a lasting partnership built on mutual trust and common objectives.

Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue, nuclear program, and Pak-China friendship underscores its unwavering dedication to national sovereignty, security, and strategic interests. Despite enduring numerous challenges and fluctuations in international relations, Pakistani governments and leaders consistently prioritize these core issues as foundational pillars of their foreign policy. As global dynamics evolve, Pakistan remains steadfast in upholding its principles while pursuing partnerships and initiatives that advance its strategic goals and contribute to regional peace, stability, and development.

Pakistan's sacrifices concerning Kashmir have been significant. The nation has endured wars with India, notably in 1947-48, 1965, and 1999, each exacting a toll in human lives and

economic resources. Pakistan has encountered international isolation periodically due to its stance on Kashmir; nevertheless, it steadfastly supports the Kashmiri cause despite the attendant challenges. Pakistan's nuclear program exemplifies its resilience and strategic foresight. In response to regional security concerns, particularly following Indo-Pakistani conflicts and India's nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998, Pakistan initiated the development of nuclear capabilities. This decision, driven by the imperative to uphold deterrence against perceived threats, has sparked global controversy while domestically perceived as safeguarding national security. The sacrifices made for the nuclear program have been manifold. Economically, diverting resources toward nuclear development has occasion-

ally strained Pakistan's budget, affecting sectors like education and healthcare. Internationally, Pakistan has encountered sanctions and diplomatic pressures; nevertheless, it remains steadfast in upholding a credible nuclear deterrent, viewing it as indispensable for national sovereignty and regional stability. The friendship between Pakistan and China stands as a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and regional strategy. Dating back to the early 1950s, this relationship has evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership encompassing economic cooperation, military collaboration, and diplomatic support. Sacrifices in the context of Pak-China friendship have been less tangible but no less signifi-

cant. Pakistan has navigated complex regional dynamics to maintain strong ties with China, often balancing between competing global powers. This relationship has been pivotal in Pakistan's development, including infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which have the potential to transform Pakistan's economic landscape. Pakistan's commitments to the Kashmir issue, its nuclear program, and its friendship with China underscore its unwavering dedication to principles of sovereignty, security, and regional stability. Pakistan remains steadfast, viewing these causes not merely as matters of policy but as integral to its national identity and future aspirations on the global stage. As Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of international relations, these pillars will remain fundamental in shaping its trajectory and defining its place in the world.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's political culture often fosters blame among its leadership, which is then propagated to the public. In Pakistan, political opponents are frequently accused of undermining the country's fundamental core issues, often without substantial evidence or justification, driven by political rivalries and animosity. Despite these challenges, it is reassuring that the nation and its leadership remain steadfastly committed to our fundamental core issues of Kashmir, our Nuclear Program, and Pak-China friendship. The people of Pakistan also demonstrate strong commitment to these foundational concerns. This clear stance and commitment on our core issues will guide Pakistan towards achieving its goals of development and prosperity.

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi



E-Commerce in Pakistan: a rapid ascent and promising future

Pakistan's e-commerce landscape is surging onto the global stage, now ranked as the 46th largest market worldwide, according to the International Trade Administration.

This dynamic growth is driven by a burgeoning middle class, widespread smartphone and internet adoption, advanced e-commerce infrastructure, and robust government support. Recent figures from Statista reveal that Pakistan's e-commerce revenue soared to \$5.2 billion in 2023, surpassing many developing nations.

Looking ahead, the market is poised for continued expansion with a compound annual growth rate of 5.92% projected from 2024 to 2029. By the end of this period, revenue is expected to hit \$6.711 billion.

Pakistan's status as a mobile-first nation is evident, with over 80% of internet users accessing online platforms via smartphones. This trend is reflected in e-commerce, where 58% of purchases were made through mobile devices in 2023—a figure that continues to climb.

Data from DataSparkle underscores this shift, noting that monthly active users of mobile shopping apps surpassed 16.6 million by July 2024, signaling a surge in mobile e-commerce and growing consumer preference for app-based shopping.

The market's lucrative potential is attracting both international heavyweights and local players. Global giants like Alibaba's AliExpress and Amazon are making inroads, while home-grown platforms such as Daraz, DealCart, and Savyour are also thriving. Daraz, in particular,

leads the field with over 7 million monthly active users as of July 2024.

Moreover, international entrants like SHEIN and Temu have made significant inroads, with their apps ranking among the top 15 shopping applications in Pakistan by mid-2024.

Hina Cassino
hinashamshad994@gmail.com

A Call for Uniform Electricity Prices: Relief for all Pakistanis

Dear Editor,
 I am writing to bring attention to the pressing issue of electricity prices in our country. As you may know, the current prices are unsustainable for many households and businesses. It is imperative that we demand a uniform electricity price throughout Pakistan.

Our country has the capacity to generate over 45,000 megawatts of electricity, exceeding our requirements. However, the transmission lines can only handle 22-25,000 megawatts. To address this issue, I propose that the government engage in talks with local and public independent power producers (IPPs) to find a solution.

Furthermore, I suggest privatizing electricity distribution companies and issuing licenses to additional companies in each region. This will encourage competition and drive down prices.

I also take issue with the recent announcement by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif (PML-N) providing electricity price relief exclusively for Punjab. This move will only create despair in other regions. I demand that the government provide relief for all Pakistanis, regardless of their province.

I urge the Prime Minister to take immediate action and announce a nationwide reduction of RS.20 per unit in electricity prices. This is the only way to provide genuine relief to the people of Pakistan. Let us come together to demand a fair and uniform electricity price for all.

Sincerely,
Adan Irshad, Rawalpindi
adanirshad361@gmail.com

PIDE Hosts 4th RASTA Conference to Unveil Key Research Findings in Education, Healthcare, Exports, & Investment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted the 4th RASTA Conference, a two-day event that showcased pivotal research findings in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, exports, and investment. Attended by policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, the conference underscored the importance of research-driven strategies in shaping Pakistan's future. The event commenced with a detailed RASTA Progress Report presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Project Director of RASTA. He highlighted that the conference would feature five technical sessions and two showcase sessions, covering topics such as food and agriculture, fiscal management, and more. These sessions brought together 17 research teams to present their findings, fostering an extensive knowledge network and promoting high-quality, evidence-based policy research.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the essential role of research in policy development. He noted that the conference featured presentations of cutting-edge research, including studies on the mental health and well-being of healthcare profes-

sionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government policies on olive production. In addition to the technical sessions, the conference included showcase sessions highlighting significant projects, such as improvements in Pakistan's electricity billing system and findings from the 2024 round of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS).

The first session of the conference, titled "Education and Healthcare," featured an array of critical insights into the challenges and opportunities within Pakistan's pharmaceutical, mental health, and higher education sectors. Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the Institute of Business Management, Karachi, opened the session with a presentation on the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan.

Following this, Mir Muhammad Shah from Sukkur IBA University presented a study focusing on the mental health challenges faced by healthcare professionals in Pakistan. Shah's research underscored the severe impact of resource shortages, such as inadequate staffing and insufficient mental health support systems, which contribute to the high levels of stress and burnout among healthcare workers. He proposed several policy



recommendations, including the implementation of a General Practitioner (GP) system that could alleviate pressure on specialists and a national initiative for enhanced training of healthcare providers to better manage stress and improve overall healthcare delivery. Aamer Raza from the University of Peshawar then provided a critical examination of the 18th Amendment's impact on Pakistan's higher education system.

The second session, focusing on "Pakistan's Export Potential," was a

deep dive into the opportunities and challenges within the halal beef and IT industries. Shahzad Kouser from COMSATS University, Islamabad, began the session by analyzing the global demand for halal beef and Pakistan's potential to become a leading exporter. He identified key challenges, including adherence to international standards, logistical bottlenecks, and limited market access, which currently hinder Pakistan's competitiveness in the global market. Kouser proposed a multi-faceted strategy to

overcome these barriers, including improving standards compliance, enhancing supply chain infrastructure, and exploring new markets through targeted trade agreements. Following this, Naveed Arshad from LUMS, Lahore, presented a compelling case for the IT sector as a significant driver of economic growth. The session was moderated by Zafar ul Hasan, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided additional context and facilitated discussions on how Pakistan could effectively position itself in these emerging global markets.

In the RASTA Showcase-I session, Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, presented her research on improving efficiency in Pakistan's electricity billing system. Malik's study explored innovative approaches to reduce energy wastage and enhance the financial health of the energy sector.

The final session of the conference, centered on "Investment Strategies," featured critical analyses of how Pakistan can attract and retain investment, particularly in light of recent economic challenges. Syed Twangar Hussain Kazmi from Torque Communities, Islamabad, provided a roadmap for leveraging Foreign Direct Invest-

ment (FDI) to spur local innovation and economic growth. Drawing on examples from East Asian economies, Kazmi highlighted the importance of creating a favorable investment climate through policy stability, infrastructure development, and innovative financing mechanisms. Abdul Wahid from NUML, Islamabad, discussed the alarming trend of decapitalization in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

Tomorrow, on the second day of the conference, the following research will be presented: 'Impact of Government Policies on the Production of Olive in Pakistan,' 'The Political Economy of Wheat Subsidy and Food Security in Gilgit-Baltistan,' 'Taxing the Rental Income in Agriculture: Analysis of Alternate Options,' 'Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024 Round' by Durre Nayab, Director of Research, 'The Governance Structure and Flaws Within: A Case Study of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Its Public Sector Entities,' 'Governing Public Sector Projects in Gilgit-Baltistan: A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis,' 'Documentation Simplification via Tax E-Filing: Examining Barriers to Adoption and Continuance Intention of Using E-Filing by Taxpayers in Pakistan,' and 'Analysis of Tax Expenditures in Pakistan.'

Skills360 holds a first of its kind convocation ceremony, 20 high achievers receive jobs

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a significant step towards empowering Pakistan's youth, Skills360, the country's first privately-owned edtech platform, held its inaugural convocation ceremony in Karachi, where over 100 students, hailing from diverse backgrounds, were awarded course completion certificates. The Skill Development Council (SDC) approved certificates were awarded in Graphic Designing and CMS Development.

The event was attended by senior representatives from Skills360, graduating students, their parents, and faculty members. In a move that underscores the tangible impact of the courses offered, more than 20 of the highest achievers within their respective programs managed to secure jobs right after graduation. These opportunities were provided by ProByte Pvt. Ltd., one of Skills360's key technical



support partners. Mr. Kashif Shah, Executive Director of Skills360, delivered the welcome note, setting the tone for a ceremony that celebrated not just academic achievement but the promise of a

brighter future for the graduates. Despite his absence, Dr. Shaukat Wasi, Director of Academics at Skills360 and a prominent advocate for skill development in Pakistan, sent a message to the graduating students where he

emphasized the importance of such programs in transforming the lives of young Pakistanis, particularly those from marginalized communities who often find higher education and quality training out of reach due to financial constraints.

Mr. Burhan Mirza, Co-Founder of Skills360, presented a progress report that detailed the remarkable journey of the institution from a passion project to one of the leading skill development entities in Pakistan. Addressing the graduates,

Mr. Mirza also highlighted Skills360's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, pointing out that the institution welcomes students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. He encouraged the graduates to use their newfound skills to create value for society, emphasizing that their success should be measured not only by personal gain but by the positive impact they have on their communities.

Embassy in Paris hosts four-member Pakistan Paralympics contingent



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The four-member Pakistani contingent participating in the Paris Paralympics visited the Embassy of Pakistan in Paris on Tuesday.

Ambassador of Pakistan to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad interacted with the delegation regarding Paralympics preparations. He appreciated the tremendous achievements of Haider Ali who is raring to go at the mega event.

Haider Ali will participate in Discus Throw Event in Paris Paralympics 2024 on September 6. As Tokyo Paralympics 2020/2021 Gold Medallist, Haider Ali will be defending his title.

DR Congo jail break attempt leaves 129 dead

KINSHASA: An attempted jail break at the Democratic Republic of Congo's largest and chronically overcrowded prison this week has left at least 129 people dead, the interior minister said Tuesday.

The circumstances around the bid to bust out of Makala prison in the capital Kinshasa in the early hours of Monday remain unclear. But Interior Minister Jacquemain Shabani in a statement released by video to the media on Tuesday announced a provisional death toll of 129 people.

They included "24 who were shot after warnings", he said. At least 59 others had been wounded and were receiving care, he added.

Witnesses told AFP that they had heard gunfire at around 2:00am on Monday and that it lasted for several hours in the area of the prison, a popular and residential neighbourhood.

On Monday, police had cordoned off the streets leading to the prison, AFP journalists at the scene saw.

Pakistan, Thailand discuss collaborative cultural initiatives, shared heritage

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Thailand on Tuesday explored potential joint cultural and art projects aimed at fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of their shared heritage.

According to a Foreign Officer press

release, an eight-member Thai delegation, led by Chaiyapon Suk-learn, Director General of Religious Affairs, and including the Most Venerable Anil Sakya, met with Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui to discuss strengthening bilateral relations.



The discussions centered on enhancing bilateral relations and celebrating the profound cultural bond between Pakistan and Thailand, rooted in their shared Buddhist heritage.

ISSI holds Thought Leaders Forum focusing on 'Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan: A Bridge to Peace and Harmony'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In its latest edition of Thought Leaders Forum (TLF), the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a senior monk from Thailand, Most Venerable (MV) Dr. Anil Sakya. Organized by the China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC), the session focused on "Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan: A Bridge to Peace and Harmony."

Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, highlighted MV Dr. Anil Sakya's illustrious journey as a revered spiritual leader and a distinguished scholar, noting his significant contributions to the understanding of the Buddhist philosophy and heritage worldwide. He emphasized Dr. Anil Sakya's unique ability to

bridge the traditional principles of Theravada Buddhism with the contemporary challenges faced by lay-people, making him a beacon of adaptability and relevance in today's world.

MV Dr. Anil Sakya, in his address, emphasized the profound significance of Pakistan's unique Buddhist heritage, which dated back over thousands of years and represented some of the most authentic and ancient Buddhist sites and artifacts in the world. He underlined that not only Pakistan was a cradle of Buddhist civilization but also this preserved heritage served as a living tradition inspiring and guiding the world in fostering peace and harmony in these challenging times.

Drawing from his personal experiences, MV Dr. Anil Sakya

spoke about his numerous visits to Pakistan over the past decades and his efforts to create better awareness about the country's cultural and religious landscape. He shared anecdotes from his teaching experiences in Thailand and the United States, where he emphasized the universality of Buddhist principles and the importance of Pakistan's Buddhist heritage.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, stressed the relevance of Buddhist teachings in today's world, particularly in promoting peace, mutual respect, co-existence and harmony amidst global challenges.

The Forum was also attended by a Thai delegation led by Mr. Chaiyapon Suk-learn, Director-General of the Department of Religious Affairs, Thailand. A



cross-section of people including academics, think-tank experts, and members of civil society and the media participated.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,356.31	78,283.29
Day's High	Day's Low
78,644.96	78,250.89
Index Value	Change
4,905,341,953	+73.02
Percentage	Time
+0.09%	3 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,298.46	-65.38
Percentage	Time
-0.78%	3 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
41,070.51	-492.57
Percentage	Time
-1.19%	3 Sept, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,686.31	-14.56
Percentage	Time
-0.038%	3 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.25	189.50
Bahrain Dinar	737.02	745.02
Canadian Dollar	205.30	207.70
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	307.36	310.11
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.56	913.06
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	721.22	729.72
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.91	74.46
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	330.20	333.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.54	76.19
UK Pound Sterling	364.80	368.30
US Dollar	278.50	280.00

Simpaisa Partners with Eastnets to Enhance Payment Security

Commerce Desk

Simpaisa is proud to announce a strategic partnership with Eastnets, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing commitment to enhanced fraud protection and compliance. Through the integration of Eastnets' cutting-edge Safewatch Screening (SWS) and Safewatch AML (Anti-Money Laundering) products, Simpaisa is elevating the security and integrity of its payment ecosystem to new heights.

Kamil Shaikh, COO of Simpaisa, remarked, "The addition of Eastnets' Safewatch Screening and AML technology boosts our security and compliance across digital payments. This upgrade enhances our fraud and cybersecurity defences, solidifying our role as a trusted leader in emerging markets."

Khalil Sharawneh, Eastnets GCC Director, commented, "Remittances from the GCC are vital to many fast-growing economies and transformative to the lives of millions. Given our mission, Eastnets is delighted to have on-boarded Simpaisa, enabling safe and secure payments across their markets."

SECP issues warning against fraudulent social media and WhatsApp Groups

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a public alert regarding the increasing number of fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups that are operating under the guise of investment training courses. These groups are impersonating well-known local and international business personalities or reputable international financial companies to deceive the public.

The operators/handlers of these groups are charging fees from individuals to grant them membership, promising exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments. SECP warns the public that these activities are fraudulent and are aimed at looting innocent people.

Terrorism should not be mixed with political issues: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that those who consider borrowing the solution to every problem of the country have jeopardized the economy and threatened the integrity of the country.

He said the country is now buried under a mountain of debt, and it has become difficult to get out.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if all the time and energy of the Ministry of Finance officials and CEOs of large state-owned companies is spent dealing with energy and loans, how will

the country develop? Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the economic managers and the heads of big institutions like PIA and Railways have to deal with one borrower after another.

Repayment of loans also keeps them busy, draining away all the time needed for planning and development.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that, similarly, economic managers spend most of their time repaying old loans and obtaining new loans to keep the system afloat.

The business leader said that arranging loan repayments and taking new loans has become a routine that prevents anyone from doing anything constructive.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that debt management is becoming more complicated and



time-consuming. At this time, the IMF wants Pakistan's friendly countries to first roll over

the debt of twelve billion dollars, after which it will start lending. In contrast, the friendly countries and other lenders want Pakistan to start the IMF program first, after which they will start lending.

In this conflict, the country is experiencing a delay in receiving the IMF loan, causing losses and increasing investors' anxiety. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's resources are limited, which the IMF is concerned about.

Some important sectors of the country's economy are not ready to pay taxes, worsening the situation instead of improving it.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that now is the time to understand the implications of the policy of considering the protestors as a threat to the state and to make a policy to resolve political issues through understanding. At the same time, terrorism should be dealt with full force.

Remarkable contributions

Governor KPK, Faisal Karim Kundi, presenting the award to Malik Khuda Baksh, Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Energy for the year 2024-2025, for his remarkable contributions to the solar industry.



UN and EFP strengthen collaboration on SDGs and fair work in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Employers' Federation of Pakistan, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization Office for Pakistan, met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, to discuss enhancing private sector involvement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. EFP presented its initiatives, including the development of the Pakistan Business Task Force (PBTf) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and presented a three-year roadmap for private-sector engagement in the process in achieving the sustainable development agenda.

Mohamed Yahya, the

UN Resident Coordinator, commended EFP's proactive role and emphasized the crucial contribution of the private sector in achieving the SDGs.

Malik Tahir Javaid, President of EFP, elaborated on the constitution of the PBTf under the UNSDCF, describing it as a coalition of key stakeholders committed to driving the achievement of the SDGs.

Syed Hasnain Mazher, Director of EFP, emphasized the critical role of skills development and capacity building, especially for SMEs.

Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General of EFP, presented an ambitious roadmap for business engagement, particularly highlighting the private sector's potential contribution to the Sustainability Agenda.

APDA delegation calls on FPCCI President

Commerce Desk

A delegation of All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association (APDA) visited FPCCI under the leadership of Mr. Sardar Irfan President APDA Islamabad. They met Mr. Atif Ikram Shaikh President FPCCI at Capital Office Islamabad. Vice President of CCI Tariq Mehmood Jadoon was also present. The delegation included Punjab President Tariq Rajput, General Secretary Mohammad Wasim Abbasi, President G-8 Center Ajab Khan, President G-10 Center Qasim Shah, President F-11 Center Sheikh Waqas and others. The delegation expressed its concerns on various issues including taxes, vehicle transfer issues, unnecessary and self-imposed taxes, arbitrariness and harassment by the excise office, vehicle registration and said that car dealers complying with legal requirements. And importers are the most affected. Due to the arbitrary nature of excise officials



and staff and illegal taxes, doing business is extremely difficult. The delegation sought the cooperation of President FPCCI to solve their problems, it is important that we compete in the local market.

President FPCCI assured the delegation that we are ready to resolve all APDA issues. He said that FPCCI continues to support all business commu-

nity and industries without discrimination.

Atif Ikram Shaikh President FPCCI added that the business community is going through a difficult period, but FPCCI is solving the important problems of the business community, increasing exports, increasing foreign exchange reserves for the recovery of the country's economy. Striving

for Working day and night to strengthen and promote industrialization.

He emphasized to solve the problems faced by the business community amicably and sensibly to improve the current situation. He assured that FPCCI will solve the problems of car dealers by contacting the concerned institutions as soon as possible.

K-Electric's projects of 370MW have received 2690MW in offers thus far

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: K-Electric (KE), Pakistan's only private electric utility, is building momentum towards doubling its solar capacity by adding clean energy into its generation mix. After breaking ground earlier this month with a total of 15 bids for 150MW solar power projects in Balochistan, KE has made yet another stride in the by receiving seven bids for its 220 MV site neutral hybrid project in Dhabaji, Sindh. This project is the first in Pakistan to integrate solar and wind energy for improved operational and financial efficiency. These unique specifications also made this project technically demanding. Therefore, the resounding investor interest is another outstanding success in the

transition towards renewable energy.

Sharing his views on the achievement, Moonis Alvi CEO KE said, "As of now, K-Electric's renewable energy projects at Winder and Bela in Balochistan, and the latest one in Dhabaji, Sindh, totaling 370 MW have received 2690 MW in offers. The site neutral hybrid project is in continuation of our milestones and testifies the investor confidence in K-Electric, as well as Pakistan's growing potential. We are indebted to NEPRA for continued support throughout the procurement process. We deeply appreciate all investors sharing the same vision and commitment to strengthening energy security, a testament of economic recovery and confidence in privatization process."

Ethiopian cultural troupe set to enthrall audiences at ICCI Hall

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ethiopia have a long history of cooperation and friendship with strong ties in various fields such as trade, culture, and education. The similarities between Pakistan and Ethiopia are numerous, including their commitment to sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic development. Both countries also share a rich cultural heritage and a strong desire for regional peace and stability. This has been stated by Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia while talking to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit to the Chamber House.

The Ambassador praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's endeavors in fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia as well as with African nations at large. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to further strengthen the strategic partnership and bring the people of both countries closer together. He stressed that collective efforts are essential to deepen mutual understanding, promote economic cooperation and enhance the overall bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Beker announced that the Embassy plans to host a cultural ceremony at the Chamber House on September 11, coinciding with Ethiopian National Day. The event aims to showcase the

rich cultural heritage of Ethiopia, featuring a cultural troupe that will perform for the audience. This initiative seeks to foster greater understanding and closeness between the people of Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Furthermore, on September 12, the Embassy will organize a marathon in Islamabad, which will bring together esteemed runners from Ethiopia, diplomats, dignitaries, students, and other participants.

On this occasion, the 'Green Legacy' initiative of H. E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed was discussed as a potential area of collaboration.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari acknowledged Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula's efforts and pledged his whole-



hearted cooperation and support to the Embassy in strengthening the existing relationship. He stated that hosting an event at ICCI on Ethiopian National Day would be an honor for the Chamber. Bakhtawari recognized the Ambassador's contributions to deepening the partnership by warmly terming him the "Ambassador of Pakistan."

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group and Chairman Pakistan-Africa Friendship Association, praised Ambassador Beker's initiatives by

emphasizing that African states hold paramount importance for Pakistan in terms of exploring new business opportunities and boosting its exports.

He recognized the immense potential for trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Africa and expressed optimism that collaborative efforts will bear fruit and lead to deepening of relations in all fields.

ICCI member Kashif Zaheer, Zia Chadurhy, Nisar Mirza, and Secretary General Ghulam Mustafa Siddique were also present on the occasion.

Bangladesh complete historic series sweep against Pakistan

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan scored unbeaten 22 and 21 respectively to guide Bangladesh to their first-ever Test series victory against Pakistan on Day 5 of the second Test here on Tuesday.

Shakib Al Hasan scored the winning runs as he struck Abrar Ahmed for a boundary, steering Bangladesh to clean sweep the series 2-0.

Bangladesh needed 63 runs to win in two sessions on Day 5, with Najmul Hossain Shanto playing at 33 and Mominul Haque at 20.

However, Salman Ali Agha halted Bangladesh's progress with the wicket of Najmul, courtesy of Abdullah Shafique's catch at short leg.

Bangladesh skipper was a notable contributor in the modest chase with 38 runs.

Shortly afterwards, Mominul became Abrar Ahmed's first wicket in the series after scoring 34 runs.

Bangladesh's veteran batters Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan then joined hands and steered the side to the



historic victory. Earlier on Day 5, Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam resumed their innings at 31 and nine respectively with Bangladesh needing 148 runs to sweep the series. Mir Hamza gave Pakistan their first breakthrough as he castled Zakir after he played a quick knock of 40 off 39

with the help of three boundaries and two sixes.

Shadman soon followed his partner after scoring 24 as he fell prey to Khurram Shahzad.

However, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mominul Haque fought back with an unbeaten 52-run stand to drag the total to 122-2 when the Lunch was

called. Prior to that, Hasan Mahmud led the bowling attack with his maiden five-wicket haul to help

Wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan and all-rounder Salman Ali Agha offered some resilience with their gutsy 43 and 47 knocks before the home side was booked on a modest total.

Other than Mahmud Hasan, Nahid Rana was the key bowler for Bangladesh with four wickets.

Prior to that, Khurram Shahzad took 6-90, while Mir Hamza and Salman Ali Agha bagged two wickets each to book Bangladesh for 262 in their first innings.

Khurram and Mir's new ball spell left Bangladesh reeling at 26-6 before Lunch on Day 3, however, Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz helped the side recover.

They stitched a partnership of 165 runs before Mehidy departed after scoring 78 runs from 124 balls with the help of twelve boundaries and one six.

Meanwhile, Litton carried the team with a gutsy century, scoring 138 runs from 228 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and four sixes.

PSB initiates measures to curb financial misconduct

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has initiated strict measures to ensure financial transparency and accountability among sports federations.



PSB has instructed all federations to submit their annual audited accounts and bank statements by September 15, 2024, said a press release.

According to a letter issued by PSB which is also available on its website, all federations must submit fully audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

These statements must be certified by a recognized chartered accountancy firm. Additionally, certified copies of all bank statements from January 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, must be submitted.

The letter said that these measures are being implemented to ensure that the funds provided to the federations are utilized for the development and support of athletes. It further said that failure to provide these documents may result in the suspension of future financial support to the federations.

The Pakistan Sports Board emphasized that the aim of these measures is not just compliance with rules and regulations but also to ensure that the funds are used correctly and benefit the athletes representing the country.

These steps are part of PSB's broader efforts to ensure financial transparency, which is crucial for the development of sports and the encouragement of athletes in Pakistan.

National Kabaddi players training camp begins



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The training camp of the national team players in preparations for the World Beach Kabaddi Championship kicked off here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Tuesday.

According to Secretary General, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, Muhammad Sarwar Rana, the selected players will participate in the World Beach Kabaddi Championship to be played in Iran from September 25 to 30.

He said that players from different countries will take part in the Championship.

A total of 18 players have been invited for National training Beach Kabaddi camp including Usman Ahmed, Afaq Khan, Shoaib Mumtaz Ali, Junaid Khan, Kashif Razaq, Mudassar Ali, Muhammad Safian, Bilal Khan, Usman Khalid, Usman Ghani, Farhan Ali, Muhammad Amjad Ali, Akhlaq Ahmed, Muhammad Usman Arshad, Muhammad Imran, Waqar Ali, Said ul Maluke Khan and Farman Ali. Nabeel Ahmed Rana are performing coaching responsibilities.

Khawar Hyat Memorial Tennis Tournament sees intense quarter-final matches

ISLAMABAD, SEP 03 (APP): The Khawar Hyat Memorial National Ranking Tennis Tournament saw intense competitions as players battled for spots in the semifinals across various categories at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Tuesday.



In the Men's Singles quarter-finals, Muzamil Murtaza fought back to win against Abdullah Adnan 5-7, 7-5, 7-5. Muhammad Shoaib also came back from behind to advance to the last four stage, defeating Mudassar Murtaza 5-7, 6-3, 6-2. Yousaf Khalil secured his place in the semifinal with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Barkatullah, while seasoned player Aqeel Khan comfortably dispatched Ahmad Nael Qureshi with a 6-3, 6-1 win.

The Men's Doubles quarter-finals featured dominating performances, with the pair of Mudassar Murtaza and Shahzad Khan defeating M. Talha Khan and M. Huzafa Khan 6-1, 6-0. In a closely contested match, Hamza Roman and Saqib Hayat edged out Sami Zeb Khan and Abdullah Adnan with a score of 7-6(3), 6-7(5), 10-8.

In the Boys' 18 & Under Singles quarter-finals, Bilal Asim overpowered Muhammad Salar 6-1, 6-4, while Hamza Roman won against Abdullah Azhar 6-3, 6-3. Ahmad Nael Qureshi also advanced, beating Asad Zaman 6-1, 6-4.

In the Boys' 14 & Under Singles quarter-finals, Muhammad Junaid triumphed over Zohaib Amjad 4-0, 1-4, 4-2, and M. Hassan Usmani overwhelmed M. Ibraheem Gill 4-0, 4-0.

The Boys' 12 & Under Singles quarter-finals saw Rashid Ali dominate Robin Amoun with a 4-0, 4-0 victory, and M. Ibraheem Gill beat M. Suhaib Javed 4-1, 4-1.

The tournament will continue on Wednesday with fixtures starting at 10:00 am.

Happy moment

RAWALPINDI: Chief Guest Chaudhary Nadeem Ijaz, CEO Blue World City awards winning trophy to Bangladesh cricket team captain Najmul Hossain Shanto after winning the Test series against Pakistan at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



Father of DG Sports laid to rest

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The funeral prayer of M Rafiq Butt, the father of Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal Butt, was offered at Jamia Masjid Valencia Town on Tuesday. The deceased was laid to rest at the graveyard of Valencia Town.



Punjab Minister for Sport Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial attended the funeral prayer which was led by Hafiz Shahid Butt, the son of the deceased.

Besides them, Additional Secretary Sports Farhan Farooq, former Chief Secretary Zahid Saeed, former Commissioner Multan Bilal Butt, former DC Toba Tek Singh Mohsin Rasheed, Sports Coordinator Malik Anooosh Khokhar, Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, DSOs, top officials of different sports federations, associations and hundreds of people from different walks of life participated in the funeral prayers.

Jansher Khan hails PM for extending all-out support to undergo operation successfully

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Jansher Khan, the famous world squash champion and world no 1 player for 10 consecutive years, Guinness World Record holder, Sitora Imtiaz, Hilal Imtiaz, and Nishan Imtiaz thanked the doctor and the hospital after successfully undergoing surgery on both his knees at Zimri Orthopaedic Hospital in Islamabad here on Tuesday.

"I thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif for extending all out support to me in undergoing my knees operation. The doctors who made my operation successful with hard work and dedication and also thanked the people, friends, and relatives who sent special prayers and messages for me," Jansher Khan told APP on phone from the hospital.

Jansher Khan, explaining the reason for such a big operation, said that for about a year, I had severe pain in both knees while praying, walking, and doing squash, but I had the strength and endurance to control the pain, but the pain has been for some time unbearable.

The doctors advised me to do the operation as soon as possible, due to which I



had to follow the advice, because of which the operation had to be done, he added. "I could have problems and more serious problems and there are very competent and good doctors in Pakistan, due to which I prefer to get my treatment done in my beloved country and I am feeling very happy and healthy," Jansher said.

Jansher Khan further said that it was a matter of pride for me to shine the name of Pakistan in the field of squash for 10 long years. Being number 1 for 10 years and working hard day and night to get

a record title. He said due to which I did not give full time and treatment to my health because of that I had problems with my knees and back. Jansher Khan added that today young players should be advised to take special care of their knees and back along with their training and take small pains seriously so that they can be treated in time and avoid major problems.

Jansher Khan also said special thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif

and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Army, and Pakistan Air Force who always extended support to me in my difficult times.

Jansher Khan said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif gave me full support and guidance in the condition of my illness and approved my treatment immediately.

Jansher Khan further said that the Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif always helped, guided, and encouraged him. Even when Jansher Khan won the World Championship in the '90s, Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif used to encourage me, especially in Lahore, and now after retirement, Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif did not forget me and did not leave me alone and provided me with all kinds of help and guidance.

"I thanked Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif from the core of my heart," Jansher concluded.

Qatar Classic from Sept 30

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 21st edition of the Qatar Q-Terminals Classic is set to showcase top-quality squash action at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in Doha, Qatar from September 30 to October 5.

This year's event will feature both men's and women's draw, building on the success of the previous year, with reigning champions Ali Farag and Hania El Hammamy returning to defend their titles, said a press release.

Ali Farag, the men's top seed and a three-time winner of the Qatar Classic, will be aiming to continue his dominance on the Khalifa Complex glass court. Farag's triumph in the 2023

event was part of his exceptional season, where he secured seven victories, making it his best season ever on the PSA Squash Tour. In his opening round, Farag will face the talented Indian player Ramit Tandon.

New Zealand's Paul Coll, the World No.2, had an outstanding 23/24 campaign, clinching four titles, including two Platinum level events and one Gold level event. Coll was one of only two players who managed to defeat World No.1 Ali Farag multiple times last season. With adjustments made to his game during the summer, Coll will be eager to surpass his previous achievements and challenge for the top spot in the world rankings.

Diego Elias, the newly crowned

World champion, and Mostafa Asal, the recent British Open champion, are the No.3 and No.4 seeds respectively. Both players will be aiming to close the gap on Farag and Coll in the rankings. Elias, who claimed his first Platinum event title in the Qatar Classic in 2021, will look to carry his World Championships form into this tournament. Asal, featuring in his third Qatar Classic, will be determined to surpass his previous semi-final exits and add more major titles to his name after his recent British Open success.

Local favorite Abdulla Al-Tamimi, Qatar's No.1, will rely on home advantage as he competes in his ninth Qatar Classic. Al-Tamimi's best finish

came in 2022 when he reached the quarter-finals. In this year's edition, he faces a tough challenge in the first round against No.3 seed Mostafa Asal and will need all the support available to score a win over the World No.3.

On the women's side, defending champion Hania El Hammamy will be looking to regain her top form after a challenging second half of the previous season. El Hammamy, currently ranked World No.3, claimed two Platinum event titles last season, including the prestigious British Open. She will face USA's Sabrina Sobhy in her opening fixture as she looks to rejoin the race for World No.1.

Nour ElSherbini, the top seed, aims to go one step further this



year and secure the title after finishing as the runner-up in the last two women's events held in Qatar. ElSherbini, who tops the draw for the second consecutive year, will face former World No.3

Joelle King in the first round.

Nouran Gohar, the No.2 seed, ended the 23/24 season in exceptional form, winning five consecutive events, including her first World Championships title.

Gohar has closed the gap between herself and ElSherbini at the top of the world rankings and is determined to dethrone her compatriot. With her powerful and relentless style of play, Gohar will be a formidable force throughout the season.

The Qatar Q-Terminals Classic will witness fierce competition among the remaining top eight seeds, including Belgian sisters Nele and Tinne Gillis, Georgina Kennedy, Olivia Weaver, and Rowan Elaraby. Exciting matchups are expected, with the Gillis sisters potentially facing each other in the quarter-finals. Weaver taking on ElSherbini, Elaraby challenging Gohar, and Kennedy squaring off against El Hammamy.

Call on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM (P) called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

MQM delegation meets PM; lauds pro-business, export growth policies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and appreciated his economic policies which led to the reduc-

tion in the inflation rate to a single-digit.

The MQM delegation, which was headed by party chairman and Minister for Science and Technology, Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and comprised MNAs Dr Farooq

Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Syed Aminul Haq, also lauded the prime minister's business-friendly policies and measures to boost country's exports, according to a PM Office press release.

The delegation members put forward their proposals

for economic development and uplift of the people of the country's economic hubs, particularly those of Karachi.

Calling the MQM a key coalition partner, the prime minister said that the work on national development initiatives was at a swift pace in

coordination with the coalition parties.

He assured the delegation that the resolution of the issues confronting Karachi city was among the government's priorities for it being the most important one and a backbone of the national economy.

Free economic zones to be activated, says Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD. SEPTEMBER 03: Chairman Prime Minister's Steering Committee for Gems and Stones and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a high-level meeting in consultation with the private sector. In this meeting it was decided that a concrete policy will be devised and a priority list will also be prepared to solve present problems. Federal Minister approved to establish a Sub-Committee to formulate a coherent policy for gems & stones and it will finalize its recommendations in the next two days.

Chairman Steering Committee and Federal



Minister Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his determination to improve the sector of gems & stones after which millions of dollars can be earned by according the status of industry to this sector. He said that restricting of Gems

& Stones is most important and urgent issue that needs to be addressed on priority basis. He said that by making all the institutions related to gems and stones active and purposeful, we have to focus on our main objective so that

the private sector and businesses community can lead to increase in foreign exchange through precious stones.

Moreover, Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan while approving reforms in Economic Zones said that there can be rapid industrial development in 26 industrial zones established in different cities.

presided over a meeting regarding the activation of Free Economic Zones and integrated planning in this regard. It was decided that the progress work in the Special Industrial Zones established in different cities will be speeded up and the process of industrialization will be accelerated. Proposals for the pilot projects for Bin Qasim Industrial Park in Karachi and Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad were presented to the Federal Minister. Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan while approving reforms in Economic Zones said that there can be rapid industrial development in 26 industrial zones established in different cities.

10 dead, seven injured as heavy rains batter parts of country

Pakistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) on Tuesday reported multiple casualties and injuries across the provinces following recent monsoon downpours that brought life to a standstill and caused both residential and infrastructural damage in urban and rural areas.

At least 10 people have succumbed to rain and flood-related incidents, while seven others sustained injuries in different parts of the country over the past few days.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), four people died and one was injured during the past 24 hours. Three of the deaths were caused by a landslide triggered by downpours in Upper Kohistan.

The fourth death was reported in Malakand, where, tragically, a child died due to a lightning strike.

Senator Rubina Khalid reaffirms BISP's commitment to support minority communities in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), reiterated the program's unwavering commitment to serve the most vulnerable populations in Pakistan, regardless of religion, caste, or background. In

a meeting with a delegation from the Pakistan People's Party Minority Wing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Senator Rubina Khalid informed that, under the special directives of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, BISP adopts a scientific and transparent mechanism for registration of its beneficiaries.

Furthermore, Senator Rubina Khalid assured that the program's policies and procedures ensure equal access to benefits for all eligible individuals, without any form of discrimination.

Earlier in the meeting, the delegation raised concerns about challenges faced by their community members

during the registration process. Senator Rubina Khalid promptly addressed these concerns, directing the relevant staff to prioritize and resolve the issues. She also expressed BISP's readiness to collaborate with minority communities to bridge any gaps and improve their socio-economic status by providing all possible support.

Parliament is right platform for finding workable solutions to common problems, says NA Speaker

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 3rd September 2024: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Parliament is the right platform to deliberate upon and find workable solutions to common problems. He said that the energy sector in Pakistan has been grappling with challenges for decades. He also said that although Pakistan has become successful in tackling the issue of load shedding, however, rationalizing the energy sector is a pivotal for tackling the high cost of electricity in Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing the conference "Parliamentary Consultation on Strategic Options for Electricity Distribution Systems in Pakistan" in Islamabad today.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that energy cost is a global challenge. Energy costs have skyrocketed even in developed countries, as has happened in Pakistan. The government is committed to rationalising the energy cost for end users, he added.

While highlighting the importance of the right person for the right job, he said that soon after taking oath as Speaker of the National Assembly, he conducted interviews of all official and officer of the National Assembly Secretariat to depute the right person for the right job. He emphasized



the need to rationalize the human resource for their growth and evolution. He said that Pakistan's parliament became the first parliament to be a "green Parliament" in the region. He also emphasized utilizing renewable energy sources.

MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah while addressing on the occasion said that cheap and affordable energy is an urgent need. She also expressed gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, for gracing the event. She raised issues attached to energy, being faced by each Pakistani. She also said, "The energy crisis is one of the major bottlenecks which is hindering economic growth and progress of the country."

Netanyahu's map reveals the truth about the agendas of the far-right, racist, colonial government: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues and repeatedly uses a map that includes the West Bank for the occupying state in an explicit and clear recognition of this racist colonial crime, in disregard for international legitimacy and its resolutions, the international will for peace and signed agreements, and in blatant defiance of international efforts to stop the war of extermination and displacement and revive the peace process on the basis of the two-state solution.

The Ministry views with great seriousness this blatant violation of international law, especially since the occupation is practicing the most heinous forms of crimes against our people, in a practical embodiment of an attempt to deny the Palestinian existence and their just and legitimate national rights on the path to displacing them from their homeland. What Netan-



yahu presented in terms of a racist, expansionist colonial policy is being practiced on the ground in full view of the world.

The international community is required to respect its obligations and implement the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice immediately before it is too late.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima chairs USF, Ignite Policy Committees' meetings



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja chaired 50th Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee meeting at the committee room of the Ministry of IT on Tuesday. Secretary IT Azfar Manzoor was also present in the meeting.

The meeting approved USF Company budget Rs. 23 billion for the FY 2024-25.

The meeting also gave approval for the release of 1st quarter budget of current financial year amounting Rs. 5.5 billion to the USF Company.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) USF Chaudhary Mudassar Naveed briefed the meeting about the ongoing and future projects of USF.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima presided over 44th Ignite Policy Committee meeting.

The Committee approved Ignite budget Rs. 3.960 billion for FY 2024-25.

The Committee also gave approval for releasing 1st quarter budget Rs. 639.87 million to the Ignite.

During the meeting, Ignite authorities briefed the meeting about ongoing and future programs of Ignite.