



Kate Middleton beats cancer?

Kate Middleton just announced joyous news that might just be a beam of hope for the Royal Family! The Princess of Wales has finally finished her chemotherapy treatment, revealing the news via a heartfelt video message uploaded on her social media platforms. On Monday, September 9, the 42-year-old posted a video of her voice over in a video that featured her husband, Prince William.



Kashmiris to reject 'Fraudulent' elections in IIOJK: Mushal

Mushal Husseini Mullick, wife of imprisoned Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, categorically stated that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would reject the forthcoming elections in the valley, terming it a "fraudulent exercise" aimed at deceiving the masses. She emphasized that all top Hurriyat leaders were being unlawfully detained, and the region had been transformed into a garrison city. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Parliamentary dinner

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a dinner in honour of Parliamentarians belonging to Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PMLQ), and Istehkaam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.



Photo: PID

President for political stability, strengthening democracy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underscored the need to further strengthen parliamentary democracy and promote political stability to put the country on the path of development. Talking about the current challenges facing the country, the President emphasized the need to forge political unity to steer the country out of its political,

economic and security challenges.

The President expressed these views during a dinner held in honour of Parliamentarians belonging to Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PMLQ), and Istehkaam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister

for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, President ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Former Prime Minister and Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan, and senior political leader-

ship of the country attended the dinner.

Speaking on the occasion, the President called for promoting tolerance and mutual respect as well as strengthening democratic institutions. He said that political, economic and governance reforms were essential for improving public service delivery and bringing economic prosperity. He urged the need to rise above partisan interests and

committedly work for the welfare of the people, adding that he was against the politics of confrontation that harmed the country.

The Parliamentarians from different political parties suggested various measures to bring stability and provide relief to the people. They also appreciated the President for his political wisdom and vision in evolving consensus on issues of national significance.

NAB withdraws Toshakhana case against Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau withdrew on Monday the Toshakhana case against the founder of former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Following NAB's request, the accountability court transferred the Toshakhana reference to a special judge in Central Islamabad. A prosecutor stated that, after the restoration of amendments to NAB laws, the

Toshakhana case no longer falls under its jurisdiction.

The attorney representing the PTI founder stated that, in light of such amendments, the case should not even exist.

But the former prime minister would not be released as he still faces dozens of cases related to the May 9 events when violent protests started after his arrest from the Islamabad High Court premises in a graft case.

This comes after Khan sought acquittal in the NAB cases against

him after the Supreme Court's decision. Last week, the apex court rejected Khan's plea to declare the NAB amendments null and void while approving intra-court appeals from federal and provincial governments, thereby reinstating the NAB amendments.

The detailed ruling stated that Khan could not satisfactorily convince the court regarding the invalidation of the NAB amendments.

Khan, 71, has been imprisoned at the Adiala Jail for over a year

following his conviction in four cases, including two Toshakhana references. His sentences in the Toshakhana references were suspended, and he was also acquitted by the Islamabad High Court in the cipher case earlier this year.

In June, the national-graft buster re-arrested them in a new Toshakhana case reference hours after a court acquitted both in the unlawful marriage case, dashing their hopes of being released from prison.

PM strongly condemns firing on police mobile van in Panjgur



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the incident of firing targeting a police mobile van in Panjgur.

The prime minister also expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of a police Sub-inspector Shakeel Ahmed in the incident, according to a PM Office press release.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in peace and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

"The whole nation stands by the soldiers sacrificing their lives in the fight against terrorism. This war will continue till the elimination of this scourge in toto," Prime Minister Shehbaz resolved.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday strongly condemned the incident of firing on a police mobile van in Panjgur, resulting in the martyrdom of Sub-Inspector Shakeel Ahmed.

Mohsin Naqvi paid homage to Sub-Inspector Shakil Ahmed for sacrificing his life in the line of duty. He prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed condolences with his bereaved family.

Gandapur's abusive outburst against woman opponents shows his sheer disregard for Pashtoon norms: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's abusive outburst against woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani public rally clearly showed his misdemeanour and sheer disregard for centuries-old Pashtoon norms and culture.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam, he said the Pakhtuns had a great tradition of according high respect to mothers, sisters and daughters.

Taking a jibe at Gandapur, he said that the person, who had challenged a woman political leader (Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz) was scared of terrorists



and criminals in his own province. Only people of short stature like him could stoop so low by abusing and threatening political opponents especially women, he added.

The KP CM should have talked about the strategy to eradicate terrorism from the province, but he indulged in mudslinging as per his party's tradition, Tarar said.

PM says govt's efforts putting economy on growth trajectory

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hosted a dinner in honour of parliamentarians from various political parties, expressing gratitude for their cooperation in the government affairs.

He highlighted the slow-down in inflation to 9.6% in August 2024, citing it as a testament to the government's effective economic measures.

"The economic experts are forecasting further decline in the inflation rate during the current month which is a good news for the nation", he said, recalling that in 2018, they had left the government with a single digit inflation rate.

The prime minister attributed the economic progress to the efforts initiated by his last government in April 2022, to

save the country from default. The economic team's efforts had not only stabilized the economy but also put it on a growth trajectory.

The dinner was attended by the members of National Assembly and Senate belonging to the government's allied parties.

The prime minister said while assuming the responsibilities as Khadim-e-Pakistan, he had promised to the people that he would ease their problems at all costs.

Now the positive results of economic reforms had started reaching the people, he said adding that it was not possible to achieve the goal of the country's development without making the life of the common man easier.

As regards the power tariffs, the prime minister said the government was taking measures to provide maximum relief to the low-income segments of the society.

Red Zone sealed as Islamabad police crack down on PTI leaders

Naveed Ahmad Khan



ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan outside the National Assembly, ARY News reported.

Barrister Gohar was arrested by the police outside the Parliament House soon after PTI MNA Sher Afzal and PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen were arrested from the capital city.

According to sources, the arrests were made in a case pertaining to violation of laws in the PTI's public gathering in Islamabad on September 8.

According to police, Sher Afzal Marwat will be detained at Kohsar police station.

Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub, Zartaj Gul and other PTI leaders will also be arrested as the law enforcers are waiting for other members to come out of the National Assembly, the police sources added.

Several PTI lawmakers

are present in the Parliament House including Sheikh Waqas Akram, Sahibzada Hamid Raza and Zain Qureshi.

It is to be noted that at least three FIRs were lodged against PTI leaders for violating the NOC by not ending the public gathering on time.

PTI's Zartaj Gul, Aamir Mughal, Shoaib Shaheen, Omar Ayub, Seemabiya Tahir, and Raja Basharat are among 28 persons who have been nominated in the case.

Meanwhile, police teams have been deployed at the checkpoints on Margalla Road, blocking access to the Red Zone from both the inside and outside.

Only approved vehicles are permitted to pass after a thorough inspection.

Pakistan secured \$57.27 billion in external loans over last five years

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured \$57.27 billion in external loans, which are separate from the International Monetary Fund programme, over the last five years, according to a report.

The finance ministry presented the report, detailing the external loans acquired by Pakistan over the past five years, in the National Assembly on Monday.

Of this amount, \$9.81 billion was obtained for "various projects." Moreover, \$3.9 billion has been repaid in interest or markup on these external loans.

This comes as the South Asian country takes steps to secure the \$7 billion IMF bailout package to improve the economy.

Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement on the 37-month loan programme in July. The IMF said the programme was subject to approval from its executive board and obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners".

More than half of Pakistan's total budget would go into interest payments, Finance Minister Muhammad Awarazzeb said in his budget speech on June 12.

Rs9,775 billion would go to interest payments, he said when he presented the important points of the annual budget. The budget deficit for fiscal year 2024-25 has been projected at 6.9 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Khatam-e-Nabuwat, a grand conference held at Jamia Masjid Shuhada Sawan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

CHANNARI/HATTIAN BALA: On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Protection of the Belief of Khatam-e-Nabuwat, a grand conference was held at Jamia Masjid Shuhada Sawan on the Srinagar highway. The air echoed with the slogans of the Messenger of Allah - the determination of the youth to lay down their youth for the protection of the belief of the end of the Prophet, the management committee felicitated the personalities from different walks of life for rendering excellent services regarding the end of the Prophethood. Awarded with honorary shields. According to the details, under the patronage of eminent religious scholar and Mujahideen Movement for Protection of Khatam e Nabuwat Allama Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi.

Under the auspices of Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnah Wa Tahaffuz Khatame Nabuwat Forum, a Tahaffuz Khatm e Nabuwat confer-

ence was held at Jamia Masjid Shuhada Sawan Channari. Addressing the conference, devotee of Shaykh Ul Islam Professor Dr. Tahir Al Qadri, Rashid Mumtaz, religious scholar Prof. Ali Akhtar Awan, Allama Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi, addressed the conference. Former Chairman Education Board Prof. Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley District Syed Ashfaq Gilani, Sahibzada Kokab Saleem Chishti, Sahibzada Syed Muhammad Abdul Basit, Qari Khalid Hussain Niazi, Hafiz Zahoor Hussain Bukhari, Sahibzada Zahidul ISalam and others while speaking. Addressing the ceremony organizer Maulana Ishaq Naqvi said that the unshakable faith and belief in monotheism, prophethood, and the end of prophethood and its adherence to the will of God and the intercession of Mustafa (peace be upon him) is the best means of attaining prosperity. It is a belief on which the entire religion of Islam is dependent

and stable.

In the conference organized under the supervision of the famous Sana Khawan Hafiz Syed Zahoor Hussain Bukhari in the central Jamia Masjid Al-Shahada Sawan, former administrator District Council Raja Azim Zahid, Minister of Education Public Relations Officer Taj Chak, Professor Syed Shabbir Hussain Naqvi, Pir Ghos Geelani, Sahibzada Basharat Shafi, President Press Club Zahid Awan., Aslam Mirza, Khushhal Gaddafi, Zahid Javed Abbasi, Ansar Hussain Naqvi, Mubarak Awan, Luqman Chauhan, Sagheer Kazmi, Ziaul Haq, Faisal Gilani, President of Anjuman Tajran, Mumtaz Awan, General Secretary, Allama Arshad Ziai, Allama Qari Arif Abbasi, Khalid Awan,

Pir Ghulam Murtaza Shah Kazmi, Allama Maqsood Kayani, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed, Mumtaz Turk Advocate, Zamir Qadri, Raja Umar, Raja Ashar, Syed Abid Hamdani, Syed Israr Hamdani, Waseem Chishti, Ahsan Shaikat, including people belonging to all schools of thought. Allama Ishaq Naqvi, Professor Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, Sahibzada Kokab Saleem said that during the movement of Khatam-e-Nabuwat in 1953, about ten thousand youths protected the belief of Khatam-e-Nabuwat by drinking martyrdom. In Majlis Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat, the role of the leaders of all the religious parties and all schools of thought, Sunni Bareilvi, Deobandi, Shia, and Ahle Hadith will be written in golden letters. Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq pays tribute to his cabinet who officially announced the celebration of Khatam-e-Nabuwat Protection Day at Central Jamia Masjid Sawan.

Preparations for the celebration of Eid-e-Miladunnabi ﷺ in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In Pakistan every year in Rabi Al-Awwal, processions are taken out for the honor and greatness of the birth of the Holy Prophet. Preparations for the celebration of Eid-e-Miladunnabi ﷺ in Faisalabad are at their peak as before.

Special arrangements should be made regarding the security of trains and processions. In this regard, coordination teams consisting of responsible persons are being formed which will play the role of liaison with the administration. Among the participants of this press conference are Dr. Mufti Muhammad Younis Rizvi, CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil, President Central Cloth Board. Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, CTO Faisalabad Farhan Aslam, Joint Secretary Tehreek Ahlesunnat Pakistan Sheikh Muhammad Zubair Qadri, President Punjab Ahlesunnat Pakistan Allama Mufti Muhammad Bagh Ali Rizvi, Leader of Inter-Ministerial Tolerance Council of Pakistan Allama Riaz Ahmed Kharl, Vice President Anjuman Fidayan Rasool (PBUH) Pir Muhammad Shahid Al Qadri, Dr. Mamaz Hussain, Dr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi, District President Tehreek Ahlesunnat Pakistan Ash Hussain Rizvi, Sheikh Ehsan Goga, Muhammad Sohail Ahmad Niazi, City President Mirza Dawood Ibrahim, Muhammad Umar Lala, Bau Mohsin Khalid, Rana Asif Arshad, Muhammad Rizwan Qadri, Rana Mad Abid, Muhammad Saleem Qadri, and others were present. On this auspicious occasion, cake was cut and prayers were offered. While like every year, this year also the main procession of Eid-ul-Adha in Faisalabad on 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal at 9:00 a.m. from Ahlul-Sunnah Center Astana Alia Muhaddith Azam Pakistan Central Sunni Rizvi Jamia Masjid Jhang Bazar Faisalabad under the leadership of Sahibzada Pir Qazi Mohammad Faiz Rasool Haider Rizvi Sajjada Nashin. It will be taken out. Which will end at one o'clock at Chowk Ghanta Ghar through its designated routes. In the end, I pray to Allah the Exalted to make the charity of this Milad ﷺ the cradle of peace for the country of Pakistan. Ameen.

Al-Khidmat Foundation donates free wheelchairs to disabled

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Under the auspices of Al-Khidmat Foundation, Takht Bhai, a ceremony was held at the Takht Bhai Press Club to distribute free wheelchairs among disabled individuals. The event was attended by Al-Khidmat Foundation President Mastan Khan, Takht Bhai Association President Saifullah Khan Advocate, Islamic Lawyers Forum President Takht Bhai, Mashatq Ali



Advocate, Jamaat-e-Islami PK-60 Amir Numan Yousaf, Al-Khidmat volunteers Haji Muhammad Yousaf, Haji Sabz Ali Khan, Syed Qayyum Sada, and disabled individuals along with their parents.

On this occasion, ten deserving disabled individuals were given free wheelchairs. Addressing the ceremony, Al-Khidmat Foundation President Mastan Khan, Takht Bhai Bar Association President Saifullah Khan Advocate, Numan Yousaf, and Islamic Lawyers Forum President Mashatq Ali Advocate said that Al-Khidmat is a non-political and non-sectarian welfare organization that serves humanity and the oppressed. They said that in times of war or peace, floods or earthquakes, Al-Khidmat volunteers are always ready to provide their services. They added that Al-Khidmat also provides free scholarships to poor and deserving students.

Unicef Deputy Country Head Meet Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A Delegation led by Scott Woolery, Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF in Pakistan, met with Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani. Secretary Services South Punjab, Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, was also present in the meeting. The meeting focused on discussing the ongoing five-year country program of UNICEF, supported by the Punjab Government. The Additional Chief Secretary commended UNICEF for its contributions to education, maternal and child healthcare, and clean drinking water provision in flood-affected areas of South Punjab.

He highlighted that poverty and low literacy rates are the main challenges in South Punjab and that the South Punjab Secretariat is implementing a comprehensive policy to address these issues. Following the successful pilot project "Zero Out-of-School Children," launched by the School Education Department South Punjab in partnership with UNICEF and JICA, preparations for the second phase have begun. District Layyah has been selected for this phase, with plans to expand the project's scope to other districts.

Rabbani noted that most of the labor force and population in South Punjab are involved in agriculture and livestock, emphasizing that developing these sectors is key to poverty eradication. He mentioned that a policy summary on increasing per-acre yield and conserving irrigation water has been submitted to the Punjab Government, proposing various mechanized farming measures.

During the meeting, Scott Woolery shared information about UNICEF's ongoing efforts to improve education, maternal and child health, and clean drinking water and sewage facilities in flood-affected districts of South Punjab.

An illuminated view

KARACHI: Masajid of Provincial Capital decorated with lights in connection with the celebrations of Eid Milad un Nabi SAW.



Photo: Online

Railway workers to be compensated for lost TA, overtime: CEO Railway

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A delegation led by Central President of Railway Prime Union Sheikh Muhammad Anwar met CEO Railway Amir Baloch and CP Avatar Riaz and informed them about the reduction in TA, overtime and hot demands of the employees. Chief organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Abdul Qayyum Awan, Fayyaz Shahzad, Haji Abdul Aziz Madani, Junaid Khurram, Rana Mohammad Azam were included in the delegation.



On this occasion, Railway CEO Amir Baloch assured the delegation that the right of any railway worker will not be violated, there

has been a misunderstanding in the interpretation of the letter issued by the headquarters regarding TA overtime, which has been clarified immediately.

Divisions will be notified by letter. All categories of railways including shed staff, lo-corning staff, relief train staff, RTL staff, power staff carriage staff and engineering staff

will be given overtime and TA as per previous procedure.

Sheikh Muhammad Anwar and the delegation thanked CEO Railway Amir Baloch and CP Avatar Riaz for this labor-friendly decision. He also congratulated the railway workers and said that the Prime Union has always given the welfare of railway employees its first priority.

Railway employees should not consider themselves alone, the Prime Union will continue to fight for the legitimate rights of employees. Earlier, Sheikh Muhammad Anwar met DS Lahore Division Muhammad Hanif Gul and informed him about the concern of railway employees.

SBA leaders visit Namak Mandi in bid to boost election prospects

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Business Alliance's (SBA) Patron-in-Chief, former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, and SBA Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah, along with Muhammad Ishaq, toured various markets in Namak Mandi as part of the Sarhad Chamber elections campaign and met with the members.

During this visit, they met Riaz Hussain, the president of Naz Medicine Market, and also toured markets including GM Market, Shangkha Market, Maqsood Market, Rehman Market, Abdul Market, Hayat Market, Humra Market, Makkah Tower, Jaleel Market, Shams Market, and Qudrat Market.

The market presidents warmly welcomed them in their respective markets, offering garlands and show-

ering flower petals.

The delegation was led by PCDA Chairman Sirajuddin, accompanied by Haji Mamoor, Ashad Siddiqui, Manzoor Elahi, and other notable figures. SBA candidates including Shahrul Khan, Bakht Mir Jan, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Adnan Jaleel, Muhammad Ikram, Ikramullah Khan, Riaz Hussain, Dr. Yousaf Sarwar, Sher Zaman Mohmand, and others also actively participated.

Senior SBA leaders, including Muhammad Ishaq, Malik Sajjad, Aurangzeb, Muhammad Iqbal, and other trade leaders, were also part of the campaign.

In Namak Mandi, the business community and members of the Sarhad Chamber gave a grand reception to Haji Ghulam Ali, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, and all the candidates. The streets of the bazaar were decorated

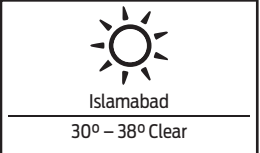
with flower petals, and garlands were presented to the guests.

Later, a dinner was hosted in honor of SBA candidates at Senior Leader Luqman Shah's residence.

During the event, all the market presidents were briefed on SBA's manifesto. They not only assured their full support but also vowed to stand on the front lines with SBA in every endeavor.

In their speeches, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, and Malik Meher Elahi emphasized that candidates with tickets need to work harder. They stated that the goal is to restore the reputation of the Chamber and resolve the traders' issues. They stressed the importance of unity for achieving these objectives and assured that all efforts would be made to serve the business community.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Table with 2 columns: Prayer Name and Time. Includes Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha.

EMERGENCY

Table with 2 columns: Service Name and Contact Number. Includes Police, Fire, Ambulance, etc.

Women Police Stations

Table with 2 columns: Station Name and Contact Number.

ENQUIRY

Table with 2 columns: Service Name and Contact Number. Includes Ambulance, Flight, Cargo, etc.

HOSPITALS

Table with 2 columns: Hospital Name and Contact Number.

Tariq Khan Jadoon demand reduction in interest rates



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries FPCCI Tariq Khan Jadoon has said that FPCCI and all the chambers of the country are demanding a reduction in interest rates, inflation. The rate of exchange rate in the country is welcome to 9%, FPCCI policy rate should be brought up to 10% in line with inflation. FPCCI Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries is the representative organization of all the chambers. He expressed these views at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries meeting with a delegation of businessmen. He said that FPCCI demands an immediate reduction of 400 basis points in the interest rate in the monetary policy of September, be announced. All FPCCI country chambers are demanding a reduction in interest rates. They said that an immediate reduction in interest rates is necessary to boost economic activity, reduce borrowing costs and encourage business activities, investment. Economic growth can be achieved along with job creation. Reduction in interest rates will provide significant support to small and medium industries, SMEs and large scale industries.

Literacy day Walk

NCHD, UNESCO launch Literacy Day Walk in Islamabad on 9th Sept

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) organized a Literacy Day Walk in collaboration with UNESCO in Islamabad on 9th September, marking International Literacy Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of literacy and education in transforming lives and building a prosperous Pakistan. This year's theme of the day is "Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace."

Secretary Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, graced the event with his presence. He emphasized on the importance of literacy as a tool for equipping people with the basic knowledge and skill to contribute effectively towards socio-economic development of any country. Pakistan faces significant challenges in achieving universal literacy and numeracy, with approximately 70 million illiterate individuals. The literacy rate of Pakistan standing at 60.5% (Census: 2023), ranks second lowest in South Asia. This presents a pressing concern, undermining Pakistan's development goals and its international commitments, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.6. Ministry of Federal Education has undertaken several steps to promote literacy in the country. Under the current National Educational Emergency declared by Prime Minister on May 8,



2024, NCHD and Ministry of Federal Education has set the ambitious goal of enrolling 26.2 million out-of-school children and striving to educate approximately 70 million adult illiterates nationwide.

In a decisive move to transform the country into a nation of literates, the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has launched the "Each One Teach One" (EOTO) Program as part of the Prime Minister's Roshan Pakistan-

National Literacy Drive. This initiative is more than just a program; it is a nationwide movement aimed at involving every literate citizen in the mission to eliminate illiteracy. The EOTO initiative encourages each literate individual to take responsibility for teaching at least one illiterate person, thereby creating a ripple effect with the potential to transform entire communities. At present the EOTO program is being implemented in 184 schools and colleges of Islamabad by engaging students of grade 9th and above. The program is being extended to AJK and Gilgit Baltistan soon. MoU's with different public and private universities have been signed in ICT to extend the EOTO initiative to the university level thereby extending the program to Each One Teaches Two and Each One Teaches Three for a multiplied effect and to achieve universal literacy in minimum possible time.

International Literacy Day

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) organized a Literacy Day Walk in collaboration with UNESCO in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Teachers training workshop held in Rawalpindi to boost quality education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman District Coordination Committee and Member National Assembly Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja said that the valuable services of the private education sector cannot be ignored as these educational institutions have carried a huge burden on the government. Teachers who are trained and familiar with modern teaching methods are helpful in imparting quality education.

Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja said in his address that the government needs a lot of funds to provide quality education in a country with a population of 25 crores and the private sector is doing this work smoothly. He said that the teachers are the last hope of this country, who have to equip the young generation of this country with the best education with their character, actions



and sincerity to play a positive role in the development of the country. In his address, Abrar Ahmad Khan praised the academic services of Mrs. Nasreen Iqbal in wonderful

words and praised the knowledge-friendly attitude of Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja and described the revolutionary initiatives for education in the past as Chairman of Punjab

Education Foundation. Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja distributed certificates to the participants of the training workshop at the end of the ceremony.

Aramco Has not commissioned any site in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: No Aramco site has been commissioned anywhere in Pakistan so far. A formal announcement will be made in this regard at an appropriate time.

This was stated by Zeeshan Tayyeb, Chief Operating Officer, Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd (GO) in response to a misleading picture and news circulating on social media. GO a business partner of the Saudi oil giant Aramco, in Pakistan, has said that no site has been commissioned and the picture is of some other site outside Pakistan.

Aramco, one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies completed its acquisition of a 40% equity stake in Gas & Oil Pakistan Ltd, earlier this year.

Customers can schedule their Careem rides in advance with the 'Later Booking' feature

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Careem, the pioneer of ride-hailing in Pakistan, enables customers to schedule their rides in advance with the 'later booking' feature in the Careem app. The feature allows users to schedule their rides at least two (2) hours in advance, ensuring customers have a reliable vehicle ready to go at a time of their choosing despite any connectivity issues.

Commenting on the 'later booking' feature, Imran Saleem, General Manager-Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan stated, "Mobility is an integral part of our society, where customers rely on us to move freely. We understand the unique challenges of our market and always work towards introducing features to ensure we simplify and improve the lives of people. Whether it's a student booking a ride to their class or a professional scheduling a ride for an important meeting, this feature is designed to meet their needs and simplify their lives."

Multan police facilitator of drug dealers, residents distressed

Bureau Report

MULTAN: The ceremonial open court sessions of CPO Multan Sadiq Dogar, granting free rein to drug dealers, have been criticized by the residents of New Latifabad and Ashrafabad, including Mehmood Alam, Muhammad Abbas, Azhar Abbas, and Rana Muhammad Akhtar, among others. During a press conference at the Multan Press Club, they stated that notorious drug dealers such as Asghar alias Gotta and Adnan alias Dhallu, belonging to the Odh community, have been involved in the illegal drug trade in the area for years. The Police of Qutabpur and Jalilabad police stations are backing these drug dealers, who have a previous criminal record and several drug trafficking cases registered against them in different police stations. However, instead of arresting these drug dealers, the concerned police continue to harass respectable citizens of the area. Police officers on motorcycles who patrol the area regularly take their share from these drug dealers, and senior police officials are well aware of this.

The situation has reached such an extent that if any respectable residents raise their voice against the drug dealers, they are subjected to violence and their homes are fired upon. The police do not take any action against said drug dealers. A resident Mehmood Alam and his nephews tried to stop the drug dealers in their street, they became their enemies. They have been attacked multiple times and subjected to violence. Despite informing the local police station and the current CPO, no action has been taken. During the press conference, the residents further stated that while they engage in honest business, these people, under police protection, are involved in the illegal drug trade. It is a matter of shame that the Multan police have become facilitators of these drug dealers.

Pakistani immigrants should maintain their culture and identity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani immigrants should not compromise on their culture and identity to fit in with their new country, and they should infuse the local populations with some of the best aspects of the culture they bring with them.

Well-known columnist Baig Raj said that continuing with the culture and traditions is the best choice for Pakistanis settled abroad.

Speaking to prominent Pakistanis living in

Melbourne at a ceremony held in his honour, he said that immigrants usually embrace the educational and occupational opportunities in their new country so that they and their children can succeed there.

However, he added that they should maintain their religion, keep their customs, identity, and traditions, and transfer them to their children.

Pakistani immigrants must prefer to live in a community of other immigrants from the same country, which will help them gain informa-

tion about how to navigate their way in the new country. Their social life may revolve around people from the old country.

He said that the Pakistani community of Australia is educated and very patriotic.

The need is to increase their influence in society. The useful trends here should be transferred to Pakistani society.

Pakistan's better family system should be introduced as a model for the Australian society and instead of competition, we should work together

for better results, he underlined.

He noted that there is no immediate threat of Islam phobia in Australia, but to avoid any possible problem, Muslims, especially Pakistanis, should strive for social harmony.

Eminent personalities of the Pakistani community including Mr Engineer Manzoor Mian, Dr Majid Naem Gondal, Mr Rafiq Shakir, Mr Khurram Malik and Mr Sahir Sujeel Khan, were present at the occasion.



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Vawda's Crystal Ball: From Misfires to Miracles

Qamar Bashir

Before aligning with the establishment, Mr. Vawda made numerous predictions, but the majority of them never materialized, damaging the reputation of PTI's government and eroding its political capital. I vividly recall one of his most outlandish and illogical predictions, made shortly after PTI assumed power in 2018. He confidently predicted that within a month or two, 20 million unemployed Pakistanis would secure high-profile jobs and that the country would become wealthier than ever before. However, this baseless prediction never came to fruition during PTI's tenure, and the promise remained unfulfilled until the party was ousted from power.

Vawda consistently promised that the PTI government would reduce Pakistan's debt through improved governance, minimizing corruption, and boosting exports. He asserted that foreign investments, particularly from Saudi Arabia, China, and the UAE, would play a significant role in stabilizing the economy. But his prediction proved totally false.

He highlighted that the PTI government would prioritize the development of infrastructure through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which would lead to increased trade, industrialization, and economic activity across Pakistan. In fact as the normal perception goes, CPEC was factually slowed down during PTI tenure in power.

As soon as he changed allegiance and left PTI to become the civilian mouthpiece of the establishment, Vawda's predictions suddenly gained remarkable accuracy. It was as though he experienced a "spiritual awakening" after aligning himself with new

powers. His loyalty to his spiritual and political benefactors was handsomely rewarded. Despite not being part of any major political party, lacking a popular mandate, and even being somewhat unpopular among the public, Vawda was granted a Senate seat. His newfound connections catapulted him to media prominence, allowing him to appear on television channels of his choosing, with his preferred anchors, making predictions that consistently proved accurate. This transformation was seen as a direct result of his loyalty to his new political allies and benefactors.

Vawda had predicted that future governments in Pakistan would be coalition-based due to the lack of a clear majority by any single party. This prediction came true, as recent governments, including are operating as coalitions.

Vawda predicted that PTI might face serious hurdles in contesting future elections, hinting at a possibility of disqualification of Imran Khan. He predicted almost six months ago that PTI will be deprived of the "Bat" as its electoral symbol and predicted that PTI as a political party will not be allowed to contest elections. His significant predictions which seemed impossible when he made ultimately proved absolutely accurate.

His prediction that PTI would face increased challenges after the May 9 riots, especially due to the party's conflict with the military and the establishment and will suffer from political isolation and legal repercussions, including mass arrests and prosecutions of party members proved so true. Faisal Vawda predicted that Imran Khan would face continuous incarceration despite being granted bail in multiple cases, as the establishment was not willing to forgive him anytime soon. He dismissed rumors of reconciliation between PTI and

the establishment, emphasizing that the rift, especially after the May 9 events, had only deepened. Vawda believed that Khan's legal troubles would persist due to the establishment's determination to keep him under pressure, preventing any swift return to political normalcy for the PTI leader.

Among all of Vawda's controversial predictions, the most critical and dangerous one was regarding the Supreme Court's majority decision to restore PTI as a political party in the National Assembly. He predicted that, despite the court's ruling, which also allowed independents who were elected with PTI's support to formally join the party, the decision would face significant implementation challenges. Vawda warned that external pressures, particularly from influential institutions and political actors, would create obstacles that could delay or prevent the full execution of the Supreme Court's decision, effectively undermining PTI's position in the National and provincial assemblies.

The government's response to the delay in implementing the Supreme Court's decision regarding PTI's reserved seats has been multifaceted. Initially, it raised concerns over the ruling, focusing on dissenting opinions from two judges, which questioned the legitimacy of the decision and highlighted potential constitutional conflicts, such as the justification of floor-crossing.

A review petitions were filed by parties like PML-N and PPP, raising concerns about the procedural fairness of the decision. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) also sought clarification from the court, further delaying the decision's implementation.

The objection inter alia included PTI's organizational structure, particularly whether the party had conducted intra-party elections in compliance with legal

requirements, which affected its ability to issue proper affiliation certificates to candidates. Second, the ECP sought clarification on whether independent candidates who had not initially contested under PTI's banner could be recognized as PTI members for reserved seats, arguing that such affiliations should have been formalized at the time of elections. Lastly, the ECP pointed out procedural challenges in implementing the Supreme Court's ruling, suggesting that the decision lacked clear guidance on how to certify party affiliations and comply with electoral law, further complicating the implementation process. The parliament, which is a party to the conflict, passed an amendment to the Election Act 2023, aimed at limiting the Supreme Court's power to implement its decisions.

When the Supreme Court reviews the Election Act 2023 amendment and related petitions, it will likely focus on maintaining judicial independence, potentially striking down the amendment if it is deemed to undermine the court's authority to enforce its decisions. The court may also revisit the balance of power between the judiciary and legislature, addressing concerns of legislative overreach while interpreting the constitutional framework. Additionally, the court could provide clarifications on procedural aspects, such as PTI's organizational structure and the legitimacy of independent candidates joining the party. Given the political and institutional pressures involved, the court may issue a nuanced ruling that balances legal and political considerations, potentially navigating a middle ground to resolve the conflict.

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

Pakistani fruit, juice exports to China surge this year

The latest data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) shows that during the January-July period of 2024, Pakistan's frozen orange juice exports to China reached unprecedented levels, showcasing the growing demand for Pakistani produce in the Chinese market.

Commercial Counselor at the Pakistan Embassy in China, Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that the surge in exports can be attributed to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreements between the two countries, as well as the concerted efforts by the Pakistani government and exporters to diversify and expand their international markets. He added that China's growing appetite for high-quality, nutritious fruits and juices has provided a lucrative opportunity for Pakistani producers to capitalize on this market.

"From January-July 2024 fruit juices and other related items" exports to China crossed \$1.546 million, an increase of 226% as compared to last year in the same period. Frozen orange juice commodity code (20091100) crossed \$1.54 million. Pakistani fresh mangoes are also gaining popularity in the Chinese market and in the first seven months 4,214 kg of mangoes were imported by Chinese enterprises. In contrast, Pakistan's Prime Minister also gifted Pakistani mangoes to Chinese leadership and Chinese enterprises this year", he added.

He further said that the robust export growth underscores the immense potential for further collaboration and trade between Pakistan and China in the agricultural sector. He said that as both countries continue strengthening their economic ties, the future looks bright for Pakistani fruit and juice producers to solidify their presence in the Chinese market.

Regional Director of Direct Access Chinese enterprise, Wei Ling Chen told CEN that this year her company imported 3-5 tons of Pakistani mangoes, and before confirming importing Pakistani mangoes to China, MERAPC Solutions conducted a lot of research and came to know that Pakistan, as the birthplace of mangoes, has more than 300 varieties. She said that they chose Sindhri and Chaunsa, which are known as the best mangoes in Pakistan, and promoted these two varieties in the Chinese market so that more domestic consumers can taste the characteristics of Pakistani mangoes.

She said, "To ensure the quality of mangoes, we choose to cooperate with high-quality mango orchards and choose the best varieties, planting techniques, picking, and packaging of mango orchards. In particular, Pakistani mangoes are purely naturally grown therefore the size is not uniform, and the skin is not so bright and beautiful, but the pure mango flavor is delicious."

She said that pure mango flavor and natural sweetness are also the biggest features of Pakistani mangoes.

She said that they also provided good product packaging, circulation, and other services. She added that they monitored all the processes from picking in the orchard, heat treatment and packaging, cold chain to Pakistan airport, air transport to China, and free shipping by SF Express in China.



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

Hafiz Sahib Zindabad - II

A few weeks ago, the Army Chief met with Assistant Superintendent of Police Syeda Shehrbano Naqvi, who had rescued a woman from a violent mob in Lahore's Ichhra Bazaar earlier this year. He commended ASP Naqvi for her professionalism and dedication. According to a statement from Inter-Services Public Relations, the officer's courageous act took place on February 26. The Army Chief highlighted the critical role of women in Pakistani society, emphasizing their respect as upheld by both religion and culture. He also called for social harmony and a unified effort to combat intolerance, stressing the importance of adhering to legal processes rather than taking the law into one's own hands. The Army Chief underscored that actions driven by prejudice harm societal perspectives and reaffirmed that the core principles of kindness and benevolence are fundamental to Islam. He also praised law enforcement for their sacrifices in protecting citizens.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

progress. He questioned the relevance of those who previously predicted Pakistan's downfall and urged reflection on the value of a free state, drawing comparisons to troubled regions. He reminded the youth that life is a test, quoting a Qur'anic verse, and concluded with a poem by Allama Iqbal about the role of individuals in shaping a nation's destiny. During the Q&A session, he addressed various issues, including the Parachinar riots, urging local tribes to resolve disputes and reaffirmed his belief in overcoming terrorism with divine support.

His efforts in fostering military-civilian collaboration and transparency in decision-making are seen as a positive trend in Pakistan's current landscape.

COAS recently met with Olympian Arshad Nadeem to congratulate him on his outstanding achievement. He reiterated his commitment to supporting and empowering not just athletes but all Pakistani youth, emphasizing the importance of youth engagement, development, and entertainment as key pillars for a thriving and prosperous society.

Readers, the Army chief's interaction with the general public is highly appreciated, not only by the youth but also by individuals of all genders and age groups. General Asim Munir, belonging to a middle-class family and being a self-made person, possesses a profound understanding of middle-class issues. His earnest efforts to address economic and developmental concerns are yielding positive results, with reduced dollar and fuel prices and increased foreign investment in the country. The nation acknowledges the remarkable role played by Army Chief General Asim Munir in contributing to the betterment of the country.



Dengue Awareness: Early Detection and Prevention Can Save Lives

Dengue fever is spread by a mosquito bite, particularly a female Aedes aegypti. The mosquito is identified by its blackish appearance and white spots all over its body. The mosquito's stomach provides a warm and moist environment, perfect for the dengue virus to grow and multiply. A female mosquito needs blood to feed her eggs, but if she is carrying the dengue virus in her stomach, the virus can be passed to a healthy person when she bites them to feed on their blood. When the infected mosquito with the dengue virus bites a healthy person, the virus goes directly into the person's blood.

In some cases, infected individuals may have no symptoms at all, and in other cases, major clinical signs appear 4-8 days after an infected mosquito bite that includes high fever at the start accompanied by joint pain, headache, muscle pain, and vomiting. A characteristic red, itchy skin rash appears that leads to Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever and Dengue Shock Syndrome. Dengue hemorrhagic fever results in internal bleeding and low platelet count that leads to dengue shock syndrome, characterized by low blood pressure.

During warm/humid summers, floods, heavy rainfalls, and water storage sites provide mosquitoes infected with dengue virus the perfect environment to grow and spread the virus through their bites. Places

where water remains still or is not moving become dirty, and eventually the infected mosquito spreads the virus.

Most number of dengue cases are observed in October, September, and November. The dengue virus comes in 4 different forms, i.e., DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4. In the year 1994, DEN-1 and DEN-2 caused the first outbreak in Pakistan. In 2005, DEN-3 caused a second outbreak in Karachi. Since 2006, various forms of dengue virus have been causing outbreaks in Pakistan. From a study published by Zohra et al., 2024, it was found that males and young individuals were most susceptible to dengue infection.

There is no current vaccine or treatment available for dengue fever, so early detection and prevention are important to stop the spread of the virus. According to the World Health Organization, preventive measures include wearing clothes that cover the body as much as possible, using mosquito nets sprayed with insect repellents, emptying or covering water-holding containers, and applying insecticides to outdoor water storage sites. For early detection of dengue, if the person is experiencing a high fever (102-104 °F), severe headache, pain behind the eyes, body pain, skin rash, or vomiting, he/she must consult a doctor. Early detection of dengue can prevent serious and fatal issues like death. Doctors usually prescribe paracetamol to reduce fever and body pain. However, the patient must drink plenty of water or fluids to get better quickly.

*Maha Ahmed
Capital university of science and technology, Islamabad*

Assault on Safe havens

Since October 7, the Israel-Palestine conflict has intensified, causing thousands of civilian deaths and displacing millions. Schools, which should be sanctuaries, have become targets. Since July 4, 21 schools have been attacked, resulting in at least 100 deaths among civil-

ians. This widespread destruction blatantly violates international humanitarian law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The most vulnerable—children and women—are bearing the brunt of this crisis. Many children have been killed, and thousands more injured, with the health system overwhelmed by the scale of casualties. Despite claims that these strikes target Hamas, the civilian suffering is undeniable.

A recent tragedy at the al-Tabin School on 7th of August in Gaza City starkly illustrates the crisis. Sheltering over 6,000 displaced individuals, the school was hit by three Israeli bombs during dawn prayers. This attack resulted in at least 100 deaths and numerous injuries, with survivors enduring severe trauma. Eyewitnesses described scenes of horrific devastation, with bodies scattered and dismembered.

Immediate action is imperative. We urgently need a ceasefire, international condemnation, and humanitarian aid to protect civilians and uphold human dignity. Thank you for your time and attention. Best regards,

*Aqsa Khalid
aqsawan021@gmail.com*

Insurgent threat

At a time when the state is faced with a litany of problems, arguably the most significant problem is the proliferation and subsequent rise of extremist groups in Pakistan. The lack of a course of action that should have been in place to narrow down extremism is concerning.

It is imperative that those sitting in the corridors of power make a concerted effort through legislation to counter insurgent groups otherwise mob lynchings, religious and political violence and the threat of even larger militant groups eyeing Pakistan, will continue to grow. The time for back door negotiations and deals is long gone.

*Nerjis Zahra
Multan*

ISSI hosts Seminar on 'Artificial Intelligence and National Security'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), hosted a seminar on "Artificial Intelligence and National Security" to underscore the paradigm shift driven by AI, highlighting its potential to enhance Pakistan's national security while addressing emerging risks. Air Vice Marshal Dr. Liaquat Ullah Iqbal, CPD & DG PR National Aerospace Science and Technology Park was the keynote speaker. Other distinguished speakers included: Air Commodore Dr. Irteza Ali Khan, Director PAF Center for Artificial Intelligence and Computing (CENTAIC); Ms. Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, Research Fellow, ACDC-ISSI; Dr. Sumaira Kausar, Professor & Director CoE-AI, Bahria University; Khwaja Mohammad Ali, Global Chief Information & Cybersecurity Officer at National Bank; and Air Commodore Dr. Waseem Qutub, Director, ACDA, SPD.

lighted the increasing reliance on technology and its dual-nature capable of both destruction and saving lives. He drew parallels with the evolution of technology, such as airplanes used for both warfare and humanitarian efforts.

In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the pivotal role of AI in transforming security approaches, offering transformative potential, and significant challenges. He highlighted AI's potential to enhance predictive analytics, improve intelligence gathering through advanced machine learning, and fortify cybersecurity with real-time threat detection and adaptive responses.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, highlighted the potential benefits of AI and stated that AI had the potential to address challenges to comprehensive national security.

Air Commodore Dr. Irteza Ali Khan, elaborated on "Military Applications of AI and National Security." He highlighted the role of AI in shaping modern



military applications and national security.

Ms. Ghazala Yasmin Jalil stated that AI is already being used and its potential future usage in nuclear deterrence architectures internationally will likely

increase.

Dr. Sumaira Kausar addressed AI and Socio-economic Development, discussing both challenges and opportunities. She highlighted AI's transformative role in boosting economic growth

by enhancing decision-making, optimizing various sectors, and increasing global competitiveness.

Khwaja Mohammad Ali discussed cybersecurity and AI. He highlighted that AI enhances cybersecurity opera-

tions by utilizing real-time data within interconnected cyberspace, allowing for faster and more effective threat detection.

Air Commodore Dr. Waseem Qutub highlighted the ethical considerations and international regulations surrounding AI and Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), stressing the need for compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the UN Charter.

The presentations by the speakers were followed by a Q&A session. Participant dilated on a range of subjects including AI's role in bridging gaps in education at school level, importance of human agency, and comparative progress in AI field across developing countries.

Amb. Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, in his vote of thanks, emphasized the rapid advancements in AI and emerging technologies. He highlighted the potential benefits and dangers of weaponization, calling for global accountability to prevent misuse and promote public welfare.

Kashmiris to reject 'Fraudulent' elections in IIOJK: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of imprisoned Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, categorically stated that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would reject the forthcoming elections in the valley, terming it a "fraudulent exercise" aimed at deceiving the masses. She emphasized that all top Hurriyat leaders were being unlawfully detained, and the region had been transformed into a garrison city.



Speaking to the media after the second meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, chaired by MNA Rana Qasim Noon, Mushaal stressed that Kashmir's leadership had either been jailed or killed, and it was imperative to bring the Kashmir issue to the international forefront. As Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation, she was a special invitee at the meeting.

Mushaal made it clear that they would not hold negotiation with India and would continue their fight till Kashmir liberation. With little hope of justice from the Indian courts, she mentioned that Yasin Malik's case hearing was scheduled for September 15 because the Indian notorious was hell-bent to convict him in false and fabricated cases as he was the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom struggle at present. She vowed to continue their fight for Kashmir's freedom until they achieved their birthright of self-determination.

Dr. Suleri says Pakistan to implement IMF debt-despite power subsidies

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Monday said the government of Pakistan despite the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff level agreement restrictions have announced power subsidies that might surprise the fund and impact the IMF deal in the offing.



The Executive Director SDPI while talking to media said there is no probability of snap elections as there is no possibility or circumstances foreseen, but rather the present government will stay in power and implement the IMF plans and programs.

Dr. Suleri informed that the government has kicked off backdoor negotiations with IMF for a rollover as friendly countries have been approached for a rollover on deferred payments of oil imports from KSA, UAE and others whereas ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) moot to be hosted by Pakistan in October, the Chinese Premier is also coming next week to attend the regional moot then the Prime Minister would take up the matter for debt rollover as well.

Fuel tank, lorry collision kills 59 people in Nigeria



59 people have been confirmed dead in Niger, Nigeria after a fuel tanker and a lorry collided, the state emergency agency has reported.

The agency also stated that the lorry was carrying passengers and cattle. The collision occurred at around 12:30 local time on Sunday, immediately an explosion engulfed both vehicles in fire. The explosion's fire engulfed other vehicles in the vicinity of the accident.

Director-general of the agency, Abdullahi Baba-arah assured that response teams were immediately sent to the scene to conduct rescue operations and manage the scene. A spokesperson for the Niger State emergency unit, Hussain Ibrahim has told BBC that there is a possibility of more deaths.

"The death toll has now risen to 59 after one of those badly injured died at the hospital and from more discoveries at the site of the accident," Ibrahim stated.

"It's also possible that more dead bodies could be discovered in the process of the continued evacuation," he added.

"This without doubt is the worst accident we have recorded in many years," he said. The spokesperson added that Niger is covering the hospital bills of the injured. Governor of the Niger state, Umaru Bago presented his condolences to the families of the victims saying that he was "pained by the unfortunate incident".

Foreign Ministry: Israeli incitement against the Authority is an extension of the war of genocide and displacement against our people

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates views with great concern the systematic Israeli incitement campaigns to escalate the war of genocide and displacement against our people, including the explosion of the situation in the occupied West Bank and the deepening of settlements and the confiscation of lands to complete the crimes of annexation and the imposition of Israeli sovereignty over them, with the aim of undermining any opportunity to embody the Palestinian state on the ground with East Jerusalem as its capital, the latest of which was what Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich boasted about "My life's mission is to thwart a Palestinian state", and the threats issued by Israeli Foreign Minister Katz to dissolve and dismantle the Authority and impose more punitive measures on it, in the clearest comment on the racist colonialist mentality and the culture of "bullying" and political terrorism, under the

pretext of the Palestinian quest to issue a resolution from the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice and demand practical measures to implement it. The racist threats against the Authority are accompanied by unilateral and illegal punitive measures against our people in targeting all Palestinians to liquidate the cause Palestinian.

The Ministry believes that these threats are an expression of the crises of the Israeli government, its political bankruptcy and international isolation, and an attempt to export them to the Palestinian side, and an attempt to exploit the circumstances of the war of extermination and displacement to implement the largest possible number of Israeli colonial expansionist plans at the expense of the land of the State of Palestine and its people. The Ministry reaffirms that the Palestinian National Authority is the embodiment of the principles of the Palestinian state and derives its legitimacy from the will of

the Palestinian people to stand firm, persevere and adhere to freedom and independence, and it is a direct result of international legitimacy and is not a hostage to the occupation and its gangs.

For its part, the Ministry is following this issue with great interest with various countries and components of the international community to explain and expose the dimensions of the current Israeli plans, including the fierce occupation war on the Palestinian National Authority and its leadership, as it is the Palestinian legitimacy and the title of our people's struggle, steadfastness and just and legitimate national rights, and to demand that the international community deal with the utmost seriousness with these threats and daily, large-scale attacks to which our people and their homeland are exposed, and to take the necessary practical measures that are rejected by international law to protect our people and implement the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice.



Kazakhstan, Moody's agency revises upwards its economic estimates to Baa1: the country's outlook is 'stable'

News Desk

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN: Rating agency Moody's has revised its estimates for Kazakhstan's economy upwards from "Baa1" to "Baa2", also changing the country's outlook from "positive" to "stable". The decision, Moody's explained in a note, was motivated by the continuous improvement of the Central

Asian country's political and institutional system, together with economic growth due to the detachment from the long-standing dependence on hydrocarbons. Among the problems that the country is facing, according to the agency, are the worsening of the geopolitical situation in the region and the possible extension of indirect sanctions by the United States. Finally, the most recent

developments made by the country in the logistics and transport sectors are highlighted, driven by the rapid growth in cargo transit activity along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TTTR).

The growing attractiveness of the so-called "Middle Corridor" and the shift away from Russia in the supply chain has attracted increased attention from foreign

investors in sectors other than oil, including automotive, pharmaceutical, food and construction materials manufacturing. The Kazakh government has proposed several measures in its National Investment Plan to create a favorable ecosystem, including tax and non-tax exemptions, reducing bureaucratic barriers and revising outdated legislation. A National



Digital Investment Platform has also been created and is scheduled to launch later this year.

This follows constitutional and electoral reforms in 2022-2023 that reduced presidential powers,

expanded political representation and improved popular participation.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,615.00	78,897.72	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,214.27	78,545.68	
Index Value	Change	
4,672,571,577	-282.72	
Percentage	Time	
-0.36%	9 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,270.84	+89.37	
Percentage	Time	
+1.09%	9 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
40,960.18	+614.77	
Percentage	Time	
+1.52%	9 Sept, 1:03 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
36,215.75	-175.72	
Percentage	Time	
-0.48%	9 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.35	190.60
Bahrain Dinar	731.10	739.10
Canadian Dollar	207.45	209.85
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	307.85	310.6
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.50	915.00
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	722.40	730.90
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.1	74.65
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	330.20	333.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.7	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	365.15	368.65
US Dollar	278.85	280.35

Power cost cut by 9 cents, markup by 4 percent can help, says 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 Monday that revenue has decreased substantially due to the slowdown in the economy and the decrease in imports.

He said the government would have to bring a mini-budget to bridge the shortfall and please the IMF.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the mini-budget will further affect the economy and increase people's suffering.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that instead of introducing a mini-budget, the situation can be improved if electricity prices are reduced by

9 cents for industries and the markup is slashed by four percent.

The business leader said that the decision to increase taxes was made due to the IMF's pressure when the country's economic condition was relatively weak, further worsening the situation.

Also, imports have been reduced due to economic slowdown, a significant income source. The recent three-and-a-half percent reduction in interest rates has given modest relief to the business community. Still, he observed that a further decrease of four percent is necessary.

He said that by bringing electricity prices to nine cents, Pakistan's exports are expected to increase by six billion dollars immediately, increasing Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, improving Pakistan's debt repayment capacity, and boosting its credit rating.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that increasing exports by six billion dollars will improve the



country's employment situation and relieve the people. He said more business and an expanded tax base are required to increase revenue. He said that past experiences show that

instead of bringing new taxpayers into the system, the tax burden will be increased on the existing taxpayers. A proposal to increase the withholding tax by one percent from October 1 is under consideration, which is unlikely to benefit any stakeholder.

Despite the IMF's cold attitude, the government must meet its tax targets anyway. The best solution to this situation is to increase exports and direct taxes. Still, retailers are not inclined to pay taxes, so people experiencing poverty suffer from inflation, and the economy is shrinking.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the current situation is also very harmful to businesses because refunds are stopped in case of a reduction in tax collection, which affects industrial activities.

He warned that boosting exports and expanding the direct tax base will improve the situation; otherwise, the problem may worsen.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a high-level meeting regarding 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' at the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination on Monday.



Photo: PID

Fast Cables Earns BASEC Certification, Setting a New Standard in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Fast Cables has become the first and only cable manufacturer in Pakistan to receive the British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC) certification, marking a significant achievement for the company and the nation's cable manufacturing industry. BASEC is a UK-based organization known for its rigorous certification process for cables and cable manufacturing facilities, ensuring compliance with international quality and safety standards.

Kamal Mian, Managing Director of Fast Cables, expressed his pride in this accomplishment, stating, "We are honoured to be the first and only cable manufacturer in Pakistan to receive BASEC certification. This recognition reinforces our commitment to leading the industry with innovation and excellence. This certification not



only elevates our standing in the local market but also opens new avenues for export to the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas, contributing to Pakistan's economic growth."

Mr. Salman Murtaza, Regional Commercial Manager - Middle East, North Africa & Türkiye at BASEC, commended Fast Cables on achieving this milestone, saying, "Fast Cables has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality and compliance, and we are pleased to recognize them with the BASEC certification."

ICCI leaders term peaceful Assembly Law a 'Breath of Fresh Air' for Business Community

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) fully supports the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Law 2024," which aims to regulate public gatherings in the federal capital territory by controlling their timing, location, and purpose to maintain public order. President Asif Ali Zardari recently

signed the "Peaceful Protest and Public Order Bill 2024" into law, significantly altering the regulations for rallies and processions in Islamabad.

The law, proposed by Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), grants Islamabad city officials the authority to assess the prevailing law and order situation before granting

permission for public gatherings. It also allows the government to designate areas within Islamabad as "red zones" or "high-security zones," banning all assemblies in those regions.

ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Vice Presidents Faad Waheed and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, welcomed the legislation, stating that frequent public gatherings and protests have become a



nuisance for residents and the business community. They cited examples of designated protest areas in a number of other countries also.

The ICCI leadership warmly thanked Senator Irfan Siddiqui for his pioneering effort in promoting a peaceful and business-friendly environ-

ment through the introduction of the Peaceful Assembly Law, which will greatly benefit both citizens and the business fraternity.

Mastercard and UPaisa launch a new debit card to transform the Pakistan payments landscape

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mastercard and UPaisa - a digital and financial app by U Micro-finance Bank and Ufone 4G - have launched a new physical and virtual debit card, advancing the digital payments landscape in Pakistan. Consumers can now benefit from a hassle free and secure way to shop online with over 7,500 online merchants in Pakistan and wherever Mastercard is accepted globally.

Furthermore, consumers can use more than 120,000 POS in-store machines and withdraw cash from more than 18,000 ATMs nationwide. UPaisa wallet users can also enjoy enhanced security features, and fast and convenient transactions while becoming part of the global Mastercard network that has access to over 100 million acceptance locations internationally.

"Our collaboration with UPaisa builds on our common goals of supporting Pakistan's increasing shift

towards a digital economy. In line with the objectives of the country's Vision 2025, the launch of this new debit card will support the transformation of Pakistan's payments landscape while enabling seamless, safe, and convenient consumer experiences, powered by advanced technology," said Muhammad Nana, Senior Vice President, Digital Partnerships, EEMEA, Mastercard.

"The UPaisa debit card in partnership with Mastercard is a testament to our sustained commitment in improving the digital banking experience through innovative and user-friendly financial solutions. We continue to scale our digital ecosystem to respond effectively to the evolving digital and financial needs of our customers, in addition to bringing more Pakistanis under the umbrella of digital and financial inclusion to promote their socioeconomic wellbeing," said Syed Atif Raza, Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL and Ufone 4G.

CCP approves acquisition of shares in Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the acquisition of 11.9% of the paid-up ordinary share capital of M/s. Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) Limited by M/s. International Electric Power (Private) Limited under a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA).

M/s. International Electric Power (Private) Limited, established in March 2024 for the purpose of this transaction, is jointly owned by Liberty Power Holding, Soory Enterprises, and Procon Engineering. The target company, SECMC, is a key player in coal

mining and supply, while the seller, M/s. Engro Energy Limited, a subsidiary of Engro Corporation, serves as a major holding company for energy investments in Pakistan.

In its competition assessment, the CCP identified the relevant market as 'Coal Mining' within Pakistan. SECMC operates under the regulatory oversight of the Thar Coal Energy Board and the Government of Sindh, for determining the price of coal for Thar-coal based power plants. This transaction strengthens International Electric Power's foothold in the coal mining industry, while SECMC's market share will remain stable post-acquisition.

Trade union, hotels to fight for 15,000 members of chamber: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of the Central Association of Trade Unions liakat bagh and Inter City Hotels Association, said that the Traders unity group is the voice of 15,000 members of the chamber. A group of fifty people have hijacked the chamber. Time has come to rid the chamber of this mafia. Stop using the chamber for your personal interests and business. Another industrial estate is being built on Ring Road. Now all eyes are fixed on this estate. These fifty people have gathered on a forum to earn money by acquiring plots. The Chamber has to be freed from the dominance of the Pervez Aslam group to protect the rights of traders on an equal footing.

Regarding the elections of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on September 11, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of the Central Association of Traders and Inter City Hotels Association, said that the businessman unity group will actively participate in the chamber elections. There are 15000 members of the chamber. We are their voice. We have raised awareness for their rights. He said that fifty people of the chamber have hijacked the chamber by denying the rights of these fifteen thousand members. They are fighting for the rights of their members to get rid of them. It should be known to all that fifty people have been in charge of the affairs of fifteen thousand businessmen for thirty five years. Which is a war of their personal interests and business. This is the reason why this group of fifty people does not allow anyone to come forward. Only these fifty people will appear in their programs. Don't the other members have the right to participate in the events of the chamber? Businessmen are ignorant of the affairs of the Chamber. At least five thousand people must attend the General or Annual Meeting. But only these fifty people show up. Thirty-five years should be counted from them.

PCB Chairman meets with Champions Cup team mentors

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad and met mentors of the five teams of the Champions One Day Cup.

The inaugural Champions One-Day Cup is set to begin in Faisalabad on September 12 with the first match between Wolves and Panthers.

Wolves mentor Misbah-ul-Haq, Stallions mentor Shoaib Malik, Lions mentor Waqar Younis, Dolphins mentor Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Panthers mentor Saqlain Mushtaq held a detailed consultation with PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi regarding the arrangements for the Champions Cup.

The mentors declared the Champions Cup an important tournament for



domestic cricket and suggested improvements for the pitches and ground of Iqbal Stadium. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi assured

that the standards of pitches and grounds would be improved and stated that players would be given equal opportunities for practice. He issued instructions to Director Domestic Cricket and Director High Performance regarding the arrangements.

He further emphasised that all team players would be provided with the best gym facilities to work on fitness. The Champions Cup will bring new players to the forefront, giving them opportunities to progress based on their performance. Backup players will be prepared for the national team for all three formats. The Chairman further said that the aim is to establish the Champions Cup as a brand of Pakistan, and the mentors have a significant responsibility in this regard.

Advisor Bilal Afzal, PCB Directors Domestic, High Performance, International Cricket, PSL, Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket, and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Pakistani team shines by grabbing two bronze medals in Nomad Games

Sports Desk

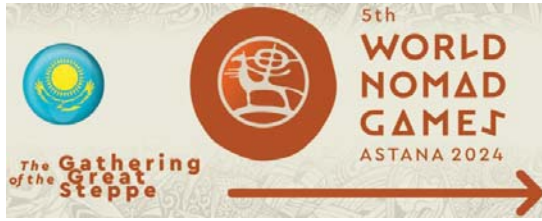
MULTAN: Pakistani team shone on opening day of 5th World Nomad Games, by securing two Bronze medals in Mas-Wrestling being held in Astana.

Pakistani team celebrated a triumphant start at the 5th World Nomad Games with outstanding performances in Mas-Wrestling on the tournament's opening day.

The team secured two bronze medals, showcasing their exceptional skills and determination.

Shaffat Ullah led the charge by clinching the first bronze medal of the games in the 70 kg weight category.

Demonstrating remarkable prowess and strength, Shaffat Ullah overcame formidable opponents



from Australia and Kazakhstan, and secured his bronze medal by defeating Mongolia in a thrilling bronze medal match.

Adding to the day's successes, Muhammad Asim earned the bronze medal in the 80 kg weight category. His path to victory included impressive wins over athletes from Iran and Uzbekistan, culminating in a decisive victory against Poland in the bronze medal bout.

In a statement on

Monday, Nawab Furqan Khan, President Pakistan Mas-Wrestling Federation, expressed his pride and excitement: "Our athletes have delivered exceptional performances on the first day of the Games. Shaffat Ullah and Muhammad Asim have showcased not only their skill but also their dedication and hard work. These achievements reflect the strength and spirit of Mas-Wrestling in Pakistan. We look forward to even greater success as the games

continue and are proud to represent our country on this prestigious stage." The success of the team is a testament to the exceptional leadership and support provided by Coach Muhammad Saad and Official Ch Ihtsham Akmal, he noted. Their guidance and strategic planning were instrumental in achieving these remarkable results. These achievements highlight Team Pakistan's commitment to excellence and their growing prominence in the global Mas-Wrestling arena. The team's stellar performance on the first day sets a strong foundation for the remainder of the games, and their dedication continues to inspire, he concluded.

England's Beaumont breaks plethora of records with 150 against Ireland



Sports Desk

BELFAST: England opener Tammy Beaumont on Monday, bagged multiple records with her marathon 150-run knock against Ireland in the second ODI of the three-match series here at Civil Service Cricket Club.

Beaumont was too good for the Irish bowlers as she carried her bat all the through and returned unbeaten with a 150-run knock which came off 139 deliveries and featured 17 boundaries including a six.

Her 150 was the fourth-highest individual score by an England player in Women's ODIs. She, however, had scored 168 not out against Pakistan in 2016.

Furthermore, Tammy Beaumont went past England legend Charlotte Edwards as the leading century-scorer with her 10th century. Overall, she climbed to the third in the list of most centuries in Women's ODIs, only behind Australia's Meg Lanning and New Zealand's Suzie Bates.

Most hundreds in Women's ODIs
Meg Lanning: 15
Suzie Bates: 13
Tammy Beaumont: 10
Chamari Athapaththu: 9
Charlotte Edwards: 9
Nat Sciver-Brunt: 9

Beaumont's superb knock was supported by Freya Kemp, who scored 65 off 47 balls as England piled up a massive total on the board.

Chasing a daunting total, Ireland's batting unit faltered big time and was unfurled on a paltry 45 to hand England a massive 275-run victory.

Opening batter Una Raymond-Hoey waded a lone battle for Ireland with a gutsy 22 up the order.

The rest of the batters, however, failed to put up a fight against a disciplined England bowling attack and the touring party, as a result, bundled out in just 16.5 overs.

Kate Cross and Lauren Filer bagged three wickets each while Georgia Davis and Freya Kemp took two wickets each.

The two sides meet again at the same venue on Wednesday (11 September).

National Men's U19 tournament to begin on Tuesday

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The National Men's U19 three-day Championship and One-Day Cup are set to begin on Tuesday, 10 September. Each round of the three-day games will be followed by the One-Day games. As such, a total of 98 matches each will be played over a 61-day period.

Eighteen teams of 16 regions will participate in the tournament, whose one-day final will be held on 22 October and the three-day final from 6-9 November. Venues of the final will be announced in due course.

The 18 regional teams will be equally divided into three groups with the matches to be played on a single-league basis till 12 October.



The next phase will include one-day matches between three group toppers on a single-league from 16-22 October, followed by three-day matches between the group toppers again on a single-league basis from 25 October to 9 November.

Peshawar will defend the three-day title, while Karachi Whites are the reigning one-day cham-

pions.

The squads have been selected following the Regional Inter-District U19 Tournament from 23 May to 10 June in which 104 district sides had participated.

The National Men's U19 Championship and Cup is expected to provide the budding and emerging teenagers to prove their mettle and stake a claim in

the Pakistan U19 team for the upcoming tri-nation 50-over series in November in UAE, which will be followed by the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2024.

Groups:

Group A (matches in Karachi): FATA, Islamabad, Karachi Whites, Larkana, Multan and Quetta regions

Group B (matches in Abbottabad, Charsada, Peshawar and Risalpur): Abbottabad, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Karachi Blues, Lahore Blues and Rawalpindi regions

Group C (matches in Faisalabad, Sargodha and Sheikhupura): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Dera Murad Jamali (DM Jamali), Hyderabad, Lahore Whites, Peshawar and Sialkot regions.

South Korea hold Pakistan for a draw in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

A Sports

HULUNBUIR CITY: South Korea came from behind to hold Pakistan for a draw in the fourth match of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy here in Inner Mongolia, China.

Pakistan's second fixture in the ongoing tournament also ended in a 2-2 draw as they failed to defend their narrow one-goal lead in the final quarter.

South Korea opened the scoring in the dying minutes of the second quarter, courtesy of Hyun Jigwang. Their lead remained intact until the third quarter and it appeared that Pakistan were closing in on their first defeat in the ongoing tournament.

The national team, however, made an astounding comeback as Shahid Hanan scored back-to-back last-minute goals to give



the Green Shirts what appeared to be a decisive lead.

But just a few seconds before the final whistle, South Korea equalized through Kim Sunghyun and denied Pakistan a victory.

Pakistan tasted the same fortune in their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy opener against Malaysia.

They started their campaign with a 2-2 draw despite dominating the majority of the match.

The Green Shirts started the game strongly, taking the lead in the second quarter, thanks to a goal by Sufyan Khan.

In the third quarter, Nadeem Ahmed extended their lead with another goal, before Malaysia

made a comeback with a goal from the penalty corner.

Pakistan were cruising towards victory with a 2-1 lead, however, Aiman Rozemi's late goal helped Malaysia level the scores in the dying minutes of the game.

Meanwhile, in other Monday fixtures of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, India outclassed Japan 5-1 while China crushed Malaysia 2-0.

The ongoing tournament is the 8th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011, 2016 and 2023.

The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain.

Defending champions India won the prestigious tournament last year by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final.

Pak team gears up for SAFF C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan football team is undergoing intensive training at the Kunj Football Ground, Abbottabad in preparations for the upcoming SAFF U17 Championship at Bhutan.

The training camp, which kicked off recently, features 26 probables competing for a spot in the final squad, said a press release.

The team's participation in the championship, scheduled to take place from September 20 to 30, is subject to government's approval.

Affan Salman bags World Youth Scrabble C'ship title

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 16 years old Affan Salman had won the 19th World Youth Scrabble Championship 2024 title in Sri Lanka. Affan Salman was crowned the World Youth Champion after 23 of the 24 games played as he had an unassailable lead, said a press release.

Affan's brother Ali Salman won the World Youth title in 2022 providing the only instance of two brothers winning the world Youth championship in history.

Pakistan won a host of prizes and awards including the team trophy for being the No. 1 team as four players from Pakistan finished in the top ten.

Bilal Asher finished 5th, Ibrahim Mansoor 8th and Aehzam Ahmed 10th. Bilal Asher also won the under 14 title while Zayan Zaman won the trophy for the highest single move score. The side tournament for adults was won by Waseem Khatri of Pakistan.

ICC team to visit Pakistan to review preparations ahead Of Champions Trophy

A high-level delegation will be visiting Pakistan to review preparations ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, Geo News has reported.



The sources indicate that the inspection team will be made up of six people including heads and representatives of various departments.

This five-day visit can also be the last one before the mega event begins next year.

The team will begin their assessment from Rawalpindi, then they will move to Lahore and lastly, they will visit Karachi.

Practice matches, practice venues, ticketing and the schedule of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will be discussed between the officials and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Previously, ICC officials, including pitch consultants, security heads and event personnel have separately visited Pakistan in regards to reviewing the arrangements.

The PCB officials will provide a detailed report on the upgrades and reconstruction of the stadiums ahead of the event.

The PCB has also budgeted Rs12.80 billion for the upgradation of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, Karachi's National Bank Cricket Arena and Rawalpindi International Cricket Stadium.

The Champions Trophy event will return after an eight-year hiatus — the last was held in 2017 in which Pakistan lifted the trophy by defeating India in the final.

The event next year will begin on February 19 and will end on March 9.

Cristiano Ronaldo's heroics ensure Portugal's triumph over Scotland

LISBON: Staying true to his reputation, star footballer Cristiano Ronaldo once again proved why he is considered by many as one of the best players in the world as he scored his 901st goal to see Portugal secure 2-1 win over Scotland in the Nations League match on Sunday.

During Sunday's match, Ronaldo — who reached 900 career goals with his 131st international strike in Thursday's victory over Croatia — showed no signs of being sated by that incredible milestone as he came off the bench to lift Portugal to their second successive win in Nations League Group A1.

The Estadio da Luz in Lisbon rose in unison to chant the relentless Al Nassr forward's name after he struck with two minutes to play. On his 30th birthday, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes fired Portugal's second-half equaliser after his former Old Trafford team-mate Scott McTominay gave Scotland a surprise early lead.

For Portugal boss Roberto Martinez, victory over Scotland could mean some awkward silences at his next family gathering.

Martinez met his wife Beth while playing for Scottish club Motherwell in 2001 and joked before the match he would be delighted to upset his father-in-law by beating Scotland.

He did exactly that, leaving Scotland still waiting for their first win over Portugal.

E-Katcheri

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), conducted a live E-Katcheri session at BISP Headquarters on Monday.



Photo: PID

SC decisions used to be apparent by bench formation, CJP Isa says

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has emphasized the importance of transparency and fairness in the judicial system, stating that the era of predictable outcomes based on the composition of benches is over.

Addressing a full court reference marking the start of the new judicial year, Justice Isa highlighted significant reforms implemented during his tenure.

Justice Isa, in his address, acknowledged the lack of interaction among Supreme

Court judges in the past, emphasizing the importance of the full court reference as a platform for collective decision-making.

He highlighted the decision to broadcast public interest cases live, allowing the public to directly observe the court's proceedings and assess its transparency.

The Chief Justice also mentioned the establishment of a committee responsible for assigning cases to benches, replacing the previous system where the Chief Justice had sole authority over case allocation. He asserted that this change eliminates any poten-



tial for bias or influence in case distribution.

Justice Isa also spoke about the removal of unnecessary privileges enjoyed by the Chief Justice, including the

purchase of public buses instead.

He further addressed the issue of "deputation" appointments, stating that all individuals on deputation have been sent back to their respective departments. This decision, he explained, was made to ensure the smooth functioning of the Supreme Court and the timely promotion of its staff.

Justice Isa also highlighted the efforts made to fill vacant positions within the Supreme Court, resulting in the promotion of 146 employees and the appointment of 78 new staff members.

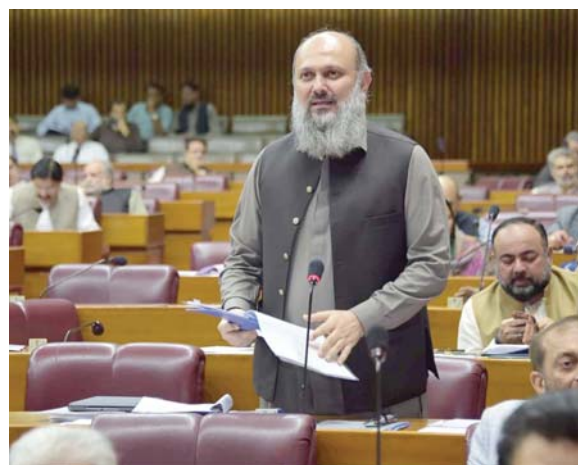
Commerce Ministry in final stage to hire company for branding Pakistani products abroad: NA told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal on Monday informed the National Assembly that the ministry was in final stage to hire a company for branding and promotion of various Pakistani products abroad especially at various new markets under commerce marketing and branding mechanism.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that around 20 foreign chefs who participated at the food exhibition recently held at Karachi, they also appreciated promotion of Pakistani mangoes.

He said this year mangoes' export not only witnessed



sharp increase but there also were visible difference in its value addition.

He said during the current year, Pakistani mangoes were marketed across the world as

a mangoes' diplomacy. For the first time, all Pakistani missions organized special one or two-day events featuring mangoes diplomacy, he said and added that 100-300

people including ambassadors were invited to these events for promotion of Pakistani mangoes and products prepared from it.

However, he said that American and European countries have some certain quality compliance requirement process as these were included in perishable items, he added

Regarding date, Jam Kamal said that Pakistan has huge potential of various varieties of date at Khairpur and some other areas including of Balochistan. Soon after, assuming a charge of the Ministry of Commerce, a plan has been chalked out by the Horticulture Department in order to reach out to the farmers so value additions of various products

including date besides international compliances could be enhanced.

The minister said that the Trade Development Authority did remarkable work in last 8-9 months especially in agricultural sector under trade diplomacy. The commerce ministry organized a food exhibition at Karachi in which over 850 delegates participated. Some 150 each delegates were from European countries, China, South America, German and Africa, he added.

He said around 6000 business to business (B2B) agreements were signed during the exhibition. Pakistan exports to Germany were around \$ 2 billion plus and import stood around \$ 700 million, he added.

More rescue services on highways including helicopters

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan has directed important measures to prevent accidents and ensure rescue injured passengers on Motorways & GT Road while data of accidents on daily basis has also been ordered. While presiding over a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority here in Islamabad, the proposal was considered that the injured passengers, especially on the Motorways should be immediately shifted to hospitals by helicopter in addition to the emergency services of 1122. He added that the precious lives can be saved by providing medical aid in the shortest possible time. In the meeting, Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud and Chairman NHA Shehryar Sultan and other officers briefed Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan on the departmental progress on which he said that the Motorways and



GT roads should be made more secure and safer for which National Highway Authority should be engaged in short and long-term policies. Federal Minister of Communications Abdul Aleem Khan also called for an action plan for

the next 5 years for financial stability from NHA and said that the National Highway Authority should work only on doable projects instead of indiscriminate use of public funds. NHA was also entrusted with the task of preparing

the National Transport Policy, similarly, direction was given by the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan to ensure video surveillance of trucks on the highways while implementing axle load on the GT roads of other cities as well.

Fiscal discipline essential for economic growth; Finance Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Monday said that the country's economy was heading towards the right direction, the currency was stable, the inflation rate reached single digit and remittances and exports were all the time high during July and August.

Responding to calling attention notices of Senator Mohsin Aziz, and Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the Senate's session about the issue of shrinking of loans, surging of debts in the private sector and the process of digitalization of FBR, the minister said that upholding fiscal discipline was a key to the economic growth, adding "Our revenue and exports would increase while borrowing would decrease if we preserve fiscal discipline".

He said that the government has allocated subsidies for the SME sector in the budget 2024-25, adding the digitization process of FBR was underway on the fast track.

The Finance Minister said agricul-



ture, and Information Technology sectors have been prioritized, while the country cannot be run through charity and everyone will have to pay tax.

The minister stressed the need for structural reforms, adding "If we succeed in reforming the state-owned enterprises and energy sector it would be the last programme of the IMF".

FBR signs MOU with Lahore University of Management Sciences



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue and the "Technology for People Initiative (TPI)" of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) signed a MoU at FBR headquarters today. The ceremony was witnessed by Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, along with other senior officials from FBR and LUMS. On behalf of FBR, Mr. Muhammad Junaid Jalil Khan, Member Customs (Operations), and on behalf of LUMS, Dr. Muhammad Faeed Zaffar, Director of TPI-LUMS, signed the MoU. The MoU aims at future collaboration in the use of machine learning and data analytics.

The collaboration between Customs and TPI is aimed at enhancing efficacy of Customs Risk Management System to facilitate cross border trade. This will help minimize human interface while ensuring improved regulatory compliances including yield of due revenues by enabling Customs to control mis-invoicing. This collaboration will also extend to the design of National Targeting Centre (NTC) aimed at profiling and targeting of persons, entities and conveyances which are involved in the movement of illicit goods. NTC is an ICT based platform used globally for information sharing and targeting by Customs and other agencies.

Process to privatize PLA to be finalized by October: Khawaja Asif

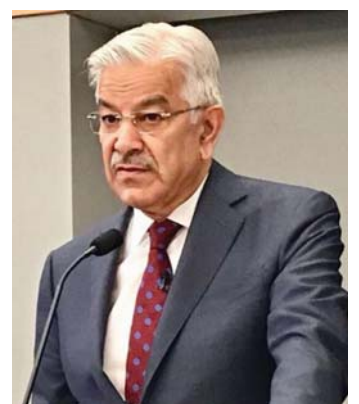
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Asif, informed the National Assembly on Monday that the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will be finalized by the end of October.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the prolonged closure of Hyderabad airport for commercial flights, he said that reopening PIA flights on this route is not financially feasible.

He explained that PIA currently faces a debt burden of Rs. 800 billion, and routes that are not financially viable cannot be operated.

Responding to a question, he said



that the government has no objection if a private airline wanted to operate from Hyderabad airport.

Pakistan's mobile phone users paid Rs92b in advance tax in fiscal year 2023-24

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan collected at least Rs92 billion from mobile phone users in advance tax in the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a 15% increase compared to the last year, according to the finance ministry.

The ministry said this in a report on advance tax paid by users over the last five years in the National Assembly on Monday.

In the previous fiscal year, Rs80 billion was collected while Rs61 billion was gathered in 2022, and Rs55 billion in 2021, and Rs50 billion in 2020.