

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول والذکر علیہ
ہم سے سلیمان بن یونس، ان سے یحییٰ بن
سعید انصاری، ان سے محمد طویل اور
انہوں نے اس میں مالک رضی اللہ عنہ سے سنا
کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے صغیر بنت
یحییٰ رضی اللہ عنہا کے لیے خیر کے راستہ میں
تین دن تک قیام فرمایا اور آخری دن ان سے
غلوٹ فرمائی اور وہ بھی اہمات المؤمنین میں
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Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's 76th death anniversary

The 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, will be observed today, September 11. In this connection, Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani will be held at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi.



CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries & administrative secretaries

CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries. She directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed Parliamentary Secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

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Call on

ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

MNAs meet PM Shehbaz

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Members of the National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanju met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

Earlier Member of the

National Assembly Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab Assembly Saeed Akbar Nawani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country also came under discussion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah was also present, a Prime Minister's Office press release said.

Gillani challenges NAB's jurisdiction in Toshakhana vehicles' case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of the Accountability Court in hearing the Toshakhana vehicles reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against him.

Accountability Court Judge Abida Sajjad, who heard the reference, sought comments from NAB.

During the course of proceedings, Gillani's lawyer pleaded that the reference did not fall in the jurisdiction of NAB after restoration of amendments in the NAB law.



At this, the court served notices to the respondents and adjourned the case till September 26.

Gandapur was abducted, no more contact with establishment, Imran says

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan claimed on Tuesday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was abducted on Monday. He added that he has told his party members to end all communication with the establishment immediately.

Khan alleged that the establishment had tricked him on multiple occasions, including the postponement of a planned rally on August 22 and the subsequent cancellation of a rally on September 8. He claimed the establishment had requested the postponement of the August 22 rally for the sake of the country



and had even provided a No Objection Certificate for the September 8 rally, only to back out at the last minute.

Drawing parallels with the Awami League and Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman by Yahya Khan, Khan asserted that the establishment had engaged in similar tactics against him on May 9, orchestrating a crackdown on PTI supporters.

He claimed that the establishment had pre-planned the crackdown, arresting 10,000 people within 24 hours. He further alleged that the footage of the May 9 incident, showing individuals not affiliated with PTI, was in the possession of the establishment.

Khan vehemently criticized the establishment's attempts to dictate the timing of political gatherings, stating that no such restrictions exist globally. He declared that he would no

longer allow any party member to engage with the establishment, calling them deceitful.

He further revealed that some PTI members had been in communication with the establishment, but he had revoked their authorization to do so. He asserted that the establishment was employing the same tactics as Yahya Khan and that he would continue his fight for democracy and the rule of law.

Khan announced a planned rally in Lahore on September 21, stating that it would proceed regardless of any attempts to hinder it.

He urged the nation to prepare for mass protests to defend democracy and the rule of law,

warning that the country is currently under a state of undeclared martial law.

He also addressed rumors surrounding the potential extension of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa's term, stating that he believes the extension will be granted despite claims to the contrary. He encouraged the nation to participate in peaceful protests, assuring them that the constitution guarantees the right to do so.

Khan urged the public to not be afraid of imprisonment, emphasizing that he has been incarcerated for 14 months. He stressed that the nation must make sacrifices for a brighter future.

Continued on Page 8

Goodbye Tourism

SC dismisses review appeals against removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the review appeals and upheld its verdict for the removal of restaurants including Monal, Lamontana and Gloria Jean from the Margalla Hills National Park.

The top court also withdrew its observation in which it had stated that the restaurants should be given priority in the lease process of any other location.

The court, in its 13-page order authored by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, said, "The cases were not heard in chambers nor by a single judge. They were heard in open court by this Bench (of three judges) and the short order dated 11 June 2024 was dictated in open court in the presence of everyone."

"The documents filed by the Firm and its partners in the review petition and the listed applications confirm that the Firm and/or its partners are in illegal possession of



the land situated in the Margalla Hills National Park (the National Park) and illegally running restaurants (La Montana and Gloria Jeans."

The court observed that the utter disdain and contempt for the laws of Pakistan and the degradation/destruction of the National

Park was made possible by the complicity of those who were required to protect, preserve and conserve it; they were in the service of Pakistan, but were unmindful of their duty to serve the people, instead they served moneyed interests.

The order said, "The owner

of Monal restaurant and of La Montana and Gloria Jeans had voluntarily offered to vacate the land of the National Park in their possession within three months, this court had appreciated this gesture of theirs and recorded this in order dated 11 June 2024, which was confirmed in the detailed judgment.

"The said undertakings to vacate the premises were given in the presence of their respective counsel but they want now to renege therefrom. Making a mockery of solemn undertakings and to render them meaningless cannot be permitted, and those doing so must suffer the consequences.

"Therefore, we have been persuaded by their contemptuous behaviour and misconceived contentions to review our said short order and detailed judgment and to withdraw/delete the portion where court instructed to give priority to them in lieu of other locations."

Bilawal meets Ambassador Zaidong



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday visited the Chinese Embassy and held a meeting with Ambassador Jiang Zaidong.

The discussions between the two sides focused on deepening the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China, besides further enhancing trade and economic cooperation, said a news release.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was accompanied by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab.

PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation and vendetta in politics.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive outburst against national institutions, women political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani meeting.

He said the PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed.

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the journalist

Continued on Page 8

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries & administrative secretaries

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries. She directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed Parliamentary Secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

Madam Chief Minister said, "Parliamentary Secretaries also have no less status than Ministers for me." She added, "Parliamentary Secretaries are my assistants in the execution of government policies." She highlighted, "Without Allah's help and your

support, I am nothing."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "No one person can run this government, everyone has to work together." She added, "We should unite and make joint efforts, one day is precious, five years are too short to serve the people." She underscored, "Open doors of your heart for people besides opening doors of your offices for them."

Madam Chief Minister said in her keynote speech in the meeting, "Earlier in a meeting, Chinese investors described Punjab as a land full of opportunities." She added, "The tendency to turn political opposition into hostility has harmed Pakistan a lot." She lamented, "Government was in the hands of incompetents for 4 years, 40 years of development was



destroyed in 4 years."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Had she got Shehbaz

Sharif's developed Punjab, she would have progressed very fast." She added, "The day and night work

done during Shahbaz Sharif's reign was destroyed in a few years." She underscored, "Has worked hard but cannot claim ideal improvement in six months."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Rs 10 lakh per tractor subsidy in green tractor scheme is a big initiative." She added, "Owners of 5-marla plots in cities and 10-marla plots in villages can borrow up to Rs. 15 lakh under 'Apni Chhat...Apna Ghar Programme'. The loan of Rs 15 lakh has to be paid in Rs 14000 monthly installments in 7 years." She highlighted, "We will achieve the target of building 5 lakh houses in five years."

Madam Chief Minister said, "We are going to give first loan for your house under 'Apni Chhat...Apna Ghar Programme' this month." She

added, "In Punjab, 70 lakh consumers have been given relief for two months in electricity bills."

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries also addressed the function. The Parliamentary Secretaries called it an honor to work under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Madam Chief Minister said, "Not official and traditional things, but I am talking to my team from my heart."

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meeting. Provincial Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.

Hard work

FAISALABAD: A shopkeeper sharpening scissors and knives at Ameenpur Bazaar in the city.



Photo: Online

AJK PM says will ensure adequate supply of basic amenities in Neelum valley

Bureau Report

NEELUM/KUTTAN: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that in addition to provision of basic amenities of life to the people of Neelum the government would ensure sufficient supply and stock of food commodities and medicine in upper areas of the valley before the fall of winter. The AJK premier said this while addressing a press conference at Kuttan Colony after concluding his third visit to the Neelum valley. During his two-day visit, the PM visited tail-end areas of the valley including Taubut, Halmat, Phoolwai and Sardari. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the purpose of his visit was to understand on-ground realities there and to feel the pain and sufferings of the local people. "During my recent visits I felt the hardships and plight



of the people of this picturesque but less-developed valley", the PM said. He said that Neelum will be brought at par with other areas.

Expressing his shock over the prevailing socio economic backwardness in the area, the PM said that the government would utilize all available resources to eliminate backwardness and provide maximum relief to the

people of the Neelum. He, however, maintained that the Indian aggression and hostile attitude along the LoC has been the major cause behind the region's economic woes.

"The construction of Rathoa Haryam bridge project has been approved and Jagran Phase-2 will be completed by June next year", the PM said. The PM also vowed to get around

60 thousand out of children enrolled in Azad Kashmir. He also congratulated the 2900 contestants who appeared and passed the NTS exams from across the state. The premier also vowed to ensure supremacy of merit and rule of law in the state. The government, he said, has been successful in breaking the status quo.

He said that tax-money would be spent on the welfare of the people. "13 billion rupees have been saved through e-tendering", the PM said, adding that good governance was linked to supremacy of rule of law. In response to a question, the PM said that providing basic facilities to the citizens was the first priority of the state. He said that efforts were afoot to grant AJK Bank a scheduled bank status. Government Ministers Mian Abdul Waheed and Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah were also present on this occasion.

Sagar demands end to fake elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Mahmood Ahmed Sagar has appealed to the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Hussain Brahmah Taha to stop Indian efforts to mislead the international community through fake elections in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Mahmood Ahmed Sagar in a letter addressed to the Secretary General of OIC highlighted the Indian government's efforts to portray the situation as normal in the region despite the serious situation of human rights in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. What did He said that the electoral drama is being staged in the presence of a large number of Indian soldiers who are involved in brutal use of force, unjustified arrests and enforced disappearances. Mahmood Sagar urged the OIC to respect the basic human rights of the Kashmiri people. While doing so, he should use his influence to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully. He said that the elections cannot be a substitute for the right of Kashmiris to a referendum or a referendum under the supervision of the United Nations. Immediate steps should be taken for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir conflict he urged.

Over 9 kilograms of hashish recovered in Attock; 7 suspects arrested

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock police, during various operations, recovered around 9 kilograms of narcotics and arrested 7 suspects, with cases registered against them. According to details, Attock police's vigorous actions against drug dealers continue. In this regard, Hazro police, while conducting an operation against drug dealers, recovered 1,450 grams of hashish from Asad Khan, son of Saadullah Khan, resident of Saleem Khan Hazro. In another operation, infamous drug dealer Jahanzaib Khan alias Jangu, son of Aurangzeb, resident of Maghribi Banda Nartopa Hazro, was arrested with 2,150 grams of hashish. Additionally, 560 grams of hashish were recovered from drug dealer Dost Muhammad Khan, son of Ranizay, resident of Malakand.

Meanwhile, Rangu police arrested notorious drug dealer Nasir Mahmood, son of Dilnawaz Khan, resident of Waisa, with 1,620 grams of hashish. In a separate operation, Fateh Jang police, during a search, recovered 800 grams of hashish from Mir Khurram Sultan, son of Mir Shaukat Ali, resident of Ziarat Baba Wali Ahmed Sarkar Fateh Jang. Similarly, Hassanabdal police thwarted a drug smuggling attempt by Ali Khan, son of Masal Khan, resident of Jhang-yan, Tehsil & District Abbottabad, recovering 1,600 grams of hashish. Furthermore, Attock City police, during a search of Ghulam Haider, son of Mola Quli, resident of Mirza, recovered 510 grams of hashish. Cases have been registered separately against all suspects.

Our Aim Foundation brings clean water to desert village, improving lives

News Desk

PABI JO PAR, THARPARKAR: In a groundbreaking development for the remote village of Pabi Jo Par, Our Aim Foundation has successfully installed a solar-powered borewell, providing the community with clean drinking water for the first time in decades.

Pabi Jo Par, a village in the Tharparkar District of Sindh, Pakistan, has long struggled with severe water scarcity and contamination. Residents relied on unsafe, contaminated water sources, leading to a high incidence of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid. The lack of clean water also affected the community's health, hygiene, and economic opportunities.

The newly installed solar-powered borewell, which is equipped with a solar panel array, now pumps 10,000

liters of clean water daily. This significant upgrade is a game-changer for the village's 1,250 residents, offering them a sustainable source of safe drinking water and marking a dramatic improvement in their quality of life.

The introduction of the solar-powered borewell in Pabi Jo Par has profoundly impacted the community. The availability of clean water has resulted in an 80% decrease in water-borne diseases, significantly improving public health. Additionally, the village has experienced a 70% reduction in illnesses, reflecting enhanced overall health and hygiene. This increased water access has not only improved daily living conditions but also elevated the quality of life for both residents and their livestock, marking a transformative change for the community.

Local residents of Pabi Jo Par have expressed their profound gratitude

and joy following the installation of the solar-powered borewell. Nazeer Ahmed, a villager, remarked, "We never thought we'd see the day with clean water at our doorstep!" Samina Bai shared, "Our children are healthy and happy now, thanks to this project!" Mohammad Subhan added, "We can focus on our livelihoods and education, not just survival!" Asghar noted, "This project has brought new life to our village," while Diya Bibi concluded with heartfelt thanks, saying, "We're grateful for this blessing, may God bless the people who made it possible."

The solar-powered borewell is more than just a water source; it represents a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of innovation and community support. The project, funded by Our Aim Foundation, has transformed the lives of the villagers by addressing critical needs and fostering a healthier,



more sustainable environment. The solar borewell in Pabi Jo Par stands as a powerful example of how

clean water can change lives. This initiative not only improves public health but also enhances the overall quality

of life, providing a brighter and more hopeful future for the residents of Pabi Jo Par.



Islamabad

30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:23 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:34 pm
Maghrib	6:21 pm
Isha	7:46 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PQFTL becomes the first company in Pakistan to introduce Instant Withdrawal facility in Takaful industry

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), a leading provider of Family Takaful solutions and part of Pak-Qatar Group, Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, is pleased to announce a unique instant withdrawal facility for its Mahana Bachat customers. This innovative service allows participants to withdraw partial funds in case of emergencies in a matter of minutes with ease and instant access through PQFTL's mobile app, 'Pak-Qatar Financial Solutions' (PQFS) or its online portal.

Mr. Waqas Ahmad, CEO of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful, expressed his enthusiasm: "We are delighted to offer this innovative instant withdrawal service. Our strategic approach not only enhances our end-to-end service delivery but also aligns with our vision to provide innovative and customer-centric financial solutions. We believe this facility will greatly benefit our participants by providing them with unprecedented ease of access to their funds."

Senator Rubina Khalid briefs women parliamentarians on BISP initiatives

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, attended a meeting of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus today. Women Members of the National Assembly from various political parties, including the Pakistan Peoples Party, were present at the meeting.

Senator Rubina Khalid briefed the parliamentarians on the ongoing and newly launched initiatives of BISP, particularly focusing on the registration procedures for deserving women. She highlighted the Benazir Skill Development Programme, which aims to provide skill training to women and their family members according to international standards, enabling them to access employment opportunities.



On the special instructions of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, a new banking model has also been introduced to ensure that deserving women receive their payments with dignity and respect. The PMT limit has been increased from 32 to 60 for enrollment in the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif and Benazir Nashonuma programs in Balochistan, allowing a larger number of beneficiaries to participate. She emphasized that there is no registration fee for

the program. BISP offices at the tehsil level have established Dynamic Registration Centers where staff members are available to guide eligible women through the registration process.

In response to questions from the parliamentarians, Senator Rubina Khalid clarified that 8171 is the only official BISP helpline number, and any message from other numbers is fraudulent. Complaints can be filed through 080026477. She urged the members to raise awareness about the Benazir Income Support Programme in their constituencies, particularly for deserving women.

Earlier, Director General BISP, Dr. Asim Ejaz, highlighted BISP's role in addressing climate change, geo-tagging, data collection, and rapid response efforts during floods.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Country Director, UN Information Center, Catherine Weibel inaugurating an art exhibition at Satrang Gallery in a local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Giraffe Music Presents Umair Butt's latest Punjabi song 'Drama'

City Desk

LAHORE: Giraffe, Pakistan's music and audio production company, is thrilled to announce the release of "Drama," a vibrant new Punjabi single by one of the rising stars from Pakistan, Umair Butt.

A playful exploration of young love, with its infectious energy and catchy chorus, "Hay ni hay ni kuri kardi drama," "Drama" showcases Umair Butt's signature blend of traditional Punjabi elements with a modern twist. The song narrates the story of a girl who constantly oscillates between affection and rejection, creating a dramatic and entertaining scenario that many will find relatable. Composed and written by Umair Butt and produced by international producer part of the Quick-Style crew, Maizu, with the music video directed by Murtaza Niaz, "Drama" cele-



brates the excitement and unpredictability of young love in a true Punjabi style.

Speaking about the release, Umair Butt shared his excitement, saying, "This song is like a piece of my heart. It's about the feelings we all have when we're in love. I

hope it makes you happy and you can't stop singing along to the fun part."

Umair Butt, known for his standout performance in Coke Studio Season 14 with the song "Neray Neray Vas," has quickly established himself as a leading figure in the Punjabi music scene. His ability to infuse traditional Punjabi elements with contemporary flair has earned him widespread acclaim, positioning him as a prominent voice in the global music landscape. Umair Butt further solidified his status with his feature in one of the biggest South Asian songs this year, Coke Studio Season 15's "Blockbuster" — a track that quickly became an anthem for its uplifting message and energetic beats. "Being part of 'Blockbuster' was a big deal for me," Umair added. "It was about having fun and celebrating life. 'Drama' is like that too, but it's more playful and romantic."

Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon: Jam Kamal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament soon.



Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports.

Kamal said that the incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the economy.

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in Pakistan.

AIOU Hosts Workshop on Business Model Canvas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) held a one-day workshop on "Business Model Canvas" for 50 BS and MS students. Danish Junaid, CEO of Seed Investor, served as the resource person, providing guidance on business planning, strategy development, and problem-solving. He explained essential business tools like customer segments, value propositions, marketing, key resources, and cost structures. Dr. Saima Nasir, Additional Director of Research at ORIC, highlighted the importance of fostering entrepreneurship among students to drive sustainable economic growth, enabling them to create jobs and contribute to the country's development.

After receiving training, students were given 10 minutes to develop and present their business models, which they successfully completed within the allotted time. Dr. Saima Nasir assured that, under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, such workshops would continue to build students' capacity in entrepreneurship. ORIC Senior Research Assistant Owais Ashraf provided support throughout the session. At the conclusion of the workshop, certificates were distributed to the participants, marking the event as part of the university's ongoing Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful and Meezan Bank Sign Agreement to Launch Instant Withdrawals facility



Commerce Report

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), Pakistan's Pioneer and leading Family Takaful Company and Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, have announced a strategic partnership aimed at revolutionizing the financial landscape in Pakistan. This collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Mr. Waqas Ahmad—Chief Executive Officer, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited, and Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Ahmed—Group Head Transaction & International Banking at Meezan Bank, in the presence of senior management teams from both organizations.

Through this partnership, PQFTL has introduced an innovative instant withdrawal service for its clients through integration with Meezan Bank's network, setting a new benchmark in Shariah-compliant financial services. This service will enable PQFTL's Mahana Bachat and Takaful flexi plan clients only to receive funds in their accounts within minutes. This is a first of a kind service being offered by any Takaful Company in Pakistan.

Commenting at this occasion, Mr. Waqas Ahmad—Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited said, "We are delighted to offer this innovative instant withdrawal service. Our strategic approach not only enhances our end-to-end service delivery but also aligns with our vision to provide innovative and customer-centric financial solutions. We believe this facility will greatly benefit our participants by providing them with unprecedented ease of access to their funds."

Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Ahmed—Group Head Transaction & International Banking, Meezan Bank expressed his views on the partnership, stating, "This collaboration with Pak-Qatar Family Takaful represents a significant advancement in Shariah-compliant financial solutions. Our eBiz+ Payment system is designed to provide seamless, real-time services, and we are pleased to support PQFTL in delivering this innovative feature to their clients."

Boosting Productivity through Digital Transformation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Muhammad Asad Islam Mahni, Additional Secretary Industries & Production Division, inaugurated the four-day International Training workshop on Strategic Marketing for Digital Transformation in Islamabad. In his opening remarks, he commended the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for its significant contributions to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasized that now is the time to renew our commitment to achieving APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific."

The International workshop, organized by the APO in collaboration with Pakistan's National Productivity Organization (NPO), brings together 18 international participants from APO member countries Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indo-

nesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Turkey along with 10 local participants from Pakistan.

The primary aim of the workshop is to empower marketing professionals to craft and implement effective digital marketing strategies that drive business growth.

Honorable Additional Secretary warmly welcomed the international delegates and expressed his gratitude to both the APO and NPO for addressing this timely and critical topic. He highlighted that collaboration between APO and NPOs will foster solutions to the emerging challenges in marketing for digital transformation.

CEO NPO Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry extended his appreciation to the Additional Secretary, the APO Program Officer, and the distinguished international resource speakers. He also welcomed the international and local partici-

pants, noting that Pakistan is already on the path to digital transformation. He further briefed the audience on the NPO's key initiatives, including the National Productivity Master Plan and the Productivity Measurement System.

Mr. Dong Jin Lee, Program Officer at the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in Tokyo, Japan, underscored the importance of this event, stating:

"The workshop will provide a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and networking among marketing professionals across the region. We remain committed to supporting productivity growth and competitiveness in member countries through initiatives like this."

Participants have expressed their enthusiasm for the workshop, anticipating engaging sessions and practical insights they can apply within their respective organizations.



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

A Tale of Divergent Paths After Independence

China and Pakistan, two neighboring countries in Asia, both gained independence in the mid-20th century. Pakistan was created in 1947 after the partition of British India, while China established the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949 following the victory of the Communist Party. Despite their similar timelines for achieving independence, the development trajectories of these two nations have been starkly different. Today, China is one of the world's largest economies and a global powerhouse in technology, manufacturing, and innovation, whereas Pakistan continues to struggle with economic instability, poverty, and underdevelopment. This divergence raises the critical question: Why has China surged ahead while Pakistan lags behind in nearly all indicators of development?

One of the primary reasons for China's rapid development is its consistent long-term economic vision and strategy. Since Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in the late 1970s, China has embraced a model of state-led capitalism, blending elements of a market economy with centralized control. These reforms led to the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs), which attracted foreign direct investment (FDI), boosted manufacturing, and integrated China into the global economy. In contrast, Pakistan has struggled with inconsistent economic policies, frequent political changes, and dependence on foreign aid. While China consistently pursued export-led growth, Pakistan has oscillated between import substitution, protectionism, and reliance on remittances from abroad. In 2022, China's

GDP reached approximately \$17.7 trillion, making it the second-largest economy globally. Meanwhile, Pakistan's GDP stood at \$376 billion, a fraction of China's. China's success in transitioning from an agrarian economy to an industrial and now technology-driven one has been critical. Pakistan, on the other hand, remains heavily reliant on agriculture, with over 19% of its GDP coming from this sector, much of which is still dependent on outdated techniques.

Education and human capital development have been key components of China's rise. Since the 1980s, China has focused heavily on improving literacy rates, expanding access to education, and investing in higher education institutions. As a result, China's literacy rate reached 97% in 2021, and its universities are increasingly recognized as some of the best in the world.

The country has also prioritized science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, producing a skilled workforce that has powered its industrial and technological growth. Pakistan, on the other hand, lags significantly in education. Its literacy rate is around 62%, with wide disparities between urban and rural areas, and between genders. The country allocates just 2.8% of its GDP to education, far below the global average. Additionally, Pakistan's education system suffers from poor quality, underfunding, and lack of access, especially in rural areas. Without significant investments in human capital, Pakistan will struggle to compete globally and

improve its economic indicators.

China's economic growth has been fueled by massive investments in infrastructure. The country's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), high-speed rail networks, modern highways, ports, and airports have made it easier to connect with international markets and sustain industrial growth. Infrastructure spending in China accounts for 8.3% of GDP, which has played a critical role in sustaining growth and attracting investment. In contrast, Pakistan's infrastructure is underdeveloped. The country ranks 110th in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index for infrastructure, highlighting challenges in energy, transport, and connectivity. Frequent power outages, inadequate transport networks, and poor access to clean water hinder productivity and industrial growth. Although China has supported infrastructure development in Pakistan through projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), progress has been slow, and Pakistan remains far behind.

China's economic diplomacy and strategic positioning on the global stage have helped it grow rapidly. By joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, China integrated itself into the global economy, becoming a major hub for trade and investment. China's ability to attract \$163 billion in FDI in 2020 is a testament to its successful integration into global markets. Additionally, China has cultivated strong trade partnerships, particularly with the U. S.,

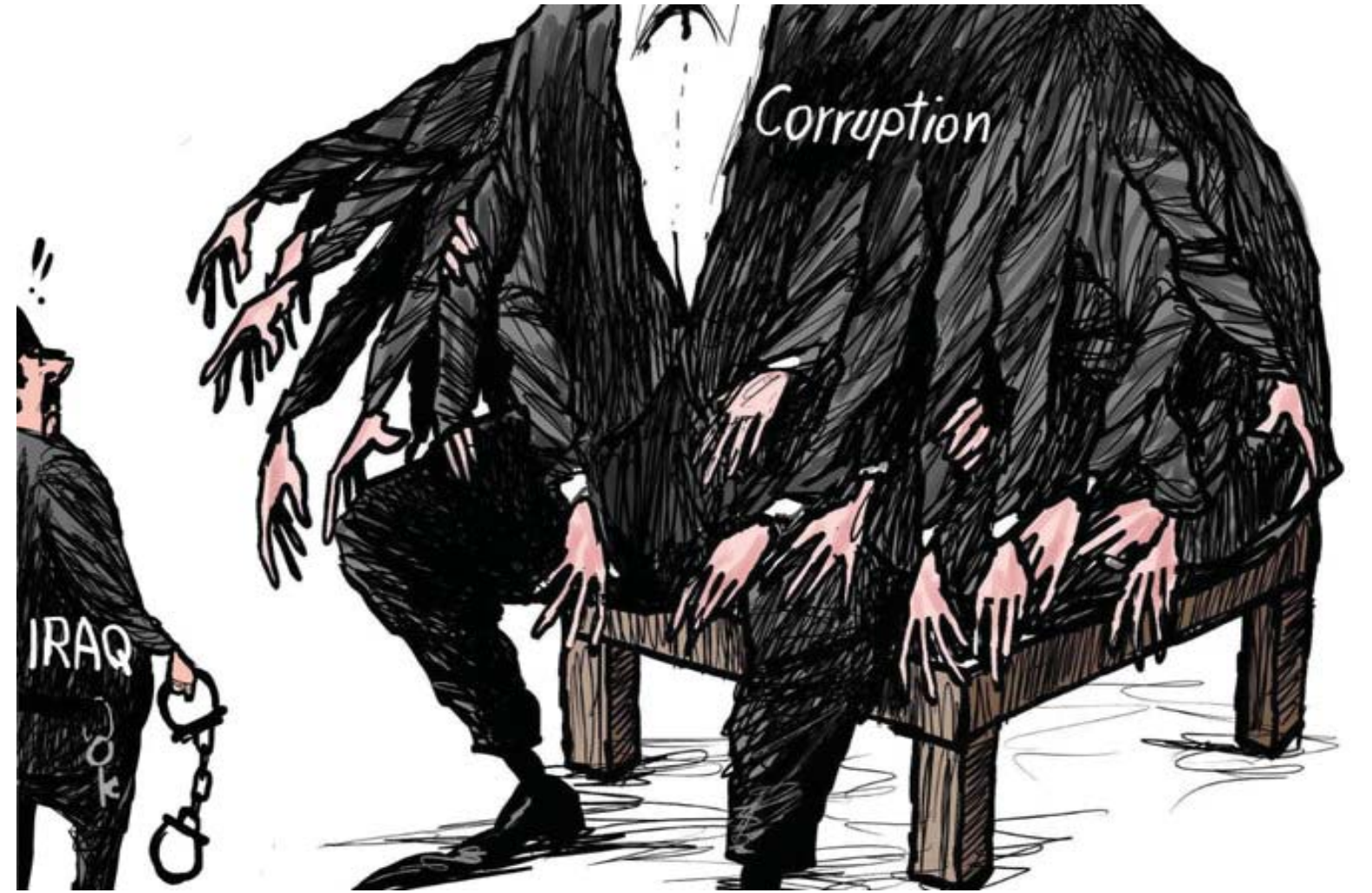
Europe, and emerging markets, which has accelerated its growth. Pakistan's foreign policy, on the other hand, has been heavily influenced by security concerns, particularly its conflict with India. This focus on military spending, which consumes around 4% of GDP, has diverted resources away from development. While Pakistan has maintained strong ties with China and the Gulf States, its trade relationships remain limited, and it has not fully integrated into global markets. In 2022, Pakistan's FDI inflow was just \$2.5 billion, reflecting its struggles to attract international investors.

In conclusion, China and Pakistan's divergent paths since independence can be attributed to several key factors, including political stability, economic strategy, human capital development, and global integration. China's consistent focus on long-term development, industrialization, education, and infrastructure has allowed it to become one of the world's leading economies. Pakistan, on the other hand, has been held back by political instability, inconsistent policies, corruption, and a lack of investment in human capital and infrastructure. For Pakistan to bridge the gap, it must adopt a long-term development strategy focused on political stability, governance reforms, industrialization, education, and infrastructure. Only by addressing these structural issues can Pakistan hope to replicate some of China's success and improve its standing in global development indicators.

Muhammad Faiq Shah is a businessman, political figure, and dedicated philanthropist. He can be reached via Email: officeofmuhammad-faiqshah@gmail.com



Analysis
Muhammad Faiq Shah



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

Pakistan has called for strengthening the role and capacity of UN peacekeeping in hotspots around the world, proposing that the Security Council should create effective political mechanisms to promote peace agreements among parties to the conflict.

Speaking in the 15-member Council as it reviewed UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Munir Akram pointed out that such a mechanism would require greater cooperation among Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, notwithstanding their geopolitical rivalries.

The Pakistani envoy said that peacekeeping missions should also put greater emphasis on promoting local peace arrangements at the community level to reduce violence, citing the successful efforts of the Pakistani peacekeepers in restive Abyei, an area disputed by South Sudan and the Sudan.

Monday's Council meeting was organized by Slovenia as the rotating President of the UN Security Council for the month of September.

At the outset, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan has a long and close involvement with United Nations peace operations.

Pakistan, he said, is host to one of the first United Nations missions — the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which was established in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire along the line of control (LoC) in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

For its part, Pakistan has also deployed 230,000 peacekeepers in 46 missions and has lost 181 peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security, Ambassador Akram added.

In today's day and age, he said, United Nations peacekeeping missions find themselves facing new and growing challenges, including violence an chaos spread by terrorists, involvement of organized criminal networks in illegal extraction of resources and criminal activities; external interventions in local conflicts; limitations imposed on the resources for UN peacekeeping and erosion of unified support from member States, especially the Council's permanent members.

The international community, especially the United Nations and the Security Council, must extend full support to those regional organizations — like the African Union — who are prepared to take more robust operations where necessary to enforce peace, Ambassador Akram said.

Opening the debate, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, underscored the need for greater political support and resources for UN peacekeeping mission to carry out their duties safely as conflicts grow more complex and armed groups increasingly weaponize low-cost technologies like improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and drones.

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Thar Coal Mines: A Legacy of Suffering, Environmental Damage, and Broken Promises

Syeda Noor Fatima

The people of Thar have long faced struggles due to their harsh environment and scarce resources, making their lives a constant battle. They had hoped that the Thar coal mines would be a game-changer, bringing much-needed prosperity and relief. However, instead of improving their lives, the mines have only added to their woes.

The coal that lies beneath our feet has brought only more suffering. The air we breathe is toxic, the water we drink is poisoned, and our children's futures are uncertain, our voices silenced by the roar of the excavators and the greed of those who profit from our pain, says Amir Hussain resident of Village Varoi, Block One, Islamkot, Thar.

Hussain explained that Our source of income relies heavily on animal husbandry and agriculture, but the construction of a coal dump just 500 meters from our residences threatens our livelihood. The coal dump discharges mine drainage, contaminating our groundwater.

Due to the toxic deposits and fumes, our children are getting skin diseases and asthma problems. And our drinking water has become more bitter. To make matters worse, the government doesn't provide us with even a single tanker of clean water for drinking, our animals

often get trapped in this polluted water and die.

There are nine villages within Block One, but only one middle school serves the entire neighborhood. However, the construction of mines has cut off the road to the school, forcing children to take a lengthy detour. A power plant has been built on part of the road, and a fence has been erected on the other side. As a result, children who previously traveled just five kilometers to school now have to cover a distance of 30 to 40 kilometers. Consequently, many children have dropped out of school and are now sitting at home.

"Kashif Bajee, a human rights defender and member of the Civil Society Support Program, warns that coal mining will destroy half of Thar Parkar. Despite the Sindh government holding a 51% share in the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) which operates in block 2, it has failed to support local people. Bajee claims that local MNA and MPA have granted land rights to companies without providing relief to the community. Moreover, the government has failed to improve the environmental framework according to international standards.

Bajee explains that the CSR Fund, established as the Pampas Thar Foundation, aims to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, develop Islamkot into a model tehsil, and bring peace and prosperity to the region. However, the funds are not being utilized for the people's benefit. Under the full

control of Shanghai Electric Power Co Ltd in Block One, the Chinese involvement has led to a blackout of media coverage, silencing the voices of the poor and instilling fear among the local population."

The company has ignored us and favored outsiders, offering them varying amounts of money — ranging from 10 lakhs to 42 lakhs — while arbitrarily classifying people and leaving the poor and weak helpless," Amir says.

Despite numerous promises from officials to bring relief, none have been fulfilled. How can we expect these officials to make our country successful when they fail to stand up for the people of our township, or even care for the voiceless animals?"

Amir Hussain emphasizes that it's time for the government to take responsibility for its actions. The Authority must fulfill its promises, including providing compensation and employment opportunities to affected communities. Additionally, relocated families deserve adequate facilities and infrastructure and the provision of clean water and protection of the environment and natural resources from further degradation are also necessary. Furthermore, transparency and accountability are essential in all dealings related to the Thar coal mines project. It's imperative that they prioritize the well-being of local communities and work towards a sustainable future.

Writer can be reached at syedanoor-fatima@gmail.com

A Call for Unity, Prosperity, and Responsible Governance

In a powerful seminar organized by the Department of Pakistan Studies at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, the theme of "Nationalism and Pakistanism" was brought into sharp focus. Speakers, including Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Shah (Coordinator of the Main Campus), Dr. Hussain Ali (Head of the Sociology Department), Dr. Shaista Gohar from the Pakistan Studies Department, Lecturer

Dalir Khatak from the International Relations Department, Lecturer Miss Safia from the Sociology Department, and myself as a scholar of International Relations, gathered to pay tribute to the martyrs of the 6th September 1965 war. These brave souls defended our sovereignty with their lives, a sacrifice that should inspire every Pakistani to work for the country's unity and future.

The central message of the seminar was that Pakistan is our beloved homeland, and we must be ready to protect it at all costs. The discussion focused on how external and internal enemies are working to destabilize Pakistan, and how important it is to remain united against such forces.

One of the major concerns highlighted was the growing influence of nationalist movements in Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). These groups, driven by separatist agendas, seek to weaken Pakistan by exploiting ethnic differences and fueling unrest. The insurgency in Balochistan, led by groups like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), has

been a significant challenge to national integrity, promoting violence and instability under the guise of autonomy. Similarly, in Sindh, nationalist factions have been trying to stoke anti-state sentiment, further dividing people along ethnic lines. In KP, extremist groups have often aligned with these nationalist movements, disrupting peace and security in the region.

The speakers collectively rejected the agenda of these groups, stressing that instead of addressing real issues, they serve external interests aimed at disintegrating Pakistan. It was emphasized that the youth must reject these divisive ideologies and focus on strengthening the unity of Pakistan. Only by standing united can we resist these forces and protect the sovereignty of our nation.

While unity and resource management were key themes, the speakers also made a critical point: the government must set an example by reducing its extravagant expenditures. In a country where the majority of people are struggling with inflation, unemployment, and poor living standards, it is unacceptable for the government to maintain luxurious lifestyles and unnecessary perks for officials. It was suggested that the government should:

1. Cut Down on Luxurious Expenses: Government officials must reduce spending on lavish offices, high-end vehicles, and foreign trips. These resources should instead be allocated towards public welfare and development projects

that directly benefit the people.

2. Reduce Cabinet Size and Bureaucratic Expenditure: The government should minimize unnecessary positions and streamline departments to reduce excessive administrative costs. Smaller, more efficient governance would not only cut expenses but also improve decision-making.

3. Prioritize Social Welfare Programs: Savings from reduced luxuries should be directed towards subsidies on essential commodities, healthcare, and education. This will provide immediate relief to the poor and help bridge the gap between the rich and the impoverished.

4. Transparency and Accountability: The public should have clear insight into how taxpayer money is being spent. Introducing mechanisms for transparency and holding officials accountable for misuse of funds would restore public trust and ensure resources are used wisely. A large number of male and female students participated in the seminar, engaging actively in discussions about the future of Pakistan. Their enthusiasm was a positive indicator that the younger generation understands the importance of unity and responsible governance.

The seminar concluded with a powerful message: Pakistan's prosperity depends on unity, judicious use of resources, and responsible leadership. We must reject the divisive agendas of nationalist and violent groups, and demand that our leaders set a positive example by reducing extravagant expenditures and focusing on the welfare of the people. Only then can we build a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Pakistan—one that honors the sacrifices of its martyrs and fulfills the dreams of its citizens.



Analysis
Sohail Ahmad Baber

Pakistan envoy urges Canadians to live by Prophet's (PBUH) teachings on Eid Milad ul Nabi

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: Eid Milad ul Nabi was organised by Salam Pakistan Canada in the SNMC mosque, here today in Ottawa. The Acting High Commissioner Mr. Shah Faisal Kakar delivered a heartfelt address at the Eid Milad ul-Nabi celebration which was attended by a large number of Pakistani community. The event was held to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and attracted a diverse audience keen to reflect on the enduring legacy of the Prophet.



In his speech, Mr. Kakar emphasized that the truest form of respect and love for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is not merely through ceremonies or expressions of devotion

but through our daily actions. He urged attendees to act upon the teachings of the Prophet, highlighting qualities such as compas-

sion, justice, and humility. "Today, as we celebrate this significant occasion, it is essential to reflect on how we can best honor the memory of

our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)," Mr. Kakar stated. "The teachings of the Prophet are a timeless guide, and our best tribute to him is to embody these values in our everyday lives. By doing so, we not only uphold his legacy but also contribute positively to our communities and foster a spirit of unity and understanding."

The event, organized by Salam Pakistan Canada, brought together members of the Pakistani community and religious leaders to shed lights on the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Acting High Commissioner's address underscored the importance of living out the principles of empathy and justice that define the Prophet's legacy.

Dubai hosted international event on Takaful & Re-Takaful Innovations

DUBAI: The much-anticipated 6th Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum is taking place in Dubai, UAE. This prestigious international event explore innovative risk management and financial inclusion strategies to pave the way for financial and economic solutions within the Takaful and Re-Takaful sectors.

The forum, sponsored by prestigious organizations like the National Insurance Authority of Somaliland, Somaliland Banking Association, Islamic Finance Research Institute—Ghana, and Al-Barakah Multi-purpose Cooperative Society Limited, focuses on crucial topics influencing the future of Takaful and Re-Takaful.

Key discussion points include the development of robust regulations and supervision for the Takaful and Re-Takaful industries, covering aspects such as clear guidelines for product development, risk management, and governance to ensure their integrity and sustainability. The forum also emphasizes the significance of upholding Islamic principles in Takaful and Re-Takaful operations. This involves ensuring that all products and services comply with Shariah law and maintain the ethical foundation of these industries. Additionally, insights are shared on exploring new investment avenues and innovative financial products within the Takaful and Re-Takaful landscape. This encompasses discussions on emerging trends, technological advancements, and opportunities for product diversification. Lastly, the forum analyzes the latest trends and challenges facing the global Takaful and Re-Takaful market, including market competition, regulatory changes, and technological disruptions that are shaping the industry's future.

The event brings together representatives and distinguished speakers from over 15 countries. It focuses on fostering collaboration to create regulations and frameworks that enable seamless operations and growth in the Takaful and Re-Takaful sectors. Key discussions cover Banca-Takaful, Micro-Takaful, and Re-Takaful, highlighting their relevance in financial industry.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE - UAE, has emphasized the rapid global growth of Islamic finance. He noted that Islamic finance is being embraced in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim countries. He reiterated that AlHuda CIBE has been promoting Islamic finance worldwide through training, advisory, and research services since 2006, with ongoing projects in countries such as Uzbekistan, Tanzania, Somaliland, and South Africa.

At the event, three distinguished ambassadors, Mohamad Hussain Sherif from the Republic of Maldives, Mohammed Abu Zafar from Bangladesh, and Ali Zeb Khan from Pakistan, took the opportunity to commend the significant contributions being made in the Takaful industry. They recognized the ongoing efforts to promote and strengthen Islamic banking, particularly highlighting how the sector has shown consistent growth. The ambassadors noted that Islamic banking is thriving and appreciated the advancements being made to enhance its reach and impact. Their positive remarks reflected optimism for the future of Takaful and Islamic finance, expressing confidence that these developments will continue to play an essential role in the global financial landscape.

Following forum, a post-event workshop held from September 10-11, 2024, focusing on operational aspects of Takaful, Re-Takaful, Banca-Takaful, and Micro-Takaful. This workshop offer valuable insights for industry professionals.

Death toll in Vietnam from impacts of typhoon Yagi rises to 127

HANOI: Typhoon Yagi, landslides and floods it triggered have killed at least 127 people, and 54 others are missing in northern Vietnam, the disaster management agency said on Tuesday.

Most of the victims were killed in landslides and flash floods, the agency said in a report. Nearly 764 people have been injured, it added.

The typhoon made landfall on Saturday on Vietnam's northeastern coast, devastating a large swath of industrial and residential areas and bringing heavy rains that caused floods and landslides. It had previously hit the Philippines and the southern Chinese island of Hainan.

Government officials say severe floods are expected to inundate parts of Vietnam's north, including the capital Hanoi.

Other northern areas, including the industrial hubs of Bac Giang and Thai Nguyen which host factories of several export-oriented multinationals, are also facing severe flooding, state media reported. It was not immediately clear if the companies were affected.

Several rivers in northern Vietnam have risen to alarming levels, leaving villages and residential areas inundated, according to the disaster agency and state media. A 30-year-old bridge over the Red River in the northern province of Phu Tho collapsed on Monday, leaving eight missing, according to a statement from the provincial People's Committee.

Authorities have subsequently banned or limited traffic on other bridges across the river, including Chuong Duong Bridge, one of the largest in Hanoi, according to state media reports.

"Water levels on the Red River are rising rapidly," the government said on Tuesday in a post on its Facebook account.

EFP, ILO, and Govt Unite to Eliminate Forced Labor



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), under the BRIDGE Project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), hosted a National Conference on the Elimination of Forced Labor. This event promoted the use of best practices, highlighted roles in supply chains, and advocated for the adoption of protocol 29 to prevent forced labour from Pakistan's supply chains.

The event began with welcoming remarks from Malik Tahir Javed, President of the EFP, who emphasized the critical importance of compliance with labor standards for businesses. He highlighted that adherence to these standards is not only essential for ethical business practices but also crucial for sustaining

international trade relationships and enhancing Pakistan's global reputation.

During the conference, the Provincial Minister for Labor, Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim, spoke on the government's dedicated efforts to eradicate forced labor in both formal and informal sectors. He acknowledged the vital support provided by the ILO, praised the EFP's efforts in contributing and creating allegiance, and noted that expert recommendations are instrumental in diminishing forced labour both from the formal and informal sectors of work.

Guillermo Mont, the Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Country Office, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its continued contributions and cooperation in this crucial effort. He reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to supporting Pakistan in its initiatives to eliminate forced labor

and extended good fortune to EFP in continuing the commitment to eradicate forced labour from Pakistan.

Raja Tanveer Azmi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development highlighted the government's full commitment to this cause, announcing that Pakistan will soon ratify Protocol 29 as a clear testament to its dedication to combating forced labor. He also mentioned the ethical and fair working conditions, now being adopted due to the regularities of the government, which benefit low-income workers to have prominent and efficient rights in and outside of the working environment.

Oluremi Doherty, Chief Technical Advisor-Bridge Project, provided a global overview of the forced labor situation and discussed the ILO's response, including its efforts in standard-setting

and various other projects like BRIDGE.

Dr. Faisal Iqbal, the National Coordinator of the ILO, delivered a briefing outlining the BRIDGE initiatives of the ILO in collaboration with the Government, Workers, and Employers' Organizations and explained the positive impact gained by the Workers and Employers present especially in the mining, agriculture, and the brick kilns sectors of Pakistan.

The conference also featured contributions from industrialists, business leaders, and specific social sector experts from Artistic Milliners and Nestle Pakistan, who highlighted the challenges associated with forced labor and offered valuable suggestions for its eradication across all sectors. The session concluded with a Q&A segment, where experts responded to questions from the audience.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori Awarded Ethiopia's Highest Honor for Services

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a prestigious ceremony held at Governor House, Governor Sindh H. E. Kamran Khan Tessori was awarded Ethiopia's highest honor, the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award, by Ethiopian Ambassador and Special Envoy H. E. Dr. Jamal Beker.

The award was presented in recognition of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's exceptional contributions to strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker for the honor. He emphasized that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia have reached new heights of strength and cooperation.

During the event, which featured an Ethiopian cultural show, Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker praised the Governor's role in fostering public ties between the two nations.

He highlighted Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's pivotal efforts in promoting bilateral relations, including his significant role in facilitating the launch of Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan.

H. E. Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker said efforts of the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad and support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, business community, civil society



and media had helped strengthen the people-to-people relations between the two countries.

He said the start of the Ethiopian Airlines had laid the strong foundation for people-to-people relations between the two countries, who had strengthened the bilateral ties by enhancing the bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

The Ambassador said today Ethiopian cultural night was a testament to the growing people-to-people relations between the two countries.

He also highlighted the diverse

culture and rich heritage of Ethiopia which is called as a land of origins, a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejashei and the land of coffee.

H. E. Zubair Motiwala, TDAP Chief Executive, also acknowledged the growing bilateral relations between the two countries, but stressed the need to exploit the immense business and trade potential between the two countries.

H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi, lauded the Ambassador of Ethiopia for his exemplary efforts

to promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Honorary Consul said Ethiopia and Pakistan shared striking cultural similarities which he had witnessed today in this Ethiopian cultural night.

A large number of individuals from different walks of life including officials of the Government of Pakistan, Parliamentarians, diplomatic corps, business community, civil society and media attended the cultural night which featured dance and singing performances of the Ethiopian singers and dancers.



Prominent figures included H. E. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), H. E. Khalid Tawab, Ex-Minister of

Sindh for Commerce and Industry, H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Karachi. The cultural night was hosted

by the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad in collaboration with the Sindh Governor House, Pakistan Ethiopia Business Council and Bukhari Groups.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
79,286.73	78,615.00
Day's High	Day's Low
79,335.59	78,642.86
Index Value	Change
7,809,593,631	+671.73
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	10 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,205.98	-64.86
Percentage	Time
0.78%	10 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,549.38	-280.21
Percentage	Time
-0.69%	10 Sept, 1:01 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,159.16	-56.59
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	10 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	278.95	280.45

CCP Enforces Competition Law: PKR 27 million in penalties recovered

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully recovered PKR 27 million in penalties from Reliance Paints and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by exercising its authority under Section 40(2) (a) of the Competition Act, 2010, through the attachment of their bank accounts.

These recoveries are part of the CCP's broader strategy to enforce its mandate of ensuring a level playing field across all sectors, demonstrating its commitment to tackling anti-competitive practices.

Over the past year, the CCP has recovered a total of PKR 69 million in penalties, accounting for 25% of the total amount recovered since the Commission's establishment in 2007. This significant progress underscores the CCP's ongoing vigilance and effectiveness in promoting fair competition and protecting consumer interests. To date, the CCP has recovered PKR 269 million in penalties.

In case of Reliance Paints, the enquiry was



Competition Commission of Pakistan

initiated following a formal complaint from Akzo Nobel Pakistan Ltd, alleging that the company was fixing minimum resale prices and penalizing dealers and retailers for not complying with its pricing directives. The CCP's enquiry confirmed that Reliance Paints' practices were restricting competition not only among its dealers but also between Reliance and its competitors, as rigid retail prices prevented discounts to consumers. As a result, the CCP imposed a PKR 5 million fine, which was later reduced to PKR 2.5 million by the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT), although the Tribunal upheld the CCP's findings.

In another instance, the CCP has imposed a fine of PKR 25 million on Pakistan Steel Mills

(PSM) for abusing its dominant position in the low-carbon steel market. The enquiry conducted by the CCP from November 2008 to February 2009 revealed that PSM had engaged in anti-competitive practices by unfairly restricting access to specific grades of steel billets, namely SAE 1008 and SAE 1010. PSM was found to have denied supply to Frontier Foundry (FFPL) while preferentially supplying other buyers. This selective distribution distorted competition in the downstream market, where PSM holds a monopoly.

These cases highlight the CCP's proactive stance in safeguarding competitive practices and ensuring compliance with competition law to foster a fair marketplace for all.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: FaiKarim Kundi (Governor of KPK), Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Yusuf Sharifzoda, The High Commissioner of Maldives Uz. Mohamed Thoha, Sardar Dr. Rashid Ilyas Khan (President the Centaurus Group), Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan (CEO The Centaurus Group, President IDA), Sami Ibrahim (Event Organizer) inaugurated four day Dying Craft Exhibition at the Centaurus Mall.



Photo: Online

ICCI chief demands interest rate cut

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has called on the government and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to reduce the interest rate to single digit in the upcoming review. He emphasized that high interest rate has increased the cost of doing business, reduced investment and discouraged entrepreneurship thus, making it essential to lower the rate to stimulate economic activity, ultimately leading to job creation and economic growth.



Talking to media persons, Bakhtawari expressed disappointment with the recent policy rate cuts, calling them "too little, too late." He noted that the business community had expected more substantial cuts, rather than the modest in June and July. He stressed that reduction is crucial to provide relief to businesses

facing economic challenges due to high power and gas charges, which have led to diminished economic activity, reduced exports, lower foreign direct investment and increased unemployment.

The ICCI President highlighted the urgent need for relief, particularly for

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and cottage industries that are struggling to survive. He argued that a reduction in interest rates would increase demand and supply, driving economic recovery and growth.

He emphasized that SMEs represent the backbone of the economy and need favourable financial conditions to thrive. Reducing interest rates could enable these businesses to grow and contribute significantly to the national economy. Furthermore, a reduction in interest rates would also lower inflation, providing relief to the country's impoverished population.

He went on to say that at the moment neither the local nor the foreign investors can think of making investment which is ultimately inflicting severe economic hard to the country and to come out of the situation the initiative would be a step in the right direction.

easypaisa's Rifah Qadri receives Pakistan's first 'Dragon Master' Award

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rifah Qadri, Head of Marketing & Communications at easypaisa, was honored with the first ever Industry Leader of The Year "Dragon Master" accolade in Pakistan. The award was conferred to Rifah for her pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's marketing industry, demonstrating leadership, strategic vision, and a deep commitment to excellence. This makes her the first Pakistani to win the prestigious award.

easypaisa's Savings Pocket campaign has also been recognized, it has won a bronze award in the "Best Digital Campaign" category at Dragons of Pakistan. This esteemed recognition further solidifies easypaisa's reputation for driving innovation and societal impact through digital solutions.

Expressing her excitement, Rifah Qadri stated, "I am honored to receive the first-ever Industry Leader of The Year 'Dragon Master Award'



at the Dragons of Pakistan. This is more than just an accolade; it is a celebration of the courage to challenge norms and do purposeful work. This recognition is a proud moment for me, easypaisa, and Pakistan. My

work reflects my commitment to making a meaningful difference in society, and I believe in the power of marketing, creativity and technology to break barriers and bring about real change. This award is not just

a win for us, but a win for every woman who now feels more empowered to make informed decisions. Special thanks to my team and all those who have stood by me, without whom this would not have been possible."

SECP and U. S. CFTC commence 2nd Training Session on Commodities Futures Market

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in collaboration with the U. S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) commenced the second training session on the development of the Commodity Futures Market, in Islamabad.

Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, underscored the vital role that the agricultural commodities market play in Pakistan's economy. He highlighted the key initiatives taken by SECP, including ongoing consultations with stakeholders aimed at advancing the development of a robust commodities derivatives market. Chairman SECP further stressed the importance of collective efforts from all stakeholders to create a well-functioning commodities futures market in Pakistan. He praised Mr. Kevin Piccoli, Deputy Director at U. S. CFTC, for his invaluable support in facilitating the collaboration with U. S. CFTC, for advancing the commodities market in Pakistan.

Dr. Akmal Siddiq, Advisor for Ministry of National Food Security and Research, commended the SECP for organizing the

capacity-building program, which focuses on market development, regulation, and strengthening the commodity futures market. He also commended U. S. CFTC for providing valuable technical assistance to Pakistan and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Kevin Piccoli, Deputy Director at U. S. CFTC, for his support and leading the capacity building initiative. He expressed hope that trainings and awareness raising will ultimately lead to development of commodities futures markets in Pakistan in the years to come.

The training session was attended by relevant government functionaries, SECP officials, market intermediaries, agri tech companies and corporates. Participants explored the need to establish linkages between agricultural commodities markets and the futures market, and the ways to strengthen regulatory frameworks to build investor trust and promote market integrity.

SECP and U. S. CFTC are holding a series of trainings sessions in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. First session has already been held in Karachi and was well attended by various stakeholders.

Customers can win gold with NBP PayPak Debit Cards

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is pleased to announce the launch of its latest "PayPak Cardholder Campaign," providing customers with an exciting opportunity to win gold. By using NBP PayPak Debit Cards, customers can enter to win a 2.5g gold bar through various transactions, including ATM with-

drawals of Rs. 500 or more, retail purchases of Rs. 5,000 or more, and online transactions of Rs. 5,000 or more. A total of 75 gold bars will be awarded, with 25 winners in each transaction category. This exclusive campaign will run from September to December 2024, giving NBP PayPak cardholders the chance to benefit from their everyday spending.

Farooq Chaudhry says to review rates of tandoori Roti in Rawalpindi



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: President Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caters Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said in his important statement that following the instructions of the High Court, on the case of setting the rates of Roti at restaurants, the Patron in Chief of the association, Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem and the senior vice president Along with Chaudhry Zahid Mehmood, an important meeting was held with Secretary Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Department, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta. While on this occasion Director General Industries, Price, Weight and Measures Asif Ali Farrukh was also present with him. Informing about the important issues related to the meeting, President Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that Imposing tandoori rates on restaurants is excessive. Because our costs are much higher than the Tandooris. Tandoori is given a special protected gas tariff, whereas for three-star and five-star hotels, the commercial gas tariff is fixed at 3900 per mmbtu. The same tariff is being applied to small restaurants as well, which is beyond our tolerance. So selling Roti at Rs 14 along with expensive gas tariff is causing increasing business difficulties. Apart from this, other taxes including sales tax are imposed on restaurants which we pay responsibly. Association President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that the Association told Secretary Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Department Dr. Ehsan Bhutta that for checking the rates of Roti inside the restaurants, fines from 50,000 to 100,000 rupees will be imposed by the administration. They are sealed our restaurants too. The association appeals to the Punjab government to reconsider its decisions.

Our candidates will win by a large majority, says Haji Ghulam Ali



Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: In the run-up to the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce elections, former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, and Muhammad Ishaq, along with candidates including Luqman Shah, Ashiq Muhammad, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Bakht Mir Jan, Ikram Khan, and Arshad Khan, visited Kohat Industrial Estate and Canton-

ment Plaza, Haroon Enterprises, and met with various members and senior leaders. During their visit to Kohat Industrial Estate, they met with Abdul Hameed, Haji Sanaullah, Haroon Shafiq, Momin Khan, Muhammad Ameen, Farmanullah, Samiullah, Gul Sharif, Ibrahim Khan, Tamur Zaman, Abdullah, Haji Mehran Gul, Haji Insaaf Shah, and Misbah Khan, who pledged full cooperation and support.

Key players return as England announce squad for Pakistan Tests

Sports Desk

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Tuesday, unveiled a strong 17-member squad for the Test series against Pakistan, scheduled next month.

England will tour Pakistan for a three-match series, part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC), scheduled to run from October 7 to 28.

The England squad features two uncapped players Durham's Brydon Carse and Essex's Jordan Cox while spinners Rehan Ahmed and Jack Leach also returning to the Test side.

Meanwhile, England's regular Test captain Ben Stokes, who missed the recently-concluded series against Sri Lanka due to an injury which he sustained in The Hundred also returned to the side but his participation would be subjected to the fitness.

Furthermore, left-handed opener Zak Crawley, who is recovering from a thumb injury was also among England's 17-member squad for the Pakistan Tests.



Crawley sustained the injury while attempting a catch in the last Test of the three-match series against West Indies.

England will tour Pakistan with momentum as the side recently secured series victories over West Indies and Sri Lanka while the Green Shirts

succumbed to a new low after losing the two-match home series against Bangladesh 2-0.

England last toured Pakistan in 2022 for a three-match Test series and blew away the home side, securing a whitewash.

England Men's Test Squad: Ben Stokes, Durham, Captain; Rehan Ahmed, Leicestershire; Gus Atkinson, Surrey; Shoaib Bashir, Somerset; Harry Brook, Yorkshire; Brydon Carse, Durham; Jordan Cox, Essex; Zak Crawley, Kent; Ben Duckett, Nottinghamshire; Josh Hull, Leicestershire; Jack Leach, Somerset; Ollie Pope, Surrey; Matthew Potts, Durham; Joe Root, Yorkshire; Jamie Smith, Surrey; Olly Stone, Nottinghamshire; Chris Woakes, Warwickshire.

It is worth mentioning here that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) may announce a revised schedule for the upcoming Test series against England due to the unavailability of the venues.

It was reported last week that the second Test of the series which was originally scheduled at the National Stadium in Karachi may get relocated to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) but PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi refuted the claims and confirmed that all the three matches will be played in Pakistan.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council to be extended all possible support for organizing T20 Blind World Cup

Tahir Amin Makik

LAHORE: Punjab Sports and Youth Affairs Department will extend all possible support to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council for organizing T20 Blind World Cup 2024 in a befitting manner; Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said this while talking to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, who called on him at the Punjab Stadium on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the preparations for the T20 Blind World Cup were reviewed thoroughly. Director Admin Blind Cricket Council Yusuf

Haroon, Secretary M Atiq Zia, Additional Secretary Sports Farhan Farooq and other officials also participated in the meeting.

Talking on this occasion, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the organization of the T20 Blind World Cup in Pakistan will help a lot in promoting the soft image of the country among the world community. "Definitely, it is a great honour that Pakistan is going to organize T20 Blind World Cup for the first time," he added.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial informed that seven blind cricket teams,



including hosts Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Nepal

and Afghanistan will participate in the grand event. "The opening ceremony of the Blind World Cup will be conducted in Lahore while a total of 24 matches of the mega event will be held in Lahore, Multan and Faisalabad from November 21 to December 3, 2024."

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Chairman Syed Sultan Shah on this occasion said that the Sports and Youth Affairs Department has always provided full support to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council for holding every major event in the past. "The blind cricket will get great boost in the country through successful organization of T20 Blind World Cup," he added.

Australia held by Indonesia in FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Sports Desk

JAKARTA: Toothless Australia failed to score for the second FIFA World Cup Qualifiers match in succession as they were held 0-0 by a gutsy Indonesia in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The Socceroos dominated in front of almost 80,000 fans at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta, but Indonesia remain above them in Group C as they seek to qualify for the World Cup for only the second time.

It was Indonesia's second draw after a 1-1 in Saudi Arabia last week, but Australia were shocked 1-0 at home by Bahrain in their FIFA World Cup Qualifiers opener.

The Socceroos head coach Graham Arnold made five changes to his line-up with highly rated Bayern Munich teenager Nestory Irankunda given a chance to shine from the start.

Kusini Yengi was suspended after his red card against Bahrain while central defender Alessandro Circati was again employed as a makeshift right-back.

Australia were by far the better side, forcing a succession of corners with big centre-back Harry Souttar creating havoc in the Indonesia defence.

The 18-year-old Irankunda was at the heart of all Australia's best attacking play.

In the 34th minute, he came within a



whisker of putting his side ahead when his right-foot thunderbolt rattled the post from 25 yards before rebounding off the back of the diving goalkeeper and away to safety.

The second half followed the same

pattern as the first, with Australia on top but failing to find any cutting edge in front of goal.

"Extremely disappointed, because how many chances do we create? How many chances do we get?" said Arnold.

"The boys put in the effort, and they all admitted their performance wasn't good enough in the first game.

"There's eight games to go. It's not like it's a disaster, but I've got to go home and do a lot of thinking."

PCB indefinitely postpones National Men's U19 Championship and Cup

A Sports

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday, announced to indefinitely postpone the National Men's U19 Championship and Cup.

The cricketing body, in a brief statement, shared that the National Men's U19 Championship, scheduled to begin today and the National Men's U19 Cup, supposed to start on September 14, have been postponed due to "unavoidable circumstances".

"The National U19 Championship, due to start today and Cup,

due to start on 14 September, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The new schedule of both the tournaments will be shared in due course," stated PCB.

The two tournaments were supposed to run simultaneously. Each round of the three-day games was to be followed by the One-Day games. As such, a total of 98 matches each had to be played over a 61-day period.

Eighteen teams out of 16 regions were scheduled to 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 were to be announced in due course.

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

The next phase would have included 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.

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 Sheikhpura): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Dera Murad Jamali (DM Jamali), Hyderabad, Lahore Whites, Peshawar and Sialkot regions.



National hero Haider Ali returns home



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani para athlete Haider Ali arrived here at Islamabad International Airport on Tuesday, greeted by a hero's welcome after clinching the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The officials from the Pakistan Sports Board and members of the National Paralympic Committee were in attendance to receive the champion, marking a triumphant return for Ali.

Ali's impressive career boasts an array of medals, including a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics, a silver medal in Beijing 2008, and a bronze medal in Rio 2016.

His outstanding performance at the 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, where he achieved a remarkable 51.23 meters, secured his direct qualification for the 2024 Paris Games.

All Pakistan Kyokushin Kai Karate Championship Held



Sports Desk

LAHORE: All Pakistan Kyokushin Kai Karate Championship Was Held In Ncas Academy (Dojo) In Shalimar Link Road Lahore, In This Event About 28 Fighters Participated In Different Weight Categories.

Mr Bilal Haider Got 3rd Position From Lahore Head Quarter Branch

Mr Rafay Got 2nd Position From Jhelum Branch

Mr Suleman Bilal Got 1st Position On His -50 Kg Weight Category.

It's Big Proud For Us That

Mr Suleman Bilal Has Been Selected To Participate In An International Championships Which Is Going To b Held In Kagoshima, Japan,

With The Name Of

The 28th Dragon Cup International Karate Friendship, At Kagoshima Japan Dated 17- 11-2024

Mr Suleman Bilal Will Represent His Country With His Chief Coach And Representative Of Pakistan World Kyokushin Kai Karate Organization Japan Mr Akhtar Ali Shihan

FIH confirm nominations received for upcoming elections

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed the nominations received for the positions to be elected by the National Associations that are members of the FIH at the 49th FIH Statutory Congress on November 9, 2024.

FIH Elections Oversight Panel (EOP) has completed its assessment of all the candidates nominated for the positions of FIH President and FIH Ordinary Executive Board Members and has determined that all nominations submitted meet the required standards and criteria, said a press release.

List of Valid Nominations- For the position of FIH President: Mohammad Tayyab Ikram (MAC).

For the two positions of FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member female: Danae Andrada Barrios (URU) and Katrin Kauschke (GER) and Hazel Kennedy (ZAM). For the two positions of FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member male: Alberto Daniel Budeisky (ARG), Erik Cornelissen (NED) and Deon James Morgan (RSA).

The EOP will supervise all the election process during the Congress. The aim of the EOP is to ensure that the FIH elections are carried out in a fair and transparent manner consistent with the FIH Statutes, Integrity Code, Elections Manual and General Regulations.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

President lauds services of AQ Khan Hospital Trust, assures his support

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and health-care to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the Trustees including Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Ghulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed the president about the role of the hospital in providing medical services to the people. She also apprised

the president about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust.

President Zardari said that the entire nation was indebted to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for his services to the

nation, and assured the resolution of the issues faced by the Trust.

He commended the work of AQ Khan Hospital Trust and appreciated the generous donations by the people for the noble cause of providing much-needed free health services to the underprivileged.

Finance Minister reiterates resolve to restructure power sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector to improve its efficiency and service delivery.

The reforms included reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees to bring in more efficiency in the boards and improve overall service delivery, he said.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric, Mark Skelton, which among others was attended by Javed Kureishi, Member Board of Directors KE, Mubasher H. Sheikh, Member Board of Directors KE, Moonis Alvi, CEO KE, Imran Qureshi, Chief Regulatory Affairs KE, M. Aamir



Ghaziani, CFO KE and senior officials of the Finance Division.

The meeting was convened to exchange views around K-Electric's plans for catering

to growing energy demands of Karachi and the company's transition to renewables to

ensure affordable and sustainable energy for the residents of port city.

PM steering committee agreed on reforms for gems stones

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the meeting of the Prime Minister's Steering Committee for Gems Stones, important decisions have been approved by agreeing on various reforms. In this meeting presided over by Chairman Steering Committee & Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan stakeholders including Federal Ministers, Secretaries, senior officers and representatives of the private sector participated and discussed in detail the proposed reforms regarding Gems Stones. As per the recommendations of the sub-committee, it was agreed to attach gems stones to the Ministry of Industry by giving it proper status. Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment, Communications & Chairman Steering Committee Abdul Aleem Khan said that we are moving forward with the cooperation and integrated measures of the Government and the private sector for the promotion of the Gems Stones industry.

Jam Kamal Khan calls for digital inclusion to empower women at UN Women Event

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, underscored the importance of digital inclusion as a key driver for economic equality during his keynote address at the "Shaping Tomorrow: Private Sector Engagement in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" event, hosted by UN Women Pakistan in Islamabad. He highlighted the critical role of the private sector in advancing gender equality, stressing that technology can serve as a "great equalizer" for women's empowerment.

Two panel discussions at the event further explored key issues related to women's empowerment. The first, titled "Leveraging Digital and Financial Inclusion for Enhanced



Livelihoods of Our Women and Girls," featured speakers from SECP, Karandaaz, P@SHA, and Jazz, who discussed enhancing access to finance and bridging the gender digital divide.

The second panel, "Investing in Women's Leadership in the Private Sector," brought together leaders from JICA, the Pakistan Business Council, and Ubuntu Care to discuss strategies for fostering women's leadership in business.

The event saw strong participation from private sector companies, WEPs signatories, financial institutions, donors, and international organizations, all working together to create pathways for women's economic empowerment through private sector engagement.

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President message on the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Today, we pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah on his 76th death anniversary. We are highly indebted to him for his efforts and contribution for the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent where they could live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural, and religious rights. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a visionary leader, who united the Muslims of India under one banner. The entire nation is proud of his untiring struggle and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination that shaped the destiny of millions of Muslims. Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic and he firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be equal before the law.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle not only laid the foundation of Pakistan's democratic system but continues to influence our aspirations for parliamentary democracy and communal harmony. Quaid-e-Azam successfully steered Indian Muslims through the complex political landscape of India, while maintaining an unyielding stance on the rights of Muslims. It was due to his sheer will, hard work and successful advocacy of the cause of



Muslims that the partition of India became a reality. On this day, we not only honour his efforts but also recommit ourselves to the values and ideals that he championed. He envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socio-economic justice. We need to make the principles of "unity, faith and discipline" our guiding light for the development of our country. I am sure that by acting upon his teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Insha'Allah. Embargo: Not to be broadcast/published before 11 September 2024

Prime Minister Message on 76th Death Anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Today, the nation commemorates the 76th Death Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, with profound respect and reverence. Quaid-e-Azam stands out as one of the most visionary politician and eminent statesman in history. He adeptly led the freedom movement for the Muslims of the Sub-Continent, establishing the world's first Islamic ideological state. The Freedom Movement serves as a testament to his political acumen and visionary leadership, reflecting his dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

His unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy, social justice, and equality laid the foundation for a nation where every citizen could aspire to thrive despite diverse cultures. Jinnah's emphasis on unity and faith resonates deeply within the fabric of our society, reminding us that the strength of Pakistan lies in its diversity and inclusiveness. While we honor his legacy, we reaffirm our commitment to realizing Quaid's vision for Pakistan, addressing contemporary



challenges with the resolute spirit befitting a great nation. In remembering Quaid-e-Azam, we are also reminded of our duty to the future generations. It is our responsibility to instill in them the values of integrity, hard work, and patriotism that Jinnah embodied. Today, let us renew our pledge to work tirelessly towards the realization of a Pakistan that exemplifies the ideals of our founding father — a nation where peace prevails, justice is served, and every citizen has the opportunity to flourish. Embargo: Not to be broadcast/published before 11 September 2024

Gandapur was abducted, ...

Continued from Page 1

Khan reiterated his accusations of betrayal by the establishment, stating that they had sent a message to him to cancel the August 22 rally. He also revealed that the establishment had suggested the September 8 rally date.

He declared that he was closing the door on all negotiations with the establishment, including any future communication. He expressed his belief that the establishment is attempting to manipulate the upcoming elections by extending the term of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Khan also condemned the recent arrest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, accusing the establishment of trying

to sow discord and instability. He expressed solidarity with Gandapur, stating that he believes Gandapur's speech was a reflection of the public's sentiments.

He criticized those within his party who have apologized for Gandapur's speech, calling them cowards and urging them to leave the party. He also defended Gandapur's right to speak freely, stating that the constitution guarantees freedom of speech.

Khan dismissed allegations by Faisal Vawda, a former PTI member, that he was involved in the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif. He challenged Vawda to provide evidence of his claims and stated that an open trial would reveal the truth.

PTI introduced tradition ...

Continued from Page 1

community and used abusive language.

There were empty seats on his right side in the House as only a few opposition members had turned up after the failed meeting, he added.

Tarar said in the past, the instructions for the production order for any detained opposition member used to come from the Prime Minister's House instead of the custodian of this august House. It was the PTI's founder on whose directives the production orders were issued, he

added.

He said Faryal Talpur was sent to the jail from hospital on the 'Chand Raat' (eve of Eid) only to give mental torture to her brother. Similarly, Maryam Nawaz, who had secured bail in a case, was again arrested in the presence of her father, he said.

"Why they (the PTI members) crying today?" he questioned. "As you sow, so shall you reap. In the past, they (PTI) were advised to refrain from doing politics of hatred and revenge, but did not heed to the advice and now they are now facing consequences."