

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے شہر بن جانے کی ہر بات کہیں ہم سے
ابو اسحاق نے ان سے صلہ بن کر فرمے اور ان
سے حدیفہ نے کہی کہ تم کو اللہ تعالیٰ نے اس
نجران سے فرمایا ہے تمہارے پاس ایک لاکھ
دار آوی جو حقیقی لاکھ دار ہو گا تمہیں لوگ نبی
کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے صحابہ کرام سے
(کہ کون اس صفت سے موصوف ہے) تو
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RAWALPINDI



Decorations light up Pakistan's streets on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBHU)

Pakistan is brimming with religious zeal and fervour to celebrate Eid Milad un Nabi (SWA), which marks the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), tomorrow (Tuesday). Muslims across the world mark this occasion in different ways every year on 12th Rabi ul Awwal but in Pakistan, lit up streets and buildings represent the festivities of the prestigious event. Roads and structures and every nook and cranny all across country are illuminated with colourful lights.



Embracing Holy Prophet's teachings key to overcome prevailing challenges: President

President Asif Ali Zardari has called upon the nation and the Muslim Ummah to abide by the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as a guiding light to overcome the prevailing challenges. The president, in his message on 12th Rabiul Awwal, 1446, greeted the nation on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and said that Allah Almighty had set the Holy Prophet's life as a role model to guide every aspect of life.

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Call on

ISLAMABAD: President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



Photo: PID

Delegation-level Talks between Pakistan and the United States



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, John Bass, today held delegation-level talks with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides held wide ranging discussions on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including progress on the existing dialogue mechanisms on trade, energy, security, health, climate change and counter-terrorism. The Foreign Secretary noted the importance attached by Pakistan to its relations with the United States. She underlined the need to upgrade the bilateral mechanisms, especially

in the economic and defence fields, and working towards building a broad based and meaningful bilateral relationship.

Under Secretary Bass thanked the Foreign Secretary for the opportunity to engage substantively on issues of mutual interest. He said the US desires to partner with Pakistan in its efforts to strengthen and stabilize the economy. He expressed appreciation for the resilience shown by Pakistan in the face of recent challenges like floods and terrorist attacks.

Under Secretary Bass also paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

ADB President Asakawa lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa, accompanied by his delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and commended his government for its comprehensive reforms and reaffirmed ADB's continued support for Pakistan.

ADB President Asakawa lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

During the discussions, Asakawa praised Pakistan's long-standing relationship with ADB as one of its founding members.

He also reaffirmed ADB's support for infrastructure development, climate resilience, and institutional reforms in Pakistan.

While appreciating ADB's long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan, the prime minister informed the visiting president about a series of reforms introduced by the government. The key reforms include enhancing

tax revenues, improving financial sustainability of the energy sector, enhancing climate resilience, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection.

ADB President Asakawa lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

The prime minister emphasized that he is personally overseeing the progress of these reforms to ensure their successful implementation and long-term impact, underscoring the Govern-

ment's commitment to sustainable economic growth and stability.

The prime minister appreciated ADB's generous support of over US\$ 1.5 billion in response to the devastating floods of 2022. He showed Pakistan's keen desire to work with the development partners in climate resilience projects including agriculture.

The prime minister and president of ADB also witnessed the loan signing of the Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction

Project amounting to US\$400 million and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project worth US\$320 million.

Both these projects are part of the ADB's flood commitments.

ADB President Asakawa lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

Federal Ministers for Planning & Development, Investment & Privatization, Economic Affairs, Finance & Revenue and other senior government officials also attended the meeting.

Bilawal calls on Fazl to seek consensus on constitutional amendments

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: PPP lawmaker Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday as part of the ruling coalition's efforts for consensus on the constitutional amendments, which has kept the government on its toes since last weekend.

This comes after the federal government put off plans for the constitutional amendment for the time being after failing to gather the numbers required. Sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate have been postponed for an indefinite period.

Described as the "26th Constitutional Amendment", the intended legislation is set to propose a fixed three-year tenure for the chief justice of Pakistan.

Although the legislation was initially scheduled to be introduced in the National Assembly and Senate today (Monday), the government was unable to present it over the weekend despite intensive efforts to secure the necessary support.

The details of the proposed amendments, which had largely been kept under wraps, were discussed during a special parliamentary committee meeting on Sunday night. The meeting aimed to bring the opposition on board, much to the dismay of both opposition members and government allies.

The PTI has voiced concerns over the lack of a draft presented during the three-hour meeting, claiming the government has made "all possible efforts" to prevent the introduction of the amendment package.



Pakistan's \$7b loan programme included in IMF board meeting

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has officially included Pakistan's agenda for a \$7 billion loan approval in its Executive Board meeting scheduled for September 25.

The calendar for the IMF Executive Board meeting has been released, confirming that the South Asian country's agenda would be discussed. The loan request falls under Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility, and the board would consider the approval of the loan during the meeting.

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

The South Asian country has also taken loans from commercial banks, foreign lenders, and friendly countries to improve the economy.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said last week that "friendly" countries have helped Pakistan meet the requirements necessary to secure an IMF bailout.

He said he would not provide further details on the assistance at this moment. Pakistani officials had said they were trying to arrange up to \$2 billion to meet a financing gap and were in discussions with commercial banks for this.

If the Executive Board is satisfied, Pakistan will begin receiving disbursements, with the first tranche being released upon loan approval.

US Under Secretary John Bass, FS Baloch discuss key bilateral Issues

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs John Bass on Monday met with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues, including trade, energy, security, health, climate change, and counter-terrorism.

In the delegation-level talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two sides engaged in extensive discussions on various topics, according to a press release from the the office of Foreign Office Spokesperson.

The foreign secretary noted the importance attached by Pakistan to its relations with the United States. She underlined the need to upgrade the bilateral mechanisms, especially in the economic and defence fields, and working towards building a broad-based and meaningful bilateral relationship.

Under Secretary Bass thanked the foreign secretary for the opportunity to engage substantively on issues of mutual interest.

He said the US desired to partner with Pakistan in its efforts to strengthen and stabilize the economy.

He expressed appreciation for the resilience shown by Pakistan in the face of recent challenges like floods and terrorist attacks.



Process initiated with all political parties on proposed constitutional package: Azam Nazeer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday informed the National Assembly that the process of talks has been initiated with all the political parties in the Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) on the proposed constitutional package.

Responding to points raised by PTI lawmaker Asad Qaisar, the minister said it would be the government's efforts to evolve consensus on the document.

He urged the opposition parties to come up with positive recommendations instead of undue criticisms, assuring that these would be accommodated in the proposed constitutional package.

He called upon the opposition to come forward and support the positive move in order to provide relief to the people suffering for the last over last seven decades.

He said the judges enjoyed official perks and privilege and



it was his sole responsibility to dispense timely justices to the masses. Justice delay was tantamount to justice denied, he added.

The minister said that during formation of the incumbent government, proper consultation was made with different parties including Pakistan Peoples Party, PML-Z, IPP, ANP, Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Dr Abdul Malik etc. After formation of the government, it was our top priority to bring judicial reforms as it was unfinished part of CoD, he added.

Constitutional amendment to strengthen parliament: Rana Sanaullah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Monday said that amendment in the constitution is imperative to strengthen parliament. The homework regarding constitutional amendment has been completed but we will present the draft before the

house after consensus with the political parties, he said while talking to a private television channel.

In reply to a question about reservation of JUI-F leader over some points, he said that the matter would be discussed in a special committee and hoped that the reservation would be removed after consultation.

One Should Not Abuse Opponents If Allah Gives Strength & Honour: CM Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Love of Holy Prophet (SAW) is nurtured in a mother's lap," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her address at the Provincial Seerat-ul-Nabi Conference. She added, "I appeal to the parents, especially mothers, to narrate to their children events related to Prophet's (SAW) life before going to bed."

Madam Chief Minister said, "My late mother, my late grandfather were true lovers of the beloved Prophet (SAW). In our family the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is celebrated like a festival." She added, "Naat-recitation event is held in our house, I have been seeing it since my childhood."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Neither love for the Holy Prophet (SAW) nor his 'Naat' is for someone with meagre demeanour and character." She added, "Allah Almighty Himself said in

the Holy Qur'an, "O Prophet, We have exalted your mention."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Foundation of the first charter of human rights was laid down by the Holy Prophet (SAW) in his Sermon of 'Hajjat-ul-Wida, and he taught these human rights in the first teaching place of Islam, Masjid-e-Nabawi." She added, "Khutba Hajjat-ul-Wida' is the first manifesto of humanity where the rights of every individual are defined." She highlighted, "Respect for the weaker segments of society including women has been underscored, and all kinds of discriminations have been prohibited therein."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "No one has given as much rights and respect to women as was given by Islam." She added, "The rights which Allah has given to a woman are not found anywhere else." She flagged, "Islam has said that the best among you is the one who is best with



his wives." She noted, "When Hazrat Fatima (RA) used to visit, the Prophet (PBUH) would stand up to receive her." Madam Chief Minister said, "It is pity that if a daughter returns home when her marriage does not work out, she is taunted and considered a burden." She added, "On the contrary, if a girl returns home after divorce, her rights increases." She underscored, "While training our daughters, we forget how she will face any difficulty tomorrow."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "I am also a daughter. 'Fatwas' are coming on the education of girls, while our Holy Prophet (SAW) said, 'Get knowledge even if you have to go to China.' She lamented, "Our girls do not get the same opportunities as those available to boys."

Madam Chief Minister said, "In the teachings of Holy Prophet (SAW), there is no class for which a code of life has not been established." She added, "Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has told how to behave in different areas of life." She pointed out, "Why are minorities not considered safe in our country, why guns are drawn and people are murdered?"

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Regarding the minorities, our beloved Prophet (SAW) has clearly said that do not call anyone's religion bad." She added, "Life of a scholar should be such that people start

loving Islam." She noted, "Hearts can be subjugated by love, not by fighting and killing."

Madam Chief Minister said, "The mention of our Prophet (SAW) is still high today and will always be high." She added, "If children are to be attracted to religion, they should be brought to religion not by beating but by love." She lamented, "We claim love of Rasool (peace be upon him), but it seems to be a false claim."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Governance is not a luxury but a great burden of responsibility." She added, "We will be held accountable by Allah Almighty. I have the responsibility of entire province of Punjab with 15 crore people. If no one gets medicine, cheap bread and flour, and no cleanliness, our beloved Prophet (SAW) will give to Allah Almighty." She prayed, "May Allah Ta'ala make my intention pure and true to serve His creation."

Have a save drive

ISLAMABAD: A woman is carrying her older relative on Scotty in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

AJK President says Eid Milad-ul Awwal marks birth of Prophet Muhammad(SAW)

Muhammad (SAW) great role model for humankind in every field of life: PMAJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Rabi-ul Awwal is the most blessed month in the Islamic calendar as it marks the birth of the holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In his message issued released on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH), the President said that the prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) came to the world at a time when entire humanity was immersed in the darkness of ignorance and disbelief.

"It was the time when bloodshed and violence, deceit and deception, iniquity and immorality reigned supreme over every aspect of human life", he said, adding that the Prophet, who was sent as mercy for humanity, illuminated the whole world with his knowledge, spread the message of peace and brotherhood and pulled the humanity out



from the abyss of darkness. He said that the prophet's life is the beacon of light for entire humanity.

In his separate message, the AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, said that the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the true benefactor of mankind, who

gave back to humanity its lost dignity and guided it to the righteous path. He said that the prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a great role model for humankind in every field of life.

He said that the salvation of

mankind, here and the hereafter, lies in pursuing the life of the prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Terming Islam as a religion of peace, he said that Islam teaches us self-sacrificing and generosity towards others.

"Our Muslim brothers and sisters in Occupied Kashmir, Palestine and other regions of the world are rekindling the candle of Islam by sacrificing their blood for the exaltation of Islam, their survival and freedom", he said, adding that the supreme sacrifices rendered by our brethren would never go in vain.

The people of Kashmir, he said, have been scripting a new history by following the golden principles of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

Terming right of self determination as an alienable right of the Kashmiri people, the PM expressed the hope that the day was not far off when the people of Kashmir would achieve the long cherished goal of freedom for which they rendered matchless sacrifices.

Barrister Sultan Bajwa, Parliamentary Secretary for HUD & PHED, Visits CBD Punjab

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Central Business District (CBD) Punjab proudly welcomed Barrister Sultan Bajwa, Parliamentary Secretary for the Housing, Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department (HUD & PHED), for an insightful briefing on the progress and future of its flagship projects.

CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, alongside COO Brigadier (Retd) Mansoor Janjua, extended a warm reception to Barrister Bajwa upon his arrival at the CBD Complex. Imran Amin delivered a comprehensive presentation, spotlighting key initiatives such as CBD Prime, Quaid District, and NSIT City. He emphasized their pivotal role in reshaping the urban landscape and catalyzing economic



growth across the region. "The projects undertaken by CBD Punjab are not just infrastructural developments; they embody our

commitment to fostering innovation and prosperity. We are strategically positioning CBD Punjab to attract local and international investments,

thereby stimulating economic activities and creating ample job opportunities," remarked CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin during his address.

The briefing session gathered prominent officials, including Waseem Siddiq, Director of Marketing, and Ali Waqar Shah, Director of Business Development & Investor Relations. Waseem Siddiq provided a detailed overview of ongoing and upcoming projects, underscoring CBD Punjab's strategic planning, robust marketing endeavors, and prospects aligned with the vision of establishing the district as a premier business and commercial hub.

The session concluded on a positive note, with stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to realizing CBD Punjab's ambitious goals of sustainable urban development and economic prosperity.

Prophet Mohammad example for all of us: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the life of the Prophet (Peace be upon him) is an excellent example for all of us, we must move forward towards action in light his teachings. He said that societies based on social principles as well as moral principles develop. In his message, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet are guidance and guidance for those who come till the Day of Resurrection. Allah Almighty has made us responsible. He has also established duties such as establishing prayer, obtaining sustenance, giving zakat to charity, the Prophet brought the message of Allah Almighty that Allah is One and do not commit shirk, he established a system of justice, listened to the poor. From this we know that he also formed a team despite the aristocracy, oppression and suppression and brought a revolution that covered the whole world. He said that even today we need similar spirit, movement and sacrifice. He said that in Islamic society, poor and helpless people have always been taken care of and justice has been ensured. He always advised the ruler to keep his doors open, make his standard of living according to the people there and take care of the poor. He said that elements hostile to the country are engaged in nefarious acts of sabotaging the peace of the country and are targeting innocent and innocent citizens he added.



Special meeting on road safety of school students held in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A special meeting was held in Attock on 16th September under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner of Attock, in line with the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, regarding the road safety of school students. In this meeting, special instructions were issued to the concerned officers, private school owners, rickshaw owners, Bolan and carry vehicle owners, and drivers. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that all road safety laws should be strictly followed for students studying in educational institutions. Overloading of rickshaws and vehicles bringing students to and from school is strictly prohibited. All drivers must possess valid driving licenses, and vehicles should have fitness certificates. He further mentioned that a special campaign is being launched regarding road safety, which will include traffic police, district police, patrolling police, and the staff of the Secretary Regional Transport Authority. Underage drivers, unlicensed drivers, and rickshaws without number plates will not be allowed to operate. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Additional Deputy Commissioner General, Assistant Commissioners of all tehsils, Secretary Regional Transport Authority, DSP Traffic, Chief Officers of all tehsils, CEOs of Education and Health departments, as well as officers from Patrolling Police, Rescue 1122, DO Industries, and Civil Defense. Additionally, authorized officers from all universities and the Deputy Director of Colleges also participated. Special teams have been formed during the meeting to take daily action.

Takht Bhai farmer express deep sorrow over stormy winds, heavy rainfall

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Prominent lawyer and President of the Kissan Association, Takht Bhai, Qamar Zaman Khan Advocate, has expressed deep sorrow over the losses suffered by farmers due to stormy winds and heavy rainfall last week. He demanded that the federal and provincial governments provide aid and declare the area as calamity-hit.

While talking to the media at Takht Bhai Press Club, he said that due to stormy winds and heavy rainfall, standing crops and orchards in Takht Bhai have suffered severe damage, and a large number of livestock have also been affected. He said that in various areas of Takht Bhai, including Jalala, Shergarh, Made Baba, Peer Sadi Takkar, Shah Nur Pul Garoon, Shah Par Khaw, Dheri, Sri Bhullol, Jehangirabad, and others, severe damage has been caused to standing crops and orchards due to heavy rainfall and stormy winds. He said that according to local farmers, the damage to fruit orchards, vegetables, and especially sugarcane and corn crops is estimated to be in crores. The crops in the fields, especially vegetables and corn, have been severely affected. He said that compared to last year, this year's strong winds have caused more damage to the crops.

He demanded that the government declare Takht Bhai as calamity-hit and provide aid to save the crops and prevent economic exploitation and hardship. He also demanded compensation for the damage to solar panels installed to meet electricity needs, which is estimated to be in lakhs.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:28 am
Zohr	12:03 pm
Asr	4:27 pm
Maghrib	6:13 pm
Isha	7:36 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

BMA Seeks High Court Oversight for KCCI Election Amid Election Commission Controversy

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) elections for 2024-26 are being marred by the Election Commission's blatant support for the ruling group BMG, using dubious tactics to create controversy, according to Asif Sakhi, a leader of the Businessmen Alliance (BMA).

In a statement, Sakhi noted that every decision made by the Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO) seems to be against the Karachi Chamber's Election Commission. Despite this, the Election Commission, appointed by the ruling group, continues to oversee all electoral activities.

Sakhi further stated that the need to approach the DGTO for every decision highlight the Election Commission's perceived bias and alignment with BMG. This situation is causing delays and wasting time for the Businessmen Alliance (BMA) panel.

He mentioned that serial numbers for BMA candidates had to be assigned only after a protest was staged because, despite meeting all legal requirements, the ruling group used various excuses and delay tactics to hinder the process.

BISP chairperson envisions empowerment of rural women in Gilgit Baltistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of Governor Gilgit Baltistan, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, attended the Apricot Festival in Shigar, Gilgit-Baltistan, where she highlighted the need and potential impacts of initiatives to empower rural women through training and capacity generation/building ventures.

The festival was a vibrant celebration of region's rich agricultural heritage, featuring an array of locally produced fruits, herbs, and artisanal goods.

The BISP Chairperson expressed her interest to collaborating with the Food, Agriculture, and Livestock departments of Gilgit Baltistan, to provide training to women farmers. This partnership would bring a revolutionary transformation at the grassroots



level by maximizing agricultural productivity, combating poverty, and empowering rural women. This collaborative effort can

potentially mark a significant step towards unlocking the potential of rural women and promoting economic growth in

Gilgit-Baltistan. BISP remains dedicated to supporting vulnerable populations and fostering inclusive development.

World Ozone Day

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing at the World Ozone Day 2024 event on Monday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan is failing to achieve SDGs as indicators related to peace

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reaffirming their dedication to sustainable development and inclusion, AwazCDS-Pakistan along with its members under the aegis of Pakistan Development Alliance and in collaboration with Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and Sightsavers International, hosted a National People's Assembly on the International Day of Democracy as well as 11th anniversary of Agenda 2030 for Social Transformation and Summit of the Future. The National Peoples' Assembly aimed to bring together civil society organizations, rights advocates, and policymakers from across the country. The event served as a vital platform to assess Pakistan's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



and align efforts with global calls for equity, inclusion, and sustainable development as the 2030 deadline approaches.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Zia Ur Rehman, CEO of AwazCDS-Pakistan, highlighted the importance of democracy, economic & gender equality for inclusive and sustainable development. Pakistan is regressing in sustainable development index from 129 in 2023 to 137 in 2024. Noticeable regression of 8 percentage point just in one year time is highly alarming, he said.

Munazza Gillani, Director Pakistan and Middle East, Sightsavers has expressed her commitment to this and said, "At Sightsavers, we ensure that inclusivity and diversity remain at the forefront of every initiative we undertake because these issues impact everyone.

Mehfil-e-Milad Mustafa (S.A.W) held at PAC



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized a Mehfil-e-Milad Mustafa (S.A.W) in collaboration with All Pakistan Schools Management Association. Chief guests of the ceremony were Director Punjab Arts Council Sajjad Hussain and President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab Abrar Ahmed Khan. Divisional General Secretary Amir Anwar, District President Abrar Ahmed Advocate, Agha Shahab Maqsood, Raja Nauman Qamar, Raja Waseem Saifi., Adnan Nisar, Syed Adil Shah, Kamran Saif Qureshi, Tariq Mehmood, Raja Asif Mehmood and others also participated in mehfil-e-milad. Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain said in his address that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is the reason for the creation of the universe. Allah Almighty sent him as a mercy for all the worlds. He said that we all can achieve worldly and hereafter success by following his teachings. APPSMA is our main stakeholders and has played an important role in organizing all national and religious level programs. Abrar Ahmad Khan said that it is the responsibility of parents and teachers to light the spark of Ishq-e-Mustafa (S.A.W) in the hearts of the young generation. You can make your life beautiful by following the Prophet's biography and good deeds. Students offered Hadiya Naat in Mahfil-e-Milad. A large number of people from neighboring cities participated in the celebration.

Raihan Merchant honored with Digital Leader's Award 2024

City Desk

LAHORE: Raihan Merchant, Chairman and CEO of Z2CLimited, has



been awarded the prestigious Digital Leader's Award 2024 at a celebrated ceremony in Lahore. This accolade recognizes his three decades of unparalleled contributions to Pakistan's media and advertising industry, along with his role in driving digital transformation and innovation in the country.

In his acceptance speech, Merchant emphasized the importance of his team and the role of technology in shaping the industry's future: "I'm fortunate to lead a forward-thinking team that turns challenges into opportunities every day. Their dedication to innovation and pushing boundaries is what drives our success. This award is a testament to our shared commitment to staying ahead in a rapidly evolving digital world, and by embracing cutting-edge technologies, we continue shaping the future of media and advertising in Pakistan."

Diabetes Centre launches "Hospital on Wheels" in Rawalakot, Kashmir

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT, KASHMIR: The Diabetes Centre (TDC) today unveiled its groundbreaking "Hospital on Wheels" initiative, launching its first mobile clinic in the remote region of Rawalakot, Kashmir. This innovative project aims to bring comprehensive diabetes care directly to underserved communities, ensuring that patients have access to crucial medical services without the need for long commutes.

Mr. Sardar Faraquat Hussain Khan generously donated land near the Bagh Link Road, where the TDC's clinic has been established. This clinic will serve as a pivotal hub for the community's healthcare needs and will be revisited every three months.

Syed Mohsin Ali Gardazi, District Health Officer (DHO) of Bagh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), served as the chief guest at the inauguration. Mr. Gardazi praised the initiative, highlighting its significance in providing specialized care to areas like Rawalakot, where access to healthcare can be limited.

The next stop for the Hospital on Wheels will be in Sahiwal, followed by Karak. Each location will host the clinic for one week, ensuring extensive care across multiple regions. After three months, the clinic will return to its original locations for follow-up treatments, forming a continuous care loop for diabetes patients.

CDA Chairman for timely completion of Islamabad Model Jail

ISLAMABAD, SEP 16 (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday directed the authorities concerned to expedite construction work on Islamabad Model Jail to ensuring its timely completion.

The CDA chairman in that regard chaired a meeting which was attended by the Project Director of the Public Works Department (PWD) along with other relevant officers of CDA and PWD.

The meeting discussed the modalities of smooth transition of the construction work on the Islamabad Model Jail from PWD to CDA.

Discussions were held to ensure that the transition process takes place efficiently and promptly for making CDA an executing agency for the project in consultation with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Planning, Development and Initiatives.

Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that till the complete transition, PWD should work in full coordination with CDA to ensure seamless progress of the project.

A briefing was also given on the current status of the completed and ongoing work at the Islamabad Model Jail.

Chairman Randhawa stressed the importance of completing the Phase-I of construction work by the assigned deadline.

This phase includes the completion of critical infrastructure such as the boundary wall, barracks, the administrative block, roads and watch-towers (sentry posts).

Mobilink Bank bags 'Best Digital Banking Services' Award at CFA for two years running

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has secured the prestigious title of 'Best Digital Banking Services' (Microfinance Category) at the 21st Annual Excellence Awards hosted by CFA Society Pakistan. This marks the Bank's second consecutive win, claiming the same honor last year, solidifying its position as a leader in digital banking innovation.

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO Mobilink Bank, highlighted, "Our innovative digital offerings embody our vision of a future-ready bank, tailored to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Our consumer app-Dost, not only addresses market gaps but also paves the way for the future of financial services. Introducing the



'Inheritance Calculator,' an industry-first tool within the app, further strengthens our commitment to empowering individuals, particularly

women, through technology. This recognition by CFA Society Pakistan boosts our confidence further to steer closer to our mission of digital and financial inclusion for all."

The Bank also demonstrated its strong commitment to gender equality and financial inclusion by topping the State Bank of Pakistan's Women Friendliness Grid scorecard. The score highlights Mobilink Bank's dedicated efforts to advance gender equity and support women, especially within the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

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Scheme Behind Constitutional Amendments

The government and parliament, working in concert, appear bent on laying landmines for democracy and its institutions—actions that are more likely to backfire on them than harm institutions like the judiciary, the army, or others.

The government and parliament, which have a vested interest in clipping an independent judiciary, have resorted to a three-pronged strategy aimed at curbing judicial independence. First, they seek to prevent Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the architect of the restoration of the PTI as a political party in parliament and provincial assemblies, from becoming the next Chief Justice. Justice Mansoor is known for being resolute and independent, and his ascension could challenge the government's interests, particularly in implementing the Supreme Court's decision to restore PTI and allocate seats to the party. Furthermore, his leadership could accelerate the work of election tribunals, currently stalled by stays granted by Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Second, the government seeks to almost double the number of Supreme Court judges, likely to increase the presence of judges they have cultivated for political purposes. Lastly, the most serious and unconstitutional attempt involves stripping the superior courts of their independence and bringing them under the control of the executive. These actions not only undermine the judiciary but also threaten the fundamental principles of democracy by eroding the separation of powers.

While the government's attempt to enlarge the strength of the Supreme Court may carry some logic, its attempt to give the Prime Minister the power to appoint the Chief Justice, restrict the tenure of the Chief Justice to three years,

and hold judges of the superior courts accountable for their performance is absurd, outrageous, and contrary to the norms of parliamentary democracy. Such moves violate the principle of separation of powers between the three pillars of the state. Therefore, the best course of action for the government is to halt these shortsighted constitutional amendments, as it is likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court for being in conflict with the general scheme, structure, and intent of the Constitution.

In established democracies, the judiciary operates independently to check the powers of the executive and legislature. In the UK, for instance, judges are appointed through independent bodies like the Judicial Appointments Commission, ensuring merit-based appointments without political interference. Similarly, in India, the Collegium System enables senior judges to appoint their peers, safeguarding the judiciary's independence. Granting the Prime Minister such appointment powers would seriously erode this balance and compromise the judiciary's autonomy.

Limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years is equally problematic. In democracies like Australia and Canada, the Chief Justices are appointed until a mandatory retirement age, allowing them to make long-term judicial reforms and ensure continuity in legal governance. A three-year term would allow frequent political interference in judicial appointments, undermining the stability and independence necessary for a well-functioning judiciary. Short-term tenures would make it easier for the executive to

influence judicial decisions by frequently appointing new Chief Justices, diminishing the role of the judiciary as an impartial and independent body.

Furthermore, holding judges accountable to the executive or political entities contradicts the norms of judicial accountability, which should remain within the judicial framework itself. In countries like Germany and France, judges are accountable to higher judicial bodies or peer committees, maintaining their independence from the executive. Political oversight of the judiciary would open doors for manipulation, especially in politically sensitive cases, eroding public trust in the courts and turning the judiciary into a tool of the government, as seen in Hungary and Poland where similar reforms led to the weakening of democratic values.

Through these amendments, the government or establishment aims to reduce the judges of the superior judiciary to the level of civil servants, who are at the mercy of the government in terms of their postings to valuable and powerful positions and are vulnerable to punishment if they fail to comply with the legal or illegal demands of the government or establishment. As a result of such manipulative control over civil servants, the entire civil service has been weakened, becoming inefficient, self-serving, and focused on seeking power and influence rather than serving the public and the nation. This leads to a system driven by personal whims, desires, and vested interests, rather than the rule of law. God forbid, if this amendment is passed in its current form, it would spell the end of

parliamentary democracy and usher in the worst form of dictatorship.

Ironically, a parliament accused of consisting of members who were selected rather than elected, and who allegedly came to the assemblies based on manipulated and falsified Form 47 results, lacks the moral standing to introduce constitutional amendments until the allegations of election rigging and issues surrounding Form 47 are resolved.

Similarly, the government is composed of ministers who are either unelected, or in the case of those elected, are alleged to have won their seats through manipulation of Form 47. The government is inefficient, with the country facing a severe law and order crisis, a surge in terrorism, rampant smuggling, disastrous financial management, dried-up foreign investment, skyrocketing inflation, and a brand value that ranks just above Afghanistan from the bottom. With these issues, how can the government be expected to bring meaningful reform to the judiciary? If the government had been functioning efficiently and delivering results, it might have some justification for initiating judicial reforms or holding the judiciary accountable for its performance.

In conclusion, these proposals would distort the balance of power in a parliamentary democracy, erode judicial independence, and weaken the separation of powers essential for democratic governance. Public trust in the judiciary and its role as an independent arbiter of the law would be severely compromised if such reforms were implemented, making it crucial to uphold the principles of judicial autonomy and democratic integrity.

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

Quran endorsement of sending blessings to Holy Prophet

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday hosted a grand Naat and awards ceremony at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), marking the significance of Rabi-ul-Awwal and the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference 1446 Hijri.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, presided over the ceremony as the chief guest, while other federal ministers, parliamentarians, esteemed religious scholars, and prominent guests from across the country were in attendance.

The event was part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the ministry to commemorate the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, during which the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) occurred. This year marks the 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference, which serves as a platform to emphasize the teachings and life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

Addressing the gathering, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain underscored the significance of Naat recitation, describing it as a deeply revered tradition among Muslims. He noted that sending blessings upon the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an act endorsed by Allah and the angels, as mentioned in the Holy Quran.

The minister emphasized that Naat recitation is an expression of love and devotion towards the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and that all Muslims should strive to emulate the noble character of the Prophet (PBUH) in their daily lives.

Renowned Naat reciters from across the country graced the event with their melodious renditions, expressing their love and reverence for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The minister expressed his gratitude to all participants for attending and contributing to the success of the event.

He said it is essential for a Naat reciter to be well-versed in the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Particularly, they should have studied the life of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) with great attention and care, he added.

Reflecting on the importance of Naat, the minister stated, "Love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an essential part of our faith. Reciting and listening to Naat brings a sense of spiritual fulfillment and rejuvenates our faith." He further added that Naat has a rich tradition dating back to the time of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his Companions, particularly highlighting the contributions of celebrated poets such as Hassan bin Sabit, Kab bin Malik, and Abdullah bin Rawaha who used their poetry to defend Islam and glorify the Prophet (PBUH).

The minister concluded the ceremony with a heartfelt prayer, asking Almighty Allah to guide all Muslims to follow the exemplary life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and to establish a society based on the principles of brotherhood, tolerance, and justice. He also prayed for the prosperity and progress of Pakistan.



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

Bangladesh Genocide - I

The Bangladesh genocide refers to the mass killings and systematic sexual violence inflicted on the Bengali population, especially Hindus, by the Pakistan Armed Forces and local pro-Pakistan militias during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The conflict began on March 25, 1971, with Operation Searchlight, aiming to suppress the Bengali independence movement. Over nine months, between 300,000 and 3,000,000 Bengalis were killed, and between 200,000 and 400,000 women were raped brutally.

The genocide led to around 10 million refugees fleeing to India, with the majority being Hindus (80% to 90%). The atrocities included targeting Hindus specifically and legitimizing rape through fatwas. This violence and the resulting refugee crisis contributed to India's military intervention and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, culminating in the surrender of Pakistan on December 16, 1971. Despite the scale of the atrocities, most UN member states at the time did not officially recognize the genocide.

After the Partition of India, Pakistan was divided into two geographically and culturally distinct wings: West Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The West Pakistani leadership viewed the Bengali Muslims in the East as culturally and religiously inferior, perceiving Hindu influences in their language and culture. This led to efforts to forcibly assimilate Bengalis culturally and religiously. Despite Bengalis being the majority in East Pakistan (about 75 million compared to 55 million in West Pakistan), and having a diverse population including Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians, these cultural and religious differences created tensions between the two wings.

In 1948, Pakistan's Governor-General Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared Urdu as the national language, despite only 4% of Pakistanis speaking it. East Bengalis were allowed to choose their provincial language but faced repression if they opposed Urdu. This led to the Bengali language movement and support for the Awami League. The 1952 Dhaka protest against the language policy resulted in deaths, fueling calls for secession. The 1965 Indo-Pakistani War deepened grievances, with Bengalis feeling neglected and Ayub Khan's administration indifferent to their defense. The delayed response to the 1970 Bhola cyclone and subsequent political events, including banning the Awami League and declaring martial law, intensified tensions. On February 22, 1971, General Yahya Khan reportedly ordered the killing of three million Bengalis, revealing the severity of the repression.

During the Bangladesh Liberation War, some Bengalis supported staying in Pakistan and opposed secession (called Razakars). This group included Islamic parties and some Awami League supporters who sought provincial autonomy but not full independence. Bengali officers and soldiers also remained loyal to the Pakistani Army. Pro-regime Bengalis, along with Biharis and Urdu speakers, played a role in the violence against pro-liberation fighters. Sydney Schanberg noted that local recruits, mostly Biharis, were crucial in carrying out the genocide. Gary J. Bass argues that the idea of a united Pakistan ended on March 25, 1971, with the start of military operations. John H. Gill suggests that the internal conflicts between pro-Pakistan and pro-liberation Bengalis continue to influence Bangladesh's domestic politics today. Operation Searchlight was a military

operation launched by the Pakistani Army on March 25, 1971, aimed at suppressing the Bengali nationalist movement in East Pakistan. The operation was justified by the Pakistani government in response to anti-Bihari violence and was seen as a continuation of Operation Blitz from November 1970. The East Pakistan governor, Admiral Syed Mohammed Ahsan, was replaced on March 1, 1971, after opposing military action, and his successor, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, resigned over the use of force.

Indian academic Sarmila Bose reported that the postponement of the National Assembly led to widespread lawlessness and attacks by Bengalis on non-Bengalis and Pakistani military personnel. The Pakistani Army, showing restraint until the operation began, targeted key locations such as Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall, Rajarbagh Police Lines, and Pilkhana. The operation resulted in significant casualties and destruction, with estimates of 7,000 deaths and 3,000 arrests. Notable events included the killing of students and teachers, the arrest of Sheikh Mujib, and the demolition of Ramna Kali Mandir.

The initial plan was to control major cities by March 26 and eliminate opposition within a month, but prolonged resistance in rural areas was unanticipated. The main phase ended in mid-May 1971, though the countryside remained contested.

International reports, including Anthony Mascarenhas's June 13, 1971, "Genocide" article and Time magazine's August 2, 1971, dispatch, highlighted the extensive destruction and atrocities, which influenced global opinion and encouraged Indian intervention. The Blood Telegram by American Diplomat Archer K. Blood criticized the U.S. administration's disregard for the situation, noting the systematic attacks and murders carried out by non-Bengali Muslims with military support.

To be continued

Time to revitalize Quaid's vision for a prosperous Pakistan

Tooba Khan

As 76th death anniversary of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed a few days back, nation is still struggling to revitalize his vision for making the country a prosperous welfare state.

With more than 77 years down the road after Pakistan was came into being, the country passed through different phases on way to the destination envisioned by 'Father of the Nation.' But hurdles after hurdles hampered this journey and the country is still confronting gigantic issues like political harmony, speedy dispensation of justice, economic revival and internal and external security threats.

No doubt that Quaid's personality, vision and struggle is recognized globally but materialization of his vision still seems like a dream as the nation is waiting miracles to happen for rectification of the time lost on way to progress and prosperity. So, the time is passing fast and limited clues are left.

Stanley Wolpert, a renowned academic, historian and writer had stated in his famous book 'Jinnah of Pakistan' that 'few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three.'

As the desire for following Quaid's vision is still alive at top level, we may hope for a better future as stated by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in their messages on Quaid's anniversary.

"I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," said President Zardari. "Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic as 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," the President said. "Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socio-economic justice."

Prime Minister Shehbaz, Sharif also remarked that the Freedom Movement serves as a testament to Quaid's political acumen and visionary leadership, reflecting his dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

"The Quaid's unwavering commitment to principles of democracy, social justice and equality laid the foundation for a nation where every citizen could aspire to thrive despite diverse cultures," the Premier said.

"In remembering the 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," he stated. Since, we are well aware of Quaid's vision and have a will to tread on his footsteps, we need national unity, justice and equality to create a nation where peace prevails and justice is served as stated by the Prime Minister.

"We can achieve every goal in life by strictly adhering to Quaid's principles of unity, faith and discipline," remarked Professor Dr AZ Hilali, former chairman, political science department, university of Peshawar.

"By revisiting symbols of the Quaid's legacy, every strata of life must be encouraged, properly guided and taught the noble principles of Quaid's philosophy in syllabi to evolve a nation that earns respect among comity of nations," he said.

As Pakistan continues to navigate its path forward, the memories and ideals of its founder remain a guiding light. What we need is to decide, once and for all that each state organ strictly adheres to Quaid's teachings and his vision for galloping off on road to national harmony and coherence, strong economy and defence, speedy justice and above all welfare of its people.

Nuclear technology offers solution to climate, health, energy & food safety woes: Chairman PAEC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Dr Raja Ali Raza Anwar said on Monday that nuclear technology holds the key to resolve all climate change related issues that the world is facing today, besides offering a practicable solution to resolving issues faced in the health sector especially in diagnosis and treatment of cancer, environmental degradation, water scarcity and food safety.

"The IAEA's work is taking on greater significance as the world grapples with challenges like climate change, water scarcity, energy demands, and environmental degradation. The Agency's initiatives - such as Atoms 4 Food, Rays of Hope, and NUTEC Plastic, underscore the critical role of nuclear science in fostering a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future" he said this while delivering Pakistan's National Statement at the Plenary Session of the 68th General Conference (GC) at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters in Vienna said a news

release received here.

"Extreme weather patterns caused by climate change and global warming are severely impacting different parts of the world, with Pakistan ranking among the top 10 most vulnerable countries despite its low contribution to global emissions.

The unprecedented rise in temperature has left our nation struggling to rebuild and recover from calamities like floods, water and food shortages," he added.

Dr. Anwar further elaborated that Nuclear energy offered a promising solution as a clean and sustainable energy source and the Agency's efforts to support countries through its clean energy initiative were appreciable.

Chairman said: "Currently, Pakistan is operating six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 MW contributing 17% of our grid's electricity and accounting for 30% of our low-carbon generation. Nuclear power in Pakistan has effectively evaded over 100 million tons of GHG emissions by replacing fossil fuel-based generation. Looking ahead, we are in the final stages

of planning to start construction of another nuclear power plant, expected to be commissioned by 2030. Our 100 reactor-years experience in operating a safe and secure nuclear power program speaks volumes about our competence and commitment."

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has placed a strong emphasis on the use of nuclear technology to provide top notch health facilities to the citizens of Pakistan.

With 19 cancer hospitals serving under its wing, Over 1.0 million diagnostics and therapeutic procedures are carried out annually in PAEC cancer hospitals.

In recognition of Pakistan's steadfast commitment, the Nuclear Medicine, Oncology, and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), was designated as IAEA Anchor Centre under the initiative "Rays of Hope". I am pleased to share that the first batch of trainees have received training at NORI under this initiative, Chairman PAEC added.

PAEC is utilizing nuclear technology to ensure food security and safety by



leveraging its four agriculture and biotechnology centers.

Pakistan's Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) which is an IAEA Collaborating Center takes pride in its role as the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) national laboratory. Last year, NIAB success-

fully organized a regional meeting on food safety.

IAEA Deputy Director General (DDG) Technical Cooperation (TC) applauded Pakistan's contributions in the field, Dr. Raja Ali Raza further said. He added, "As we work closely with the Agency on water resource

management, our prestigious institute for nuclear science and technology, PINSTECH, is currently in the process of becoming an IAEA Collaborating Center focusing on water resource management. Pakistan looks forward to engaging in the Agency's new initiative of Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) Network."

Practical Arrangement signed between IAEA and PCENS in May 2024 would further increase IAEA's training activities for Nuclear Security in the region, he hoped.

He also appreciated the role of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) as an independent national regulatory body on nuclear.

Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar also highlighted Pakistan's dedication towards empowering women in the nuclear field through implementing the Marie Curie Fellowship. As a Collaborating Center, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) is playing a vital role in offering capacity building in nuclear education at national and international levels.

Chinese Language Training Launched for SEF Schools

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: TANG International has initiated a pioneering Chinese language training program for schools under the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) Govt of Sindh, marking a significant step towards fostering cultural and linguistic ties between Pakistan and China.

The training session, held at the Youth Professional Development Center (YPDC) in Karachi, is part of a broader effort to introduce Chinese language courses in SEF foundation assisted schools across the province.

The event was led by Mr. Mansoor, Regional Director of TANG International, alongside Mr. Raza, and was attended by Managing Director, SF Mr. Abdul Kabir Kazi.

The first phase of the training program brought together 60 teachers and head teachers from 15 selected schools. Over the coming months, this initiative will be extended to a total of 100 schools, eventually benefiting around 5,000 students in grades 8-10.



Mr. Kazi expressed while sharing his remarks in the ceremony that the importance of such programs in enhancing both linguistic and cultural skills, noting, "This initiative

will not only empower students with the ability to learn a new language but also promote cross-cultural understanding between Pakistan and China."

The training program aligns with TANG International's mission of advancing educational excellence and fostering global connections through language and cultural education.

Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited announces dividend of PKR 1.6137 per unit

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC) is a leading dedicated Islamic Asset Management Company in Pakistan, and part of Pak-Qatar Group, which is Pakistan's Pioneer and Premier Islamic financial services group. PQAMC has recently announced the monthly dividend of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan (PQMIP) under PQAMC's Shariah-Compliant Income Fund. The plan is also amongst the highest return paying plan in the category.

PQMIP announced dividend of PKR 1.6137 per unit for the month of August'24 with an annualized return of 21.47% YTD, earned as on August 28, 2024. PQAMC is rated AM2 with 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA. The PQMIP plan is also rated A+ with a 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA. The Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited - Mr. Farhan Shaukat has approved the distributions of dividends for the month of August 2024, under the authority delegated to him by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Farhan further stated that: "The above entitlement will be distributed to the unit-holders, whose names appear in the register of unit-holders at the close of business on August 28, 2024. This reflects PQMIP's strong and consistent performance and our commitment to our valued Participants of PQMIP."

Pak-Qatar Group has a vision to add value to the economy of Pakistan by making valuable investments and creating innovative and Halal financial ventures and services for sustainable growth. The stakeholders can also review the performance of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan on the website of the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP).

Trade Unity Group was formed to get rid of the mafia group: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of Central Traders Association Liaquat Road Rawalpindi and Inter City Hotels Association said that there is no formal forum to solve the problems of traders at an impartial level. The leadership that won the Rawalpindi Chamber elections secured 1700 votes out of 15000 members. While 89 percent members expressed no confidence in the leadership of the present Rawalpindi Chamber. The eleven percent success group was once again imposed on us for two years. Where is this justice? We appeal to the Ministry of Commerce to take notice of the Chamber's irregularities. We demand NAB to conduct an audit of the amount taken from the members apart from the



membership fee. Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of the Central Association of Tradesmen and Inter-City Hotels Association, while talking to the journalists, said that the Trade Unity Group was formed to get rid of the

mafia group that has been occupying the chamber for thirty-five years. In the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections, the former presidents' brothers were the Election Commission. Out of 15000 members, the

current leadership got 1700 votes. their success ratio was 11 percent, indicating that 89 percent of members expressed no confidence on them and did not cast a vote. He said that One member was selected from all Central Anjuman Tajran Associations of Rawalpindi for the Chamber elections.

One part was given to the Pakhtun business community, and one part was given to the Small Chamber. We fought to protect the business community, while they fought only to protect each other and their organization. If our chambers represented business community on real basis, the government would have made it mandatory to consult them before formulating policies, but we do not have real leadership.

Tight monetary policy to thwart growth of industry: APBF



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has called for a significant cut in the monetary policy rate to attain the high position in Ease of Doing Business ranking, amidst record high markup rate, hyperinflation and rising energy prices.

In a statement issued today, APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the already high cost of production has drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the outgoing fiscal year, besides the country has been far



behind in the ease of doing business ranking. So, a major cut in markup rate was due, as constant high discount rate has been deteriorating the economic conditions, he added. He said the SBP had kept the rate very high for the last many years, mainly to curb soaring inflation. However, it started holding rates steady for some time saying inflation had down in this period. It decreased rates by 200 bps at recent meeting in an effort to secure IMF funds, citing slightly deteriorated inflation outlook.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the central bank, in the past, constantly raised its key interest rate, exceeding investor expectations, as the cash-strapped country attempts to encourage the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to release critical funding. The key rate of the State Bank of Pakistan now stands at 15.5 percent, which is also highest in the region. Now, there are reports that the SBP would not cut the interest rate at the upcoming meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to please IMF.

Sarhad Business Alliance's Impressive Campaign

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Business Alliance held an impressive campaign today in Peshawar Cantt, visiting key markets such as Saddar Road, Arbab Road, Fakhr-e-Alam Road, and Mall Road, as well as Bilor Plaza, Falak Sher Plaza, and Muslim Market, Inner City. The campaign was led by Patron-in-Chief Haji Ghulam Ali, Malik Mir Elahi, Baba-e-Tajran Amin Hussain Babar, Khalid Malako, Waqar Zagi, Zubair Gul, Saifullah Khan, and other senior members and candidates, showcasing the alliance's unity and determination.

The business community warmly welcomed the Sarhad Business Alliance during this tour. Everywhere the alliance team went, the public greeted them with enthusiasm. People showered them with flower petals and expressed their support in a fervent manner. Traders presented bouquets to the alliance's candidates and pledged to extend all possible support to ensure the alliance's success.

Following this, the campaign moved to the inner city, where shopkeepers greeted the Patron-in-Chief and other candidates with great enthusiasm. The inner-city shops were filled with

an atmosphere of support and affection. Shopkeepers warmly welcomed the Patron-in-Chief of the Sarhad Business Alliance and described this campaign as a crucial step toward resolving the traders' issues.

This campaign clearly indicates that the Sarhad Business Alliance has garnered full support from Peshawar's business community. During the campaign, traders expressed their confidence in the alliance's leadership, stating that it is the only platform capable of addressing their problems.

This campaign is a testament to the strength of the Sarhad

Business Alliance and the support of the trader community. The alliance leaders thanked the traders and vowed to work tirelessly to resolve their issues through genuine representation in the chamber. Members of the Sarhad Chamber expressed their happiness, stating that the leadership of former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali will truly make the chamber a hub for the business community and effectively address traders' concerns. Senior members and general members welcomed the decision to nominate the Sarhad Business Alliance's candidates.



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
79,491.13	79,333.05
Day's High	Day's Low
79,993.17	79,368.18
Index Value	Change
4,709,764,998	+158.08
Percentage	Time
+0.2%	16 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,278.44	+5.35
Percentage	Time
+0.065%	16 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
41,500.80	+107.02
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	16 Sept, 1:08 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,581.76	-251.51
Percentage	Time
-0.68%	13 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.75	190.00
Bahrain Dinar	734.20	742.20
Canadian Dollar	206.60	209.00
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.55	311.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.85	911.35
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	718.50	727.00
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.08	74.63
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	328.70	331.50
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.70	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	364.60	368.10
US Dollar	278.90	280.75

Current policies hurting economy, major changes required: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the rate of increase in the country's population and unemployment has become alarming.

He said a minimum growth rate of six percent is necessary to tackle unemployment, and a fundamental change in some important policies is necessary as the current policies do not allow the growth rate to rise above three percent.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that to increase the growth rate, the mark-up and power tariff will boost trade and industry, as well as increase employment and revenue.

Talking to the business community, the



Spokesman Report veteran business leader said that reducing the mark-up and power tariff will boost trade and industry, as well as increase employment and revenue.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that whenever a government tries to increase the growth rate,

imports go out of control, and a payment crisis starts, which requires borrowing to solve.

The solution to this problem lies in real reforms, but no government has ever tried to reform without pressure from the IMF, and when it did, it was not meaningful reforms.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the rulers, business community, and people have always been irresponsible in financial matters in Pakistan. Now, many institutions and countries have started to understand that any government in Pakistan has no capacity or desire to undertake reforms and that giving a loan to it is equivalent to wasting their capital.

The business leader said that one of the major obstacles to reforms is the influential class, which is reaping the benefits from a weak system. If things start running on merit, their benefits will be reduced.

Since this class keeps moving all its wealth out of the country, it is not concerned about the country's future and is busy reaping the benefits as much as possible while the public

watches helplessly.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that another permanent cause of the country's economic crisis is the weakening relationship between the government and the people, which the FBR is responsible for.

Under the guise of this lack of trust, shopkeepers, wholesalers, and people associated with agriculture do not want to pay taxes, and those who pay taxes are burdened with more taxes and do not get any facilities in response.

Instead of reducing this lack of trust between taxpayers and tax collectors, it is continuously widening, boosting the black economy and shrinking the size of the documented economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the countries that are called and considered friendly are now tired of Pakistan, and their loan terms, interest rates, etc., are much stricter than those of the IMF and other Western countries and banks, which should be enough to open our eyes.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: The President of Asian Development Bank Masatsugu Asakawa is in meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema on Monday.



Photo: PID

Ismail Suttar urges Punjab Govt to consult stakeholders before raw pink salt export ban

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Ismail Suttar, the Founding Chairman of the Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP), has expressed deep concern over the recent announcement by Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, regarding a potential ban on the export of raw pink Himalayan salt. Suttar described the situation as unfortunate, criticizing the government for what he sees as a pattern of detrimental decisions.

In a statement, Suttar expressed surprise at the remark from the Chief Minister's office, pointing out that it was made without

consulting the stakeholders of the salt industry. The association had anticipated a meeting with the Punjab government as primary stakeholders before any final decision was announced, in order to discuss the potential consequences of such a measure.

SMAP is not opposed to the idea of banning the export of raw salt if it is deemed beneficial for the country. However, the association requests that the government involve the relevant stakeholders in discussions before making decisions that could endanger the remaining exports of the country.

JS Global Capital shines at the 21st Annual Excellence Awards by CFA Society Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: JS Global Capital Limited (JSGCL), Pakistan's premier investment firm, has further elevated the industry benchmark with a historic and unprecedented win in all 5 awards under the Brokerage category at the 21st Annual Excellence Awards hosted by the CFA Society Pakistan. This recognition reinforces JS Global's leadership in Pakistan's financial sector and reflects the firm's continued commitment to excellence in brokerage, research, and client services.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalilullah Usmani, CEO of JS Global Capital, said, "At JS Global, we continually strive to deliver the best in financial services, providing cutting-edge research and trading solutions to our clients. Winning across multiple categories is both an honor and a motivation for us to continue raising the bar. I would like to thank the entire JS Global



Capital team for their dedication and hard work, as well as the CFA Society for recognizing our efforts."

JS Global Capital remains dedicated

to maintaining its position as Pakistan's premier brokerage house by continuing to innovate and deliver unparalleled value to its clients and stakeholders.

Adnan Mukhtar achieves HEC Best Performance Committee Award for the year 2022-2024



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Standing Committee Higher Education Commission (HEC) M Adnan Mukhtar achieved the Award for the years, 2022-2024 of his remarkable contributions to Industry Academia. He received the Awards from Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. On this occasion Adnan Mukhtar who was looking very happy and said that this is great honour for

me that after untiring efforts in my life God gave me this rewards, he further said in future i have great vision to do more such kind of work in my country.

He said that this prestigious award is testament hard work and commitment in my life. In recognition of his remarkable contributions to Industry-Academia coordination, Mr. Muhammad Adnan Mukhtar was honored with the Best Performance Committee Award (Higher Education Commission) for the year 2022-2024.

Economic Progress Hinges on Business Community's Success: Malik Abrar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif is fully cognizant of the challenges faced by the business community and is making concerted efforts to address their concerns, ensuring their wellbeing and contributing to the country's prosperity. This has been stated by Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Abrar Ahmed while addressing the hugely attended Founder Group's reception hosted by Group leader TWA, Tarnol Wajid Ayub in honour of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, attended by the dignitaries including Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Members National Assembly Anjum Aqeel Khan, Raja Khurram Nawaz,



Malik Sohail Khan Kamrial, Ehsan Bajwa, MPAs Raja Hanif, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Maqsood, former MPA Sardar Iftikhar Khan Mittu, former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Chaudhry Riffat Javaid

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry reiterated the Chamber's commitment to serving the community, stating that its doors are always open to address problems and faci-

litate ease of doing business. During his tenure, he has made concerted efforts to strengthen linkages for business promotion, with a special focus on tourism development.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik has said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, under the visionary leadership of President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, is dedicated to serving the business community with unwavering commitment and

selflessness.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General United Business Group, emphasized the need to accord respect to the business community if Pakistan is to achieve progress and prosperity. He stressed that recognizing the contributions of business leaders is essential for inspiring the younger generation to pursue entrepreneurship and excel in their lives.

Nasir Qureshi, Council Member

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), acknowledged the challenges being faced by the business community, but praised the ICCI for its unwavering support.

Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stressed the imperative of unity among the business community to effectively address their challenges and compel the government to take decisive action.

Wajid Ayub emphasized the crucial need for continuity in government economic policies to effectively navigate Pakistan out of its current economic challenges.

Sheikh Aamir Waheed, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry Nasir Mehmood, ICCI member, capably conducted the ceremony.

CCP issues show cause notices to ten steel suppliers for collusive bidding

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to ten steel structure suppliers involved in procurement tenders floated by various Distribution Companies (DISCOs) for the alleged collusive bidding, prima facie, violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

The ten undertakings include M/s. AM Associates (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Ajmer Engineering Electric Works (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Khalifa Sons (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Siddique Sons Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Vision Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AW Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. FN Power (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Gujranwala Cable (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AH Associates (Pvt) Ltd, and M/s. Process Dynamics (Pvt) Ltd.

The CCP took suo motu notice and initiated an enquiry under Section 37(1) of the Competition Act, 2010. During the enquiry, search and inspections were also conducted at the premises of three Lahore-based companies, where critical documents and records were impounded for further examination. During the enquiry, bidding data from 2015 to 2022, obtained from all DISCOs, particularly regarding the procurement of transmission towers, was analysed.

Notably, M/s. AM Associates, M/s. Ajmer Engineering, and M/s. Khalifa Sons were found to have engaged in collective decision-making regarding the rates and quantities quoted, with the apparent aim of manipulating tender outcomes for mutual benefit. The enquiry report found that this collusive behavior included mutual agreements on the number of firms participating in tenders, predetermined price-fixing, and strategic non-participation to ensure that the pre-selected firm would win. Such practices constitute a, prima facie, violation of Section 4(2)(a)(b)(c)(e) of the Competition Act, 2010.

The CCP's enquiry further concluded that the anti-competitive behavior of these ten companies extends beyond provincial boundaries, affecting market dynamics across Pakistan.

First Women's T20 International: South Africa beat Pakistan by 10 Runs

Tezma Britts half century, Sadia Iqbal three Wickets

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Despite all the efforts of Alia Riaz and captain Fatima Sana, South Africa Women defeated Pakistan Women by 10 runs in the first match of the Bank Al Falah T20 series.

In the first match played at Multan Cricket Stadium, Fatima Sana won the toss and gave South Africa batting first, who scored 132 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in 20 overs.

In response, Pakistan team managed to score 122 runs for 5 wickets in 20 overs.

The highlight of this match was that Salima Imtiaz became the first Pakistani woman to umpire a women's international match for the first time after being nominated in the International Panel of Development Umpires.

The highlight of South Africa's innings was Tezma Britts' half-century.

On behalf of Pakistan, Sadia Iqbal took 3 wickets for 34 runs. In fact, she had taken the wickets of captain Laura Woolwart (11) and Anneke Bosch (nil) on consecutive balls in her second over.



On the other hand, Nida Dar dismissed Marizan Kip for an individual score of 14.

Tizman Britts and Snellies added 63 runs in the fourth wicket partnership.

This partnership ended when Sadia Iqbal dismissed Snellies for 27 runs in her third

over. This was her 50th wicket in T20 Internationals.

South African BatWomen Tezma Britts scored 56 runs with the help of 5 fours and was not out.

Chloe Tryon remained not out scoring 15 runs with the help of 2 sixes.

Pakistan's innings got off to a disappointing start and Gul Feroza (nil), Sidra Amin (4) and Muniba Ali (6) were out for a total score of just 15. The wicket of Sadaf Shams also fell on the total score of 21. Nida Dar got out after scoring 16 runs, so the total score was only 47 runs for five wickets.

Alia Riaz remained the top scorer with 52 runs with the help of five fours and one six. Captain Fatima Sana played an innings of 37 runs not out with the help of five fours. proved insufficient to secure victory.

The next two matches of the series will be played on September 18 and 20.

Short score.

South Africa Women 132 runs 4 players out (20 overs). Tezma Britts 56 not out. Sadia Iqbal 34 / 3 wickets.

Pakistan Women 122 runs 5 players out (20 overs). Alia Riaz 52 not out. Fatima Sana 37 not out. Tommy Shekhu Khone 15/2 wicket. Marizan Cap 22 / 2 wickets.

The result South Africa Women won by 10 runs.

China edge past Pakistan in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy semi-final



A Sports

HULUNBUIR CITY: China defeated Pakistan 2-0 in the penalty shoot-out during the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 semi-final clash here at the Moqi Hockey Training Base on Monday.

Pakistan and China both managed one goal each in the regular time after an intense battle, however, the Green Shirts failed to score a single penalty, leading to their ouster from the tournament.

The home side scored two goals in the penalty shoot-out to secure their place in the final.

For the unversed, Pakistan lost only one game in the group stages with arch-rivals India defeating them 2-1 in the final group match.

Pakistan started the blockbuster clash on a high as they took the lead just 10 minutes into the first quarter, courtesy of a precise assist from Hannan Shahid, who fed the ball inside the circle to Nadeem.

Nadeem effortlessly smashed the ball into the net to give Pakistan a head start.

Pakistan's lead, however, was short-lived as India earned a penalty corner.

India's skipper Harmanpreet Singh took the penalty corner for India and successfully sent his drag-flick into the bottom-right corner, helping India equalise just a few minutes later.

The defending champions took the lead in the second quarter when Abhishek fed the ball to Harmanpreet near the circle, who similarly converted it into a goal.

The remaining two quarters of the blockbuster Asian Hockey Champions Trophy clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India remained goalless despite both sides making ferocious attacks on each other's goalposts.

The 2-1 victory over Pakistan, meant India won all of their group-stage fixtures and topped the standings with 15 points. Whereas, Pakistan had two victories and as many draws before their defeat against India.

Remember, Pakistan have already qualified for the semi-final of the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 after thumping China 5-1 on Thursday.

Abdul Rehman opened the scoring for Pakistan before Nadeem Ahmed and Hannan Shahid scored two goals each to secure a dominant 5-1 victory for the Green Shirts.

This is Pakistan's second consecutive victory in the tournament as they defeated Japan 2-1 in their third game.

Barbados defeats Pakistan in Davis Cup World Group II



Pakistan was defeated by Barbados in their Davis Cup World Group II tie, with the Caribbean nation securing a 3-1 victory.

On the second day, Pakistan lost both the doubles and the first reverse singles, sealing Barbados' win.

In the doubles match, Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq and Aqeel Khan fell to the Barbadian duo of Darian King and Haydn Lewis. After a hard-fought contest, King and Lewis triumphed 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, clinching the final set to take the match.

In the first reverse singles, Yousaf Khalil of Pakistan was overpowered by Darian King, who won in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0, giving Barbados an insurmountable lead.

With the loss, Pakistan will now head to the Group II play-offs to fight for their place in the competition.

World Group II featured 12 ties. The losing 12 teams from the World Group I play-offs and the winning 12 teams from the World Group II play-offs will be placed opposite to each other on the basis of their ranking.

Teenage quick on standby as Australia announce squad for England ODIs

Mahli Beardman, a 19-year-old pacer with just six overs in senior professional cricket behind him, has been put on standby as Australia unveiled squad for this month's one-day international series away to England.

Beardman was named player of the match after taking 3-15 in just seven overs as Australia thrashed India by 79 runs in February's Under-19 World Cup final in South Africa. But he has played just one List A (limited-overs) game for Western Australia, finishing with figures of 1-42 against New South Wales in the Marsh Cup last November.

Mahli Beardman will now join the Australia squad in Nottingham as the 50-over world champions prepare for the first of a five-game ODI series against England at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Australia have already seen injuries blight their pace attack during the T20 leg of their tour, with Nathan Ellis, Riley Meredith and Xavier Bartlett all affected, and they are also wary of adding too much to the workload of senior fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

Left-arm Ben Dwarshuis, who has already played for Durham and Northern Superchargers in English domestic cricket this season, and Cooper Connolly, who had been due to leave after the drawn T20 series with England, have also been added to Australia's ODI squad.

Australia Squad for England ODIs: Mitch Marsh (c), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

History making first Blind Women's Cricket Match held in Karachi

Sports Desk

KARACHI: A new sports history was made in Karachi, the first blind women's cricket match in the history of Karachi was held in which Civil Lions Youth Cricket Foundation XI defeated PACC XI by 9 wickets. Organized by Civil Lions Youth Cricket Foundation, with the Collaboration of Binai Education Foundation, Pakistan American Cultural Center, Rotary Club of Karachi Avenue and New Elite Lions Club. PACC President Makhdoom Ali Riaz was the chief guest, who distributed the prizes along with Civil Lions Youth Cricket Foundation Chairman Javed Jhangra, Salman Elahi and Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh. Binai Education Foundation Chairperson Sarwat Naseem Shah, PACC Jilani Yusuf, Chairman Event Zohaib Jhangra, Sohaib Ansar, Imran Katya, Jaafar Katya, Qadir Musani, Faisal Maqsood of Rotary Club Karachi Avenue, Pakistan Olympic Association Association spokesperson Asif Azeem, Qudsia Raja and others were also present. Chief Guest PACC President Makhdoom Ali Riaz said that there is a lot of talent among women in sports in Pakistan, visually impaired women's cricket like technical and it is a pleasure to come to a difficult game. I hope that the sapling of women's blind cricket that we have planted in Karachi today will become a fruitful tree. Event Director Imtiaz Shiekh said that the successful holding of the match is a new chapter in the history of sports in Karachi.

I am grateful to all the sponsors for supporting this event especially. If



possible, she can make Pakistan famous in blind cricket as well. Javed Jhangra, chairman of Civil Lions Youth Cricket Foundation, the host of the match, on this occasion declared hosting the match as an honor for his foundation and said that we had the pleasure of hosting the first blind women's cricket match in the history of Karachi.

No one can estimate, without a doubt,

this is an honor for us regarding the service of the game and the players, we will try to offer our services for the blind women's cricket in the future as well. Chairman of Binai Education Foundation Salman Elahi said our foundation has been working for the underprivileged for a long time and we have successfully organized many national events.

Earlier, Batting first, PACC XI scored

84 runs in the allotted 6 overs for the loss of one wicket including 34 runs by Rabia and 28 runs by Urooj. In reply, CLYCF Completed the required score in 4.5 overs for the loss of one wicket. Anita scored 57 runs while Laiba 25 she played an important role in the success of the team. Urooj took one wicket.

A large number of female cricket fans were also present on the occasion.

Shadab, Usama spin Lake City Panthers to victory after 50s from Mubasir and Haider

After Tuesday's rest day, Dolphins will take on UMT Markhors on Wednesday at 9.30am

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Half-centuries by Mubasir Khan and Haider Ali, backed-up by player of the match performance by Shadab Khan helped Lake City Panthers to beat Nurbur Lions by 84 runs for their second victory in three matches in the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup at the Iqbal Stadium here on Monday.

In a day match in front of the PCB cameras, Mubasir scored 90 and Haider contributed 84 as the two batters switched a 144-run fifth-wicket partnership to lift Panthers from 51 for four to 283 all-out in 46.5 overs. Shadab Khan then followed by his 29-ball 37 with three for 42 to skittle out Lions for 199 in 35.2 overs, leaving the side winless after two matches.

After Tuesday's rest day, action will resume on Wednesday with a day match between Dolphins and UMT Markhors. Markhors have won both their previous matches, while Dolphins will aim to win their first match after losing the previous match to Panthers by 50 runs.

Mubasir hit 10 fours and three sixes in a 97-ball innings, while Haider's 99-ball knock included five fours and three sixes. Haider is now the leading run-getter in the tournament with 149 runs. The two had joined hands after Saim Ayub (10), Azan Awais (1), Umar Siddiq (0) and Usman Khan (11) were back in the hut to leave Panthers tottering.

After Mubasir missed out on a



well-deserved victory, Haider put on 67 runs for the sixth wicket with Shadab, whose 29-ball knock was laced with five fours. After the partnership ended at the score of 262 with the fall of Haider, Panthers lost their way and were bowled out for 283 in 46.5 overs.

For Lions, Ahmed Danial and Shaheen Shah Afridi took three wickets apiece, conceding 47 and 57 runs, while Aamer Yamin and Sirajuddin took two wickets each at 33 and 49 runs, respectively.

In turn, Lions slipped to 44 for three before Imam-ul-Haq (60, 62b, 5x4,

2x6) and Muhammad Irfan Khan (35) repaired the damage by adding 83 runs for the fourth wicket. But when Shadab Khan broke the stand by dismissing Imam at the score of 127, Lions were sent spinning out for 199 in 35.2 overs.

Besides Shadab Khan's three for 42, Usama Mir also snapped up three for 55. Fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain took two wickets for 28 runs, to surge to the top of the bowlers table with nine wickets.

Scores in brief:

Match 5-Lake City Panthers beat Nurbur Lions by 84 runs

Lake City Panthers 283 all out, 46.5 overs (Mubasir Khan 90, Haider Ali 84, Shadab Khan 37; Ahmed Danial 3-47, Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-57, Aamer Yamin 2-33, Sirajuddin 2-49)

Nurbur Lions 199 all out, 35.2 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 60, Muhammad Irfan Khan 35, Khushdil Shah 22, Omair Bin Yousuf 20; Shadab Khan 3-42, Usama Mir 3-55, Mohammad Hasnain 2-28)

Player of the match: Shadab Khan (Lake City Panthers)

Next fixture (18 September): Dolphins vs UMT Markhors, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 9.30am (local time).

Wama Arsalnaka Illa Rahmatan Lil AAalameen

ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of a Shrine of Bari Imam decorated with colorful lights, in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Full draft: 26th amendment proposes these 54 changes to Constitution of Pakistan

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The proposed constitutional amendments, which were expected to be tabled in Parliament on Monday (today), include 54 clauses, according to a draft seen by media. But the government put off the plans for the time being.

Key changes involve amendments to articles 51

(Parliament), 63 (Disqualifications for Membership of Parliament), 175 (Establishment and Jurisdiction of Courts), and 187 (Issue and Execution of Processes of Supreme Court) of the Constitution.

One significant amendment aims to increase representation in the Balochistan Assembly, proposing to raise the number

of seats from 65 (Oath of Members) to 81 (Expenditure Charged Upon Federal Consolidated Fund). Additionally, amendments to Article 63 (Disqualifications for Membership of Parliament) include stipulations regarding the voting rights of dissident members.

They added that appeals

against the decisions of the constitutional court would

be heard within the same court. There are also plans to amend Article 181 (Acting Judges) and hearings related to Articles 184 (Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court), 185 (Appellate Jurisdiction of Supreme Court), and 186 (Advisory Jurisdiction) would take place in the constitutional court.

The draft includes several articles to be inserted into the

constitution as well.

Proposals include the transfer of judges to high courts in other provinces. The appointment of the chief justice would be made from a panel of five senior judges of the SC, with the government selecting the chief justice from among them. The remaining four judges of the constitutional court would also be appointed by the government.

Heartfelt congratulations on 12th Rabi ul Awwal by Abdul Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 16: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said in his congratulatory message to the nation on the occasion of 12th Rabi ul Awwal that today we need mutual unity, love, brotherhood in the true sense as one should pledge to obey the teachings of Last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ. Abdul Aleem Khan presented heartfelt congratulations to all the Islamic world on this special day when Allah Almighty's Beloved Prophet ﷺ graced and blessed us



with best leadership. He added that today is the day of true happiness and joy on which

the beloved of Allah Almighty was among the people which was indeed a source of honor and pride for every Muslim. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that there is no doubt that the Holy Prophet ﷺ is the benefactor of humanity whose good teachings are complete code of life and a torch for all of us. He said that the great love for the Messenger of Allah Almighty ﷺ is the true introduction to the spirit of our worship and lives. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the beloved Prophet ﷺ lived an exemplary life 1400 years ago and on those principles which cannot be replaced we can even pledge today to follow His path for real success.

Prominent lawyers approach SC to stop constitutional amendment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan seeking to declare the proposed constitutional amendments null and void.

The petition, filed by prominent lawyers including Shafiqat Mahmood, Shahab Sarki, Abid Zuberi, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Munir Kakar, and others, names the federal government, all four provinces, the National Assembly, the Senate, and other relevant entities as respondents.

The petitioners request the court to declare the proposed amendments unconstitutional, arguing that they violate the principle of separation of powers and undermine judicial independence.

They further plead with the court to prevent the federal government



from proceeding with the amendments.

The petition also seeks to halt the process of presenting the amendment bill in parliament, prevent the President from signing it even if parliament approves it, and ultimately declare the proposed amendments null and void.

The petitioners argue that the judiciary's independence, powers, and judicial matters are sacrosanct. They maintain that parliament cannot revoke the judiciary's authority or tamper with judicial powers.

Palestine demands international action to end Palestinian suffering

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates warns of the escalating violations and crimes committed by settler militias and armed groups against Palestinian citizens, their lands, properties, homes, and religious sites across the occupied West Bank. The most recent attack involved ongoing assaults on Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, including an attack on students and teachers at Al-Ka'abneh School northwest of Jericho today.

The Ministry views these crimes as a manifestation of official Israeli policy, supported by extremist ministers and protected by the Israeli occupation forces. This policy seeks to expedite the gradual annexa-

tion of the West Bank, particularly Area C, by displacing Palestinians and expanding settlements, thereby undermining the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state.

The Ministry is closely monitoring the situation and engaging with international partners to ensure accountability for these crimes. The Ministry calls on the international community to move beyond mere condemnation and to take concrete actions. The Ministry urges the global community to enforce the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, ensuring that responses align with international law and UN obligations. Practical measures must be taken to compel Israel to end its acts of aggression and implement necessary mechanisms to address these violations.

IHC adjourns PTI founder's plea

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned hearing of a petition of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder against his potential trial by an army court till September 24.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case.

Additional Attorney General adopted the stance that the Defence Ministry had no information in that regard as yet. The ministry would take a decision as per law if any request to the effect was received, he added.

The court remarked that whether the case had not been filed before time. There was nothing in the case to proceed, it added. The court sought a clear answer from the government and adjourned the case.

Sindh culture minister forms committee to probe Ghotki artist's 'missing paintings'

Bureau Report

GHOTKI: Sindh Culture and Tourism Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah has formed a two-member inquiry committee comprising the director general of culture, and the director general of antiquities to investigate the alleged theft of Ghotki artist's "missing paintings", which according to him, were shown in an episode of drama 'Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum'.

The committee will provide a detailed report to the provincial minister within seven days, according to a statement. Appropriate action would be taken if any negligence or wrongdoing was uncovered, he added.

In a Facebook post, artist Seffy Soomro claimed that his paintings were shown in episode 17 of the popular drama.

The Bermuda Triangle: A Mythical Mystery

Fahad Ali

The Bermuda Triangle, a roughly triangular region in the North Atlantic Ocean, has long captivated the imagination with its tales of mysterious disappearances. While the region has witnessed its fair share of maritime and aviation accidents, the frequency of these incidents is not significantly higher than in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, the Bermuda Triangle's reputation as a paranormal hotspot persists, fueled by a combination of sensationalism, folklore, and a lack of definitive explanations for certain incidents.

The Legend Begins
The Bermuda Triangle gained notoriety in the mid-20th century following a series of high-profile disappearances. Perhaps the most famous case involved Flight 19, a group of five U.S. Navy Avenger torpedo bombers that vanished in 1945

while on a training mission. Another well-known incident was the disappearance of the SS Marine Sulphur Queen, a cargo ship that vanished in 1963 with its crew of 39.

Theories and Speculations
Over the years, countless theories have been proposed to explain the mysterious disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle. Some of these theories include:

Extraterrestrial activity: One popular belief is that aliens are responsible for the disappearances, abducting humans or ships for their own purposes.

Atlantis: The lost city of Atlantis is often linked to the Bermuda Triangle, with some suggesting that it may be located there and that its advanced technology is somehow responsible for the disappearances.

Magnetic anomalies: Some believe that magnetic anomalies in the region may interfere with



navigation equipment, leading to accidents.

Weather phenomena: Strong storms, hurricanes, and rogue waves can pose serious risks to ships and planes in the region.

Human error: Navigational errors, equipment failures, and

pilot inexperience have been cited as possible causes of some of the disappearances.

The Truth Behind the Mystery
While the Bermuda Triangle remains a fascinating topic, most experts agree that there is no evidence to support the existence of any supernatural or paranormal forces at work in the region. The disappearances that have occurred can likely be attributed to a combination of factors, including natural hazards, human error, and the challenging conditions of the ocean.

The Bermuda Triangle's reputation as a mysterious and dangerous place has been greatly exaggerated. While the region has witnessed its fair share of accidents, the frequency of these incidents is not significantly higher than in other parts of the world. The enduring fascination with the Bermuda Triangle is more a product of human imagination than a real-world mystery.