

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے ابو ایمان نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا
ہم کو شیب سے جردی ان سے زہری نے
بیان کیا، انہیں سعید بن مسیب نے جردی،
ان کے والد (مسیب) نے بیان کیا کہ جب
جناب ابوطالب کی موت کی وقت قریب ہوا
تو رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ان کے پاس
آئے اور کہا کہ آپ کو دیکھنے کے لئے اللہ
توین آپ کے لئے اللہ سے جھگڑوں گا۔
(بخاری ص 681)

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Top judge raises multiple questions on reserved seats order

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Saturday asked nine questions from the Supreme Court registrar, seeking clarification on the order passed by a majority of apex court judges in the case pertaining to the reserved seats. The top judge issued an administrative order apparently to rectify the ambiguities about the short order in the case related to reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assem-



Marxist Dissanayake wins Sri Lanka's presidential election

Leader and the presidential candidate of National People's Power Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrives at a polling station to cast his vote in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Saturday. Leader and the presidential candidate of National People's Power Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrives at a polling station to cast his vote in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Saturday. (Details on Page 5)

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Attack on convoy

SWAT: The police mobile that was damaged in the attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat on Sunday.



President strongly condemns blast near police van in Swat



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday strongly condemned the bomb blast

near a police van in Swat.

In a statement issued by the President House, he paid tribute to the police officer who was martyred in the incident.

He also expressed condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the explosion.

Terrorist elements are enemies not only of the country and nation but of humanity itself, the president said.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continue efforts for the complete eradication of terrorism.

PM strongly condemns terrorist attack on police mobile near Malam Jabba

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police mobile near Malam Jabba, district Swat.

The prime minister prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyred policeman in Jannah and offered his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident.



The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible medical assistance to the injured.

Public rejects politics of chaos, endorses government's sound economic policies: PM

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the public had rejected the politics of chaos and instead prioritized the need for sound economic policies that directly address inflation and improve the living standard of the people.

"The people want a reduction in inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic betterment," the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister, stressing the urgency of addressing the public's economic concerns, called for a shift in political priorities, arguing that instead of focusing on rallies and political gatherings, the immediate need was to improve the economic condition of the masses.

"We will hold rallies in 2028; but right now, it is time to work hard to fulfill the pledges made to the people."

To address the country's ongoing economic and security challenges, the prime minister called for collaboration between political parties, institutions, and provinces. "To tackle economic challenges and terrorism, the nation, political parties, institutions, and provinces must work together," he urged.

Recalling the past political instability, PM Shehbaz Sharif lamented that a lot of time had been wasted in political chaos therefore wasting more time was not in the interest of the country and the nation.

Looking forward, the prime minister underscored that the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) program should be the last one for Pakistan, saying "if it is so, it will be a true success." He warned that abusive language, violence, and chaos would not lead to progress, urging every province and institution to play its role in solving the public's problems.

Ji chief urges education reform in Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, has criticized the commercialization of education, revealing that over 27.5 million children in Pakistan are out of school. He emphasized that education has been reduced to a business, depriving 90 percent of the population of access to quality learning. Moreover, only 2.5 million students

have the opportunity to pursue education after completing their intermediate studies.

Addressing the broader crisis in education, Hafiz Naeem called for urgent reforms, stressing the need to provide skills-based learning opportunities for the nation's youth.

He lamented the lack of educational infrastructure, with fewer than 3 million children having access to essential skill development programs.

At least three policemen were injured

Policeman killed as foreign diplomats' convoy attacked in KP's Swat

Hasham Khan

SWAT: A policeman was killed and three others were injured as a roadside bomb attacked the foreign diplomats' convoy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat on Sunday.

The deceased police officer was identified as Burhan Khan. "All the diplomats remained safe in the attack," Malakand Deputy Inspector General of police

Mohammad Ali Gandapur said. The attack occurred near Jehanabad. The convoy included diplomats from Bosnia, Russia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Portugal, according to the Malakand DIG.

The police mobile assigned to secure the convoy was caught in the blast when an explosive device detonated along the

Malam Jabba Road.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that the vehicle was part of a security detail for nearly a dozen foreign diplomats travelling in the district.

The Malakand DIG told the news agency that diplomats had been shifted to a safe place before their departure to Islamabad. A remote-controlled device triggered the explosion, he said and added that police have cordoned

off the entire area.

Swat district police officer Zahidullah Khan said the diplomats were visiting the Swat valley area at the invitation of the local chamber of commerce.

"The squad that was leading the convoy was hit by a roadside bomb," he said. All the nearly dozen diplomats were safe and were heading back to Islamabad, police said.

No one claimed responsibility

for the attack.

On July 30, a vehicle belonging to the United Nations came under fire in Dera Ismail Khan when it avoided a picket set up by unidentified armed men in the area. The UN vehicle was out collecting water samples when it was targeted. All the officials riding in the bulletproof vehicle remained safe, although the vehicle suffered minor damage from the firing.

Anti-Terrorism Force officials ambushed in Balochistan, 3 martyred

PM Shehbaz, Federal Interior Minister & CM Balochistan strongly condemn the incident

Bureau Report

ZHOB: Three Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) officials were killed in an ambush by armed assailants on a police vehicle in Zhob, Balochistan, on Sunday.

According to police, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the ATF vehicle on the D. I. Khan National Highway. One ATF official was killed instantly, while three others were injured. The deceased and injured were immediately transported to Zhob Hospital.

Following the incident, a heavy contingent of police and Levies personnel arrived at the scene and collected evidence. Police have registered a case and are taking steps to apprehend the perpetrators.

Two of the injured ATF officials succumbed to their injuries, raising the death toll to three. One injured official remains hospitalized.

The deceased officials have been identified as Amir Muhammad Mangalza Sherani and Shafiqullah.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the firing on Anti-Terrorism Force personnel in Zhob.

The prime minister, offering his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyred in Jannah.



"The entire nation salutes the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism," the prime minister said.

"We are determined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from its roots," he added.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has condemned the attack on an ATF vehicle on the National Highway in Zhob, Balochistan, and paid tribute to the three police officers who were killed in the firing. He also expressed deep sympathy and

condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti also condemned the attack on the ATF vehicle in Zhob, expressing sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of the ASI.

The Chief Minister directed that the terrorists involved in the incident be brought to justice.

Bugti expressed condolences to the family of the martyred ASI, praying for his elevation in rank and for patience for his bereaved family.

Diplomats unhurt in blast near Malam Jabba: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office Spokesperson on Sunday confirmed that the diplomats traveling with the convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) near Malam Jabba, Swat remained unhurt and have safely returned to Islamabad.

In a press release, the spokesperson said that a police convoy escorting a group of diplomats near Malam Jabba, Swat, was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) today, resulting in the martyrdom of one policeman and injuries to three others.

The group of diplomats was traveling to Islamabad after their trip to Malam Jabba and Swat.

"Our sympathies are with the families of the Shaheed policeman and three injured in the incident," the spokesperson said.

"We honour our law enforcement authorities that remain steadfast in the face of terrorists. Such acts will not deter Pakistan from its commitment towards the fight against terrorism," the spokesperson added.

Sardar Attique says Prophet's biography is source of guidance

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/HASILPUR: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference) President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the biography of Hazrat Muhammad is a source of guidance for all of us. We can make the world a better place. The key to solving all the problems of the country is to make the teachings of Karim a beacon. The establishment of social justice and welfare state on the basis of Islamic teachings is the only guarantee of development. Peace, love and brotherhood can be promoted in the world by following the good deeds of Prophet . And everyone has to play their role in uprooting extremism, avoiding divisiveness is the success of this world and the hereafter. These views were expressed by the well-known spiritual healer Pir Osman Ghani in Hasilpur during the Milad-ul-Nabi conference. Speaking on the occasion of attending the Prophet's speech, he said that the greatest proof of being a lover of the Prophet is that no one should be hurt by our hands and tongue. He said



that the best propagation of Islam is that we should live our lives according to Iswah Hasna, because the behavior of the slave of the Prophet (peace be upon him) can never be contrary to his orders. Today, division, abusive language and extremist behavior in the society are a matter of moment.

Earlier Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan attended a dinner hosted by Member Punjab Bar Council Hasilpur Mr Afzal Darla Advocate. Addressing the function he said that Pakistan is the only advocate of Kashmiris. A strong and stable Pakistan is the guarantor of the freedom of Kashmiris, every Kashmiri wishes that Pakistan is economically and economically strong. Kashmir plays an impor-

tant role in the security and economic development of Pakistan. The Indian Judiciary has always given judgments against Kashmiris. India has heated up the market of oppression and persecution in Occupied Kashmir at the moment. He expressed these views while talking at the dinner given by Haji Afzal Darla, Advocate Member, Punjab Bar Council in Hasilpur. He said that the Assembly elections cannot be a substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, such elections are unacceptable for the Kashmiri people and the international community should hold the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government accountable for the ongoing human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, the well-known spiritual healer Pir Usman Ghani's residence in Hasilpur. He also visited the Holy place of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and the blessings and sanctities of Baitullah Sharif.

Delegation of Pakistan Medical Association Multan meets Regional Police Officer Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A delegation of Pakistan Medical Association Multan met RPO Multan Captain Retired Sohail Chaudhry, demanded to improve security at Nishtar Hospital and provide a center to facilitate the issuance of driving license for doctors, RPO Multan, issued instructions to provide all the facilities to the doctors immediately, according to the details, the delegation of Pakistan Medical Association under the leadership of President PMA Multan Professor Dr. Masood Ul Rauf Haraj met RPO Multan Captain Retired Sohail Chaudhry. During the visit of the delegation to the various departments of the RPO office, the delegation asked the RPO Multan to set up a check-point and police service in Nishtar Hospital in view of security and to issue driving licenses immediately for the convenience of doctors. Demands to take measures, the facility of teaching driving for doctors in this center, issuance of immediate license, character certificate, copy of FIR, report of missing children, general police verification, renewal of driving license, missing documents, etc. The delegation included Dr. Zulqarnain Haider, Amir, Adnan, Fawad, Shajaat and others.



Social Ambassadors, Activists call for urgent action on economic, social justice



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Social Ambassador Shahid Mehmood Ansari, well-known social intellectual Khawaja Zia Siddiqui. Minority Activist Dr. Liaqat Rashid. Female leader Fauzia Shaheen. Farhat Chughtai. Yasmin Khakwani Dua Bukhari trance Gender Focal Person Bilali. Special Person Aslam Bhutto and Youth Activist Atif Ameer have said that the government should allocate more funds along with effective legislation to meet the demands of economic justice. Awaaz Foundation. And on the occasion of the rally organized by the Pakistan Development Alliance at the historical place of Qila Kahana in Multan regarding the campaign for economic and social justice while the rally was led by the social ambassador Shahid Mehmood Ansari. Khawaja Zia Siddiqui in the rally. Rukhsana Mehboob, Farhat Chughta, Fauzia Shaheen. Yasmin Khakwani. Dua Bukhari Dr. Liaqat Rasheed (Minority Member) Transgender Bilali. Special Person Aslam Bhutto. Youth Member Atif Ameer. Chaudhry Mansoor Ahmed. Malik Amir Nawaz. Transgender Shabnam. Special Person Rafiq Ahmed. Member Peace Committee Zahid Bilal. Mazhabi scholar Mian Amir Mahmood Naqshbandi. Noor Alamin Khakwani. Syed Imtiaz Shah. Muhammad Rizwan Ahmed. Salim Darbari Zaman Akbar Qamar Hashmi Khurshed Akbar Khawaja Saleem Khalid Chhata. Iqbal Baloch Yasin Ahmad Nadeem Qaiser Mukhtar Soomro. Farrukh Mahmood. Ghulam Yazdani. Social organizations including imagination. Minorities. Transgenders. Individuals with mutual disabilities. Youth members. Women. Lawyers. Cultural and literary scholars. Children and social media activists and writers artists. A large number of civil society activists including members of the Teachers' Peace Committee participated. On this occasion, the speakers added that health care, better social security programs for needy families. Concrete measures to protect against the effects of climate change and innovative legislation as well as implementation actions are urgently needed at the government level. from any background and our awareness campaign will continue till the establishment of a favorable environment of the society.

Azad Kashmir Central Union of Journalists demands immediate repeal of black law on press

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Azad Kashmir Central Union of Journalists has rejected the law imposing restrictions on expression by the Azad Kashmir government and clarified that this black law should be repealed within 10 days. If this is done, the plan of the protest movement will be implemented with full force. Officials of district bodies from across Kashmir participated. In the meeting, the media policy of the government of Azad Kashmir, the amendment of Section 505 C of the Criminal Code Ordinance 1860, as a ban on freedom of expression, was discussed in detail about the problems faced by journalists across the state. In the meeting, opinions were also taken from the senior journalists of the three divisions of the state on telephone. After the meeting, Central Secretary General Tahir Ahmad Farooqui issued a statement according to which it was demanded that Section 505 C of the Penal Code Act 1860 was made. The amendment should be withdrawn immediately. The law in the state. To ensure justice and merit, journalists have been demanding the government for a law on access to information for a long time. By doing this, the language is bent. The impression has also emerged from the said amendment that the government is actually telling the fourth pillar of the state including the citizens, i.e. the media, to stop expressing their views. The constitution gives the right to express opinion to every citizen, which will not be restricted under any circumstances. However, if the government wants to make better legislation, then for this purpose, it should make laws in consultation with other relevant stakeholders including journalistic organizations and press clubs, which is acceptable to all otherwise we are right in understanding that the government wants to strangle the free press under the guise of the recent amendment.

Luncheon

KARACHI: Renowned poet and scholar Mahboob Zafar, visiting Karachi from Islamabad on his way to the USA, was honored with a luncheon hosted by Manzar Naqvi for close friends in the city. In the group photo, seated (L-R): Naina Adil, Shaista Mufti, Mahboob Zafar, Nasira Zubairi, and Rehana Rohi. Standing, Adil, Shakil Jafri, Manzar Naqvi, Javed Saba, Aqeel Abbas Jafri, Ahmed Malik, Saeed Sarbazi (President, KPC), Razaqat, and Mubasher Mir.



Pakistan People's Party aware of people's problems: Salim Rehman Mayo

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan People's Party is aware of people's problems, President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari is doing practical work to get the country out of crises with his abilities. During the meeting with the delegation led by former founder and chief organizer of Asif Zardari Release Committee Salim Ur Rehman Mayo Meet Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore, Sardar Salim Haider Khan said that we will not make any compromise on the supremacy of principles and



constitution. All the people have to act on the issues. Fatiha was recited on the death of Mayo's brother and prayers were also made for forgiveness, while Salim Rehman Mayo Alhaj Chaudhry Ghulam Rasool Haji Fida Hussain Bhatti Zafar Iqbal Awan Dr. Amir Shaheen Mian Fida Hussain Tahir Ismail Muhammad Tahir Khan Mugheez Prince Bhut-Chaudhry Muhammad Ramadan Muhammad Ilyas Mayo On behalf of the Awami Governor, he paid tribute to the opening of the doors for the common people by opening the open kecharya and also gave a darbari to the Governor of Punjab.

Kashmir Bank to be made Scheduled Bank by Pakistan State Bank

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Governor State Bank of Pakistan highly appreciated and encouraged the performance of Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken to achieve Scheduled Bank status and agreed in principle with the position of the State Bank to issue the license and said that The Kashmir Financial Institution is playing a vital role in the economic and social development of the state while moving towards development, it shows that this bank will soon join the ranks of the most successful banks. These views expressed by Governor State Bank Mr. Jameel Ahmed during a meeting with a delegation headed by Minister of Finance and Coop-

eratives and Chairman of Bank Board of Directors Khan Abdul Majid Khan of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Bank President and CEO Mr. Shahid Shahzad Mir, Azad Kashmir Finance Secretary and Bank Director Mr. Islam Zeib, Company Secretary Dr. Ahmeullah Khan were also present in the delegation. The Governor while reviewing the performance of Kashmir Bank said that the schedule Despite this, the performance of Azad Kashmir Bank has been outstanding. He appreciated the initiation of Islamic banking by Kashmir Bank and asked the bank to approach the State Bank by completing the essentials related to equity and core banking. Appreciating the opening of an exchange compa-

ny by the bank, the governor said that the state bank would issue the license once the rules and regulations are completed. The commitment and interest of overseas Kashmiris, the importance of issuing licenses for getting scheduled status, and the steps taken by the financial institutions and the state government to develop and achieve scheduled bank status, including core banking software installation, restructuring of credit projects, preparation of business case for application to State Bank and acquisition of consultant services for completion of legal requirements, to the people of Azad Kashmir, especially overseas Kashmiris and the corporate sector of the bank. The chairman further said that the bank's development will be accel-

erated by including the bank in the special projects of the government of Pakistan like hydropower, tourism, women's economic empowerment, agriculture and housing. In addition, nomination of a focal person by the State Bank for the issuance of license, guidance and support to this bank, while the opening of the bank's corporate office in Islamabad will have positive business results. Previously, the Governor State Bank, Mr. Shahid, the President of the Bank. Shahzad Mir gave a briefing on the history of the bank, management structure, expanding network and access to customers, financial development status including paid up capital. The Governor State Bank listened to the briefing of the AJK bank team with inter-



est and attention and scheduled bank status. Agreed in principle on the position of the institution to achieve. On this occasion souvenirs were presented to the Governor State Bank.

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Micromanagement of Judiciary..

The judiciary, executive, and parliament are three distinct, exclusive, and mutually independent pillars of the state.

The independence of each pillar from the influence and jurisdiction of the others, as defined in the Constitution, is the hallmark of any democratic system. It is not only the duty of each pillar to protect itself from encroachment by another but also the duty of civil society and the public at large to resist any attempt by any pillar to interfere in the workings of the others.

The most damaging, however, was the encroachment of Parliament into the exclusive domain of the judiciary, which is a fundamental component of a functioning democratic system. The Parliament first enacted the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. A close scrutiny of the provisions of SCPPA 2023 reveals it as a clear example of blatant micromanagement of the judiciary.

The SCPPA 2023 was initially struck down by the Supreme Court under the tenure of former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial. However, under the leadership of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, a 15-member full court later upheld the Act. Unfortunately, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa's decision effectively opened the doors of the superior judiciary to parliamentary micromanagement. The logic offered by Chief Justice Isa—that Parliament is supreme and has the right to make laws, even those that impact the independence of the judiciary—was not only flawed but also lacked solid constitutional grounding, as it threatened the principle of judicial independence.

When the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 (SCPPA), was introduced for the first time, it micromanaged the judiciary primarily by altering how the Chief Justice's powers were exercised. The act established a three-member committee

comprising the Chief Justice and the two most senior judges to decide on the formation of benches and the initiation of suo motu action.

This change meant that the Chief Justice no longer had the sole authority to form benches or take suo motu notices, which had previously been an essential aspect of the Chief Justice's autonomy. This redistribution of power effectively regulated and limited the Chief Justice's role, thereby introducing a level of micromanagement into the Supreme Court's internal processes. The door to the micromanagement of the judiciary, which was left wide open due to the shortsightedness of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, is now being forcefully pushed against the judiciary's independence. Not content with the initial attempt to micromanage and bring the judiciary under the influence of the executive, Parliament has once again been used to further exert control over the superior judiciary.

While the original act mandated a three-member committee to decide on the formation of benches, the 2024 amendment provided the Chief Justice with more power by allowing him to nominate the third member of this committee. This gave the Chief Justice greater influence in constituting benches and influencing the outcome of the decisions.

The amendment imposed a "first in, first out" approach, to bind the supreme court to hear the cases in the order they were filed unless there were clear criteria or legal stipulations for urgency. Any deviation from this sequence required justification, which reduced the flexibility of the judiciary to prioritize cases based on perceived impor-

tance.. The amendment required that any suo motu action must be accompanied by a "reasoned and speaking order," detailing the public importance and fundamental rights involved. This provision imposed additional checks on the use of suo motu powers.

A significant transparency measure introduced was the requirement that all proceedings of the superior courts be transcribed and made publicly available. This ensured that the public could access and review the judicial process, imposing a form of micromanagement over the court's operations.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, and its 2024 amendment have several provisions that contradict the constitutional principles guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers as defined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Article 175 enshrines the separation of powers between the judiciary, executive, and legislature. It states that the judiciary is to be independent and free from interference by the other branches of government. Article 191 empowers the Supreme Court to make its own rules regarding its practice and procedures. The Article 184(3) authorizes the Supreme Court to exercise suo motu jurisdiction, which is a constitutional power allowing the court to act in matters of public interest and fundamental rights.

In well-established democracies such as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and India, the principle of judicial independence is respected, and Parliament avoids micromanaging the

judiciary. In the United States, Congress refrains from interfering in the judiciary's procedures, allowing the courts to interpret laws independently. Similarly, the UK's judiciary, protected under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, operates without parliamentary interference, ensuring that judicial functions are separate from the legislative branch. In Germany, the Basic Law (Grundgesetz) guarantees judicial independence, with the Federal Constitutional Court operating autonomously to review laws in line with the constitution. India also upholds this separation, as seen in the landmark Kesavananda Bharati case, where the judiciary established that Parliament cannot alter the "basic structure" of the Constitution, including judicial independence.

The Supreme Court's autonomy in managing its own affairs is fundamental to maintaining an independent judiciary. The imposition of external controls through the SCPPA 2023 and its 2024 amendment not only blurs the separation between the pillars of the state but also threatens the constitutional safeguards designed to protect judicial independence.

This micromanagement of the judiciary is detrimental to good governance, as it undermines the checks and balances essential for ensuring accountability, fairness, and impartiality in a democratic system. To ensure the progress and prosperity of the nation, it is crucial to preserve the judiciary's independence and prevent any interference that jeopardizes the effective functioning of the justice system, as it plays a vital role in upholding the rule of law and fostering a stable environment for national development.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

PM Pakistan to address world leaders at UN

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will join world leaders at the United Nations next week to deliberate on key international issues, as wars in the Middle East and Europe threaten to spread with no end in sight and to address Global South's concerns over increasing poverty, inflation and debt burden, while impacts of climate change worsen.

More than 130 heads of state/government will attend the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly's 79th session beginning on Tuesday, Sept 24.

"We see out-of-control geopolitical divisions and runaway conflicts — not least in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and beyond," U. N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters at a news conference ahead of the annual debate.

Those three wars are set to dominate the agenda — both in world leaders' speeches before the assembly and at numerous side meetings

Getting to a cease-fire in Gaza is even more urgent now that Israel has turned its guns towards its northern border with Lebanon in pursuit of its object to destroy Hezbollah. Earlier this week, Israel's detonations of hand-held devices by Hezbollah members left 37 dead and a hundred more injured that outraged most of the world.

Meanwhile, hundreds of New York Police Department (NYPD) personnel on Sunday began erecting roadblocks and checkpoints around UN Headquarters in Manhattan to turn the area into a high-security zone to protect the visiting world leaders.

PM Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow at the head of the Pakistan delegation to UNGA. He will address the Assembly on September 27.

In his address, the prime minister will highlight Pakistan's perspective on a range of international and regional issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

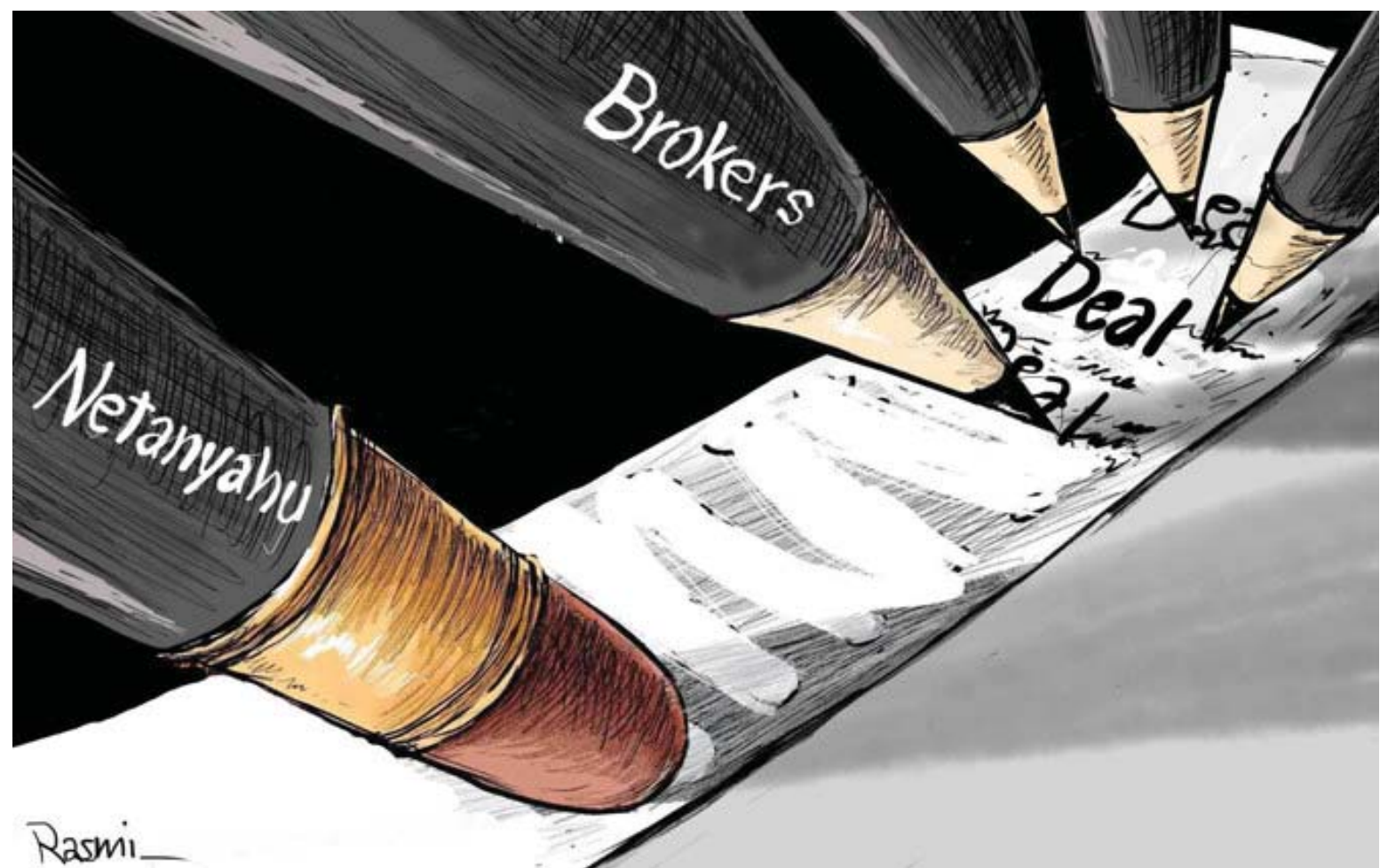
Before leaving Islamabad for London on his way to New York, PM Shehbaz Sharif posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stating that he anticipates a "busy week full of engagements".

"During our interactions, we will address global issues, promoting peace, development and climate action. I will represent Pakistan's perspective to the world, advocate our interests and strengthen international partnerships," he added.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the prime minister is scheduled to attend several high-level meetings, including discussions on existential threats posed by sea level rise and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on Leadership for Peace.

He will also have several bilateral meetings with world leaders and a call on the UN chief.

One of his most watched bilateral meetings will be with Dr. Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's new caretaker government, amid dramatic improvement in Islamabad-Dhaka ties following the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina that has sent shock waves across India.



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

Myths surrounding Seniors and Juniors in Pak Army - I

In military life, seniors play a crucial role beyond mere hierarchy or rank. They hold the wealth of experience, craft strategies, and safeguard traditions within the armed forces. The importance of senior members within an army cannot be overstated, as they embody the collective wisdom, resilience, and ethos crucial for operational success and the welfare of military personnel.

Foremost, seniors act as reservoirs of knowledge and expertise acquired through years of service. Their extensive experience, spanning multiple deployments, exercises, and training scenarios, grants them profound insights into tactics, logistics, and operational realities. This wealth of knowledge is invaluable for younger soldiers and junior officers navigating the intricacies of military life. By imparting their insights and lessons learned, seniors help bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring the next generation is well-equipped to confront the challenges of modern warfare.

Moreover, seniors play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of mentorship and camaraderie within the army. Through their guidance and example, they instill values like integrity, discipline, and selflessness in their subordinates, molding them into effective leaders and responsible citizens. Whether leading by example on the battlefield or offering encouragement in the barracks, seniors inspire loyalty and trust among their peers and juniors, fostering unity and purpose essential for mission success.

Beyond mentorship, seniors serve as linchpins in operational planning and execution within the army. Leveraging their extensive experience and strategic insight, they provide invaluable perspectives that inform decision-making across all command levels. From formulating campaign

plans to assessing battlefield conditions, seniors play a central role in shaping military strategy and tactics, ensuring precise and effective operations, particularly in high-stakes scenarios where split-second decisions are critical.

In the hierarchical structure of the military, there's a common misconception that officers receive disproportionate attention as the leaders and decision-makers. However, every successful army relies on a core group of dedicated individuals who form the backbone of its operations: non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and enlisted soldiers. While officers provide direction, it's the NCOs and enlisted soldiers who execute missions on the ground, ensuring the success of military operations through their dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment.

Non-commissioned officers, or NCOs, serve as the vital link between officers and enlisted soldiers. They are frontline leaders tasked with implementing orders, upholding discipline, and ensuring troop welfare. Often promoted from enlisted ranks based on experience, competence, and leadership qualities, NCOs offer guidance and mentorship to junior enlisted personnel, helping them navigate military life and develop necessary skills.

One of the significant roles of NCOs is maintaining discipline and morale within the ranks. Leading by example, they instill professionalism, dedication, and pride in their troops, fostering a culture of excellence and accountability. Whether enforcing conduct standards or providing support during challenges, NCOs shape the military's character and ethos.

Enlisted soldiers constitute the backbone of the army's operational capability. They execute assigned missions with skill, courage, and determination, hailing from diverse backgrounds and

specialties. From infantry to logistics, enlisted soldiers contribute to the army's effectiveness through their unwavering commitment and expertise in their respective roles. Despite their distinct roles and duties, all members of the military share a common dedication to serving their country and upholding its interests. Enlisted soldiers undergo intensive training to equip them for the rigors of military service, refining their physical fitness, technical expertise, and tactical proficiency. Whether they're conducting patrols in hazardous settings, administering medical assistance to injured fellows, or maintaining and repairing equipment, enlisted soldiers are the linchpins ensuring the army's operations unfold with precision and efficacy. Their unwavering commitment and sacrifices lay the foundation for the army's triumphs, and their contributions are indispensable for securing victories on the battlefield.

In the intricate tapestry of the Pakistan Army, the relationship between officers and soldiers stands as the keystone of operational triumph. Unified as a cohesive team, they each bring unique skills, knowledge, and viewpoints to realize shared goals. The synergy between officers and soldiers epitomizes the potency of collaboration and highlights the significance of teamwork in contemporary military endeavors.

Central to the effectiveness of teamwork between officers and soldiers is their shared allegiance to a common mission. Officers furnish strategic guidance, articulate objectives, and devise plans for their achievement. Leveraging their leadership, experience, and expertise, officers establish the mission's trajectory and instill assurance in their troops. Conversely, soldiers execute the mission with discipline, valor, and accuracy, drawing upon their training, cooperation, and resilience to surmount obstacles and achieve objectives on the battlefield.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

China: A look at the country's rapid transition over 75 years II

Hamna Obaid

Culturally, China has experienced a renaissance, with a renewed interest in traditional Chinese culture, arts, and heritage. At the same time, globalization has introduced diverse cultural influences, resulting in a unique blend of tradition and modernity. The government has also emphasized the promotion of "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" to maintain cultural identity while embracing modernization. Establishment of "Confucius Institutes" in different countries have paved way for projection of its soft power. Chinese dramas are also a beneficial source of public diplomacy that connects the global audiences with Chinese culture and lifestyle. The Highest Military Award is August First Medal in China. On 13th September, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order to award national medals and national honorary titles to 15 individuals on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

International Relations
 China's rise as a global power has significantly altered the international order. Initially maintaining a relatively isolated foreign policy, China has gradually adopted a more assertive stance on the global stage. Its involvement in international organizations such as the United Nations, the G20, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) reflects its growing diplomatic clout. The South China Sea disputes, the Taiwan issue, and trade tensions with the

United States are pivotal aspects of China's contemporary foreign policy challenges. Despite these, China continues to pursue a foreign policy aimed at fostering economic partnerships and expanding its influence through initiatives like the BRI and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

The 75-year journey of the People's Republic of China is a testament to its resilience, adaptability, and strategic vision. From the founding years to its current status as a global superpower, China's transformation has been profound. China's political structure remained firm as communism yet it's shift of economic system to capitalism has proved to be remarkable and as it navigates the complexities of the 21st century, China continues to shape and be shaped by the global order, making its future trajectory a subject of keen interest and importance to the world. Recently, the president Xi Jinping highlighted the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China as one that marked a period of extraordinary progress and transformation. Under the leadership of the CPC, the country has experienced unprecedented development across various sectors. The achievements in poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, population control, and environmental protection are notable examples of China's progress. Indeed, this rising superpower's dedication to its global partnerships is evident in its approach to international relations.

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Marxist Dissanayake wins Sri Lanka's presidential election

Associated Press

COLOMBO: Leader and the presidential candidate of National People's Power Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrives at a polling station to cast his vote in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Saturday.

Leader and the presidential candidate of National People's Power Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrives at a polling station to cast his vote in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Saturday.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Marxist lawmaker Anura Kumara Dissanayake won Sri Lanka's presidential election, according to data released by the Election Commission Sunday, as voters rejected the old political guard that has been widely accused of pushing the South Asian nation toward economic ruin.

Dissanayake, whose pro-working class and anti-political elite campaigning made him popular among youth, secured victory over opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and incumbent liberal President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took



over the country two years ago after its economy hit bottom.

Dissanayake received 5,740,179 votes, followed by Premadasa with 4,530,902, Election Commission data showed.

The election held Saturday was crucial as the country seeks to recover from the worst economic crisis in its history and the resulting political

upheaval.

"This achievement is not the result of any single person's work, but the collective effort of hundreds of thousands of you. Your commitment has brought us this far, and for that, I am deeply grateful. This victory belongs to all of us," Dissanayake said in a post on X.

Dissanayake, 55, leads the left-

leaning coalition National People's Power, an umbrella of civil society groups, professionals, Buddhist clergy and students.

The election was a virtual referendum on Wickremesinghe's leadership of a fragile recovery, including restructuring Sri Lanka's debt under an International Monetary Fund bailout program after it defaulted in 2022.

Dissanayake had said he would renegotiate the IMF deal to make austerity measures more bearable. Wickremesinghe had warned that any move to alter the basics of the agreement could delay the release of a fourth tranche of nearly \$3 billion that is crucial to maintaining stability.

Neither candidate received more than 50% of the vote. Under the Sri Lanka election system that allows voters to select three candidates in the order of their preference, the top two are retained and the ballots of the eliminated candidates are checked for preferences given to either of the top two vote-getters. The one with the highest number of votes is declared the winner.

President felicitates Sri Lanka's president-elect on his electoral victory

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday extended heartfelt felicitations on the electoral victory of Sri Lankan President-elect Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

In his congratulatory message, the president stated that Pakistan greatly valued its ties with the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as both countries enjoyed excellent cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, according to a President House press release.

He expressed the hope that bilateral relations between the two countries would further strengthen under his leadership.

President Zardari also wished good health and continued prosperity for the leadership and the people of Sri Lanka.



PM felicitates Anura Kumara Dissanayake on winning presidential election in Sri Lanka

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his felicitations to the newly elected President of Sri Lanka.

"My sincere felicitations to Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his victory in the presidential elections of Sri Lanka," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.

He wished the President-elect every success saying that he looked forward to working with him for further strengthening of Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations.



UN holds 'Summit of the Future' to tackle global crises

Global leaders are gathering in New York on Sunday for a "Summit of the Future" aimed at addressing 21st-century challenges ranging from conflict to climate, amid scepticism over whether the final pact will meet its lofty goals.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres first proposed the meeting in 2021, billing it as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to reshape human history by rekindling international cooperation.

As an opening act for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, which begins Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and government are expected to adopt a "Pact for the Future" on Sunday.

But after intense last-minute negotiations, Guterres expressed some frustration, urging nations to show "vision" and "courage," and calling for "maximum ambition" to strengthen international institutions that struggle to respond effectively to today's threats.

Israel's strike on Beirut killed 37, Lebanon says

Reuters

Rescue workers in Beirut searched on Saturday for people still missing in rubble after an Israeli airstrike targeting Hezbollah commanders the previous day killed at least 37 people in a suburb of the Lebanese capital, according to authorities.

Hezbollah said that 16 members including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and another commander, Ahmed Wahbi, were among those killed in the deadliest strike in nearly a year of conflict with Israel.

Israel's army said it hit an underground gathering of Aqil and leaders of Hezbollah's elite Radwan forces, and had almost completely dismantled its military chain of command.

The attack levelled a multi-story residential building in the crowded suburb and damaged a nursery next

door, a security source said. Three children and seven women were among those killed, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

Cross-border strikes continued on Saturday: Israeli warplanes carried out the heaviest bombardment in 11 months of fighting across Lebanon's south and Hezbollah claimed rocket attacks on military targets in Israel's north.

The Israeli army said it hit around 180 targets, destroying thousands of rocket launch barrels.

Friday's strike sharply escalated the conflict and inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after two days of attacks this week in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded.

The total death toll in those attacks has risen to 39, and more than 3,000 were injured.



The attacks on communications devices were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied involvement.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikat cancelled a planned trip to the U. N. General Assembly in New York.

U. S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said he was worried about

escalation but that the Israeli killing of a top Hezbollah leader brought justice to the group, which Washington designates terrorists.

"While the risk of escalation is real, we actually believe there is also a distinct avenue to getting to a cessation of hostilities and a durable solution that makes people on both sides of the border feel secure," Sullivan told reporters.

Addis Ababa's Green Legacy Initiative: A Journey from Deforestation to Reforestation

Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula [Special Envoy, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan.]

The contemporary climate change and environmental degradation debates cannot be divorced from Ethiopia's recently launched Green Legacy Initiative (GLI). It is a landmark development in the country's history and its historical environment-protecting mission, spearheaded by the current Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed. The primary mission of GLI, introduced by Prime Minister Ahmed in 2019, is to plant seedlings through a broader social campaign that would let its government ensure social prosperity, economic development, environmental and biodiversity restoration. The seedling planting campaign focuses on the urban and rural areas simultaneously by introducing multifaceted green initiatives with appropriate research and development support. This countrywide green campaign concentrates on the country's social and ecological goals, strongly connected with the greater theme of a greener, sustainable and cleaner Ethiopia. While realizing the severe threats of increasing droughts in the country and their impacts on the lives of more than 120 million people, Prime Minister Ahmed tried to raise public awareness about the overwhelming wave of prevailing non-traditional security threats in the Ethiopian nation where the government has marked the environment degradation as a serious challenge. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has led the entire nation to understand the significance of green social attitude and behavior to support and promote the social practices of planting and protecting trees. It positively contributes to Addis Ababa's greater mission of encouraging sustainable environmental and

social practices in the country to overcome the emerging security threats of the non-traditional nature.

The GLI represents the Ethiopian government's determination to uphold the notion of creating an environment-friendly and environment-protecting green culture, enabling its government to mitigate the emerging challenges of climate change and global warming. Addis Ababa-based government officials under the leadership of Abiy Ahmed determined to plant billions of trees across the country to reduce the existing levels of carbon dioxide in the air, parallel to decreasing the environment-degrading effects of greenhouse gasses and developed Long Term Low Carbon Emission Strategy by 2030 net zero carbon emission. The extensive public support for the Prime Minister's green vision is linked with improving present levels of soil health and water conservation and regulating the country's vulnerability to extreme weather conditions through enhancing the environment-resilient social capacities of the nation. The motto "A Nation that Plants; A Generation that Sustain" fundamentally mobilized around 39 million general public to join the government's mission due to Prime Minister's announcement of calling 2024 as the year of Green Legacy Initiative that break its previously held world record planted 615.7 million within a day. Thus, Addis Ababa's green mission has made Ethiopia a popular environment-friendly nation in the world, according to various credible reports. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has formally recognized the environment-protecting struggle of Addis Ababa by recalling the country's history of becoming an active part of the United Nations



Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) IN 1994. Several other intergovernmental frameworks of the international community, such as the African Union and World Bank, have appreciated the country's climate-safeguarding quest. The Guinness World Records list has also registered the Ethiopian tree-planting records and made Ethiopia as one of the leading nations in international reforestation struggles.

The recent records of planting seedlings showed the government's high commitment to achieving the defined Tree Planting Targets, which are mentioned in detail on the official online sources of GLI. The GLI's implementation through massive public participation so far has planted 40.5 Billion seedlings in between 2019 to 2024 of which 56 percent is fruits and 44 percent are various trees suitable to local ecology based on research undertakings. These figures show the persistent efforts of state-society collaboration, which facilitated the current Ethiopian government to achieve its desired climate-specific national targets within a defined timeframe. Public support has been considered internationally as the factor enabling Dr. Abiy

Ahmed's government to achieve high targets for the plantation. In other words, public support is the outcome of Addis Ababa's comprehensive history of advocating global environmental efforts, which could be measured on certain lines like the launching of the National Adaptation Plan of Action in 2007, the Program of Adaptation on Climate Change and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action in 2010 and endorsing the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) in 2011. Ethiopia is the first country that adopted a policy to ban fossil car import and incentives the green transition. It is pertinent to mention the positive impact of the country's evolving green culture on the Ethiopian national economy, which has produced around one million jobs and 130,000 nurseries across the country. On similar note, Ethiopia has achieved food self-sufficiency and ensured food security and start to export avocado, papaya mango, banana etc to Europe, Middle East and Asia. In light of this perspective, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of United Nations awarded the prestigious medal Agricola to H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed for his role and leadership in ensuring food self-sufficiency,

poverty alleviation, sustainable development. This progress validates Addis Ababa's strengths for meeting global pledges agreed upon at various international forums, such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030, and the African Regional Agenda of 2063.

In this way, the Ethiopian campaign of planting massive trees contributes positively to countering the emerging wave of environment-centric global security problems. The global voices for combating the threats of climate change have formally appreciated and acknowledged the Ethiopian role in promoting environmental protection and social practices in the African region. While considering the appreciable efforts of Addis Ababa to restore the degraded landscapes, the Ethiopian government identified the areas needing reforesting under an enhanced natural environment. So, the multidimensional benefits of Ethiopia's GLI campaign inflicted a sense of supporting ecosystems and ecological diversity in the African region, and it has become a symbol of a green nation in the region by introducing diverse agroforestry social practices. Moreover, these



Ethiopian practices have become exemplary models in the region for other governments while helping other nations to follow the state-led broader environment plans of Addis Ababa under Fraternity Planting Programme across Africa. The multileveled phases of planting massive seedlings in different cities and villages proved that the African nations could effectively address the alarming levels of deforestation and soil erosion through the government's properly structured social awareness campaigns. Therefore, it could be treated as a blueprint for different African nations witnessing analogous issues of land degradation, agricultural administration, and effective greenland management. The Ethiopian reforestation efforts also led other African nations to start positively engaging different segments of their societies in various productive activities, which could ultimately produce the chance of enhanced community engagement and social mobilization under various political admin-

istrations. The participation of millions of residents in the large-scale tree-planting activities allowed people of different age groups and diverse ethnic backgrounds to show Ethiopian exertions for developing a sense of responsibility and collectiveness in society. In this way, it delivered a message of togetherness to other nations concerning the collective role of the public in supporting the major government policies and developmental initiatives, and the other African nations could find it an interesting case for strengthening the cooperative state-society connections under their respective political systems.

On similar note, the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Government of Pakistan introduced Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Planting under Green Legacy Initiative programme throughout the major cities of Pakistan to counter the unfolding the climate danger.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
82,074.44	81,459.28
Day's High	Day's Low
82,372.19	81,387.57
Index Value	Change
24,398,522,009	+615.16
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	20 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,229.99	-98.73
Percentage	Time
-1.19%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,093.82	+68.63
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,723.91	+568.58
Percentage	Time
+1.53%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.25	190.50
Bahrain Dinar	734.20	742.20
Canadian Dollar	204.70	207.10
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.00	310.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.65	910.15
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	75.7	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	367.5	371
US Dollar	279.25	280.75

Pakistan Boosts Export Strategy

Commerce Minister Approves Rs. 8.5 Billion for Textile, Agriculture, and Global Branding Initiatives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Commerce chaired the 85th meeting of the Export Development Fund (EDF) Board on 20th September, 2024.

This was the first meeting after the notification of the new Board which was recently constituted last month composed of ex-officio members of Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industries, State Bank of Pakistan and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan with representation of 15 members from Private Sector.

The new Board provides diverse regional and sectoral representation to the private sector and includes Presidents of Chambers of Federation of Pakistan, Karachi, Lahore, Sarhad, Quetta & Sialkot and Chairmen of Associations from value-added textiles, agri-

culture, livestock, chemical and engineering sector.

The Board also includes sector leaders such as Mr. Bilal Tata from Tata Best Foods, Mr. Aamir Allahwala from Tecno Group, and Ms. Mehreen Obaid from Towellers Limited representing women led export enterprises.

Mr. Jamal Kamal Khan welcomed the new members and highlighted the potential available in the reformed EDF for boosting the exports of Pakistan by channelizing the money into various activities as per needs of the exporters and creating facilitative mode at the national level for value addition, research & development, increasing compliance as per global requirement, upgradation of the export infrastructure and marketing/branding of the country's potential in the international arena.

The projects included various marketing

interventions such as holding of international level exhibitions inside Pakistan such as Texpo 2025 by TDAP, IDEAS by DEPO, Gems & Jewelry Show by FPCCI, OIC-Conference and Wexnet targeting Women empowerment by TDAP etc.

These exhibitions will not only support Pakistani exporters to exhibit their products but will be used as branding activities for Pakistan across the globe.

The project funding includes facilitation to international buyers through provision of best hospitality and arrangement of B2B meetings for best match-making.

The Board also approved projects linked to research & development and technology acquisition which included opening of UNIDO assisted International Technology Promotion Offices at TUSDEC, Disease Diagnostic Research Centre for Mango at Sindh

Agriculture University, Tando Jam, Design Centre at Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design, Lahore as well as establishment of Solar Tunnel Dryer for Exportable Dried Chillies at Umer Kot, Mirpur Khas and Badin.

The Board also approved funding for completion of the first Expo Centre in Peshawar to provide a platform for hosting international level exhibitions for entrepreneurs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chairman EDF Board informed the members of the EDF Board that the next meeting of the EDF Board will be re-convened as soon as possible to consider the remaining proposals.

He also committed to hold EDF Board meetings more frequently for channelizing the Fund resources into awaited productive interventions leading to export development from across Pakistan.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan chairs the 85th EDF Board meeting, approving Rs.8.5 billion for initiatives aimed at boosting Pakistan's textile, agriculture and global branding effort Sunday.



Photo: PID

Fahad Barlas elected unopposed Chairman of PAEI

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of founder Khurshid Barlas, in which all members and executive body participated. The three-member Election Commission Committee Sara Salim, Imran Barkat Ullah, Kulsom Khaliq, declared the result after nomination. Papers were submitted for the post of Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman. Founder Muhammad Khurshid Barlas, former Senior Vice Chairman Imad Rasheed, Vice Chairman Fawad Waheed and Secretary General Zeeshan Amjad were also present on the occasion as per the following results. Fahad Barlas Chairman, Fahad Khan Khalil Senior Vice Chairman, Kashif Waheed Vice Chairman were elected unop-



posed in the election. While the executive committee members Mudassar Nazir, Muhammad Umair Nizam, Malik Asad Majeed, Dr. Nazish Faisal, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Anila Khalid, Atif Daniel, Muhammad Asif, Amir Muhammad were nominated. Earlier, the members of the Executive Committee were also elected unopposed for a two-year term. The results of the elected members will be formally announced in the annual meeting on Monday, September 23. While the newly elected leadership will take charge of their positions from 1st October 2024.

SBA's Historic Campaign Sets the Stage for Victory



Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Prominent business leaders Malik Mehr Elahi, Syed Sirajuddin, and Muhammad Ishaq have called upon the business community to fully support the Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA) in the upcoming Sarhad Chamber of Commerce elections. Speaking at a series of campaign events, they emphasized that this election should not be taken lightly, as the SBA, under the leadership of Former Governor

Haji Ghulam Ali and Syed Zahir Ali Shah, has run a historic campaign that has captivated the hearts of voters.

The SBA has presented a strong, merit-based manifesto, with highly qualified and experienced candidates from various business sectors, promising real change and progress for the business community of Peshawar. "This time, the elections are not a prepared platter for those who have long monopolized the Chamber for personal interests. The SBA's comprehen-

sive approach has already signaled a shift in power," the leaders stated.

During the campaign events held at Pabbi GT Road, Toyota Frontier, Furniture Association, University Road, and Sikandar Pura, Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Syed Zahir Ali Shah, accompanied by SBA candidates, received a warm and enthusiastic reception from the business community. They were lauded for their leadership and tireless efforts in uplifting the Chamber and restoring its credibility.

70% Asphalt Work Completed on Walton Road Upgradation Project from Defence Mor to Qainchi



City Desk

LAHORE: The ongoing Walton Road Upgradation project by CBD Punjab has achieved a major milestone, with 70% of asphalt work completed on the carriageway from Defence Mor to Qainchi. According to CBD Punjab, approximately 500-600 tons of asphalt is being laid in each shift.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, stated that the scope of the Walton Road Upgradation project is extensive, involving significant road works and sewerage tasks. CBD Punjab, NLC, and contractors are working tirelessly to complete the project ahead of the contract deadline. The main sewer conduit and ADA drain relocation have been successfully completed.

As per the directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, one carriageway will be fully operational for traffic by the end of September, while the second carriageway is expected to be completed by the end of October. Following the successful relocation of the ADA drain, CBD Punjab has begun demolishing the old drain walls, and side road construction is also underway. Additionally, asphalt work on Major Ishaq Shaheed Flyover will commence soon.

Once the carriageways are operational, the remaining work on the project will continue concurrently to ensure timely completion.

This significant progress reflects CBD Punjab's commitment to improving the city's infrastructure and ensuring smoother traffic flow for the citizens of Lahore.

7th Pharma Summit to be held on Sept 25 in Islamabad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 7th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Awards-2025 will be held at a hotel in Islamabad on September 25 (Wednesday) with the participation of pharmaceutical industry experts, researchers, academics, and managers from all over the country and abroad.

The summit is expected to be attended by over 400 senior executives, and experts of the pharma industry from all over the country. The theme of this year's confer-

ence is "Digital pharma transformation: enhancing efficiency in uncertain times".

National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, will be the chief guest at the inaugural session.

Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health, Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, will be the guest of honour. The keynote address will be delivered by CEO Evolution Foundation in Saudi Arabia, Dr Mehmood Khan, on "Molecules to markets: leveraging global innovation, collaboration, and leader-

ship insights to unlock Pakistan's life sciences potential.

According to the Chairman of the summit's organising committee, Dr Kaiser Waheed, Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal, Energy, CEO of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, and senior officials of Health, Commerce ministries, and DRAP will also attend the event.

The international keynote address will be delivered by Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Vice-President, Dennis

Hall, on "Innovations in pharmaceutical manufacturing-exploring cutting-edge applications". Another keynote address will be delivered by Dr Semih Kumluk, Al and Digital Head at PWC Academy in the Middle East, on how AI is reshaping the pharmaceutical landscape.

Pinar Kivilecim, Global Client Officer at Ipsos Healthcare, will give an international keynote presentation on leveraging market research for pharma growth.

Other important speakers at



Infinix ZERO 40 unveiled

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Infinix, a leading smartphone brand in Pakistan known for empowering youth with innovative technology, is pleased to introduce its latest addition to the product range, the Infinix ZERO 40. Built to empower young creators and travel enthusiasts, ZERO 40 is now available to order offline on Outlets Nationwide and online on X-park.pk. ZERO 40 features a powerful 2K front and rear vlogging camera with professional-grade video stabilization capabilities. The 2K vlogging camera captures stunning, high-resolution videos, while its pro-stable video capabilities ensure smooth, stable footage, even in challenging conditions.

About the recently released Infinix ZERO 40, Simon Feng, the CEO of Infinix, expressed, "The Infinix ZERO 40 represents a significant advancement in camera technology. It's a testament to our dedi-

cation to equipping users with revolutionary camera tools that foster ingenuity and ensure top-tier performance."

Conclusively, the Infinix ZERO 40 is more than just a smartphone; it's a versatile tool that seamlessly integrates into your daily life. Whether you're capturing breathtaking landscapes, creating engaging vlogs, or simply staying connected with friends and family, the ZERO 40 delivers exceptional performance and features. So, if you're a photography enthusiast, a content creator, or a business professional, the Infinix ZERO 40 is designed to elevate your mobile experience to new heights.

Gas explosion

In this photo released by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, miners and police officers gather around the site of a coal mine where a methane leak sparked an explosion on Saturday, in Tabas, some 335 miles (540 kilometers) southeast of the capital Tehran, Iran, Sunday.



At least 51 dead in Iran coal mine blast

There were 69 workers in the blocks at the time of the explosion

Reuters

TEHRAN: A gas explosion in a coal mine in Iran's South Khorasan Province killed at least 51 people and injured 20, Iran's state media said on Sunday.

The accident was caused by a methane gas explosion in

two blocks, B and C, of the mine run by the Madanjoo company, state media said.

"76% of the country's coal is provided from this region and around 8 to 10 big companies are working in the region including Madanjoo company," the governor of South Khorasan Province Ali

Akbar Rahimi told state TV on Sunday.

The rescue operation in block B has been completed. Of the 47 workers who were in the block 30 died and 17 were injured, Rahimi said earlier.

Rescue operations in block C have started. Methane density in the block is high and the

operation will take around 3-4 hours, he added.

There were 69 workers in the blocks at the time of the explosion, state TV reported.

"Seventeen injured people were transported to the hospital and 24 people are still missing," it said earlier on Sunday citing the head of Iran's Red Crescent.

The explosion occurred at 9 p.m. (1730 GMT) on Saturday, state media said.

President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed condolences to the victims' families. "I spoke with ministers and we will do our best to follow up," Pezeshkian said in televised comments.

Finance Ministry lays out plan to deal with Rs71 trillion debt

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has unveiled a comprehensive plan to address massive debt burden exceeding Rs71 trillion. The government aims to reduce the country's reliance on external debt and improve its debt repayment capacity.

The government will actively seek out concessional external financing to ease pressure on existing debt obligations. Existing projects funded by international loans will be expedited to ensure timely completion and maximize returns. The government will also enhance national savings schemes to encourage domestic savings and reduce reliance on external



borrowing.

To expand domestic resource mobilization, the government will increase its presence in international markets by issuing bonds, including Panda bonds, Eurobonds, and international Sukuk.

The plan includes measures to activate the domestic debt capital market and attract both domestic and foreign investors. The establishment of a

non-bank sector, including pension funds, insurance companies, and asset management companies, will be promoted over the next few years.

Structural reforms will be implemented to broaden the tax net and improve tax collection efficiency. The plan emphasizes reducing fiscal deficits to enhance macroeconomic stability and reduce the need for additional borrowing.



The government will promote the development of a Shariah-compliant debt market in the coming years.

To manage debt repayment obligations more effectively, the government will extend the maturity profile of its domestic and external debt portfolio. The government will implement a medi-

um-term debt management strategy to ensure sustainable debt management practices.

The Ministry of Finance believes that the implementation of this comprehensive plan will contribute to economic stability, reduce dependence on external debt, and pave the way for sustainable economic growth.

Chairman Senate expresses deep sorrow over loss of lives in Iran's coal mine explosion

Palestine condemns Ramallah storming of Al Jazeera office as flagrant violation of international law

News Desk



ISLAMABAD, SEP 22 (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Sunday expressed grief and sadness over the tragic loss of lives in a coal mine explosion in Iran's Khorasan province.

In his message, he extended heartfelt condolences to the Iranian Parliament and the people of Iran.

Gilani conveyed his deepest sympathies to the affected families, stating that he shares in their grief during this difficult time.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the explosion and asked for Allah's blessings upon the departed souls.

He prayed for strength and patience for the bereaved families.

GAZA: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the storming of Ramallah by the occupation forces and their decision to close Al Jazeera office and confiscate its contents, in addition to the continued closure of the Palestine TV office in Jerusalem for the fourth consecutive year, preventing its crews from working and arresting some of them, in a flagrant violation of international law, signed agreements and the freedom of the media and press.

This brutal storming falls within the framework of the occupation army and armed settler militias' violation of the entire occupied West Bank with the aim of canceling the results of the agreements signed with the Palestinian side and completing the crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Ministry stresses that



the failure of the international community, especially the Security Council, to respect its resolutions and ensure their implementation, as well as the failure to provide international protection for the Palestinian people and silence on the war of extermination and displacement, encourages the far-right Israeli government to commit more violations

and crimes and undermine any opportunity to revive the peace process based on the principle of the two-state solution, and also encourages it to continue to escape punishment. The Ministry calls on the international community to quickly implement the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to ensure the end of the occu-

pation and settlement of the land of the State of Palestine. The Ministry also follows up on the violations and crimes of the occupation with all countries and components of the international community and with the competent international courts so that they can assume their responsibilities towards what our people are exposed to

PM expresses deep grief over fatal mine explosion in Tabas, Iran

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the mine explosion in Tabas, Iran.

He offered his heartfelt condolence to Iran's President Masoud

Pezeshkian and the Iranian people on the loss of precious lives and injuries in the coal mine explosion.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Pakistan stands with its Iranian brethren during this time," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.

UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian begins key visit to Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UK Trade Commissioner for Middle East and Pakistan Oliver Christian has landed in Islamabad on his first visit to Pakistan, kicking off a three-day effort to strengthen the UK's economic and trade links with Pakistan.

During his visit, Christian will announce significant new partnerships, including a strategic Transnational Education agreement between Beaconhouse International College and the University of Essex; and collaboration between Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust at the Novacare Hospital in Islamabad. These initiatives are set to deepen the UK's investment in Pakistan's education and healthcare sectors. The University of Essex partnership aims to provide Pakistani students with access to world-class education, while the Novacare project will set a new standard

in healthcare facilities and services in the region.

British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi Sarah Mooney said "As Pakistan's third-largest trade partner, the UK is committed to driving economic development and addressing challenges that hold back growth. This visit reinforces our commitment to working together to unlock opportunities to benefit both countries."

His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Middle East and Pakistan, Oliver Christian said "British firms are not just operating in Pakistan, they are market leaders in their respective fields, trusted by millions of consumers as household names and making a significant contribution to the economy. We are dedicated to strengthening our economic relationship with Pakistan, not just through investments and partnerships but by working together to demonstrate the opportunity here for UK businesses."

Possibility of major reduction in electricity prices as govt, IPPs try to resolve issues

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A significant breakthrough is expected soon in negotiations between the government and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) regarding electricity tariffs as both parties have finally come together to resolve the issue.

Sources within the Power Division reveal that the government has agreed to reduce the tariff tax on government-owned IPPs.

Sources further indicate that IPPs are also willing to 'voluntarily' reduce their tariffs in the national interest.

Consumers can expect good news regarding electricity bill relief next month, the sources added.

Pakistan proposes plan to IMF for electricity price cut

Punjab govt withdraws Rs14 subsidy electricity amid IMF pressure

Power companies seek to collect Rs46.99 billion from consumers

All deadlocks have been removed, and discussions are progressing rapidly. Over 100 powerhouses are being reviewed for tariff adjustments.

Several IPPs will be shut down in phases, while the remaining will receive tariff relief.

The government will reduce unnecessary taxes, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) already submitting proposals. A decision has been made to reduce the special tariff rate for the industrial sector.

Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's 'lost album' released 30 years after recording

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A previously unreleased collection of music by the legendary Pakistani artist Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, titled Chain of Light, has debuted on YouTube, according to the production company behind the album.

The long-awaited "lost album" features recordings made in 1990 at Real World Studios, during a time when Khan was at the peak of his vocal prowess.

Chain of Light includes restored tracks from original analogue tapes, showcasing a pristine version of the beloved classic "Ya Allah Ya Rehman" and the only known rendition of "Ya Gaus Ya Meeran."

The British Council supported the project, which was celebrated through a series of launch events held in major cities including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Manchester, Birmingham, London, and Paris, culminating in the official release on

Friday.

In a recent post on X, English musician Peter Gabriel, owner of Real World Records, revealed an excerpt from a short film detailing the rediscovery of the album Chain of Light in the archives of his production company.

"The new album by @nusratofficial, Chain of Light, is out today on @RealWorldRec," Gabriel stated. "You can watch it in full on the Real World [Records] YouTube channel."

The project is a collaboration between Pakistan's Saiyna Bashir Studios, which is also developing a documentary biopic titled Ustad about the iconic singer, and Gabriel's Real World Records. The Ustad documentary is expected to be released in late 2025.

Last month, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott hosted a highly anticipated album launch event in Islamabad, generating excitement among fans and music enthusiasts alike.