

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
وآدمین محمد بن زید نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے
ان کے والد سے سنا اور انہوں نے محمد بن
عمر رضی اللہ عنہما سے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: «سوس» «وہیکم» یا
«دھکم» (واقین محمد کو) تھکیرے بعد تم پافرنے
ہو چکا کہ ایک دوسرے کی گردن مارنے لگو۔
(کنز العمال: حدیث نمبر 6166)

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Pakistan's 24th IMF programme to be the last, FM Aurangzeb

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, has announced that the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme will be Pakistan's last. The IMF package is not just for the federal government but for the entire country, said Aurangzeb, in a press conference held in Islamabad. He stressed the importance of implementing tough decisions to ensure economic stability.



Ex-senator Mushtaq Ahmed, wife among 10 arrested during pro-Palestine protest

Former Jamaat-e-Islami senator Mushtaq Ahmed and his wife were among 10 people arrested by police during a pro-Palestine protest in Islamabad on Sunday. "We only came out for Hassan Nasrallah, Palestine, Lebanon, and against Israel. This government cannot tolerate anti-Israel slogans," Ahmed said in a video statement. The video on his social media account showed he was in a police van among arrested protesters.

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New Era Begins

(L to R) Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi, China's Wang Yi, and Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif pose for a group photo during the four-way meeting of the foreign ministers regarding Afghanistan.



Photo via Iranian foreign ministry

Funeral prayers in absentia for Hassan Nasrallah



JI will hold funeral prayers in absentia for Hassan Nasrallah. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman urged the Islamic world to raise voice against Israeli atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon.

He said on Sunday (today) JI will hold country-wide protests against price-hike and to show solidarity with people of Palestine and Lebanon.

Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Saturday that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed in Israeli strikes that wipe out many Beirut buildings.

Notwithstanding the loss of its leader who led the resistance movement for almost three decades, the group vowed to continue its battle against Israel.

City Desk

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has announced offering the funeral prayers in absentia for Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

The JI chief said the party will hold country-wide protests against rising cost of electricity and Independent Power Producers (IPPs), adding after the protests the

After targeting Lebanon, Israel strikes Yemen's Hodeidah port



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a dramatic escalation of hostilities, Israel has begun conducting airstrikes in Yemen, targeting key infrastructure including power plants and the Hodeidah port, which is crucial for the nation's economy.

This move follows similar military actions in Gaza and Beirut, raising concerns about Israel's expanding military footprint in the region.

Reports indicate that the Israeli military is aiming at facilities built with international support, including those that provide vital energy

resources to the Yemeni people.

The attacks have drawn condemnation from various factions and governments in the Middle East, who view these strikes as a further attempt by Israel to exert influence and control over regional resources.

Local authorities have reported significant damage to infrastructure, impacting the livelihoods of civilians already suffering from years of conflict and humanitarian crises.

The situation continues to evolve, with fears that the conflict could further destabilize an already fragile region.

China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan ready to promote regional connectivity with Afghanistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Top ministers of China, Russia, Iran, and Pakistan have said they were ready to expand economic and trade cooperation and promote regional connectivity with Afghanistan.

"These measures will help with Afghanistan's active integration into regional economic cooperation," said a joint statement of the third four-way meeting of the foreign ministers regarding Afghanistan.

They also called for strengthening anti-terrorism cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels amid the presence of terrorist organisations in

Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan should be assisted in taking comprehensive measures to deal with the causes and agents of terrorism and eradicate the phenomenon as soon as possible,"

Pakistan has been very vocal about the "presence" of banned terrorist organisations in the neighbouring country while urging the interim government to not allow its land to be used as a launchpad for militancy.

The outlawed TTP, which Islamabad believes have safe havens in Afghanistan, has claimed responsibility for many attacks in the recent past, affecting the economic activities in the country.

The ministers blamed the United States and NATO for the "crisis" in Afghanistan and demanded "immediate measures" to improve the security and humanitarian situation in the country.

They stressed their support for the "national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan," saying all members of the international community would enjoy the benefits of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

The top ministers voiced deep concerns over the security situation due to terrorism in Afghanistan as well as the presence and activities of "terrorist groups such as Da'esh, al-Qaeda,

East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Jaish al-Adl, Balochistan Liberation Army and other similar groups." They added that such groups were considered a "serious threat" to the security of the region and the whole world.

They went on to add that the NATO member states must take responsibility for the Afghanistan situation and create opportunities for the economic improvement of Afghanistan. They should "immediately" lift unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan and unblock the country's frozen assets.

The statement underlined the importance of creating an inclusive government in Afghanistan

that reflects the "interests and aspirations" of all sections of the Afghan society. The ministers urged the Afghan authorities to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland and prevent further migration.

They also appreciated the efforts of the regional countries, especially Iran and Pakistan to host millions of Afghan refugees and asked the international community and donors to provide the necessary financial support and assistance to those countries.

They underlined the significance of countering efforts to politicise the provision of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Israel says killed another top Hezbollah official in Lebanon strike

AFP

Lebanon's senior Hezbollah official Sheikh Nabil Qawouq speaks during the funeral of Wissam Tawil, a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan forces who according to Lebanese security sources was killed during an Israeli strike on south Lebanon, in Khirbet Silem, Lebanon, January 9, 2024. Reuters

Israel said Sunday it killed another senior Hezbollah official in an air strike after dealing the Iran-backed group a seismic blow by assassinating its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

Israel announced the killing of Nabil Qawouq, a member of Hezbollah's central council in a strike Saturday, adding that its air force has continued to hit "dozens" more targets around Lebanon. Israeli strikes have in recent months decimated Hezbollah's senior command structure, with Nasrallah's right-hand man Fuad Shukur, head of the elite Radwan Force Ibrahim Aqil, and others among the dead.

The past week's waves of strikes on Hezbollah strongholds around Lebanon have also plunged the tiny Mediterranean country and the wider region into fear of even more violence to come. Hezbollah launched low-intensity cross-border strikes on Israeli troops after its Palestinian ally Hamas staged its unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7, sparking the war in the Gaza Strip.

Karachi rally turns violent, media and police attacked by protestors

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A protest by participants of a Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) rally attempting to march towards the U. S. Consulate escalated into violence, prompting police to take strict action.

Following the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah, different politico-religious parties stage protest in different parts of Pakistan including Karachi.

A law enforcement resorted to lathi charge, tear gas shelling, and aerial firing to disperse the protesters as MWM rally attempted to march towards the U. S. Consulate in Karachi.

The protesters damaged two police vehicles, set a motorcycle on fire, and broke the windows of

ARY News' DSNV van, injuring several journalists and seizing their mobile phones.

The Station House Officer (SHO) Mach was seriously injured by stone pelting and was rushed to the hospital.

Rangers arrived at the scene and detained one individual.

Authorities, including Sindh Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Linjar, have called for measures to protect civilians and journalists, urging the deployment of additional police forces to restore order.



Pakistan strongly condemns Israel's growing adventurism in the Middle East

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East. Its unbridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels.

For the last several days, Israeli forces have engaged in unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon. Yesterday's reckless act of killing the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon constitutes a major escalation in an already volatile region. Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon. We urge the United Nations Security Council to restrain Israel from its adventurism in the region and violations of international law; and restore peace in the Middle East.

Exchange, interest rates to remain as per govt expectations, says Aurangzeb



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb announced significant progress in Pakistan's economy, highlighting the successful completion of the IMF Standby Agreement and a substantial increase in exports.

In a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, he stated that macroeconomic stability is not a destination but a journey, emphasizing the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the national economy.

Aurangzeb reported a 29% increase in exports, driven

largely by growth in the IT sector. He attributed this success, along with improvements in foreign exchange reserves and a decrease in inflation to single digits, to the Prime Minister's leadership and the successful implementation of government policies.

He also praised the role of the caretaker government in securing the IMF program.

The Minister highlighted the timely repayment of a \$2 billion debt in June and a reduction in the policy rate to 4.5%. He linked the decrease in inflation to the lower policy rate. He also noted positive developments in the Pakistan Stock Exchange and increased foreign direct investment. Aurangzeb emphasized that investor confidence is a major achievement reflecting the strengthening economy.

Addressing concerns about

Continued on Page 8

Everything including peace, employment, development in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi said that Imran Khan is trying his best to fall at the feet of the establishment while Tehreek-e-Insaf is trying his best not to let Imran Khan come out. Everything including peace, employment, development in the province is destroyed and Chief Minister KP is busy in dancing and singing.. On returning, the Chief Minister cut off the noses of the Pathans

Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi while talking to the media at People's Secretariat Multan said that Imran Khan is trying his best to fall at the feet of the establishment while Tehreek-e-Insaf is trying hard not to come out. Everything including peace, employment and development in the province is destroyed and the Chief



Minister KP is busy in dancing and singing. On returning, Chief Minister KPK cut off the noses of the Pathans

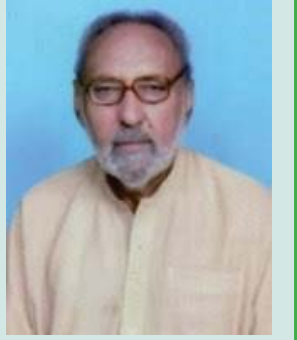
Pak forces and other forces gave sacrifices. Today, KPK is suffering from insecurity. In KPK, now bridges are

installed only after Asr. The convoy of ambassadors was saved by the policemen in Swat. The Chief Minister does not know. The Chief Minister never called a meeting for peace, but the meeting was called to talk against the Pakistani forces. This Dashgardi is a continuation of the same. There are problems in the coalition government, things are better in Punjab. It is a sign of political apocalypse that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has become the Messiah of Tehreek-e-Insaf. It is also difficult for Maulana how to convert Jews to Islam. Panjgur incident is sad. Pakistan forces and people have made great sacrifices for the elimination of terrorism. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is going to the bars of all provinces for constitutional amendments. Everyone, including Maulana Fazlur Rahman, has their own drafts, if they come forward, there will be talks

People of KPK were treated during PTI's peaceful rally: Syed Ijaz Bukhari

Reza Naqvi

ATTOCK: PTI Member of Provincial Assembly from Attock, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari, expressed that the way the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were treated during PTI's peaceful rally has forced the younger generation to question whether their ancestors made a mistake by voting in favor of Pakistan in the referendum. He urged the Minister of Information to reflect on his statements, saying that when unarmed people are met with batons and bullets, they too can stand up like lions. He emphasized that the message of resistance and sacrifice has already been delivered by the martyrs of the nation, and that in the name of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), their lives and children are dedicated to protecting his honor. Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari made these remarks while speaking to the media. He also offered prayers for forgiveness on the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrullah and expressed his condolences to his family. In response to questions about PTI's rally the previous day, he criticized the current government's actions, stating that such tactics cannot diminish the public's love for Imran Khan. He pointed out that although permission was granted for a rally in Liaquat Bagh, all entry points were blocked with containers. He stressed that the closure of major routes leading to Rawalpindi before the rally day shows the government's hypocrisy. He further warned that the country is being destroyed by those begging for aid, and the burden of this will be borne by future generations.



Anjum Nisar says industry harmed by high cost of doing business, discouraging investment



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned that extensive borrowing, including the recent IMF \$7 billion financing for Pakistan, is unlikely to put the country's economy back on track, placing significant responsibility on the government to pursue reforms for long-term stability.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that with continuous hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management, asking the authorities for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment for better Ease of Doing Business level to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run.

He said that Pakistan's industry had been harmed by the high cost of doing business, which discouraged investment in capacity and capability and called for easing the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector.

APBF calls for announcing special package for SMEs to spur industry growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has asked the government to announce special incentives for SMEs in view of saving economy, as the small industry represents more than 90 percent of around 3.2 million business enterprises in Pakistan, contributing 40 percent to the GDP, employing more than 80 percent of non-agricultural workforce, and generating 25 percent of export earnings.



APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment was 11 percent lower than the investment registered last year. He said there is no visible improvement in employment, while the small and medium industries, which are the main providers of jobs, are struggling because of lack of funds and demand. The job losses at the original equipment manufacturers not significant but at auto vendors, where bulk of auto-related jobs exist are operating with minimum possible staff.

Absentia funeral prayer

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamaat-e-Islami offering absentia funeral prayer of Hassan Nasrullah in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

PIAF chairman greets LCCI newly-elected office-bearers

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has greeted newly-elected office-bearers of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PPPA's landslide victory in the LCCI elections, hoping the new leadership would safeguard interests of business community. He said the LCCI body would continue to raise voice for the solution of business community's problems. He said that our all candidates, after the hot contest with



rivals, clinched all seats, as our candidates were highly qualified, young and dedicated enjoying the highest degree of integrity. He congratulated the

newly-elected LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Khalid Usman and Vice-President Shahid Nazir, saying the PPP Alliance victory with a thumping majority is an endorsement of the economic policies of the Alliance.

PIAF Chairman said that the victory of the Alliance's candidates is a victory of the entire business community that would help them get their issues resolved with a new vigour and strength. He said that the number of votes cast in favour of the PPP Alliance is enough to prove that the business community has always

been with the Alliance, adding this was the biggest victory by the Alliance. He paid rich tributes to the leadership Mian Anjum Nisar for putting in their all energies to ensure a comfortable victory. He said that all efforts would be made to facilitate the members of LCCI for smooth functioning of their businesses.

Faheem Saigol said rivals could not find good candidates against high profile candidates. He urged the government to focus on arresting the downward graph of dwindling export on an urgent basis and provide a package of incentives to boost exports.

Epic of Mughal Saga V: Shah Jahan the Magnificent

Munaza Kazmi

Welcome back my dearest readers, together we have travelled from the snow laden peaks of Feranga to the glistening Indian palaces, whose light still reflects across the alleys of Lahore, in the towers of Agra, and over the domes of Delhi.

Shah Jahan, aged 35 succeeded Emperor Jahangir, and with him the Mughal golden age reached its culmination. Shah Jahan was the quintessential Great Mughal, who by the splendor of his dress and ornament, and his lordly bearing and conduct, personified the opulence and grandeur of the empire. In him the Mughal rumbustiousness was at last tamed under the influence of Persian courtly formalism. However courteous and soft-spoken, his bearing in public was always stiffly dignified. "I never saw so settled a countenance, nor any man keep so constant a gravity, never smiling, or in face

showing any respect or difference of men, but mingled with extreme pride and contempt of all", observed Roe.

Shah Jahan, (Shahab-ud-din Muhammad Khurram) was born on 5th January 1592, to Jahangir and his second wife, Jagat Gosaini. He was the favorite grandson of Emperor Akbar and from the time he was just 6 days old, he started growing up under the care of Akbar and his queen Ruqaiya Sultan Begum.

Shah Jahan, unlike his ancestors, particularly unlike his father and grandfather, was a rigidly orthodox Muslim, and with him began the attempt to convert the Mughal Empire into a theocratic Muslim state, in a deliberate reversal of the Mughal policy. Although all his predecessors, except Akbar, had occasionally persecuted Hindu and demolished temples, they had done so in

random and impulsive acts. Now it was state policy. Furthermore, while Akbar and Jahangir had allowed anyone to adopt any religion, Shah Jahan prohibited Muslims from changing their religion. He also directed that Hindus should dress differently from Muslims.

A major influence on the formulation of Shah Jahan's policies was his queen, Mumtaz Mahal. She was a niece of Nur Jahan, and, like her aunt, she played a crucial role in government, but discreetly, from behind the throne. Mumtaz, wrote the Mughal chronicler Aminai Qazvini, was the emperor's intimate companion, colleague, close confidante in distress and comfort, joy and grief. Shah Jahan was totally devoted and faithful to her. And she was marvelously fecund, as she begot him 14 children in the 19 years they lived together, but tragically died

at the age of 34 while delivering her last child. Shah Jahan was devastated by the tragedy, and it was to commemorate his love for her that he built the Taj Mahal, the most beautiful building of the entire world.

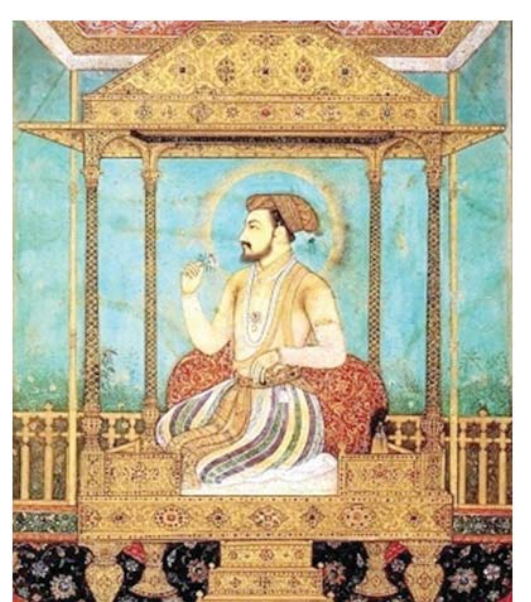
Shah Jahan had a keen interest in music and dance, for this he used to sing at the private gatherings of his intimate nobles, however his main artistic interest was in architecture, which found expression in a number of magnificent buildings he erected. He took enormous pride in them, as reflected in the couplet he got inscribed on the hall of public audience in his Delhi palace, Qila Mubarak.

If there be a paradise on earth, It's this, it's this, it's this!

Indeed, that was how the contemporary world saw the Mughal court. Shah Jahan was the richest and most exalted monarch in the world in his time, and he lived in the greatest possible magnificence. However, his last years were heartbreaking. Trouble erupted in the summer of 1657 when Shah

Jahan fell seriously ill. This sent shivers of anxiety through his 4 sons stationed in the different provinces of the empire. It was the throne or death for each of them.

Soon the princes were on the march with their armies, headed for the imperial capital. Their steps found no turning back, even though Shah Jahan recovered, and named Dara Shokuh his favorite son as the crown prince. A prolonged and traumatic war of succession ensued, out of which the emperor's 3rd son, Aurengzeb, the master planner emerged victorious, eliminating with his crafty manners all his brothers and usurping the throne. And he melan-



choly and remorseless, kept Shah Jahan confined in the Agra fort for 8 years, till the end of his life.

To Be Continued...



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:38 am
Zohr 11:58 am
Asr 4:12 pm
Maghrib 5:55 pm
Isha 7:17 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

Aga Khan University Hospital Rallies the Community for Heart Health

City Desk

KARACHI: In celebration of World Heart Month, the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) hosted two major community events, "Mini Marathon" and "World Heart Day Ride", led by Dr Saulat Fatimi, Section Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery at AKUH, in collaboration with the cycling group Docs on Wheels. Together, these events aimed at promoting heart health and wellness among people.

The 3.2 km "Mini Marathon", held on 22 September, was made successful by a turnout of over 400 participants including the leadership, doctors, nurses, staff, and enthusiastic students of the Aga Khan University (AKU). The participants came together donned in red, the colour symbolizing heart health, to show their commitment to promoting healthy living. A poster competition was also organized, and prizes were distributed among the best-ranked artists.

Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President and Vice-Chancellor of Aga Khan University, shared his enthusiasm about the event's impact, stating, "At the Aga Khan University Hospital, we are deeply committed to the health and well-being of our community. Events like these are not just activities; they are a rallying call to action for everyone to embrace a more active and informed lifestyle."

Continuing the promotion of the cause, AKUH also organized a "World Heart Day Ride" on 29 September to mark World Heart Day and promote cardiovascular wellness.



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, wrote a letter to 85 countries' diplomats to expose the fraud elections in Indian

Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization in a press conference on Sunday disclosed that she has written a letter to 85 countries' diplomats including United National Security

Mushaal writes letter to 85 diplomats exposing fraud elections in IIOJK

Council members and OIC countries exposing the sham Indian elections in IIOJK.

She said that Kashmiris have rejected the fraud Indian elections like always as a lower turnout registered in all major Kashmiri dominated Constituencies including Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal despite the fact, India has issued 4.1 million domiciles in IIOJK since 2019.

Mushaal said that India was showing turnout in IIOJK polls due to the issuance of domiciles to settlers or else Kashmiri people utterly rejected the polls through zero participation in the elec-

tions. Mushaal also said that India brought some diplomats to IIOJK to give the impression that they are election observers, who are neither qualified nor trained and not mandated to act as election observers, she added.

The Chairperson disclosed that India refused to allow CNN, Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch to inspect IIOJK elections but created a drama by deceiving a few diplomats adding that she said that a similar drama was staged in 2020 also with the help of some European MPs however latter it was revealed

that RAW financed the visit.

She said Indian efforts to show normalcy in IIOJK through such shame elections have failed as New Delhi has deployed some 3000 additional Indian Army troops and 500 Commandos in IIOJK.

Mushaal pointed out that entire political leadership, activists and civil society members (bar associations) are in jail as Indian turned entire IIOJK into a prison, adding that she said that this is the environment in which elections were held.

Former SAPM reiterated that the world would not admit the legitimacy of

Anti-Israel protest

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen carrying placards and Palestinian national flags stand beside a portrait of slain Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, during an anti-Israel protest in the Federal Capital. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah has been killed, the Lebanese movement said on September 28, dealing a seismic blow to the Iran-backed group that has been engaged in a year of cross-border hostilities with Israel.



Photo: Online

'Nabi Pak' is for all of us, we are proud to be his ummah: Asma Butt

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Renowned director, writer and chairperson of Dolphin Communication, Asma Butt said that Nabi Pak is for all our the world. We are proud of being an Ummah. Whoever followed the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet, he became red in this world and the hereafter.

She said this during the blessed gathering held at the Rawalpindi Arts Council on the occasion of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi.

On this occasion, Qur'an PAK was recited, Hadiya Naatiya Kalam was presented by Salma group, and at the end collective prayers were offered for the security of the Muslim Ummah, Pakistan and the people associated with every sector. A large number of personalities associated with journalism, art, political, social and different



schools of thought participated on this occasion. Among them, Muslim League N Youth Wing Divisional President Naem Pasha, Mrs. Mumtaz Malik, Maleeha, Mahmuda Qamar, Gulferin, Line Clubs President Nagina, Aslam Mughal, Shakeel Awan, Nasir Aslam Raja, Aamir Sajjad Syed, Abid Abbasi, Amjad, Raees Ahmad

Khan, Rehman, Anjam Habiba, Tahir Siddiqui, Sheba Butt, Zulqarnain Haider, Jhalak Ali, Anjum Abbasi, Arshad Khan, Sawira Shehzadu, Sadia Batul, and others were included. Asma Butt said that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever loves my Sunnah, loves me, and whoever loves me will be with

me in Paradise."Therefore, the guarantee of a successful life is in following the Prophet's Sunnah. She said that the greatest festival among all festivals is Eid Milad-ul-Nabi. It is our good fortune to arrange the gathering of Durood Pak. You have come as a mercy for all our the world. A special meal was arranged at the end of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi.

Scientific evidence probe demanded for ascertaining GMOs' role in agriculture resilience

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a roundtable have demanded a high level study to probe the science behind genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to debunk the myths around the scientifically altered seed species.

The US Soybean Export Council (USSEC) jointly held roundtable dialogue on GMOs Soybean import constraints and resistance to the scientifically altered seeds.

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain participated the roundtable as chief guest.

The Minister on the occasion announced that he would make efforts to convene a cabinet committee meeting to bring all relevant ministries on one page to take a unanimous decision on the matter.

Rana Tanveer Hussain supported the idea to allow GMOs Soybean import but deferred the decision to the Ministry of Climate Change experts to establish an expert stance on it.

In his opening remarks, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI said there should be a well-informed dialogue backed by scientific evidence in order to take decision on import of GMOs.

Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad in his technical presentation apprised the Minister and the participants that the GMOs have been in cultivation since 1990s, whereas the Soybean is a Kharif crop and our scientific community neglected it for years to consider it for research.

Business Sector Representative, Shakeel Ashfaq and Dr Asif Ali Khan, Chairman National Pakistan Seed Development Corporation said the GMOs soybean is critically important in raising climate change impacts on crop production to ensure food security and crop resilience against environmental degradation impacts.

Vice President, Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC), Dr Yousuf Zafar said the official permissions are halted due to a lack of knowledge on the science behind GMOs. The government should embrace that technology keeping in view the facts that the EU after China is the second largest GMO importer as they import 80 million tonnes whereas Pakistan only imports 2.5 million tonnes.

AIOU to Host 37th Asian Association of Open Universities Conference

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for the 37th annual international conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

Besides Asian Open Universities, Associate Members of Asian Association of Open Universities from Europe, USA, Australia, Africa will also participate in the conference.

The three-day conference, scheduled from October 15 to 17, aims to highlight the importance and objectives of distance education and align it with contemporary requirements.

According to Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU, the conference will provide a platform for regional and international universities to share experiences and collaborate in education and research. Renowned education experts will present over 250 papers, with 300 abstracts already received.

A pre-conference webinar is also scheduled for October 14. Dr. Zahid Majeed, Conference Coordinator, expressed optimism about the event's success, citing significant interest from national and international participants. The conference aligns with AIOU's mission to promote distance education and foster collaboration among open universities. By sharing knowledge and best practices, participants will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of distance education.

KKAWF and Serena Hotels Unite for 8th Edition of 'Save Tomorrow' Run & Walk to Combat Drug Abuse & Overdose

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) and Serena Hotels successfully hosted the 8th edition of the "Save Tomorrow" Run & Walk, highlighting their shared commitment to addressing the issue of drug abuse in society. The event, held at Fatima Jinnah Park (F-9 Park) in Islamabad, drew over 500 participants, representing students, teachers, diplomats, families, differently-abled persons, all eager to highlight the perils

of drug overdose, raise awareness about prevention and remember those who have lost their lives to this menace. The event was also supported by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Capital Development Authority, US Educational Foundation Pakistan and FM 89 amongst others.

Divided into four categories—16 and below, 16+, 60+, and Differently-abled Persons—participants showcased their dedication to raising awareness and combating the widespread threat of drug addiction in Pakistan.

Save Tomorrow 8 featured a series of activities including walk and run competitions, open mic tributes, and a flash mob. The event began with the Police Band performing the national anthem, followed by speeches that emphasized the importance of community-driven initiatives. Cristina Von Sperling Afridi, Chairperson of KKAWF, spoke passionately about the urgent need to protect Pakistan's youth from the scourge of drug abuse, highlighting the urgency of Prevention education. With 150 million youth



under age 30 in Pakistan, and an estimated 8.9 million people in Pakistan (2015) on drugs, recent successful busts by the Anti-Narcotics Force on drug

peddlers supplying to students, the need has become paramount for delivering effective prevention programs, she said.

Diplomats, also addressed the gathering, commending the efforts of the organizers and participants for taking a stand against this global issue.

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After Nasrallah: Israel's Ultimate Target - Iran

On the fateful day of October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an attack on Israel, killing many of its soldiers and civilians and taking as many as 250 Israeli and other nationals hostage, aiming to use them as leverage to prevent any Israeli retaliation. The attack enraged both Israelis and Americans, prompting a robust, comprehensive, and decisive military offensive with the ultimate objective of obliterating Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and neutralizing the perceived Iranian nuclear threat.

Following his address at the United Nations General Assembly, the Israeli Prime Minister ordered a targeted strike against Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah. In the attack, Nasrallah was martyred with several other high-ranking members of Hezbollah. The strike, executed with precision-guided US made bunker buster bombs obliterate Hezbollah's headquarters and nearby structures, resulting in the death of multiple occupants.

This was the third high-profile killing since the start of the offensive after October 7. The first target was the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, an ardent supporter of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, who died under mysterious circumstances. According to conspiracy theories, Israel, with the assistance of the U.S., induced a fault in the electronic and communication systems of an aging helicopter. This malfunction caused the pilots to lose control, resulting in a violent crash in an uninhabitable and remote location.

The second high-profile killing was that of Ismail Haniyeh, who was attending a ceremony in Iran. He was asleep, believing himself to be safe under the watchful

protection of the elite Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Neither Haniyeh nor the Iranians had any clue about the origin of the precision missile that struck, killing him in a state of total helplessness and vulnerability.

The formidable Israel, backed by the powerful USA, is unlikely to slow down its efforts until it has completely dismantled the leadership structures of Hamas, the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Iran and destruction of their military capabilities to prevent any future threat, whether big or small, against Israel. However, Israel's most significant and challenging objective remains the neutralization of Iran's military power.

Israel views Iran as its "enemy number one" due to several critical factors. Iran's nuclear ambitions pose an existential threat to Israel, as the potential development of nuclear weapons could drastically shift the regional power balance. Additionally, Iran's extensive financial and military support for anti-Israel militant groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad directly threatens Israel's security, allowing these groups to attack Israel more effectively. Coupled with Iran's ballistic missile program capable of reaching Israel and its leaders' frequent calls for Israel's destruction, these threats solidify Iran's position as the top enemy.

Therefore, after neutralizing Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel's next step would most likely be to implement short, medium, and long-term strategies and plans to neutralize Iranian threats once and for all.

In the short term, Israel is likely to intensify targeted strikes on Iranian military installations, nuclear facilities, and proxy forces in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon to disrupt Iran's influence and limit its ability to transfer weapons to its proxies. It may also escalate cyber warfare operations, such as sabotage attacks on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, similar to the Stuxnet virus incident. Additionally, Israel will increase intelligence-gathering efforts to identify and eliminate high-value targets within Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated militias to weaken Iran's offensive capabilities swiftly.

In the medium term, Israel will focus on weakening Iran's proxy networks by continuing military actions against Hezbollah in Lebanon, pro-Iranian militias in Syria and Iraq, and Hamas in Gaza. Strengthening regional alliances with Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain will also be a priority, as these countries share concerns about Iran's regional ambitions. Moreover, Israel will actively engage with the international community, particularly the US, to maintain or increase sanctions on Iran to cripple its economy and limit its military funding.

In the long term, Israel's primary goal is to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons by maintaining diplomatic pressure, supporting economic sanctions, or potentially carrying out preemptive military strikes if Iran nears nuclear capability. Israel may also subtly support efforts that promote internal dissent or uprisings within Iran, aiming for regime change that

could lead to a government less hostile towards Israel.

To safeguard its interests against potential Israeli aggression, Iran should adopt a comprehensive and immediate approach. It must act swiftly to provide the U.S. and Israel with clear and verifiable assurances that it has no aggressive intentions, demonstrating transparency and a willingness to engage in peaceful dialogue to avoid a rapid and intense military response from Israel.

Iran must act swiftly to protect its military capabilities, manpower, and industrial infrastructure, as it cannot match the combined military and economic strength of Israel and the USA. Although Iran possesses drone and ballistic missile capabilities, their limitations were revealed during a recent coordinated attack on Israel. Despite Iran's efforts to overwhelm Israel's defense systems, Israel's advanced air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow interceptors, were rapidly activated, intercepting and destroying nearly all incoming threats before they could inflict significant damage.

Unfortunately, Iran lacks the advanced defensive capabilities of the USA and Israel, which could be devastating if a similar attack were launched against Iran. In this scenario, Iran's most prudent strategy would be to take immediate and concrete steps to avert an imminent US-Israeli attack, thereby safeguarding its people, leadership, and economic and military assets.

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

Iran calls for emergency UNSC meeting following Nasrallah assassination

Amid escalating Lebanon crisis, Iran has called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council in protest against the assassination of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli air strike in Beirut.

In a letter to the Security Council, Iranian Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani called on the 15-member body to "take immediate and decisive action to stop Israel's ongoing aggression and prevent... from dragging the region into full-scale war."

"Using US-supplied thousand-pound bunker busters," he wrote, Israel killed Nasrallah and Iranian Gen, Abbas Nilforushan, among others.

He warned Israel not to attack any of its diplomatic or consular premises, or its representatives.

"Iran will not hesitate to exercise its inherent rights under international law to take every measure in defence of its vital national and security interests," Iravani wrote.

Several world powers also warned of the assassination's potential repercussions, as the spectre of all-out war looms over the Middle East.

United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely concerned by the dramatic escalation of events in Beirut in the last 24 hours."

Palestinian militant group Hamas called Nasrallah's killing "a cowardly terrorist act."

"We condemn in the strongest terms this barbaric Zionist aggression and targeting of residential buildings," Hamas said in a statement.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas offered his "deep condolences" to Lebanon for the deaths of Nasrallah and civilians, who "fell as a result of the brutal Israeli aggression," according to a statement from his office.

The foreign ministry of Iran said Nasrallah's work will continue after his death. "His sacred goal will be realized in the liberation of Quds, God willing," spokesman Nasser Kanani posted on X.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced five days of public mourning.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on X that Lebanon was being subjected to a "genocide."

In a post on X, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel called the killing a "cowardly targeted assassination" that "seriously threatens regional and global peace and security, for which Israel bears full responsibility with the complicity of the United States."

As expected, US leaders welcomed Nasrallah's demise.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in a post on X that he had spoken with the Lebanese premier. "We agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire to bring an end to the bloodshed. A diplomatic solution is the only way to restore security and stability for the Lebanese and Israeli people," he said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot demanded Israel "immediately stop its strikes in Lebanon" and said it was opposed to any ground operation in the country.



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

The Necessity of Constitutional Courts

A fair and efficient justice system is essential in any democratic society. It not only upholds the rule of law but also protects individual rights and freedoms. In this regard, the state has a vital duty to ensure that the justice system operates quickly and effectively.

Many countries around the world have constitutional courts that perform effectively in their respective contexts. A prominent example is Germany's Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht), established in 1951, which has the authority to review laws and government actions to ensure they comply with the Basic Law (Grundgesetz). The court has been instrumental in protecting human rights, particularly through landmark rulings that uphold freedom of expression and equality. Its decisions are binding on all branches of government, reinforcing the principle of constitutional supremacy. Established in 1956, Italy's Constitutional Court (Corte Costituzionale) ensures that national laws comply with the Italian Constitution. It has the authority to annul laws deemed unconstitutional and to resolve disputes among various branches of government. Its rulings have profoundly shaped Italian law, especially concerning civil rights and liberties, making it a cornerstone of the country's legal system.

Moreover, many individuals remain unaware of their legal rights and the processes for pursuing justice, which exacerbates the number of filings and complicates cases. The backlog has serious implications for the Pakistani legal system. Prolonged delays in case resolution prevent many individuals from obtaining timely justice, particularly in urgent matters such as human rights violations, child custody, and property disputes. This growing backlog contributes to public disillusionment with the judiciary; when citizens perceive the system as inefficient, their trust in the rule of

law diminishes, leading to a decline in compliance with legal norms. Prolonged litigation often leads to increased legal costs for litigants, adding an extra financial burden for those pursuing justice. Acknowledging the backlog issue, the Pakistani government and judiciary have taken steps to address this problem. Some courts have introduced case management systems designed to streamline processes and minimize delays. These initiatives include establishing timelines for case hearings and actively managing pending cases. While there have been efforts to increase the number of judges across various courts, the pace of these appointments remains slow compared to the growing backlog. Promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration, can help ease the burden on courts by providing quicker resolutions to disputes outside the formal judicial system.

Despite these efforts, the situation in Pakistani courts remains dire. To address these issues, the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) is essential to eliminate

provincial disparities. The proposed FCC will be part of a broader legislative initiative that the government intends to introduce under the Constitutional Package. According to the reported draft, the government aims to add Article 184(A) to the Constitution, granting the FCC the authority to interpret the Constitution and hear appeals against laws passed by Parliament. Similarly, under the proposed Article 184(A)(2), the FCC would also hear appeals against decisions made by high courts. Another proposed change involves transferring all pending appeals against high court orders to the FCC once the constitutional amendment is enacted. Additionally, the government plans to amend the Constitution to grant the FCC "exclusive and original jurisdiction," apart from the Supreme Court, to resolve disputes between federal and

provincial governments.

The concept of constitutional courts is not new and exists in many countries around the world. If we aim to strengthen our judicial system, ensure speedy justice for our citizens, and eliminate disparities between provinces, the establishment of an FCC is essential.

Unfortunately, Pakistan lacks unity on core national issues from our political parties and leaders. In today's complex and rapidly changing world, the importance of unity on fundamental national issues cannot be overstated. Whether concerning economic stability, security, education, or public health, a cohesive approach is crucial for effectively addressing challenges. Unity promotes collaboration, enhances resilience, and ultimately leads to better governance.

Regarding Pakistan's judicial system, it appears primarily focused on political and constitutional matters, resulting in delays and frustration for the public. Courts should not prioritize political and constitutional issues at the expense of addressing citizens' concerns. Our Supreme Court is heavily occupied with constitutional and governmental matters, making it challenging to promptly address various cases that come from high courts for review, often leading to years of delays. The proposed constitutional courts aim to alleviate this burden on the Supreme Court, allowing it to focus on resolving regular cases more swiftly. These constitutional courts will also help reduce the lengthy and delayed justice process by handling constitutional and governmental issues separately.

The people of Pakistan deserve swift justice, and it's unfair for our courts to be bogged down by political cases while public issues are neglected. The proposed establishment of Constitutional Courts is a timely and effective solution to the current crisis and backlog in our judiciary. The citizens recognize its significance, and it is crucial for politicians to demonstrate the same commitment. They should prioritize the state's interests over personal agendas and unite in support of this important initiative.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Power Trip: When Authority Goes Too Far

Recently, a troubling incident involving the Deputy Commissioner of Multan highlighted significant issues within local governance. During a visit to Shahbaz Sharif Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner reportedly slapped pharmacy student Atif, an act that raises serious concerns about the mental state and professionalism within the bureaucracy.

"According to media reports, the Deputy Commissioner who slapped the student deleted footage from mobile phone cameras with the help of the police to protect himself from the law." This incident exemplifies a broader issue: many public servants seem to operate under the assumption that they are above the law, reflecting a troubling disconnect between authority and accountability.

Encroachment on footpaths around the DC office has become commonplace, and the administration fails to regulate market prices for essential goods. Instead, common shopkeepers are subjected to heavy fines, which further exacerbates the economic strain on ordinary citizens. The price control magistrate's admission that they are instructed to impose hefty fines to boost revenue only adds to the disillusionment felt by the public.

The biggest issue for the Multan administration right now is to control self-created inflation and provide relief to the public in line with government policies. Currently, 80% of the milk sold in the city is adulterated, and market prices are not being regulated. When shopkeepers receive expensive vegetables and groceries from the markets, how can they sell them at government rates?

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner of Multan to instruct the Secretary of the

Market Committee, Chaudhry Rustam, to strictly verify the bills of items sold in the market, but this is not happening. The truth is that the Market Committee and the Multan district administration are responsible for this inflation, and the benefits of government policies are not reaching the public. While the Deputy Commissioner resorted to violence against a student for giving

four fewer paracetamol tablets, the performance of the DO Industries, Mateen, has been zero since he took charge. Citizens are questioning why he has not taken action against illegal profiteers and those selling petrol unlawfully on the streets.

"Since Mateen's appointment, activities related to illegal petrol sales in Multan have increased, putting citizens' lives at risk. Price control magistrates file 4 to 5 or more FIRs against shopkeepers every month to curb inflation, yet, according to reports, Mateen has not filed a single prosecution. Can the Deputy Commissioner take action against him? No, here officers support the crimes and incompetence of their peers while dealing harshly with the weak."

Overall, the conduct of the Multan administration, as perceived by its citizens, is deeply concerning and demands urgent attention and reform. The erosion of public trust in local governance poses a significant threat to societal stability and must be addressed to restore faith in public service. The Chief Minister's intervention in this matter is a crucial step toward ensuring justice for Atif and addressing the misconduct of officials. By taking notice of the incident, the CM signals a commitment to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens from abuse of power. Such actions are essential in restoring public trust in the administration, demonstrating that no one is above the law, regardless of their position.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

At UN, speakers emphasized: No Election, No Selection, UN Resolutions Only Solution

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: A large number of Kashmiri-Americans and friends of Kashmir including women and children braving thundershowers gathered at the UN demanding freedom from Indian occupation. Holding banners and placards in their hands inscribed with "NO Election No Selection: UN Resolutions Only Solution"; "Election in Kashmir Just a Name: Indian Government Has no Shame"; Indian Democracy Nothing but Fake: Human Rights in Kashmir Are at Stake"; "Kashmir Election Just a Deception: Plebiscite the Only Solution"; Indian Democracy Hypocritical: Kashmir Election Farical"; Wake UP Wake UP UN WAKE UP"; "Indian Army Out of Kashmir" "WE Demand Human Rights"; "Release Release: Yasin Malik"; "India: Free Kashmir," the participants expressed total solidarity with the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) said, "We are here today specifically to protest the intervention of the Indian delegate. We believe that Dr. Jaishankar, the foreign minister of India does not deserve to be speaking at this august forum representing 193 countries of the world. We further believe that BJP/RSS led Modi administration is threat to international peace and security."

Dr. Fai added that yesterday, on September 27, while exercising its Right of Reply during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, Indian diplomat Ms. Bhavika Mangalanandan pretended that "Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable and integral part of India."



She might need a history lesson on Kashmir. Ms. Mangalanandan needs to know that Kashmiris hardly showed themselves as resigned to Indian occupation. Some discontent notwithstanding, Kashmiris never felt itself to be part of India before 1947 and feels even less so after its forcible seizure by the Indian troops.

Dr. Pir Ali Shah Bukhari, Sajjada

Naseen Dargah Basahan sharif said the presence of Indian delegate at United Nations compromises the sanctity of this august body which was created to establish a fair world order. Modi terrorizes his neighbors and has subjugated people of Kashmir.

He called on the U. N. to decisively move towards implementing its resolutions that pledged the right of self-

termination to Kashmiris. The nation of Kashmir is at the brink of extinction due to the demographic changes taking place in the State which needs world attention.

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Kashmiri American scholar reacted to the statement of Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar which he made at UN about strengthening human dignity across the nations. Dr. Khan said that the statement is laced



with mendacity.

Sardar Sawar Khan, former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and the Emcee of the rally said that the people of Kashmir have made it clear that the final solution of the Kashmir disputes is not possible without the participation of the Kashmiri leadership in the future negotiations. Sardar Taj Khan, Vice Chairman, Kashmir Mission, USA said that the whole Pakistani nation is standing with the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir and will keep exposing the atrocities and brutalities of Indian fascist PM Narendra Modi.

Muhammad Asaad, President Sufi Peace Forum USA, Khalid Awan, President of PPP, USA said that Kashmir is not forgotten. We are not going to let it happen. Why? Because as human beings we cannot afford ignoring basic right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir for which they have given unprecedented sacrifices.

Ms. Madina Ambar, Coordinator Sufi Circle New York, Saghir Khan, Presi-

dent Kashmiri American Alliance, Moulana Malik Sahid, Representative Dargah Basahan Sharif, Sardar Imtiaz Khan Garalvi, Secretary general, Kashmir Mission USA, Raja Razaq, a prominent community leader, Sardar Sajid Sawar, young Kashmiri American activist, Sardar Shoaib Irshad, Secretary General, Kashmir American Welfare Association, (KAWA), Altaf Adha of Virginia, Raja Mukhtar, Vice Chairman JKLF, USA, Ms. Amna Habib Taj, Sardar Aftab Roshan Khan, Sardar Zarif Khan, Advisor to the President of Azad Kashmir, Among other who spoke included: Khalid Mahmood saifi, Long Island, Sufi Manzoor Ahmad, NY, Farhan Sadiq, Coordinator Sufi Peace Forum NJ, Choudhary Sohail Ashraf, NY, Haji Asif Raza, NY, Tariq Nazir Khan, Mohammad Khalid Shaheen, Maqsood Hussain Chughtai, Shorab Khan, Sardar Mohsin Khan, Mushtaq Khan, Rizwan Abbasi, prominent journalist from Pakistan, Zahid Shahbaz of Pak Watan Tv, and others.

Facts Behind Pakistan's Bee Population Decline

Bee population declines have been a major environmental problem worldwide in recent years, and Pakistan is no exception. Bees play a crucial role in food chains as they are essential to pollinate a large variety of crops, and their dwindling numbers pose a threat to the environment.

A vital component of Pakistan's economy, agriculture depends largely on bees for natural pollination. Around 90% of untamed plants and 75% of major international crops rely on pollination by

animals, mostly bees. Important crops including wheat, cotton, and many fruits and vegetables in Pakistan depend in part on bees for their quality and productivity. Bee population declines have the potential to significantly damage agricultural yields, which would harm not only local farmers whose livelihoods depend on good harvests but also the food supply as a whole.

A number of causes contribute to Pakistan's declining bee populations:

1. Pesticide Use: Probably the most important issue is the extensive use of chemical

pesticides. These substances frequently cause bees to die or impair their immune systems, leaving them more vulnerable to illness and demise.

2. Habitat Loss: The natural environments that bees require for foraging and nesting have been lost as a result of urbanization and intensive agricultural operations.

3. Climate Change: Modified

weather patterns have the potential to throw off the timing of bee emergence and plant flowering.

Extreme weather conditions can also wipe out habitats and decrease the amount of nectar and pollen that bees can consume.

Even with the impending catastrophe, Pakistan has not responded very much. There is still a lack of awareness among the general public and author-

ities regarding the crucial role that bees play in agriculture and biodiversity. The issue is further exacerbated by the fact that regulations pertaining to the use of pesticides are frequently lax or poorly implemented. The reduction in bee numbers calls for a multifaceted response, including:

1. Increased Pesticide Regulation: To encourage the adoption of safer alternatives like biopesticides, the government should impose more stringent controls on the use of pesticides.
2. Promotion of Bee-Friendly Agricultural Practices: It is important to motivate

and educate farmers to use bee-friendly farming methods. This entails using less pesticides and surrounding crops with vegetation that attracts bees.

3. Public Awareness Campaigns: Educating the public about the value of bees can help mobilize support for conservation efforts in the local community.

4. Research and Monitoring: Additional localized studies on bee populations and the particular causes of their decrease in Pakistan are needed. The success of policies put in place to safeguard these important polli-

nators can be evaluated with the use of routine monitoring.

The biodiversity and agricultural production of Pakistan are silently threatened by the reduction in bee populations. It is crucial that all citizens confront this issue, not just legislators and environmentalists. Despite their diminutive size, the bees have a huge impact on the nation's economic and ecological well-being. Safeguarding them involves more than just maintaining a species; it also involves ensuring the existence of agriculture and, consequently, human-kind.



Analysis

Abdul Hadi Baig

A Solo Female Traveller through the Land of Wonders

Spokesman Report

JEDDAH: Traveling solo is an exhilarating adventure, offering the freedom to explore at your own pace, try new things, while creating (and capturing) unforgettable memories. For solo female travelers, a rapidly growing segment, Saudi—the heart of Arabia—beckons with wonder at every turn.

Ranked as one of the best places to travel alone as a woman*, Saudi is not only a secure destination but also one brimming with awe-inspiring sights and exciting activities. Whether you're eager to immerse yourself in history, dive into pristine waters, or explore lively markets, Saudi has something for everyone. What does one bring to a place like Saudi as a woman? Climate appropriate clothing, a camera to capture the moments that will imprint in your mind for an age, and above all, a sense of discovery.

Now is the time to start your solo adventure, follow in the footsteps of a heroine who answers the call for Saudi, and discover the expansive geography, diverse terrain, and human and natural wonders of the country. Step into 200,000 years of largely unexplored human history in AlUla, behold the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Historic Jeddah and Hegra, and take a dip in the clear turquoise waters of the Saudi Red Sea.

This Land is calling, when was the last time you did something for the first time? **Historic Jeddah – a walk through history**

Saudi, with its ancient wonders and vibrant cultures, has far more to offer than meets the eye. One of its hidden gems is Historic Jeddah, the cultural heart of the coastal city of Jeddah, where the past and present beautifully intertwine. In 2014, Historic Jeddah was recognized as one of the eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Saudi. Its maze-like, bustling streets and narrow alleyways are lined with stunning coral-stone buildings, many of which have been carefully restored to preserve their intricate wooden balconies, known as Rawasheen.

Where to Stay in Historic Jeddah

Round out the immersive experience with a stay at Beit Johkhar, a boutique hotel in Historic Jeddah that only opened its doors this year. Spread over a number of one-time family residences, each house has been meticulously restored by a team of historians,



Historic Jeddah – a walk through history

Hegra – a city carved from stone

Venture into the ancient city of Hegra, built by the Nabateans, Saudi's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located in the starkly beautiful desert in AlUla, it contains 111 intricately carved tombs and towering rock formations, a humbling walk through history. Built nearly 2,000 years ago, these tombs stand as reminders of a civilization's genius, with each tomb telling tales through the inscriptions and carvings within—offering tantalizing glimpses into the lives and beliefs of their time.

Where to Stay in AlUla

Stay at Dar Tantora, a hotel featured in TIME Magazine 2024's travel list of World's Greatest Places. Located in a refurbished area of Old Town.

The Red Sea – an underwater wonderland

The Saudi Red Sea is home to one of the world's most intriguing and resilient marine ecosystems, a perfect complement to the solo traveller. Spanning 28,000 square kilometers, it is an underwater paradise with a sprawling archipelago of over 90 islands, pristine beaches, and expansive desert dunes. The whole region harbors remarkable natural wonders, including one of the world's rare thriving reefs, dormant volcanoes, ancient heritage sites, and majestic mountain canyons.

Where to Stay

Stay at the St. Regis Red Sea Resort, located on a pristine private island, and indulge in their luxurious beachfront or overwater villas with direct access to some of the best diving spots in the region.

Diriyah – where it all began

Travel back in time to Diriyah. Known as "The City of Earth," Diriyah is the founding place of the First Saudi State in 1727. At its heart sits the UNESCO World Heritage Site of At-Turaif, a cradle of Saudi culture where the echoes of Saudi's past come alive. Each structure tells its own story, reflecting the ingenuity and resilience of early Saudi civilization, and offering a glimpse into the way people once lived and organized their society. The modern Bujairi Terracette thriving foodie-destination where you will be spoiled for choice with options including authentic dining experiences at Takya and Maiz, and casual spots. Immerse yourself in Saudi culture with a visit to Diriyah Gallery, where you will find local art and artefacts, and can enjoy experiences such as a Khat Ad-Diriyah lesson to learn traditional Arabic calligraphy and take your name home written in the special Diriyah font. And in the Winter months, you're in for a treat with Diriyah Season events.

Where to Stay

Stay at Four Seasons Hotel at Kingdom Centre, Riyadh's most recognizable landmark, for the best views across the city, and look out for the upcoming opening of Diriyah Bab Samhan Hotel, bookings open on 23 September, where each room invites guests to immerse themselves in the splendor of Najdi architecture and culture.

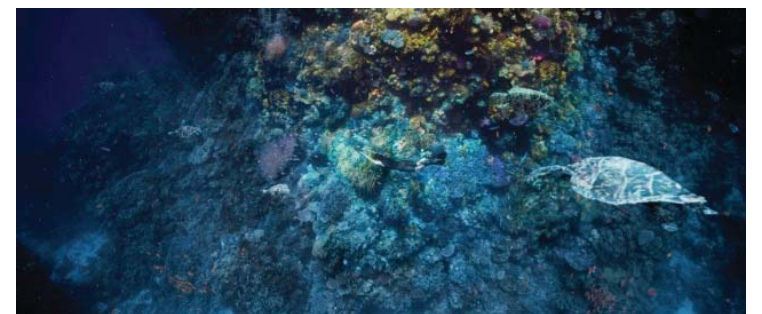
See it all on a 12-day women-only adventure

Discover a unique perspective of Saudi with Intrepid Travels women's-only expedition across the country's dramatic landscapes and UNESCO World Heritage sites. From Riyadh to Jeddah, spend 12 days travelling the country and learning about its history, sampling the local cuisine and getting to know local women. A truly extraordinary experience, tailored to women, learning the stories of local women as they offer a window into their world.

Tour a citrus farm with sisters who transformed their father's vision into a multigenerational business, take a cooking class and pottery workshop, get to know the Holy City of Madinah with a local female guide, cruise and snorkel the Red Sea and meet Saudi's first-ever female guide in Jeddah.



Hegra – a city carved from stone



The Red Sea – an underwater wonderland



See it all on a 12-day women-only adventure



Diriyah – where it all began

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
81,292.13	81,657.96	
Day's High	Day's Low	
81,842.74	81,183.50	
Index Value	Change	
8,019,296,729	-365.83	
Percentage	Time	
-0.45%	27 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,320.76	+35.85	
Percentage	Time	
+0.43%	27 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,381.80	+206.69	
Percentage	Time	
+0.49%	27 Sept, 1:06 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,829.56	+903.93	
Percentage	Time	
+2.32%	27 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.00	193.25
Bahrain Dinar	732.30	740.30
Canadian Dollar	206.60	209.00
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	308.55	311.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.7	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.65	908.15
Malaysian Ringgit	63.65	64.25
New Zealand \$	172.47	174.47
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	716.67	725.17
Qatari Riyal	76.29	76.99
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.30
Singapore Dollar	216.45	218.45
Swedish Korona	27.20	27.51
Swiss Franc	325.45	328.25
Thai Bhat	8.34	8.49
U. A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	369.85	373.35
US Dollar	278.80	280.30

Business leaders appreciate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's tireless efforts for community

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The business community holds a vital position in every nation for driving economic growth and development. Similarly, in our country, entrepreneurs and business leaders play a pivotal role in shaping the economy. During my tenure the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has made significant strides, overcoming challenges to facilitate ease of doing businesses. As a result, the ICCI has emerged as the premier chamber of commerce in the country, achieving numerous milestones and setting a benchmark for others.

While congratulating the newly elected office bearers of the Traders Welfare Association of I-8 Markaz, Bakhtawari stated that he as President ICCI has served the entire business community of Islamabad without any discrimination, kept the ICCI doors opened for its problems resolution. He by mentioning some of his notable initiatives said that for provision of clean drinking water to the community and the residents he installed water filtration plants,



CCTV cameras for enhancing security of business areas and organized Eid shopping festivals and exhibitions to promote business through community's engagement.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG)

Zafar Bakhtawari expressed his gratitude to the community for electing Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as Chairman All Markets Unions of Islamabad by assuring that he (Ahsan Bakhtawari) will wholeheartedly work for community's welfare and try his level best to come to

the its expectations.

Former President FPCCI and ICCI Zubair Ahmed Malik extended gratitude to the business community of I-8 for supporting Founder Group candidates in the ICCI election and enabling them to bag a clean sweep. He assured the attendees that the newly elected officer bearers are determined to serve the community.

Former President ICCI Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi commended Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his tireless services for the fraternity and vowed all out support to him in his future endeavors.

Chairman I-8 markaz Yassir Abbasi underlined the need for prompt resolution of business community's problems for the economic welfare of the country.

In his address Waheed Cheema President Traders Welfare Association I/8 markaz thanked ICCI President for his initiatives for the community especially for the I-8 markaz and highlighted his entire team's support for him.

A sizeable gathering of business leaders from Islamabad, predominantly from I-8 Markaz, marked the occasion.

Media Talk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb talked to the media on Sunday at PTV headquarters Islamabad. He was also accompanied by Chairman FBR/Secretary Revenue Division.



Photo: PID

SBA declares election winners defeated despite their victory

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA) has declared the winners of the recent elections at the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry as "defeated," asserting that their victory was based on fraudulent votes, mismanagement, and manipulation through Form 47. SBA leaders stated that the real defeat lies in the fact that over 1300 members did not cast their votes, which reflects their clear rejection of the ruling group. SBA will strengthen its organizational structure and return to the field with renewed vigor.

SBA's Patron-in-Chief and Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali emphasized that the mission of the SBA is to promote the development and prosperity of the business community. "We have



won in 98% of the chambers across the province. Our focus is on the welfare of the business community," said Haji Ghulam Ali.

In a high-level meeting at the office of Dr. Mohib Ullah Afridi in Chamkani, SBA officials discussed the results of the recent Sarhad Chamber elections. They presented a detailed report on the misuse of power by the opposing group,

including the use of bogus votes, and the unlawful tactics employed on election day, such as creating power outages to hinder SBA voters and blocking their ability to vote.

During the meeting, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali thanked the business community for their unwavering support and reiterated that the SBA's primary goal is to serve the business community,

regardless of political power. He emphasized the importance of a positive approach and the need to work together to resolve the challenges faced by traders. He also praised the efforts of the SBA's candidates, polling agents, and core committee members, reaffirming their commitment to strengthen the SBA and continue their fight for the betterment of the business community.

RCCI urges FBR to extend date for annual tax filing

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has demanded an extension of the last date for submission of tax returns. Chamber President Saqib Rafiq said in a statement that FBR's system (Iris) went slow due to heavy filings.

Due to the closure of banks and other related institutions on Saturdays and Sundays, taxpayers are facing difficulties in

obtaining bank accounts and other documents, he added.

System glitch and slowness complaints are coming from members, and traders.

He said that due to the protest by a political party in other cities including Rawalpindi, Islamabad on Friday, taxpayers were facing difficulties in collecting necessary documents related to tax returns.

We demand that the date of submission of tax returns be extended by one month, he further demanded.

Ayesha Farooqui elected unopposed Chairperson for two years

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Handicraft Association of Pakistan has elected Ayesha Farooqui as the chairperson for two years unopposed. According to the details, the office bearers of the Handicraft Association have been announced for the next two years. Ayesha Farooqui, Chairperson,



Kashif Zahir elected as Senior Vice Chairman and Asma Amir as Vice Chairman unopposed.

Yango launches Free Ride insurance in partnership with Waada

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The international ride-hailing service Yango, part of the global tech company Yango Group, has partnered with Waada, a leading Insurtech company in Pakistan, to introduce free Ride Insurance. This collaboration offers one of the most comprehensive safety coverage provided by any ride-hailing company in Pakistan, ensuring both passengers and partner's drivers benefit from enhanced security during their journeys.

Through this partnership, Waada will provide comprehensive accident coverage to Yango users including passengers and drivers during the service's rides in Pakistan at no additional cost. The insurance plan covers incidents of unforeseen circumstances including damaged mobile phones during the ride for part-

ner's drivers, permanent disability, accidental medical reimbursement, and accidental death, making Yango's Ride Insurance Coverage the most comprehensive in the country.

Miral Sharif, Yango's Country Manager in Pakistan, commented, "It's of utmost importance for us that everyone feels protected during rides with Yango and our insurance program emphasises our commitment to ensuring that.

Ishaq Kothawala, CEO of Waada, added, "I am excited for the initiative Waada and Yango have taken in making the ride-hailing ecosystem more secure and more trustworthy. This is one of the largest embedded insurance schemes in Pakistan and hopefully will trail-blaze for more to come."

Additionally, the company leads the way in providing an array of safety and security



features including an SOS button for emergencies, real-time trip sharing through the Share Route feature, and an Emergency Situation button for added support. For

partner's drivers, the app allows them to view a passenger's rating before accepting a trip. After each ride, drivers can also provide feedback on passengers to maintain a

secure and respectful environment. Yango remains committed to continuously exploring new ways to enhance the safety of the ride-hailing experience in Pakistan.

Jubilee Life Insurance Accelerates Net Zero Transition with Spectreco



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a pioneering move towards sustainability, Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, has partnered with Spectreco to spearhead its transition to Net Zero. This step sets a benchmark not just in Pakistan but for the global insurance industry as well, reinforcing Jubilee Life's commitment to embedding sustainability at the heart of its business operations.

Faraz Khan, CEO & Partner of Spectreco, emphasized the significance of this collaboration: "We are excited to support Jubilee Life on their transformative journey towards a Net Zero future. This partnership is a testament to how business case development, GHG emission reduction strategies, and data-backed messaging can collectively drive substantial change.

Mr. Farhan Faridi Group Head-Retail Operations, Marketing & Administration of JLI further commented "By incorporating decarbonization strategies into our operations, we have begun our journey toward meeting global sustainability standards, with the potential to lead by example in the insurance industry in the future.

This partnership is a bold step in leading the charge towards a more sustainable future, combining cutting-edge technology and business excellence to deliver measurable results and set new industry standards.

Lake City Panthers win Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Lake City Panthers became the winners of the inaugural Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup as they beat UMT Markhors by five wickets in the final here at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Sunday evening.

Out of a PKR49 million prize pot, the Shadab Khan-led Lake City Panthers bagged prize money of PKR30 million while the UMT Markhors collected the runners-up prize of PKR15 million.

Panthers bundled out the Markhors, after they opted to bat first, for a mere 122-run total in 33.4 overs and then took just 18 overs to chase it down with five wickets in the bag as skipper Shadab Khan hit the winning six. Abdul Wahid Bangalzai top scored for Panthers with 41 off 43 balls hitting five fours and two sixes.

Earlier, three wicket hauls by Arafat Minhas (3-1) and Mohammad Hasnain (3-38), who also finished with a tournament tally of 17 wickets, backed up by player of the match performance by Sajid Khan (2-24) dented the Markhors progress with the bat as they collapsed from 82-2 in 18.2 overs to 122 all out in 33.4 overs. Shadab and Ali Raza also picked up one wicket each.

After Markhors copped two early blows with the scoreboard reading 26-2 in 5.3 overs, Haseebullah (27, 48b, 3x4s) stitched a 56-run third-wicket partnership with Fakhar Zaman who top scored



for the Markhors with 46 off 49 balls clubbing five fours and one six.

Off-spinner Sajid got rid of both the set batters in 19th and 21st overs to spark a batting collapse as Markhors lost their last eight wickets in 15.2 overs. Apart from Haseebullah and Fakhar, only Bismillah Khan (16, 37b, 2x4s) reached double figures for Markhors.

In turn, Panthers' opening batters raced to 51 in 7.4 overs before Umar Siddiq departed for 19 with the help of

three fours. Sajid (15, 13b, 2x4s, 1x6), promoted to bat at No.3, was the second batter to be dismissed as Markhors struck regular blows to reduce the Panthers from 51-1 to 94-5 in 15 overs.

Usman Khan, who finished as the top run-scorer of the tournament with 272 runs in six games, only contributed 13 off eight balls hitting a four and a six. Rizwan Mehmood (16 not out, 12b, 3x4s) and Shadab (14, 9b, 1x4, 1x6) stitched a 29-run stand for the sixth wicket to take

their team home safely.

For Markhors, Mohammad Imran Jnr and Akif Javed picked up two wickets each while Shah Nawaz Dahani dismissed one batter.

Scores in brief
Final - Lake City Panthers beat UMT Markhors by five wickets
UMT Markhors 122 all out, 33.4 overs (Fakhar Zaman 46, Haseebullah 27; Arafat Minhas 3-1, Mohammad Hasnain 3-38, Sajid Khan 2-24, Ali Raza 1-19, Shadab Khan 1-20)

Lake City Panthers 123-5, 18 overs (Abdul Wahid Bangalzai 41, Umar Siddiq 19, Rizwan Mehmood 16 not out, Sajid Khan 15, Shadab Khan 14 not out; Mohammad Imran Jnr 2-11, Akif Javed 2-42)

Bahria Town Player of the match: Sajid Khan (Lake City Panthers)
Mentors' choice Emerging Player of the Tournament: Ali Raza-Lake City Panthers (Four wickets)

Trans Group Wicket-keeper of the Tournament: Usman Khan - Lake City Panthers (7 dismissals)

Inverex Solar Energy energetic Batter of the Tournament: Usman Khan - Lake City Panthers (272 runs)

Trans Group best Bowler of the Tournament: Mohammad Hasnain - Lake City Panthers (17 wickets)

Bahria Town Player of the Tournament: Mohammad Hasnain - Lake City Panthers (17 wickets).

Sindh Governor Kamran Tesuri Reached Olympian Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem Village at Mian Channu



Asim Tanveer / Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: Sindh Governor Kamran Tesuri reached Olympian Arshad Nadeem's house on 10115 and congratulated the national hero and his family for making the country and nation famous in the Olympics. It was announced that Governor Sindh and Arshad Nadeem also signed an MoU to appoint the brand ambassador of Grachi Meera Than-Kamran Tesuri while addressing the ceremony said that Arshad Nadeem won the gold medal and won the world. Enlightened the name of the country throughout the country-The national hero was warmly welcomed on his arrival in Karachi-My salutations to the hero who came out of a village and brought the name of the country to the world-He completed the work of the village mosque on the request of Arshad Nadeem. Announcing that Arshad Nadeem's life is a beacon for the youth, sports competitions will be held in Karachi in January on the proposal of the Olympians.

DC Muhammad Ali Bukhari, DPO Ismail Kharak were also present-later speaking to the media, Governor Sindh said that

Our nation is not less than anyone in the world in terms of capabilities, Pakistan is the country of all of us and we will develop it together, he added.

I am grateful to the people of Mian Chanu for the warm welcome-the doors of Governor House Sindh are open for the people-Kamran Tesuri added that

Minister Ali Punjab Maryam Navaz is doing the best work for the development of Punjab-External elements are involved in Balochistan events, he added that the enemy does not want the country to develop, they will be given a befitting reply.

Pakistan head coach calls for 'ruthlessness' in team's approach against England



A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Jason Gillespie, the head coach of Pakistan's red-ball team, has acknowledged that his team need to be ruthless in the upcoming Test series against England.

The three-match series between Pakistan and England will run from October 7 to 28 and is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25.

It's worth noting that this will be Pakistan's second Test series under Jason Gillespie. In his first series as the red-ball head coach, the Green Shirts suffered a disappointing 2-0 series loss at the hands of Bangladesh.

During an appearance at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) podcast, Gillespie expressed his disappointment over the series loss against Bangladesh.

"We showed glimpses of quality in the Test series against Bangladesh, where we were really driving the game forward. However, we didn't sustain it long enough," he stated.

"When we allowed our opponents to get back into the game, they capitalized and pulled ahead. That's where we let ourselves down."

The former Australian fast bowler emphasized the importance of the Green Shirts adopting a relentless and aggressive approach to their cricket.

"What we need is a bit more ruthlessness. When we're ahead, we need to stay ahead and make sure we drive home that advantage," he stressed.

Jason Gillespie also defended the selection of Pakistan's squad for the first Test against England. He emphasized the importance of backing players and maintaining stability in the team rather than implementing drastic changes.

"The players understand my philosophy regarding selection. We want to back and support them. Of course, if performances are not at the required level over a prolonged period, we may consider changes," he shared

Pakistan to hold training camp for England Tests from 2 October

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan men's cricket team will assemble in Multan on 1 October where they will hold training sessions from 2 October ahead of the first Test against England, starting on 7 October. The England men's cricket team will arrive in the wee hours of 2 October.

The following is important information for the media attending or following the first Test (7-11 October):

30 September - Pakistan captain Shan Masood will hold his pre-series media conference at the National Bank Stadium press conference room at 1.15pm. Due to limited space, only PCB's accredited reporters and photographers are invited. The presser will be live-streamed on the PCB YouTube Channel and the PCB, as per its normal process, will provide link to the media houses before the start of the session.

2 October - Pakistan men's cricket team will train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1200. A player or member



of the support staff is expected to be available for media interviews after training.

3 October - Pakistan men's cricket team will train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. A player or member of the support staff is expected to be avail-

able for media interviews after training.

4 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, an England player or member of the support staff is expected

to hold his media conference.

5 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, an England player or member of the support staff is expected to hold his media conference.

6 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, opposite captains Ben Stokes of England and Pakistan's Shan Masood will take part in a photo-shoot with the trophy, which will be followed by their pre-series media conferences.

7 October - The toss will take place at 0930, with the first ball to be bowled at 1000. After the day's play, star performers from either side are expected to hold their media conferences.

Schedule of matches:
7-11 Oct - First Test, Multan
15-19 Oct - Second Test, Multan
24-28 Oct - Third Test, Rawalpindi

Mohammad Yousuf steps down as Pakistan's selection committee member

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan batter Mohammad Yousuf resigned from his role as a member of the national selection committee on Sunday, as confirmed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The 50-year-old took to social media on Sunday to share the news, citing personal reasons for his decision.

"I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team due to personal reasons. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket," Mohammad Yousuf said in his post on X.

"I have immense faith in the talent and spirit of our players, and wish our team all the best as they continue to strive for greatness," he added.
The cricket board later confirmed



Yousuf's resignation through a press release on their website.
"The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

today announced that Mohammad Yousuf has voluntarily stepped down from his role as a member of the national

selection committee to focus on other key responsibilities within the cricket board," the PCB's press release stated.

"The PCB expresses its sincere gratitude to Mohammad Yousuf for his invaluable contributions during his tenure as a selection committee member. Yousuf will continue to play a pivotal role at the PCB, sharing his extensive knowledge and experience as the batting coach at the High-Performance Centre."

Yousuf was the head coach of the Pakistan U19 side that finished third in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 in South Africa.

The former legend, who represented Pakistan in 90 Test matches, 288 ODIs, and three T20Is during his illustrious career, was appointed as selector in March 2024. He played a key role in selecting the Pakistani squad for the T20 World Cup 2024.

Spinners shine as Sri Lanka complete clean sweep over New Zealand

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peris took six wickets on Sunday to steer Sri Lanka to a 2-0 series win over New Zealand in 15 years with a crushing victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test in Galle.

New Zealand were all out for 360 in their second innings before tea on day four after being asked to follow on.

Peris, 27, and fellow spinner Prabath Jayasuriya shared 18 wickets in the match, the latter taking 6-42 in the first innings to bundle out the tourists for just 88 after the hosts had

amassed a mammoth 602-5 declared.

"Amazing how the batting unit rose to the occasion," Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva told reporters.

"Then the spinners were too good... Once we bowled them out for less than 100 runs in the first innings, it was very difficult for them to come back into the game."

New Zealand's lower order did put up some fight after resuming at 199-5 on Sunday, with Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all making half-centuries.

Peris, who had taken three second-innings wickets on

Saturday, trapped Blundell lbw for 60 early in the first session, ending a 95-run stand with Phillips.

Santner helped craft a 64-run partnership for the seventh wicket before the gutsy Phillips fell on 78 when he mistimed a shot to long-on, giving Peris his maiden five-wicket haul.

Santner put together a stubborn ninth-wicket stand of 53 with Ajaz Patel before the latter was sent back, bowled by Jayasuriya, on 22.

Sri Lanka sealed the victory when Santner's gritty resistance was finally broken, stumped by Kusal Mendis for 67 off Peris.

"Galle is a tough place to

come and play cricket and Sri Lanka are a strong team here," said New Zealand captain Tim Southee.

"We were on the wrong side of the toss and we struggled to make the breakthroughs. We really struggled to come back from there," he added.

Sri Lanka could have wrapped up the match and series in the morning session but for a succession of dropped catches.

Kamindu Mendis spilled Patel on two at second slip and let Santner off on 36 in the covers. Peris shelled another chance from Santner not long after.

It's worth noting that Sri



Lanka won the opening match by 63 runs and this series win is their first against New Zealand

since a 2-0 win at home in 2009. The result leaves New Zealand winless from six Test appearances at Galle, with Sunday's 360 their highest innings total at the venue.

Talk to media

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman talking to media after being re-elected unopposed as the chief of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) for a five-year term during the party's intra-party polls held on Sunday.



Fazlur Rehman unconvinced over govt's judicial reform mandate

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), while expressing concerns about the current parliament's capability to make significant amendments, has emphasised the need for genuine elections to ensure that true representatives of the people are elected.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman Elected Leader of JUI-F Unopposed

Peshawar: Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been elected as the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) unopposed for the next five years.

The central general council's electoral meeting for intra-party elections of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazlur

Rehman (JUI-F) was held in Peshawar at Mufti Mahmood Centre. Approximately 1,500 members of the party from across the country attended the meeting.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in the meeting, was once again elected unopposed as the leader of JUI for the next five years, while Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was elected as the General Secretary unopposed.

He asserted that the current parliament does not have the mandate to make constitutional amendments and that the sovereignty of the parliament should not be compromised. Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed his concerns over the government's lack of consideration for proper priorities.

He revealed that former

Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa had mentioned that the merger of FATA was under pressure from the United States. Fazlur Rehman questioned how Pakistan could be considered an independent country if such decisions were made under external pressure.

Fazlur Rehman also disclosed that Bajwa and Naveed Mukhtar had met him in Parliament, where he warned them that the decision to merge FATA was untimely. Despite his warnings, they insisted that the merger was due to American pressure.

He criticized the allocation of funds to the merged districts, stating that they should have received 800 billion rupees by now, but only 100 billion have been allocated.

On political rights, Rehman

emphasized that every political party has the right to hold rallies and processions. He condemned the government's actions to prevent PTI from holding rallies, calling it undemocratic. He believed PTI should be allowed to hold rallies and that denying them this right is an injustice.

Fazlur Rehman also criticized the statement made by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, calling it childish and disrespectful. He stated that such statements are not befitting of a Chief Minister and are harmful to the country.

He expressed his disapproval of the economic policies, stating that Pakistan has been made economically dependent, with the IMF preparing the budget. Fazlur Rehman

believes that no provincial chief minister should make such statements.

Fazlur Rehman warned that if they are kept out of the assembly, they will take to the streets, which could be more dangerous. He emphasised that they are not weak and will continue to fight in the field.

JUI-F does not support statements that incite conflict between the state or provinces and that they do not want to move towards governor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said. If Amir Maqam wants to move towards governor rule, it is up to the federal government.

In Peshawar, Fazlur Rehman stated that neither the central nor the provincial governments have a genuine mandate and that their mandate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was stolen.

Lawyers ask judges not to be part of any new court

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Over 300 lawyers across Pakistan have penned an open letter to Supreme Court and High Court judges, urging them to reject any appointments to a proposed new court. The letter, signed by prominent lawyers including Munir Ahmed Kakar, Abid Saqi, Riyaz Ali Azad, Abid Hassan Minto, Bilal Hassan Minto, and Salahuddin, expresses deep concern over the establishment of the new court.

The lawyers argue that the new court would essentially function as a parallel to the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) courts, and that judges appointed to it would be no different from those who served under the



PCO.

They criticize the secretive nature of the proposed amendments, noting that

the draft emerged unexpectedly and that even many elected representatives were unaware of its contents.

The letter explicitly states that the lawyers do not support the proposed constitutional amendments, citing

a lack of meaningful public debate. While the government claims the proposed court is mentioned in the Charter of Democracy, the lawyers contend that this does not justify the lack of transparency and discussion.

The lawyers appeal to the judges' oaths to uphold the constitution, urging them to carefully consider their actions. They emphasize the historical significance of this moment, urging the judges to choose a path that will reflect positively on their legacy.

The letter concludes with a plea for the judges to avoid association with the new court, ensuring their names are not linked to what the lawyers view as a potentially damaging and undemocratic institution.

KPK CM's march on Islamabad, Punjab aims to repeat May 9 mayhem: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab by force.

The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the KPK CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the



province effectively. "The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets for a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to march on

Islamabad and Punjab with force are nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9"

He further criticized the KPK Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this

approach would only harm him, not anyone else.

"There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added.

Tarar lamented that the provincial leadership of PTI had never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement. He urged that if PTI wanted to bring about a revolution, it should focus on transforming these sectors for the betterment of the people. "Corruption and incompe-

tence have reached their peak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The real competition should have been in providing relief to electricity consumers, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led governments has done in Islamabad and Punjab," he said, adding it should have been about building hospitals and educational institutions to serve the people.

Tarar accused the PTI of trying to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in a similar fashion it had attempted to sabotage President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan with its previous sit-ins in Islamabad in 2014.

PM Shehbaz congratulates Maulana Fazlur Rehman on unopposed election as JUI-F chief

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his congratulations to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his unanimous and unopposed election as president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) for the upcoming five-year term.

In his congratulatory message, the prime minister remarked that under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership, JUI-F has always effectively represented the people.

The prime minister emphasized that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election as the head of JUI-F will foster democratic values, also acknowledging his significant role in reinforcing the supremacy of Parliament in the country.

The prime minister expressed confidence that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership and vision would undoubtedly elevate Jamiat



Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) to new heights.

Meanwhile, the prime minister also congratulated Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on his election as the General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl).

Abdul Aleem Khan condemns Panjgore incident

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan have strongly condemned the tragic incident of Panjgore, Baluchistan in which seven innocent laborer have been killed. In his condolence message Abdul Aleem Khan observed that those involved in anti-state activities and terrorism has no sympathy at all and they must be dealt with iron hands. He said that that Pak Army and security forces are fully active against such heinous acts and those who want to disturb the law and order in Baluchistan



with remain failed. President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also tweeted on this sad incident and prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage and strength to the bereaved families to bear this big loss with fortitude.

Jam Kamal condemns killing of labourers in Panjgur

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of seven labourers in Balochistan's Panjgur district.

In a statement released on social media, the Minister called the attack an "unjustifiable act of terrorism" and emphasized that such violence against innocent workers can never be tolerated.

"Targeting and killing people is

nothing but an act of terrorism. No justification can be given or is applicable for such acts," Jam Kamal Khan said. He expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives, adding that these innocent labourers were simply seeking a livelihood, and their murder is a crime against humanity and the rule of law.

The Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and called for swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice, reaffirming the government's commitment to combating terrorism in all forms.

Pakistan Dispatches 10th Relief Consignment for Palestine

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan dispatched its 10th relief consignment consisting of medical relief items for the people of Palestine on 29 September 2024. In this regard, a ceremony was organized at Jinnah International Airport Karachi followed by departure of cargo flight to Amman, Jordan.

On the special instructions of the Prime Minister, Chief Guest of the ceremony was Dr. Darshan, MNA(Sind). While the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister

directed the Additional Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Najeeb Durrani to represent Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Amman, Jordan has been assigned to extend fullest cooperation for the early clearance and delivery of the relief assistance to Palestinian people.

The ceremony was also attended by other high-level officials from the relevant departments including National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and especially the sponsoring foundation.

Exchange, interest rates to remain as per govt expectations...

Continued from Page 8

tax collection, Aurangzeb stated that the number of tax filers has doubled compared to last year, reaching 3.2 million from 1.6 million. He further announced that 723,000 new filers joined the tax net this year, adding that non-filers will be restricted from purchasing vehicles and property.

He also revealed plans to streamline the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and emphasized the need for reforms within the organization. To

improve efficiency, six ministries will be abolished, two merged, and further reforms will be implemented in government institutions.

Aurangzeb concluded by expressing optimism about the future, stating his belief that the exchange rate and policy rate will remain in line with expectations. He stressed the importance of private sector leadership and the government's intention to engage international experts to further improve the country's economic standing.