



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
ہم سے سلیمان بن ہلال نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے عبد اللہ بن دینار نے ان سے واسطہ پڑا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہؓ نے کہا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جو تکلف رخصت سے جڑا ہو ہے پس جو کوئی اس سے اپنے آپ کو جوڑتا ہے اللہ پاک نے فرمایا کہ میں تمہیں اس کو اپنے سے جوڑ لیتا ہوں اور جو کوئی اسے توڑتا ہے میں بھی اپنے آپ کو اس سے توڑ لیتا ہوں۔
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5988)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Govt decided to call NA session on August 4

The government has decided to call the National Assembly session on August 4 to get a raft of legislation from the House. According to the sources, a string of reports which were prepared by different standing committees will be submitted to the National Assembly. The National Assembly session will continue for two weeks. All those members of the National Assembly (MNA) who were restored to reserved seats will participate in the



Iran vows support for flood-hit Pakistan

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni on Sunday held a telephonic conversation with Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods in Pakistan. Conveying heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the Iranian minister said, "We stand with the government and people of Pakistan in this difficult time," and assured that Iran is ready to provide all possible assistance to the flood-affected population.

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Inaugural Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents the first digitally issued medical licence to the CEO of Kwik Test Private Ltd., at the inaugural ceremony of the digital system for licensing and registration of medical devices, on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM underlines joint efforts to revolutionize healthcare system

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed upon bringing about revolution in the healthcare sector with coordinated efforts and determination by all the stakeholders.

Addressing a ceremony after launching ceremony of digital system for licensing, registration of medical devices, the prime minister expressed the hope that under the new digital system, the applications for registration of

medical services and equipment would be decided within 20 days in a transparent and merit-based system.

Regretting the inordinate delays in the registration process of medical services in the past, he referred to Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) as "Drag, not DRAP, as it was dragging the process not for months but for years. The reasons were known to all."

The prime minister, citing issues in the health sector, recollected that during his tenure as

Punjab chief minister, he had sent samples of certain cardiovascular drugs aboard for testing after reports indicated a number of deaths in the Punjab Institute of Cardiology, adding later, the reports from London; etc indicated that these drugs were meant to treat malaria and not heart patients which were not handled properly by DRAP.

The prime minister said that he had brought Major Gen. (ret'd) Azhar Mahmood Kayani to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, who by virtue of his hard

work and dedication, transformed the facility as remarkable.

The prime minister underscored that the country needed such health facilities.

He also recollected that during his tenure as chief minister, his government allocated a huge budget for provision of free of cost medicines at the government-run hospitals during 2014-15.

He also appreciated the Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal for his hard efforts to introduce reforms

in the health sector.

The minister also took notice of closure of hospitals and now they would be revived, he added.

Minister for National Health Services and Regulations Mustafa Kamal, in his remarks, said that contrary to earlier long periods of registration process, they had squeezed the registration time through online digitization system spanning over 20 days.

He said the system would be free from any human contact as the certificates would be available online without visiting DRAP.

Afghanistan govt agrees to relocate, disarm TTP



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A significant development has been made in the recent talks between Pakistan and the Afghan government after the authorities in Kabul decided to take action against the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

According to sources, an understanding to this effect was reached during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Afghan counterpart Sirajuddin Haqqani in Kabul, where both sides discussed a wide range of issues.

The talks, which lasted well over two hours, discussed in detail the threats posed by the TTP to Pakistan.

According to the sources, the Afghan government has decided to disarm the TTP and relocate them away from the Pakistani border.

The sources said that the Afghan government will relocate TTP members

to Ghazni and other remote areas, and in the meantime, they are also being disarmed.

The Afghan side said that a process to disarm the TTP members has been initiated and is progressing in a phased manner.

The Pakistani delegation complained during the talks that 'we are tired of carrying funerals'. They convinced the Afghan side that 'the issue of TTP attacks from Afghan soil should be taken seriously.'

"Do not please your and our enemies," the Pakistani delegation maintained during the talks.

In response, Afghan Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani and his delegation assured that "we are ready to work with you, but this process will take time."

The Afghan delegation also revealed that they have arrested Afghans affiliated with the TTP involved in attacks inside Pakistan and that a large number of arrests have been made in this regard.

Ishaq Dar urges urgent global financial reforms to save SDGs at UN Forum



Spokesman Report

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar delivered a strong call for sweeping global financial reforms during his address at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) debate, warning that the world is far off track in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He stated that with only five years left until 2030, just 35 percent of the SDGs are currently on course. The Deputy Prime Minister blamed the reversal in development progress on the compounded impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, global food, fuel, and financial crises, and the growing intensity of climate change—all of which have undermined hard-won gains and

worsened inequality worldwide.

Despite these global setbacks, Dar emphasised that Pakistan remains fully committed to the 2030 Agenda. He highlighted that the country's national development strategies, including its "Udan Pakistan" framework, are closely aligned with the SDGs. Dar said Pakistan's social protection initiatives, such as the Benazir Income Support Programme and the Benazir Nashonuma child development scheme, are aimed at ensuring inclusivity and preventing marginalisation. To empower the youth, Pakistan has launched the Digital Youth Hub, while efforts are underway to expand access to quality education through smart schools and new university campuses.

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Zardari confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz to Saudi naval chief

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a prestigious ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military)—Pakistan's highest military award—upon Vice Admiral (Staff) Muhammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Ghuraibi, Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, on Monday.

According to details the solemn event was attended by the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, senior military officials, and dignitaries, reflecting the deepening defence ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military), awarded only to individuals with exceptional service and distinguished military achievements, recognises Vice Admiral Al-Ghuraibi's outstanding contributions to strengthening defence cooperation between the two nations.

The decoration is Pakistan's top military honour and is comparable to the Presidential Medal of Freedom (USA) or the Order of the British Empire (UK).

This elite honour is traditionally reserved for top-ranking military personnel such as generals, air chief marshals, and admirals and



signifies exceptional dedication to national and regional security.

While it is primarily a military award, it can also be presented to civilians for bringing international recognition to Pakistan. It is one of the few Pakistani awards conferred upon foreign military officials in recognition of bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership.

The badge, a gold star with white enamel and green emerald borders, was formally presented to the Saudi naval chief in front of national media and a ceremonial military presence. The award's ribbon and medal insignia reflect both honour and the prestigious nature of the decoration.

PM Shehbaz 'saddened' on passing of Saudi Prince Al Waleed bin Khaled

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his deep grief over the death of Saudi Prince Al Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal, who died after spending more than two decades in a coma following a car accident.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Prince Al Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal. His long and courageous struggle drew admiration and prayers from many across the world," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Royal Family, and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of the ranks of deceased prince in paradise.

Prince Al Waleed was the eldest son of Prince Khaled bin Talal Al Saud. At the age of 15, he suffered a devastating road accident in 2005 that caused severe brain injuries and internal bleeding.

Tarar terms officers of Information Ministry as first defenders of ideological frontiers of Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallaullah Tarar said on Monday that it was the job of the Information Ministry to promote and project a positive perception of the country.

Speaking as the chief guest at the passing out ceremony of the 41st Specialized Training Programme (STP) of the Information Group, he congratulated all the officers who have successfully completed this rigorous and highly important training.

He said he was not only

delighted but highly encouraged, and he has a great sense of hope after meeting the young probationers here today. The minister said that the future of this country and the Information Service was very bright. He said the Information group played a vital role not only in the functioning of the government but also in highlighting its policies and projecting its narrative, improving the country's image abroad, and building a narrative in regard to the country's progress, prosperity, development, and who we are as people.

The job of the officers of the Information Service was not only to defend the ideology of the country but the basis of the creation of Pakistan, but also to promote a soft image of the country.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Meets Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer

 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer in which matters pertaining to the overall political situation, ongoing development projects in South Punjab were discussed in detail. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer paid tribute to the Chief Minister for ensuring construction and rehabilitation of roads in the province. Deputy Speaker Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for establishing a Burn Center in Bahawalpur.

Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer appreciated the establishment of field hospitals, clinics on wheels, Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic project across Punjab and



termed the vision of equal development of every city under the Punjab Development Program as a game changer. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly also paid tribute to the Chief Minister

for launching air ambulance service, establishing field hospitals and steps being taken to eliminate encroachments across Punjab. On this occasion, in-principle approval was given

to establish a children's hospital in Bahawalpur in view of dire needs of the people. It was agreed to construct a children's hospital near the Civil Hospital Bahawalpur. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a plan of launching Bahawalpur Children's Hospital project.

The Chief Minister while talking on the occasion, said, "Development projects of Punjab are our foremost priority. The Punjab government is providing basic facilities to the people of South Punjab at their doorstep. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly acknowledged that under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab is set on the path of real development. He appreciated that people-friendly decisions are the hallmark of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's government."

Heavy rain

ISLAMABAD: A man holds an umbrella on his way at Jinnah Avenue during heavy rain, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Serious allegations against HESCO Administration

 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) is once again under intense public scrutiny, facing serious allegations regarding its performance, transparency, and discriminatory treatment of consumers. Citizens and electricity users have raised pressing questions against HESCO's administration.

There is a widespread public perception that several influential government departments in the HESCO region are involved in electricity theft worth millions of rupees. However, no action is taken against them. In contrast, ordinary and poor consumers are subjected to harsh measures such



as immediate fines and disconnection of electricity without prior notice. This double standard has triggered intense public outrage.

According to sources, complaints have been received from several areas alleging that some influential private individuals, allegedly backed by

HESCO staff, forcibly impose illegal fines on consumers and compel them to use the illegal "kunda" (hook) system. Citizens are demanding immediate and strict action against these mafias.

In this regard, Daily Spokesman sent a questionnaire to HESCO Chief Faizullah Dahri seeking answers. In response, HESCO spokesperson Sadique Kubar defended the allegations. On the question of why ordinary consumers are harassed instead of taking action against government departments involved in electricity theft, the HESCO spokesperson said that under the directives of the CEO HESCO, three teams inspect all types of connections — residential, indus-

trial, and commercial — on a daily basis, and action is also taken against government departments. Recently, illegal government connections at Shehbaz Building were disconnected.

According to the spokesperson, the only difference is that government departments manage to escape consequences by making payments. Regarding the question of consumers being forced to use illegal "Kunda" connections, the spokesperson admitted that complaints have been received about private staff. However, no private worker is authorized to disconnect connections or impose deductions. If evidence is found, strict action will be taken.

Kashmir University Scholar maps debris flow susceptibility along Chilas-Skardu Road

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Muhammad Saif-ur-Rehman Jaral, MS scholar of the Department of Land Sciences, University of Kashmir, successfully defended his research paper on the Chilas-Skardu Road affected by natural disasters triggered by climate change. On this occasion, Director Finance and Planning, University of Kashmir, Professor Dr. Muhammad Basharat, Dr. Aamir Ali, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences,

Quaid-e-Azam University, Coordinator of the institution Miss Shazia Qamar, Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Riaz, and other faculty members and students were present. The title of Muhammad Saif-ur-Rehman Jaral's research paper is: "Debris Flow Susceptibility Mapping Using Advanced Geospatial Techniques along Chilas to Skardu Road, Northern Pakistan." Which was supervised by Professor Dr. Basharat and analyzed by Professor Dr. Aamir Ali as an external examiner. Muhammad



Saif-ur-Rehman belongs to Kot Jemal area of Bhimber district and is the son of Director Information Muham-

mad Bashir Mirza. Congratulations to Muhammad Saif-ur-Rehman are ongoing on social media.

Kashmir Police employees stage historic protest demanding equal benefits

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALAKOT/ MIRPUR: For the first time in the history of Azad Kashmir, police employees on protest, demand equal benefits

Simultaneous demonstrations in Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Kotli, demand increase in allowances

For the first time in the history of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, police employees protested to address their long-standing issues and achieve equal benefits. Police personnel from the Poonch division gathered at the district complex in Rawalakot and demonstrated, while similar protests were also seen in Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Kotli.

The protesters were holding banners and placards in their hands, on which were written demands for equal benefits and increase in allowances. The protesters said that the police department has been suffering from the worst financial exploitation compared to other government institutions for decades.

According to the police officials, their current allowances are very meager and unrealistic. Among them:

- Ration allowance: only Rs 2000
- House rent: Rs 2579
- Medical allowance: Rs 1500
- Washing allowance: Rs 150
- Fixed TA/DA: Rs 8800
- Risk allowance: Rs 3830

The protesters said that they perform their duties of protecting the public by risking their lives day and night, but their sacrifices are not acknowledged in the form of benefits.

They demanded that they should also be provided with facilities equal to those of employees of other departments, that the risk allowance be increased significantly and that immediate policy measures be taken to resolve their problems.

The police employees warned that if their demands are not accepted, the scope of the protest will be further expanded.

Muslim Conference supports Azad Kashmir Police demands

 Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: The Muslim Conference has expressed concern over the strike and protest by the Azad Kashmir Police in support of their legitimate demands and announced its full support to the police employees. Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan has said that the government should have resolved their problems through serious negotiations with the police before the strike. He said that the Bawardi Force going on strike is a matter of great concern for the state structure and it can badly affect the system of governance and the law and order situation. The Muslim Conference fully supports all the legitimate demands of the police and demands the government to take serious steps to resolve the issues before the strike becomes prolonged. It is regrettable that a sensitive institution like the police is forced to protest, and this is a clear proof of the government's administrative failure.

DG Health visit to Dhirkot THQ and General Hospital Hill

 Bureau Report

DHIRKOT: On the notice of former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir and Quaid Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, Director General Health Dr. Farooq Noor made an unexpected visit to Dhirkot THQ and General Hospital Hill Chamankot. During the visit, he reviewed the shortage of doctors and staff in the hospital, including other administrative and medical matters. DG Health Dr. Farooq Noor assured on this occasion that the shortage of doctors and staff in Dhirkot Hospital would be met as soon as possible. A new ambulance is being provided to the hospital soon, while medicines worth Rs. 5 million are being provided for emergency patients so that patients can get timely treatment in emergency situations. He further said that an indoor facility will also be provided in the hospital soon so that patients can get better and comprehensive medical services. Currently, seven doctors are serving in different departments in the hospital, however, the two vacant posts of anesthesia, surgical specialist, medical specialist and CMOs will be filled very soon.

During the visit, President Muslim Conference Dhirkot Sardar Irfan Khan, General Secretary Raja Munir Ahmed Khan, Member District Council Malik Muhammad Aman, Sajjad Hanif and other leaders were present at the hospital and discussed in detail with the DG Health about the problems, shortage of staff, unavailability of facilities and difficulties faced by the patients. Director General Health Dr. Farooq Noor, after listening to all the problems seriously, assured immediate implementation and said that providing better medical facilities to the people is the top priority of the health department.

Saeed Ghani directs to complete re-survey of dangerous buildings at the earliest

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani, Monday instructed to complete the re-survey of 740 dilapidated and dangerous buildings across the province at the earliest and the report in this regard be submitted in the next week.

The provincial minister, who heads the committee formed to investigate dilapidated and dangerous buildings and illegal constructions across the province, was chairing the second meeting of the committee, said a statement issued here.

The rent for the first 3 months of the residents of the buildings being vacated or demolished, was earlier fixed at Rs 20,000 and now been increased to Rs 30,000 per month, he said and instructed for immediate payment of the rent amount to affected families.

Saeed Ghani directed that the survey should be conducted in a transparent manner and the concerns of the residents should be addressed. He added that the buildings that are habitable or could be made habitable with some repair works should not be included in the list of damaged or dangerous buildings.

The committee carrying out the survey included Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) officers, Deputy Commissioner concerned, and representatives of Pakistan Engineering Council, Pakistan Council for Architects and Town Planners and members of Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD).

For the long-term rehabilitation of the victims of collapsed, dilapidated and dangerous buildings, Saeed Ghani informed that ABAD and other relevant institutions were directed to survey the said plots and places and submit feasible proposals to ensure permanent rehabilitation of the victims.

Saeed Ghani said that a campaign is being launched on electronic, print and social media to raise awareness about dangerous buildings and a portal will be created for identification of such buildings by the public.

Deputy Commissioner Karachi South Javed Latif Khoso, presenting the report in the meeting, informed that 61 severely dangerous buildings have been re-surveyed and 56 of them have been vacated. More than 300 families have been evacuated from those buildings, of which 25 percent were tenants, 170 to 180 were living on 'Pagri system, while the rest possessed ownership deeds.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:33 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:17 pm
Isha 8:54 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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Rehan Naseem Bharara while inaugurated the exhibition

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: There is a need to highlight the creative abilities of students so that they can effectively overcome the challenges of practical life with new innovations.

This was said by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Bharara while inaugurating the exhibition of theses of students of the Department of Art and Design of National Textile University.

He said that NTU has played a key role in the textile sector and it is a matter of satisfaction that full attention is being paid to improving the creative activities of students along with their curricular activities.

Which will undoubtedly benefit the textile sector and as a result, our exports will also increase. He praised the quality of the theses presented for the exhibition and also appreciated the services of Faculty Incharge Dr. Zafar in this regard.

Our mission is to provide education and free medicines to poor children: Mrs Jinna Ijaz

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Mrs. Jinna Ijaz, Chairman of Inner Wheel District 343, has said that the female officers of all my clubs are fortunate to be chosen by Allah Almighty to serve the suffering humanity, in this lies our success in this world and the hereafter. She was addressing the installation ceremony of Inner Wheel District 343.

She said that in today's difficult economic conditions, providing medicines to deserving patients and education expenses to poor children is our top priority. Our aim is that no child should be deprived of education due to financial constraints.

She further said that the women members of the club are not only full of the spirit of service but are practically fulfilling their responsibilities in a very good manner.

She expressed her resolve that the members of the club will continue to serve humanity with the same enthusiasm in the future as well.

Mrs. Jinna Ijaz said that service is our mission and every member is performing their duties with full honesty, sincerity and sense of respon-

sibility. All our projects are running successfully on the basis of mutual cooperation, self-confidence and the spirit of service. He said that the Enrival Club is not only working on welfare projects but is also actively working for public awareness, environmental protection and women's rights.

The ceremony was attended by District Vice Chairman Shahida Rehman, District Secretary Sadia Kirmani, District Kharanchi Farah Lodhi, District Bulletin Editor Riffat Shahid, ESO Riffat Mudassar, ISO Iram Iqbal, Communication Chairman Uzma Bashir, Conference Chairman Rukhsana Naem, Media Coordinator Tahira Najam and former chairmen Mrs. Shaheen Moazzam Khakwani, Mrs. Ayesha Mazhar, Mrs. Shahida Naseem and International Enrival Board of Directors Mrs. Shad Masood, Chairman District 334 Mrs. Rizwana Khan, PNR Mrs. Saadat Munir, in addition to the presidents of all the clubs in the district Fawzia Ayub, Rukhsana Rauf, Shafaq Salman, Sahra Naqvi, Hina Chakhtai, Farnaz Sadaf, Noreen Nishat, Rashida Tahir, Lubna, Rifat Ara and other officials participated and promised to continue serving the



suffering humanity under the leadership of District Chairman Mrs. Jinna

Ijaz. District Secretary Sadia Kirmani

Finally, the chairman put on the collars to the new officials.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, held a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins on Monday.



Photo: PID

Plant trees to combat climate change, water scarcity and heat stress. AC City Ms. Iman Zafar

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association organized a tree plantation campaign for the beautification and environmental improvement of the city, in which Assistant Commissioner City Ms. Emaan Zafar, Patron-in-Chief of Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem and President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry specially participated. This campaign was organized in collaboration with All-Namat Welfare Foundation at Comprehensive Model School, where the participants formally started the campaign by planting trees. On this occasion, AC City Ms. Emaan Zafar appealed to the citizens to take full part in this nation-



al duty and combat climate change, water scarcity and heat stress by planting more and more trees. Patron-in-Chief Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem, while announcing full cooperation with the administration in the campaign, said that in Rawalpindi

A record number of saplings will be planted. He said, "Wherever plants are needed, contact us, we will provide them." The association's leadership reiterated its commitment to continue this campaign for environmental protection.

Ghulam Bilal Javid Welcomes Mirza Afridi's Senate Comeback as a Positive Step

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Ghulam Bilal Javid, senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), President of Peshawar Traders Chamber, and Chairman of the All Pakistan Car Dealers & Importers Association (ABDIA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mirza Muhammad Afridi, former Deputy Chairman of the Senate, on his election as a member of the Senate.

On this occasion, Ghulam Bilal Javid presented him with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and termed his success as a positive step for democracy, parliamentary stability, and the



people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Ghulam Bilal Javid stated that

Mirza Muhammad Afridi is among the closest companions of Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Chairman Imran Khan, who has always rendered tremendous sacrifices for the party. He stood firm during difficult times and upheld the party's flag with unwavering loyalty and dedication. His steadfastness and sacrifices are worthy of great appreciation.

He further expressed hope that Mirza Afridi's return to the Senate will prove to be a source of pride for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the business community, and especially the workers of PTI. With his experience and vision, he is expected to continue playing an effective and positive role in the upper house of Parliament.

SDPI, Pathfinder Int'l sign MoU to collaborate on health, climate & gender issues

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pathfinder International have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration in areas of mutual interest including public health, climate resilience, gender equity, social protection, and urban resilience.

The MoU sets out a framework for future cooperation between the two organizations, recognizing the synergies in their missions to support inclusive and sustainable development, especially among marginalized and vulnerable communities.

SDPI, an Islamabad-based policy research think tank, and Pathfinder International, a global non-governmental organization with over six decades of experience in health systems strengthening and women's empowerment, expressed the intentions to work jointly on evidence-based policy innovation and community-driven initiatives.

The two sides will collaborate on thematic areas such as reproductive health, resilience to climate-induced challenges, urban policy reform, and social equity.

"This partnership reflects SDPI's commitment to advancing cross-sectoral collaboration to promote inclusive development solutions in Pakistan," said Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI. "Together with Pathfinder, we hope to deepen the policy conversation around health, gender, and climate resilience through research and action," he added.

CBP Organizes Free Medical Camp at Jinnah Park, Peshawar Cantt

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The Cantonment Board Peshawar (CBP), in collaboration with Cantt General Hospital, organized a free medical camp at Jinnah Park, Peshawar Cantt, on Monday. The initiative was undertaken under the special directives of the Director General Military Lands & Cantonments Department, with the aim of providing free healthcare services to Cantt residents.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from Libra Pharmaceutical and R Sheen said "We are satisfied that our sponsorship has been effectively utilized through Cantonment Board Peshawar and Cantt General Hospital. Their commitment to public welfare and transparent management of healthcare initiatives is commendable."

Meanwhile, the Cantonment Executive Officer CBP Ch Baber Hussain stated that the board is committed to continuing these health initiatives on a regular basis.

"On the directions of DG Military Lands & Cantonments, we aim to promote accessible and free healthcare facilities for Cantt residents. This effort will continue to ensure better healthcare access for all segments of society," the CEO said.

The general public appreciated the initiative and urged that such camps be organized regularly to address the healthcare needs of the local community.

KP CM puts administration on alert during monsoon

PESHAWAR: In wake of the forecast of monsoon rains, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur directed the district administrations, particularly in the tourists' attractive districts on Monday to remain on high alert.

The Chief Minister instructed all relevant departments to take all necessary precautionary measures to deal with potential risks such as floods and landslides. He emphasized that minimizing loss of life and property must remain a top priority during this monsoon season.

He ordered the continuous presence of police personnel and officials of the local government, irrigation, rescue services, and district administrations in the field to respond swiftly to any emergency. Special attention was directed toward tourist areas, with instructions to provide timely weather-related risk alerts and safety guidance to tourists currently present in those regions.

The Chief Minister further directed that the availability of machinery and equipment be ensured to immediately clear roads that may be blocked due to landslides.

At the district level, he stressed the need for fully functional healthcare centers with essential staff and medicine available round the clock. He also ordered all emergency control rooms across the province to remain operational 24/7.

In case of any untoward incident, Chief Minister emphasized that district administration officials must personally supervise rescue and relief operations.

He also called for the establishment of a robust coordination mechanism among all relevant departments at the district level to effectively manage any emergency situation. The Chief Minister directed that all district administrations strictly implement the precautionary measures and advisories issued by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in light of the monsoon forecast.

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Dubai Health Authority welcomes 20 global health leaders

The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) has welcomed a delegation of 20 senior healthcare leaders from various countries around the world, as part of its participation in the International Programme for Health Leadership.

The programme is organised by the Government Experience Exchange Office (GEEEO), under the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, to exchange global best practices in healthcare and strengthen institutional knowledge partnerships.

The delegation was introduced to Dubai’s pioneering experience in advancing the healthcare sector and the significant achievements made in sustainability and the quality of care, reflecting the emirate’s elevated global standing in public health and quality of life indices.

During the meeting, DHA teams presented key aspects of the institutional transformation currently underway within Dubai’s healthcare system, along with the emirate’s health sector strategy. The session also covered the public health protection framework and the mechanisms for prevention and epidemic response.

A detailed presentation was delivered outlining the authority’s efforts to promote community health, strengthen preventive readiness, and ensure the integration of legislative and regulatory infrastructure in this domain.

The teams also showcased the healthcare regulatory frameworks adopted in Dubai, along with the advanced standards and policies that reflect the authority’s strategic approach and future vision for regulating healthcare professions and facilities across the emirate. The presentation further highlighted the integrated health insurance system and the sustainable financing mechanisms that contribute to the continuity and financial efficiency of healthcare services.

The meeting also featured a specialised presentation on the findings of Dubai’s Household Health Survey, emphasising the critical role of accurate data in supporting decision-making and enhancing planning based on scientific research and analytical insights.

The delegation also undertook a field visit to the Dubai Health Authority’s Crisis and Disaster Management Centre, where they received a detailed briefing on the emirate’s emergency health management system. The session highlighted DHA’s efforts to ensure maximum responsiveness during crises and disasters, as well as the centre’s advanced capabilities.

Dr. Alawi AlSheikh-Ali, Director-General of DHA, affirmed that the rapid progress in Dubai’s healthcare sector has played a key role in reinforcing the emirate’s position as a global leader in quality of life and healthcare.

Failed DC, Ashamed Multan: When “Last Place” Becomes a Stain on a City’s Honor! - II

Through this column, I appeal to the Chief Minister of Punjab: despite repeated written instructions from the Press Registrar of Islamabad and the Punjab Chief Secretary to take action against these fake newspapers, the DC’s office has thrown those orders into the trash. Why? This is not just negligence—it is a serious crime. Dozens of such newspapers are still operating without any NOC or legal declaration. Complaints exist against them, yet the DC has neither filed cases nor taken action—thus committing an offense under Section 202 of the Pakistan Penal Code. Newspapers whose declarations have been canceled are still being published. Why? Because ignoring a crime despite knowing about it is itself a punishable act.

Similarly, in the field of sanitation, gross negligence continues. Citizens who register complaints with the Solid Waste Management helpline are given a false promise of resolution within 48 hours—but nothing happens. Such behavior causes the public to lose faith in government institutions. A citizen’s right to meet the DC is now subject to approval from an “elite class.” Four or five policemen stationed at the DC’s office gate prevent ordinary citizens from entering. Even worse, if a complainant returns a second or third time, they are mocked as a “habitual complainer.”

At the DC office gate and district courts, groups of beggars roam freely. They are not only a public nuisance but a growing security risk. The lawyers’ community has

raised this issue repeatedly in the media, yet the DC seems completely unaware of the danger.

One must ask: has the DC ever asked his staff how many complaints were received and resolved in the past week? Has he ever stepped into the field himself to observe the people’s problems?

The answer, sadly, is a disheartening “no.” Multan’s citizens are not just suffering—they feel utterly helpless. When people lose faith in their institutions, it’s not just a matter of low rankings—it’s a serious question on the state’s credibility.

The Citizen Portal—an effective platform introduced by the Government of Pakistan—was meant to allow direct access for citizens to high-level officials. But in the DC Office Multan, this system is being desecrated. Complaints lie buried for months, and when replies are issued, they’re often based on lies and misrepresentation.

This undermines public trust and raises serious concerns about transparency.

A recent example is complaint number PU250625-91983446 regarding encroachments. Rather than forwarding it to the concerned department, the DC office sent it to an irrelevant one. That department, without any action, falsely claimed “issue resolved,” and the complaint was closed. This isn’t just mismanagement—it’s an insult to the people, as if they are ignorant and uneducated. But today’s citizens are informed, aware, and fully conscious of their rights and the law.

If the Deputy Commissioner truly

wants to improve his office’s performance, he should take this complaint as a test case to investigate how his subordinates are misleading the public.

It’s also important to note that the government does not evaluate a district’s ranking based solely on statistics—but also on media reports, social media trends, and citizen feedback. He truly wants reform, he must take the following immediate actions:

1. Immediately replace the current PRO, who is hiding ground realities and giving a distorted picture to the DC.
2. Appoint an educated, honest, and capable officer to manage the Citizen Portal, someone who understands complaints and resolves them promptly and fairly.

3. Make access to the DC easier so ordinary citizens can voice their concerns without obstruction.
4. Conduct an audit—either personally or through the Commissioner’s office—of all complaints received in June and July, to find out how many were falsely reported as resolved and how many genuinely were.

This is not just a failure of one office—it is a reflection of the collapse of an entire district system. Last month and again this month, the Commissioner of Multan directed a crackdown on illegal petrol sales and unauthorized mini petrol pumps in the city. However, the Deputy Commissioner of Multan failed to take any action in response. Now is the time for the Deputy Commissioner to stop being a silent observer and rebuild the institution with the true spirit of accountability, transparency, and public service—otherwise, the public court has already given its verdict: You’re at the bottom. You cannot fall any lower.

Silenced by Tradition: The Scourge of Honor Killings in Pakistan

Honor killing is a brutal and deeply rooted practice in Pakistan, where individuals, mostly women, are murdered by their own family members for allegedly bringing shame to the family. These killings are often justified under the guise of protecting family honor, but in reality, they are acts of extreme violence and oppression. Despite legal reforms and growing awareness, honor killings continue to claim countless lives each year, reflecting the persistent challenges posed by patriarchal norms and weak law enforcement.

The concept of honor in Pakistani society is closely tied to women’s behavior, choices, and autonomy. Any act perceived as violating social or cultural expectations.

Such as; marrying without family consent, seeking divorce, or even being a victim of rape can trigger accusations of dishonor.

In many cases, male family members take it upon themselves to “restore” the family’s honor by killing the accused woman or girl. Shockingly, these murders are often premeditated and carried out with chilling brutality,

including shootings, stabbings, or even burning victims alive.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, over 470 cases of honour killings were reported in Pakistan in 2021. But human rights defenders estimate that around 1,000 women are murdered in the name of honour every year.

A tragic incident occurred in Balochistan where a young couple was brutally killed by the woman’s family members for marrying against their wishes. The couple, who haven’t been formally identified, were allegedly executed by more than 20 armed men in a remote mountainous area. A disturbing video of the incident shows the couple being shot dead, sparking widespread outrage and condemnation.

The incident is believed to be an honor killing, with the woman’s family considering the marriage a betrayal of traditional customs. The couple’s decision to marry by choice was deemed an insult, and a tribal jirga reportedly ordered their execution.

One of the most alarming aspects of honor killings is the societal acceptance and legal loopholes that often protect the perpetrators. Many communities view such acts as justified, and local leaders or jirgas (tribal councils) may even endorse them. Additionally, Pakistan’s legal system has historically allowed killers to escape punishment by granting forgiveness through the victim’s family ironically, often the same people who committed the crime. Although the government passed the Anti-Honor Killing Laws in 2016, mandating life imprisonment for offenders and closing the forgiveness loophole in murder cases, enforcement remains

weak. Many cases go unreported or are dismissed due to pressure from influential families or lack of evidence.

The victims of honor killings are not just women; men are also targeted, though less frequently, for reasons such as inter-caste relationships or defying family wishes. However, women bear the brunt of this violence, as their lives are tightly controlled by rigid gender

norms. Activists and human rights organizations have long campaigned against honor killings, advocating for stricter laws, better protection for victims, and societal change. Yet, progress is slow due to deep-seated cultural beliefs and resistance from conservative factions.

Media coverage and high-profile cases have brought international attention to the issue, but real change requires a multi-faceted approach. Education and awareness campaigns must challenge the toxic notions of honor that justify violence. Legal reforms must be strictly implemented, and law enforcement agencies must be trained to handle such cases sensitively. Most importantly, survivors and potential victims need safe spaces and support systems to escape threats.

Honor killing is not just a crime; it is a reflection of a society that values outdated traditions over human life. Until Pakistan addresses the root causes of this brutality, gender inequality, tribal mindsets, and weak justice systems innocent lives will continue to be lost in the name of honor. The fight against honor killings is a fight for justice, equality, and the basic right to live without fear.



Analysis

Tanzeela Jaffar

New Syria ...



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

“A Call to Stand with Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto!”

Abdul Wahab Munshi

He carries a distinct personality and a humble, almost ascetic temperament. I still struggle to understand why he has chosen to immerse himself in the treacherous swamp of politics. He is an educated, capable, and thoughtful young man. He is fully aware of the fate that awaits those who enter politics with a conscience in this country. Even then, how did he find the courage to step into this political arena? For me, this remains both a question and a mental dilemma.

The world knows that in this very country, his father — Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto — was martyred during the tenure of his own sister, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The state remained a silent spectator. To this day, no court or institution has been able to determine what his actual crime was. Before that, Junior Bhutto’s uncle — the handsome young Shahnawaz Bhutto — was poisoned in France. His death remains an international mystery, one that our state has never been able to unveil.

Likewise, his aunt — the brave and intelligent Benazir Bhutto — was openly martyred in the streets of Rawalpindi in broad daylight. The truth behind her murder has never been revealed — who benefited the most from her death? You understand the whole picture well.

The path he has chosen is no ordinary one — it is lined with thorns, and he knows this. Still, he continues forward, without fear or hesitation.

Recently, we witnessed his tour of Punjab, including Lahore, where loyal workers of his grandfather’s party welcomed him at every step. He also came to Hyderabad a few days ago, though for some reason we couldn’t meet. I watched his entire visit through the media. Meeting his father’s old friends, he was heard repeatedly saying:

“My political mentor is my sister Fatima Bhutto. I will not take a single step in politics without her guidance.”

To me, these words are not ordinary — they carry a profound message.

I consider Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the guardian of the river, the protector of the dolphin, and the watchman of the land. The way he raised his voice on a global level against the construction of six canals threatening the Indus River will be remembered as a golden chapter in history.

His entry into national politics and his simple demeanor have disturbed many political forces. Even I find it hard to understand on whose signal Reham Khan recently formed her political party, and on whose direction she questioned, “Who is Junior Bhutto? How is he entering politics?”

Junior Bhutto gave her a dignified and powerful response through the media, saying:

“I am the son of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto, the nephew of Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, the nephew of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, and the grandson of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — names known and respected around the world.”

If only we could truly understand this continuity — why Junior Bhutto has come into politics. When a family has suffered such a burden of innocent corpses, the decision of a young member to enter politics is no ordinary act.

People are admirers of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, they love him deeply — undoubtedly. But now that this young man has decided to engage in people-centric politics, we must genuinely support Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, strengthen his hands, and play our national role in saving the federation.

Because I see a special spark in his eyes. With the eye of imagination, one can already see the day when he and Fatima Bhutto ride across the country on a truck — that moment will mark the beginning of a new era in this nation’s political history.

When a brother and sister from such a credible political family, carrying dreams of hope in their eyes, dare to walk into danger — then we, too, must abandon hypocrisy, falsehood, and opportunism, and offer our sincere support to Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

(The author is a senior analyst and Advocate of the High Court.)

Master Ceremony

Hashoo Group and Global Business Bridge Sign Master Franchise Agreement

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PC Hospitality, the hospitality division of Hashoo Group and one of Asia's leading hospitality conglomerates, has signed a Master Franchise Agreement with Global Business Bridge (Private) Limited to open and operate Bukhara and Dumpukht Restaurants in Punjab, Islamabad, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The agreement was formalized at a signing ceremony held on July 19, 2025, at Pearl-Continental Hotel Lahore, and was attended by senior executives from Hashoo Group, PC Hospitality, and Global Business Bridge.

Bukhara; Authentic Pakistan restaurant which recreates the charm of the traditional clay oven or tandoor with its delectable menu of succulent tandoor-cooked kebabs, vegetables and breads coupled with aromatic live B-B-Q, local homemade spices reflecting rich flavours. It offers an exquisite culinary experience by capturing the true essence of Pakistani cuisine.

Dumpukht literally means "to breathe" and "to cook". It owes its



superiority to the preparation. The food is cooked in its own juices and retains its natural scent and flavor. Dumpukht cooking originated from the Nawabs of the northern provinces of India in the eighteenth century. "Dum" means to "breathe in" and "Pukht" to "cook". In old times, by order of the Royals, the "dummed" cuisine was perfected for the royal table. Exotic dishes evolved, in which flavors and fragrances intermin-

gled with exquisite results.

As part of PC Hospitality's ongoing commitment to culinary excellence, Bukhara and Dumpukht will continue to exemplify the highest standards and premium service that define the Pearl-Continental brand. The restaurants will continue to be a preferred destination for discerning guests seeking refined, authentic flavours in a sophisticated setting.

Mr. Shahid Riaz Gondal, Chief Executive Officer of Global Business Bridge, commented: "We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with PC Hospitality and take our collaboration to the next level with the expansion of both Bukhara and Dumpukht. Following our successful launch of Dumpukht at Defence Raya, DHA Lahore, this new agreement reflects our shared vision of delivering authentic, world-class



dining experiences. Together, we aim to set new benchmarks of excellence and bring the rich culinary heritage of Pakistan to a wider audience, both locally and internationally."

Mr. Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer - Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group, added: "This agreement represents a major milestone in our growth journey for the restaurant division "Connoisseur Collection".

A landmark moment for

Hashoo Group. Our partnership with Global Business Bridge will allow us to bring this iconic dining experience to new audiences across Punjab, Islamabad, and most notably, to the dynamic and rapidly growing hospitality landscape of KSA. We will continue to strive for providing the best of hospitality across the country and to ensure that we bring the most loved cuisines to the High Streets where guests can enjoy and savor the authentic flavours.

The upcoming Bukhara and Dumpukht restaurants will blend traditional recipes with modern hospitality standards, aiming to become premier destinations for both local residents and international visitors.

This strategic partnership further strengthens PC Hospitality's presence in the evolving culinary landscape, bringing the famed & celebrated Bukhara and Dumpukht experience to more communities across the country.

InfraZamin Pakistan, Sunridge Foods, and BankIslami Launch Pakistan's First Agri-Infrastructure Sukuk

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: InfraZamin Pakistan, Sunridge Foods (Pvt.) Limited, and BankIslami marked a landmark moment at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) with a ceremonial gong strike to launch Pakistan's first fully subscribed PKR 2 billion Agri-Infrastructure Sukuk.

This Shariah-compliant Sukuk, is backed by a 100% principal credit guarantee from InfraZamin Pakistan and carries a long-term AAA rating, and fully subscribed by institutional investors. This represents a pioneering step towards sustainable financing via capital markets in the country's agricultural sector.

The Sukuk issuance, led by BankIslami Pakistan Limited as the Mandated Lead Arranger and credit-enhanced by InfraZamin, has been assigned a AAA rating by VIS Credit Rating Company. The involvement of AKD Securities as Financial Advisor, Al-Hilal Shariah

Advisors as Shariah Compliance Experts, and Pak Brunei Investment Company Limited as Investment Agent and Trustee ensures robust governance and protection of the interests of Sukuk holders under a Shariah-compliant framework.

The funds raised through the Sukuk will be utilized to advance Sunridge Foods' Balancing, Modernization, and Replacement (BMR) projects, focused on upgrading production facilities with sustainable and energy-efficient technologies. Key components of the BMR include the installation of 1 MW wind turbines and a 0.5 MW solar power plant to bolster Sunridge's renewable energy efforts, alongside the construction of new silos and warehouses to substantially expand agricultural produce storage capacity. Additionally, the proceeds will provide working capital support for Sunridge's critical wheat and rice processing plants in Karachi and Lahore, facilitating increased production of essential staple food items.



Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Lance Domm, the Deputy British High Commissioner, lauded the initiative as a significant step towards climate-resilient and sustainable economic growth through capital market innovation. He stated "This Sukuk represents a significant step in expanding access to climate-friendly, Shariah-compliant finance in Pakistan's agri-infrastructure sector. It reflects growing confidence in the

country's capital markets and the role of partnerships in mobilising private investment for development. The UK, through its support to InfraZamin and other financial institutions, remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's financial ecosystem."

Maheen Rahman, CEO of InfraZamin Pakistan, highlighted the strategic importance of the transaction, saying, "This ceremony reflects our

commitment to facilitating sustainable financing solutions that empower Pakistan's agriculture sector. By providing a principal credit guarantee, InfraZamin strengthens investor confidence and unlocks capital market access."

Amir Shahzad, Chairman and Executive Director of Sunridge Foods, emphasized the operational and environmental benefits, stating, "At Sunridge Foods, we are proud to be part of this land-

mark issuance that channels Islamic finance towards strengthening Pakistan's agri-infrastructure. This Sukuk enables us to modernize our production capabilities, invest in renewable energy, and significantly expand our storage and processing capacity for essential food staples. It is a testament to how purpose-driven partnerships can unlock sustainable growth in critical sectors like food and agriculture."

Rizwan Ata, President & Chief Executive Officer of BankIslami, also commented, "We are pleased to play our role in the launch of Pakistan's first Agri-Infrastructure Sukuk, marking a significant step forward in sustainable financing for the country. This transaction highlights the growing recognition of Shariah-compliant finance as a core tool for driving economic growth while supporting sustainable development. BankIslami remains committed to providing innovative solutions that contribute to Pakistan's long-term prosperity."

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif alongwith Additional Secretary Defence, Rear Admiral Amir Mehmood in a group photo with Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdul Rahman Al Ghuraybi, Chief of the Naval Staff- Royal Saudi Naval Forces and KSA Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki on Monday.



Photo: PID

SJAS strongly condemns the murderous attack and robbery on Zahid Ghaffar

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The office bearers and all members of the Sports Journalists Association of Sindh (SJAS) have strongly condemned the murderous attack and robbery on Zahid Ghaffar, a senior sports journalist and member of SJAS and Karachi Press Club.

The threats to the lives of journalists have now increased in Karachi. When Suno News Channel reporter Zahid Ghaffar left his office for home, two armed suspects on a motorcycle chased him on the way and tried to stop him. When Zahid Ghaffar did not stop, they hit him with a bike and threatened to kill him with a pistol.

The incident took place on Saturday night at the Umer Sharif underpass on Shaheed-e-Millat Road. A report of



the incident was filed at the Firozabad Police Station.

The armed suspects kept threatening to kill senior journalist Zahid Ghaffar and deprived him of valuables. The incidents of targeting journalists in Karachi city are increasing.

The suspects have also seriously injured several journalists in such operations, some of whom have lost their lives.

This is the fourth consecutive incident with senior journalist Zahid Ghaffar.

Earlier in 2018, Zahid Ghaffar was threatened with death at gunpoint while he was returning home from the hospital with his wife.

In 2022 and 2024, the accused stole his bike from in front of his house. FIRs of all the incidents were registered in the relevant police stations, but the accused involved in the incident are still roaming SJAS has appealed to the authorities, especially the Home Minister and the IG Sindh, to take immediate action to protect Zahid Ghaffar's life and compensate him for his loss.

SPAR6C Pakistan Carbon Market Training Workshop held at Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: On July 17th, 2025, the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) program, in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and the Planning and Development Department (P&D Sindh), hosted the Carbon Market Training Workshop for Public and Private Sector Stakeholders in Karachi, Pakistan. The workshop brought together stakeholders from government, the private sector, financial institutions, and think tanks to delve into the role of carbon markets in driving climate finance and supporting Pakistan's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The workshop began with Mr. Zubair Ahmed Channa, Secretary of the Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development Department, delivering the welcome remarks. He emphasized the importance of carbon markets in achieving Pakistan's climate goals, stating, "Pakistan is at a critical juncture in its climate action journey, and carbon markets will play a pivotal role in achieving our net-zero ambitions. This workshop serves as an important step in fostering collaboration between public and private stakeholders to mobilize climate finance for sustainable development." Following his remarks, Ms. Nadia Rehman, Member (Climate Change) at the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (MoPDSI), also addressed the audience, providing further insights into the country's commitment to climate action.

The SPAR6C Carbon Market Training Workshop brought together international experts to discuss critical aspects of carbon markets and their role in Pakistan's climate action efforts. Denis Machnik, Senior Advisor on Carbon Markets at UNEP-CCC,

introduced the SPAR6C program and explained how Pakistan can leverage Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to meet its climate goals through carbon market mechanisms. Jonas Hagen, Principal Expert at GFA International, followed by providing an overview of the key sectors with carbon market opportunities, focusing on transport, cement, and waste management. Ahsan Kamran, Senior Carbon Markets Expert Consultant with SPAR6C, guided participants through the technicalities of the carbon market project lifecycle, focusing on baseline setting, validation,



issuance, and the transfer of ITMOs. Lastly, Urwah Khan, Advisor (Climate & Energy) at UNEP-CCC, presented Pakistan's readiness for project transactions, including investment opportunities and pathways for private sector engagement in carbon finance.

Additionally, Nadia Shafiq, Senior Chief of the Environment & Climate Change Sector at Planning & Development Punjab, and Mr. Babar Sahib Din, CEO of Lahore Waste Management Company, provided valuable insights into Punjab's green investment landscape. They discussed how Pakistan's waste management industry can leverage carbon finance to develop scalable and sustainable mitigation projects. Their presentations emphasized the role of the private sector and government partnerships in advancing these initiatives within the context of low-carbon transformation.

Following the expert presentations, the workshop hosted a panel discussion with representatives from leading investment banks and financial institutions. The discussion focused on financing strategies and the integration of carbon finance into investment structures. The session also explored the role of commercial banks, the State Bank of Pakistan, investment banking, and development finance institutions in mobilizing capital to support the nation's transition to a low-carbon economy.

Looking ahead, SPAR6C continues

to engage stakeholders across Pakistan to build technical capacity for navigating carbon markets and supporting the scaling of low-carbon infrastructure and nature-based solutions in the country.

The Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) program is a five-year initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The program is led globally by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), with implementation in Pakistan led by UNEP-CCC, and supported by GFA Consulting Group. SPAR6C aims to enhance the capacity of stakeholders in Colombia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Zambia to effectively engage in carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 138,217.58 | 138,597.36 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 139,201.15 | 138,149.56 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 15,083,119,932 | −379.78 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −0.27% | 21 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 9,012.99 | + 20.87 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.23% | 21 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT + 1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 44,587.97 | + 245.78 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.55% | 21 Jul, 1:14 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 39,819.11 | − 82.08 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −0.21% | 18 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 185.9 | 190.9 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 762.9 | 772.9 |
| Canadian Dollar | 210.40 | 215.40 |
| China Yuan | 39.18 | 39.58 |
| Danish Krone | 44.17 | 44.57 |
| Euro | 334.40 | 338.40 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.81 | 36.16 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.22 | 3.31 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.9150 | 2.0150 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 931.7 | 943.70 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 66.4 | 67 |
| NewZealand \$ | 167.36 | 169.36 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.53 | 27.83 |
| Omani Riyal | 747.70 | 757.70 |
| Qatari Riyal | 77.43 | 78.13 |
| Saudi Riyal | 76.75 | 77.4 |
| Singapore Dollar | 221.9 | 226.9 |
| Swedish Korona | 29 | 29.30 |
| Swiss Franc | 352.88 | 355.63 |
| Thai Bhat | 8.57 | 8.72 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 78.50 | 79.4 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 386.4 | 390.4 |
| US Dollar | 288.3 | 288.6 |

CCP Pushes
Forward with
Inclusive Advocacy
Across Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) continued its robust advocacy drive during FY 2024-2025, organizing a total of 37 awareness and training sessions to promote understanding and compliance with the Competition Act, 2010. These sessions targeted a wide spectrum of stakeholders including businesses, legal professionals, academia, government officials, and professional bodies.

The Commission's outreach focused on key sectors to address issues such as deceptive marketing, cartelization, abuse of dominance, and emerging challenges in retail and e-commerce. CCP collaborated with leading trade and business bodies including the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) to enhance awareness among businesses.

To engage the legal and corporate sectors, CCP partnered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), and bar associations like Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) and Punjab Bar Council (PBC). Through Directors' Training Programmes, corporate executives were educated on competition compliance and good governance, while lawyers received advanced training on legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.

In academia, the Commission delivered sessions at prominent institutions including GC University Lahore, Bahria University, University of Peshawar, The University of Faisalabad, and International Islamic University Islamabad, introducing students and faculty to core tenets of competition law through real-life case studies and interactive discussions.

A key capacity-building milestone was a lecture by Dr. Amber Darr on cartel screening and detection, which equipped CCP officers and other regulators with sophisticated tools to identify collusive behavior.

Lahore-Sialkot Motorway to get 6
lanes, connect Kharian to Islamabad

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan chaired a high-level meeting during his visit to the National Highway Authority (NHA) Punjab Region Office. Federal Minister directed senior officers to ensure not only timely completion of projects but also sustainable and high-quality construction work with a forward-looking approach for the next 30 years. He emphasized the prompt completion of pending stuff from Multan Road to Ring Road and reiterated that no compromise will be tolerated on construction standards. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan told that Lahore-Sialkot Motorway will be extended from 4 to 6 lanes and connected from Kharian to Islamabad. This new linkage is expected to ease traffic congestion on the existing Lahore-Islamabad Motorway M-2, reduce travel distance by 100 kilometers and shorten journey time by approximately one hour, he added. Highlighting the regional impact, Abdul Aleem Khan said that this Motorway will also connect Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kharian, Jhelum and Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kharian, Jhelum and Gujranwala



Districts, offering significant travel convenience for residents commuting between Lahore and Islamabad. During the high-level meeting, the Federal Minister sought progress reports on ongoing NHA projects and issued key directives regarding new interchanges and infrastructure initiatives in the Punjab Region. The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman of National Highway Authority and the CEO of RUDA who briefed the Federal Minister on their departmental matters.

Following the meeting, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan accompanied by senior officers inspected the ongoing expansion work on Multan Road, issuing on-site directives at various locations, as well. He also instructed officers to enhance development efforts and tasked them to beautify the stretch of Multan Road till Hadyara Drain and Ring Road. On this occasion, citizens warmly welcomed the Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan at various points along his visit and appreciated the developmental work being carried out on Multan Road for the convenience of traveler.

Cultivating the crop

LAHORE: Farmers are busy in cultivating the crop in the slum area of the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

ICCI, ICADRP Join Hands
to Promote Alternate Dispute
Resolution for Business Community

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward promoting a culture of mediation and arbitration in Pakistan's commercial sector, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the International Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution and Prevention (ICADRP) have announced a strategic collaboration to advance Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms for the business community.

A high-level delegation from ICADRP, led by CEO Dr. Nudrat E. Piracha, visited the ICCI and held a constructive meeting with its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi. The delegation included Managing Director Barrister Farrukh Karim Qureshi and Vice President Strategic Alliances Hamid Sharif. From ICCI, Executive Member Shumaila Siddiqui and Advisor to the ICCI President, Naem Siddiqui, were also present at the meeting.

In response, Dr. Nudrat Piracha,



Barrister Farrukh Qureshi, and Hamid Sharif commended ICCI for its proactive vision and shared ICADRP's ongoing efforts in institutionalizing ADR frameworks nationwide. They emphasized that persistent delays in the conventional legal system underscore the urgent need for efficient alternatives like mediation and arbitration, especially for businesses.

Advisor to the ICCI President, Naem Siddiqui, also shared his views, expressing confidence that the collaboration would lead to a more accessible, just, and commercially viable dispute resolution ecosystem.

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Sunflower Break through Promises Rs300 Billions
Annual Savings will boost to Agri Economy of Pakistan

Edible oil is a vital part of the human diet, providing more than twice the energy per gram than carbohydrates or proteins. Globally sourced from oilseed crops like sunflower, soybean, and rapeseed, edible oil plays a key role in addressing malnutrition particularly in developing and densely populated countries like Pakistan. Among these, sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) is the world's third most important oilseed crop and the second largest hybrid seed crop after corn. Once self sufficient, the country now ranks as the third largest importer of edible oil, after India and China. Pakistan remains heavily dependent on

imports, with its annual edible oil bill now crossing Rs1,070 billion, while domestic production covers less than 12% of demand.

A recent breakthrough by scientists at the Oilseed Research Institute (ORI), Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has the potential to reshape this landscape. Through this pioneering research work, the Scientists of Oil Seed Research Institute, Faisalabad have developed five short duration,

Climate Resilient and high yielding local hybrids which are better in oil quality.

ORISUN-516, ORISUN-648, ORISUN-675, ORISUN-701, and ORISUN-741 specifically adapted to Pakistan's diverse agro-climatic zones. These hybrids mature in just 95-110 days,

require less water compared to traditional crops, and contain up to 42% oil with high oleic acid content, making them both economical and heart-healthy. Their adaptability to saline, arid, and rain-fed areas makes

them particularly suitable for cultivation in southern Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan.

Economically, even a 20% shift in edible oil demand to locally produced sunflower oil could save Pakistan over Rs. 200 billion annually. This would also reduce dependency on palm oil which makes up more than 75% of domestic consumption—lessen the burden on foreign exchange reserves, and stimulate rural employment. The entire value chain, from oil extraction to transport and retail, stands to benefit through enhanced local supply, boosting agricultural GDP via import substitution and value-added processing.

Experts stress that this potential can only be realized with strong

national policy support. This includes incentives for hybrid seed production, input subsidies, minimum support prices, and robust farmer outreach programs. Public-private partnerships in seed distribution, processing, and marketing are also key to scaling up adoption. With the right measures, sunflower cultivation could transform Pakistan from a net importer to a self-reliant producer of edible oil, securing food systems, empowering farmers, and unlocking new avenues for rural and economic development. Writers: M. Hammad Tanveer, Senior Scientist and

Dr. Javaid Ahmad, Chief Scientist, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad

AI is reshaping the
work of accountants
as automation offers
greater opportunities
and responsibilities

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: AI will reshape the accountancy profession by changing how tasks are completed at all levels. Leading global accountancy body, ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) says that as AI becomes more commonplace, new responsibilities and tasks will emerge for finance teams as they focus on improving controls and specifying the desired information outcomes from machine use.

New roles are also expected to support activities ensuring AI systems remain accurate and compliant with professional standards and regulations.

ACCA's latest AI Monitor report explores how the gradual integration of AI over coming years is likely to change how accountants work and deliver value from

the automation of repetitive tasks to increased knowledge support for decision making. The report points out that while AI can help make processes more efficient, human intervention needs to be retained at critical junctures. Ultimately, the integration of AI needs to reflect the fact that trust remains a fundamentally social concept built on human interaction, transparency, and oversight. And the future of accounting will involve navigating tensions between efficiency and human judgement, automation and control.

Alistair Brisbane, Head of Technology Research, ACCA, said: 'Professionals who can embrace uncertainty, develop strong judgement skills, and continuously adapt their expertise will thrive even as specific tasks change or become automated.'

Gas supply to Mach
City suspended after
floodwaters sweep
away pipeline in Bolan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Torrential rains continue to lash Mach and Kolpur areas of Bolan district, causing flooding in the Mach Bolan River and triggering serious infrastructure damage.

According to Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) officials, the floodwaters have swept away a four-inch gas pipeline supplying gas to Mach city, forcing a complete suspension of gas supply to the area.

SSGC Manager Taha Baloch confirmed the

disruption and stated that repair work cannot begin until the floodwaters recede. "It is currently impossible to determine exactly how many feet of the pipeline have been damaged," he added, emphasizing the uncertainty of the situation.

The ongoing deluge has left residents of Mach city without gas during increasingly difficult conditions. Authorities are monitoring the situation closely and are expected to begin restoration work once the river's water level returns to safe levels.

ICC reveals host of next three World Test Championship finals

Sports Desk

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will continue to host the biennial final of the World Test Championship for the next three editions till 2031, global governing body ICC said on Sunday.

The match, which crowns the world champions in the longest format of the sport, has been held in England since it was introduced, with Southampton hosting the first edition in 2021 and the two subsequent finals taking place in London.

"We are absolutely delighted that England and Wales has been chosen to host the next three ICC World Test Championship finals," the ECB chief executive Richard Gould said.

"It's a testament to the passion that fans in this country have for this treasured format of the game and the willingness of supporters from around the world to travel here for these games."

The 2025 final at Lord's, where South Africa beat defending champions Australia, was attended by 109,297 people over four days and received 225 million digital views,



Islamabad: June 14, 2025 South Africa's David Bedingham celebrates with the ICC Test Championship Mace on the podium alongside teammates after winning the final Action. Images via Reuters

the ICC said in a statement last month.

"Hosting these finals is a privilege, and we look forward to working with

the ICC to build on the success of the previous editions," Gould added.

Punjab Sports Dept hands over Asia's first Blind Cricket Stadium to PBCC

Sports Desk

LAHORE: In a landmark moment for inclusive sports in the region, the Punjab Sports Department formally handed over control of Asia's first designated Blind Cricket Stadium to the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC). The official ceremony was held at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex's E-Library and Youth Centre, marking a significant step forward for the promotion of visually impaired athletes in Pakistan.

The event was graced by Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar, who served as the chief guest. Prominent officials including Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Youth Affairs Syed Omair Hasan, Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Abbas, and members of the national blind cricket team also attended the ceremony.

During the event, Divisional Sports Officer Tanveer Abbas and PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah formally signed the documents for the stadium's handover.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar highlighted



the significance of the Blind Cricket Stadium located in Rakh Jhedu, terming it a "historic gift" from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to the country's blind cricket team.

He praised the achievements of the national blind cricket team, which has earned global recognition by winning numerous international titles. "Pakistan is proud to be the first country in Asia to construct a dedicated stadium for blind cricket. Despite having greater resources, countries like India have yet to establish such facilities," he noted.

The minister extended a friendly

challenge to India's blind cricket team, inviting them to play a competitive series against Pakistan at the newly completed venue. "We are confident that our team will once again prevail on home ground," he added with optimism.

He also lauded the efforts of the Punjab Sports Department, acknowledging the dedication and teamwork that went into the successful completion of this project. "This is perhaps the most significant milestone achieved in the past year and a half," he stated.

On the occasion, he also announced the upcoming inauguration of two

major sports projects by CM Maryam Nawaz — an International Squash Complex and the province's first baseball ground — both scheduled to open within the next two months. Additionally, he revealed that 88 new sports development schemes are planned for completion over the next 18 months.

Earlier, Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial welcomed guests with an opening address, while PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Punjab government for its unwavering support of blind cricket in Pakistan.

Exiled Afghan women cricketers get more ICC backing

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council has pledged more support to Afghanistan's displaced women's cricketers to get back to playing.

Most were forced into exile when the Taliban regained power in 2021 and then effectively outlawed women from playing sport.

Many fled to Australia and held a match — without their official crest — in Melbourne earlier this year.

The ICC's annual conference in Singa-

pore at the weekend heard that progress had been made on the governing body's Afghanistan women's cricket initiative.

"The programme aims to deliver structured support," the ICC said in a statement late Sunday.

It includes "domestic playing opportunities, and engagement at key ICC global events, including the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England," the statement continued, without giving details.

But reports said it will enable Afghanis-



tan players the chance to speak to fellow international cricketers and attend workshops conducted by coaches at the global showpieces.

The initiative is a collaborative effort by the cricket boards of India, England, India and Australia under the supervision of ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja.

Hockey Promotion to Continue: Punjab Team Coach Assures



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: We will continue to play our role for the promotion of hockey. This was said by Punjab Hockey Team Coach Hafiz Rehan during a press conference at the ground of Gatti Hockey Academy. International Athletic Coach Mujahid Hussain Shah, Kashif Ali, Mian Fahad, Shahbaz Ahmed, Mian Irfan Riaz and others were also present on this occasion. The exhibition match organized by Gatti Hockey Academy to pay tribute to Pakistan Hockey Federation President Amir Tariq Bugti and Secretary General Rana Mujahid was organized by the special guest International Athletic Coach Mujahid Shah and Punjab Hockey Team Coach Hafiz Muhammad Rehan. Kashif Ali presented the necklace to the teams and at the end, a group photo of the team officials and players was taken with the guests.

England won't play 'nice' against India, warns Harry Brook

England ace batter Harry Brook has warned India that his team "don't always have to be nice" as they prepare to resume hostilities at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

After England battled to a fiery 22-run victory in the third Test at Lord's, the teams will lock horns again with the series on the line in Manchester.

England on Monday named just one change to that side with Hampshire's left-arm spinner Liam Dawson making his first Test appearance in eight years at the expense of the injured Shoaib Bashir, while Jofra Archer remains in an unchanged pace attack.

An England win would put them 3-1 up with one game to play, while India must take the last two matches to secure their first Test series triumph on English soil since 2007.

It promises to be another fiercely-fought encounter after India's fielders clashed with England batsmen Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett in a time-wasting row at Lord's.

That lit a fire under England when it was their turn to field, with Archer giving a pumped-up send-off to India's Rishabh Pant.

As the tension mounted in England's 22-run win, Brydon Carse and India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were involved in a mid-pitch collision.

But Harry Brook is adamant Ben Stokes' side did not go to far with their spiky approach in pursuit of victory.

"I've had a lot of compliments. Everybody said it was awesome to watch. It was good fun, I have to admit. It was tiring but it made fielding a lot more enjoyable," he said on Monday.

"I think it put them under a little bit more pressure. The opportunity that arose for us to not be the nice guys was because of what they did. We just thought 'we're not standing for that'.

"We had a conversation and said 'it's time to not be those nice guys that we have been before'. You don't always have to be nice. Who knows, that might have played into our favour. It was good fun.

Ishaq Dar urges urgent global financial

Continued from Page 1

On the climate front, Dar noted Pakistan's ambition to achieve 60 percent renewable energy by 2030, along with resilience-building projects like Recharge Pakistan and the Living Indus initiative. He added that the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on climate action is in its final stages. Alongside its climate efforts, the government has introduced key economic reforms to ensure fiscal stability and create a more investor-friendly environment. He said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is playing a central role in attracting foreign direct investment into key sectors of the economy.

However, Dar cautioned that national-level efforts alone are insufficient to bridge the global development gap. He stressed the need for deep reforms in the international financial archi-

ture to support SDG implementation, particularly in developing countries. He called for expanded access to concessional and grant-based resources, meaningful debt relief, and increased climate finance to enable countries like Pakistan to meet the financial requirements of sustainable development.

Dar referenced the Compromise of Seville, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Finance for Development, describing it as a clear and actionable roadmap. He urged the global community not to delay its implementation any further. As the world marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, Dar said the Secretary-General's UN80 initiative provides a critical opportunity to strengthen the UN's three core pillars—peace, development, and human rights—and to ensure that the SDGs are achieved on time, not just in principle but in practice.

From Liyari to Oslo

Pakistan Football League extends strategic support to Liyari Football Academy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a powerful demonstration of its grassroots commitment, the Pakistan Football League (PFL) has stepped forward to support Liyari Football Academy (LFA) as it prepares for its historic debut at the Norway Cup—the world's largest youth football tournament—set to begin on July 26 in Oslo.

Recognizing the significance of this milestone, PFL has formally written to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pakistan, requesting

expedited visa facilitation for the Academy's young athletes. The League emphasized the importance of enabling these players to proudly represent Pakistan on the global stage, marking the nation's first-ever participation in the prestigious tournament.

This gesture is not an isolated act—it reflects PFL's longstanding engagement with Liyari's football community. In 2024, PFL's international delegation, led by global ambassador Michael Owen and accompanied by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari, visited Liyari's iconic Kakri Ground to witness a spirited exhibition match. The visit coincided with the inauguration of the newly rehabilitated Kakri Sports Complex and underscored PFL's recognition of Liyari as a cradle of football talent in Pakistan.

To encourage the LFA's aspiring and extremely talented pool of young players, Chairman, PFL, Farhan Ahmed, during his recent visit to the Liyari Football Academy, met with the young athletes preparing for their

journey to the Norway Cup. Taking time to speak with the extremely talented players, he praised their discipline, talent and unwavering spirit — Hallmark of Liyari's proud football legacy.

While extending his gratitude and thankfulness to the Chief Minister of Sindh and Minister of Sports Government of Sindh for providing the financial assistance for LFA, Chairman PFL encouraged the players to embrace this global opportunity with confidence saying, "You carry not just your dreams, but the hopes of the



Nation. Play with Pride, Play for Pakistan."

This heartfelt interaction served as a powerful morale boost for the team, reinforcing PFL's commitment towards uplifting grassroots talent and spotlighting Liyari as a beacon of football

excellence.

It is pertinent to mention here that the first-hand passion, discipline, and raw talent that thrives amongst the streets and grounds of Liyari is unprecedented, and it is high-time that these richly talented pool of young-

sters thriving to showcase their skillsets on the local and global fronts of the soccer field, shall be provided with competitive opportunities alongside the basic facilities which they require in their urge to represent Pakistan on the global stage.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting at FIA Headquarters on Monday..



Photo: PID

Mohsin Naqvi orders ‘ruthless’ crackdown on those involved in illegal immigration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Monday said that those involved in illegal immigration should be dealt with an iron hand.

Chairing a high-level meeting during his visit to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters in Islamabad, he said that there should be a ruthless crackdown against such people and a policy of zero tolerance should be adopted against them. “It is the FIA’s responsibility to tighten the noose around such individuals who bring a bad name to the country.” He said that the FIA would have

to come up to the expectations not only of the government, but also of the people so that it could be granted more incentives.

The interior minister directed the Agency to set up special counters at airports so that the process of immigration could be fast-tracked to facilitate the passengers.

Naqvi also directed that there should be immediate recruitment in the FIA against vacant seats.

The FIA DG Raja Rifaat Mukhtar briefed him about the reforms being introduced in the department.

Later, he went to the memorials of the FIA martyrs and laid floral wreaths there.

PTI wins 6, opposition grabs 5 Senate seats in KP under agreed formula

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa concluded Monday with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) securing six out of eleven seats, while the opposition alliance managed to bag five, as per a pre-negotiated 6-5 seat-sharing formula between the two sides.

Voting was held at the Jirga Hall of the KP Assembly, where all 145 members of the assembly cast their votes. The process began at 11 am and was extended until 5:30 pm, with 22 candidates contesting across general, technocrat, and women’s reserved seats.

General Seats

PTI’s dominance on the seven general seats was reflected with victories by Murad Saeed (26 votes), Faisal

Javed (22 votes), Noorul Haq Qadri (21 votes), and Mirza Afridi (21 votes).

The opposition countered with three wins: Niaz Amir Muqam of PML-N (18 votes), Maulana Attaul Haq Darwish of JUI (18 votes), and Talha Mahmood of PPP (17 votes).

Women’s Reserved Seats

PTI’s Rubina Naz claimed a resounding victory with 89 votes, while Rubina Khalid of the PPP secured the second women’s seat with 52 votes.

Technocrat Seats

On the technocrat front, PTI’s Azam Swati was elected with 89 votes, while JUI’s Dilawar Khan claimed the second seat with 54 votes.

The seat-sharing deal, forged after days of intense political maneuvering, allowed both the treasury and opposition benches to avoid further deadlock

and ensure proportional representation in the Senate.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), 16 candidates contested seven general seats, five candidates vied for two technocrat slots, and four candidates were in the running for two women’s seats. However, several withdrawals—mainly from PTI’s side—reshaped the final list of contestants.

The PTI’s success reflects its current numerical strength in the KP Assembly, while the opposition parties, despite their internal differences, managed to hold their ground by strategically contesting fewer but winnable seats.

The newly elected Senators will now represent KP in the upper house, with analysts noting this election as a rare instance of political compromise in the province’s highly polarised atmosphere.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to boost naval cooperation in high-level defence meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif met with the Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in Islamabad on Monday, where both sides agreed to strengthen defence ties, with a special focus on naval cooperation and regional maritime security.

The high-level meeting included detailed discussions on enhancing joint naval exercises, training exchanges, and collaborative efforts to secure strategic sea routes in the region.

Khawaja Asif emphasised the importance of promoting interoperability and capacity-building through regular training programs and joint maritime

operations.

Both sides appreciated the long-standing strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, expressing mutual resolve to deepen defence collaboration across multiple domains.

The Defence Minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to further enhancing defence cooperation,

Lahore-Jeddah flight cancelled after delay, Umrah pilgrims protest

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A flight from Lahore to Jeddah was abruptly cancelled on Sunday after a delay of more than three hours, prompting protests from over 250 passengers, many of whom were Umrah pilgrims.

Flight ER-821, scheduled to depart at 12:45pm, had issued boarding passes and moved passengers to the departure lounge before announcing a one-hour delay.

However, the airline later cancelled the flight without providing an immediate explanation, leaving dozens of pilgrims many dressed in ihram stranded at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

The sudden cancellation sparked outrage among passengers. Some



engaged in heated arguments with airline staff, while others staged a sit-in at the terminal, demanding urgent alternative arrangements for their travel to Jeddah.

“The airline kept assuring us that the flight would depart shortly, but then they cancelled it without any warning,”

said one frustrated passenger. No immediate refund or alternate travel options were offered at the time.

Footage from the airport showed distressed passengers sitting on the terminal floor with their luggage, chanting slogans against the airline’s management.

River Chenab rises rapidly; flood risk escalates at Head Marala

Commerce Desk

SIALKOT: The water level continuously in River Chenab at Wazirabad at the Head Marala Barrage near Sialkot has been recorded at 126,792 cusecs and water outflow is 103,342 cusecs.

The irrigation department reported that the water inflow has reached 57,250 cusecs and the discharge is recorded at 52,919 cusecs at Khanki Barrage.

At Head Qadirabad, the water inflow is recorded at 46,507 cusecs and the discharge is 31,507 cusec.

It is expected that more



than 1 lakh cusecs of water is expected to flow into Khanki Barrage in the next three hours.

Meanwhile, Water level at Head Trimmu has increased, with inflow rising from 54,806 cusecs to 73,384 According

to the district administration, Water outflow has also increased from 43,806 cusecs to 62,384 cusecs.



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