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PM says will announce five-year economic plan soon

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Referring to the economic challenges, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday he would soon announce a five-year homegrown economic programme for the revival of the national economy.

"The 'Home-Grown Economic Program' would envisage measures to boost the country's economy by uplifting agriculture, information technology and other untapped sectors," the prime minister said, addressing the launching ceremony of the Buna-Raast connectivity project in Islamabad.

He said broad parameters for the programme had already been finalised through months-long deliberations with the stakeholders. "Great work has gone into it. By next week or so, we will finalise it. I will go to the people to announce the programme for the next five years," he remarked.

Highlighting the challenges of reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and power sector, Shehbaz said he was personally monitoring the FBR's digitisation and that the government was hopeful of positive outcomes of power sector reforms.

"There is no magic wand. It is all about hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Insha Allah, you will see we will have dividends and will find our place in the comity of nations through hard work, hard work and hard work," he said.

Buna-Raast connectivity project

Under the Buna-Raast connectivity project, the Raast payment mechanism is being linked with the Arab Monetary Fund's (AMF) Buna system to facilitate millions of overseas Pakistanis in Arab countries to send remittances through a swift, affordable and effective mechanism.

The prime minister said that besides easing the remittance-sending process digitally, it would also help boost the country's foreign exchange and further strengthen the already cordial relations between Pakistan and the Arab world.

Calling it a great step forward in promoting financial transactions through modern techniques, he said the project would expand the reach of Pakistan's digital payment infrastructure.

"This signifies how 21st-century Pakistan is moving ahead by augmenting modern technologies in the people's lives. This is the first cross-border real-time payment system linkage that will make remittances more affordable and accessible," he said.

Moreover, PM Shehbaz said that the project also held the potential to accelerate the connectivity into a future model of a wider payment system where transactions would take place from region to region with a potential of over \$20 billion in annual payments.

He thanked the AFM, State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Karandaz for their support in launching the project.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses during the inaugural ceremony of Buna-Raast Connectivity Project Implementation Phase, in Islamabad

COAS emphasises significance of education, critical thinking & innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges

INP

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday emphasized the significance of education, critical thinking, and innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS) Trek-2024, representing nine different countries, who called on the COAS here at the General Headquarters, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The interactive session provided a platform to share perspectives on Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, its unwavering efforts against terrorism, and its commitment to upholding democratic values.

The Army Chief highlighted Pakistan's vast potential and encouraged the attendees to form their own opinions based on personal experiences.

PNS HUNAIN visits Jeddah, participates in bilateral exercise

APP

ISLAMABAD: The newly commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN, during maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan, visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and participated in bilateral exercise with Ship of Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

Upon arrival at Jeddah port, the ship was received by senior officials of Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) and officials of Pakistan Embassy, a Pakistan Navy news release on Thursday said. During stay at port, Commanding Officer PNS HUNAIN called on RSNF Navy Western Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Mansoor Bin Saood Al Jayyad and Commander King Faisal Naval Base Rear Admiral Saleh Bin Abdullah Al-Amri. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation between both the navies were discussed.

Later, PNS HUNAIN conducted Passage Exercise with HMS AL RIYADH of RSNF and rehearsed various Joint Maritime Drills and Operations. The aim of exercise was to provide an opportunity to enhance interoperability between the navies. Visit of PNS HUNAIN to Saudi Arabia and participation in bilateral exercise provided an opportunity to flourish and strengthen .

ences.

He also cautioned against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, urging the students to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The COAS highlighted Pakistan's vast potential and encouraged the attendees to form their own opinions based on personal experiences.

He also cautioned against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, urging the students to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The Harvard students expressed their gratitude to the COAS for facilitating a constructive and enlightening interaction.

This engagement follows the COAS's earlier interaction with students from various universities at the General Headquarters on 20 August, underscoring his commitment to nurturing and inspiring the nation's youth.

Fazlur Rehman declares 'day of gratitude' after Supreme Court ruling in Mubarak Sani case

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), announced a nationwide 'Day of Gratitude' to be observed on Friday, following the Supreme Court's acceptance of a review petition in the Mubarak Sani case.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad on Thursday, Fazlur Rehman expressed his thanks to the Supreme Court and parliament, stating, "Tomorrow, we will observe Friday as a day of gratitude. On this day in 1974, the National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution and amendment declaring Ahmadis and Lahoris as a minority. Today, the entire nation is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of this decision at Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore."

He emphasised that the day will be commemorated as a 'day of victory,' adding that the Supreme Court's ruling has further amplified the significance of this Golden Jubilee. "The people of Pakistan will now participate with renewed vigour and a victorious spirit," he remarked.

Fazlur Rehman reaffirmed, "No power in the world can conspire against the belief in the finality of Prophethood (PBUH), nor will their conspiracies succeed. This is the unanimous voice of the entire nation. While we recognise their human rights, it is essential that they acknowledge and abide by Pakistan's Constitution."

He also noted, "If any citizen, anywhere in the world, rebels against their country's Constitution, they forfeit their civil and human rights."



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Maulana Fazlur Rehman leaving Supreme Court after attending Mubarak Sani case hearing, in the Federal Capital.

11 cops martyred in Kacha dacoits attack on police vehicles

NEWS DESK

RAHIM YAR KHAN: At least 11 policemen were martyred and seven others injured in an attack on police mobile vehicles by dacoits of Kacha near Machka police camp II in Rahim Yar Khan.

A group of dacoits launched the attack when one of the vehicles in the convoy broke down. Some of the policemen were also missing after the incident.

The culprits first attacked the police vehicles with rocket launchers before opening fire. Injured policemen have been shifted to

Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan for treatment.

Interior Minister Condems Attack Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemned the attack by dacoits on police vehicles in the Kacha area of Machka, Rahim Yar Khan.

Naqvi expressed deep sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of 11 police personnel in the attack. He paid tribute to the martyred police officers and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured officers.

He extended heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs.

Constitution allows us to hold public meetings, processions: Mehmood Achakzai

INP

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has said that the Constitution of Pakistan allows us to hold public meetings and procession.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that our public gatherings were not aimed to abuse anyone but for justified rights of countrymen.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai said that police have their own duty but they were employees of state and not employees of any personality of political party.

He said that we don't have personal grudge with anyone but urge the rulers to avoid debilitating the foundations of the country. The PkMAP chief said that people who were elected by getting over half a million votes were not allowed by the Speaker to talk in the Parliament.



Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir in a group photo along with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi

SC expunges all 'controversial paragraphs' from its previous Mubarak Sani order

Apex court rules that expunged paragraphs cannot be used as a judicial precedent in future

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has accepted the federal government's appeal for corrections in the Mubarak Sani review decision, expunging all 'controversial paragraphs' from its previous order.

The court ruled that the expunged paragraphs cannot be used as a judicial precedent.

The court removed paragraphs 7, 42, and 49-C from the review decision, following requests from religious scholars present in court.

The removed paragraphs mentioned the banned book and proselytisation activities of the Ahmadi community. During the hearing, Maulana Fazlur Rehman advised the court to limit its role to granting bail.

The Supreme Court clarified that the federal government had sought a review of the decision and considered recommendations from the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII).

Earlier, the court had sought the assistance of religious scholars, including Mufti Taqi Usmani and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on the matter. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, who led the three-member bench, asked the scholars to identify any errors in the decision. The scholars requested either a revision of the ruling or its annulment.

Mufti Taqi Usmani, participating via video link from Turkiye, recommended the removal of paragraphs 7 and 42, citing concerns over the interpretation of proselytisation. The court acknowledged these concerns and sought further input from other scholars.

The Attorney General informed the court that parliament and religious scholars had urged the federal government to request the Supreme Court's intervention, as a second review was not feasible under civil procedure.

Chief Justice Isa stated, "I pray after every namaz that no wrong decisions are made," highlighting the importance of judicial integrity. He also expressed respect for parliament, referencing his attendance at its 50th anniversary.

The court concluded by emphasising that the paragraphs removed from the Mubarak Sani review decision are not to be used as precedents in future cases.

Mubarak Ahmad Sani had been accused and convicted under the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) (Amendment) Act, 2021. However, his offence occurred before the law was enacted, leading to his bail and release. The Punjab government filed a review petition seeking modifications to clarify constitutional rights concerning law, public order, and morality.

On July 24, the Supreme Court upheld the petition, assert-

ing that religious freedom and the right to profess religion are subject to laws, morality, and public order. The Council of Islamic Ideology later raised concerns, urging the court to reconsider its decision.

In response, Mufti Usmani pointed out that as per Section 298, "a non-Muslim was not allowed to preach while posing as a Muslim".

He said that since the Ahmadiyya community was "among the minority but do not identify themselves as non-Muslims", section 298 of the PPC did not apply, therefore, paragraph 42 of the judgment needed to be omitted.

"Taqi Usmani sahib, I apologise. I want to clarify that those who were issued notices had submitted many documents to us."

If we had reviewed them in detail, then perhaps an entire book would have been made out of that decision," the CJP said in his response to Usmani.

"I could not review all those documents, which is my mistake. Point out the mistakes and your objections to the court order to us. If we do not understand something, we will ask," the top judge added.

Justice Isa observed that Pakistan was an Islamic republic, hence the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) ahadith were referred to in court orders.

FC continues rescue, relief operation in Balochistan's flood-hit areas

INP

QUETTA: Frontier Corps Balochistan continues its massive rescue and relief operation in areas of the province which was been adversely affected due to floods caused by monsoon rains.

The flashfloods caused heavy damages to properties resulting in displacement of the residents of the affected areas.

In district Dera Bugti, Suhbatpur, Sui, Dera Allah Yar, and nearby areas, a large number of residents remained stranded and without shelter.

The Frontier Corps continues rescue and relief operations in the flood-hit areas besides organizing a free medical camp for flood victims, providing them with essential medical care.

It also provided tents and ration to the affected families in Sui and Dera Bugti besides distributing free ration packages to needy families, ensuring their access to basic necessities.

PTI postpones Islamabad rally, confirm Barrister Gohar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has postponed its planned rally in Islamabad's Tarnol Chowk, now rescheduled for September 8 following roadblocks by local authorities and instructions from party founder Imran Khan.

The decision was finalised after senior PTI leaders Omar Ayub Khan, Azam Swati, and Barrister Gohar met with Imran Khan at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Following the meeting, Azam Swati and Barrister Gohar spoke outside the jail, confirming the rally's delay and announcing the new date.

Swati declared, in the presence of Barrister Gohar, that the rally will now be held on September 8 with security arrangements in place. He added that PTI's Islamabad chapter, led by Aamir Mughal, would secure the necessary permissions for the event.

PTI's statement also expressed concerns that the government might exploit the rally to incite unrest.

Earlier, the PTI had decided to go ahead with its march towards Tarnol Chowk despite Islamabad district administration's decision not to grant permission to the PTI to hold its rally.

A notification regarding the decision was issued by the chief commissioner. According to the document, the decision was made based on the recommendations of the District Intelligence Committee.

CM Bugti issued Directives for Treatment of Ashraf Khan From Abroad

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has issued an order for the treatment of Ashraf Khan (24 years old), a resident of district Killa Saifullah from abroad at government expense.

Spokesperson of Balochistan government Shahid Rind said that the patient Muhammad Ashraf who is suffering from Cervical Spinal Cord be treated at the recommended hospital.

In that regard, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has issued directives for the treatment of Muhammad Ashraf from abroad and the Health Department of Balochistan has been instructed to immediately complete the necessary procedures.

The spokesperson of the Balochistan government said that the provincial government would bear all the expenses being spent on the treatment of Muhammad Ashraf. It may be mentioned that Ashraf Khan, a resident of Killa Saifullah, held a press conference last day that his neck bone was broken in an accident, due to which he is disabled. During a press conference, he appealed for financial assistance for the treatment.

PM expresses Pakistan's desire to promote global peace, regional connectivity

APP

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House.

In the meeting, the prime minister underlined that as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2025-26, Pakistan looks forward to playing an active role in maintaining international peace and security.

He also expressed Pakistan's strong desire for enhanced regional connectivity and commended CICA's ongoing

efforts in this regard.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for CICA's core objective of strengthening regional cooperation as well as promoting peace, security and stability in Asia through confidence building measures.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes of conflicts, pursuing conflict prevention strategies, and developing long-term solutions to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

Secretary-General Sarybay briefed the prime minister on CICA's ongoing activities and initiatives as well as proposed vision for the future. He acknowledged Pakistan's active and constructive role within CICA and expressed hope for continued close cooperation.



Representative of European Union (EU), Ehtisham Adil addresses during ALP Graduation ceremony organized by UNICEF, EU and Government of Balochistan held in Quetta

Community to be made success to Pakistan Day to be held on Aug 25 at New York's Manhattan: Shazia Wattoo

By Khawaja Farooq

New York: The Pakistani community will be made a success to Pakistan Day to be held on August 25 at New York's Manhattan by participating fully. These views were expressed by Prominent social leader Shazia Wattoo, Chairperson of Human Rights Minority Council Raheela Aslam, Dr. Salma Kausar, Aziz Butt, Salman Butt, Zafar Chatta, Dr. Afzal, Hasan Ali Raza, President of Pakistan Day Parade Munir Lodhi, prominent politician, social leader Ahmed Jan, Senior journalist and Kashmiri leader Khawaja Farooq. They said that a successful parade will send a clear message to the world that everyone is united to make Pakistan prosper-

ous and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the development of the country. The leaders said the program will be started at 10 am from Street Madison Avenue New York, the parade to be held at 12 noon. They said that New York Mayor Eric Adams, Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, New York Consul General Amir Attuzai, People including Pakistani and American diplomats, political, social and religious personalities will be participated in large numbers and

express their love for Pakistan. The leaders maintained that Pakistani clothing, food and cultural stalls will also be set up in the parade. Famous singer Malko, Saira Altaf and other national songs will warm the hearts of the participants, Pakistani-American singers are eager to hear Malko, the parade will prove historic.

Shikarpur city inundated with Rain Water

By A.S Bhutto

SHIKARPUR: Monsoon second Round lashed the Shikarpur District and the Shikarpur city came in the grip of heavy rain water on Thursday due to heavy rain fall.

According to details, monsoon rain fall started again in Shikarpur which continued about half an hour which caused the city inundated with Rain Water specially the low level areas. While citizens had suffered alot due to prolong electric load shedding too.

The main Clock Tower Chowk, Allah Wala Chowk, 15 Police Madadgar area, Circular road and low level areas inundated with Rain Water.

The civic life of people were badly affected due to continues heavy rain fall for three days.

No any causality was reported yet. While the damages of houses and standing Rice crops were received from four Talukas of District Shikarpur.



Members of Metropolitan Tanzeemi Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, in Quetta

Dacoit cuts off elderly woman's ears in Gwadar

INP

GWADAR: In a horrific incident, a dacoit cut off ears of an elderly woman in the Surbandar area of Gwadar, Balochistan.

According to police, the woman was wearing gold earring when the robber attacked her and cut off her ears, taking the earrings with him.

The police have arrested the robber and recovered the severed ears, gold earrings, and a knife from his possession.

The elderly woman is currently in a critical condition and under treatment at hospital whereas the robber has also confessed to the crime.

In a separate incident, a married woman was allegedly raped during a daylight robbery in Faisalabad, Punjab. In a suburban area of Faisalabad, a woman was allegedly raped during a robbery, when the woman along with her husband was on her way to purchase goods.

Punjab CM Maryam tasks police to stop street robberies

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Thursday gave police the task to stop the incidents of street robberies immediately.

Presiding over a special meeting to review performance of police, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered to ensure safe travel on roads.

The Chief Minister directed to bring down the crime rate in every district in any case.

The CM further ordered to initiate

action to eliminate hotspot areas in every region of Punjab. Maryam Nawaz said in order to protect the traders and shopkeepers, the incidents of robbery should be dealt with iron hands.

Robbery and other crimes on the roads of small and big cities are absolutely not acceptable, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said.

She said every road and street of Punjab should be made safe and no one should dare to commit crime. Maryam Nawaz Sharif said in case of robbery and crimes on any road, the concerned police officers will be responsible.



Pakistan Canal Irrigation Union Provincial President, Muhammad Umar Jhattak along with others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.



China's Sun Yang returning to the pool after long doping ban

SPORTS DESK

BEIJING: Chinese swimmer Sun Yang will return to the pool at a major domestic meet next week following the expiry of his four-year ban for doping, state media reported.

Sun, China's first Olympic gold medalist in men's swimming, will represent his home Zhejiang province at the National Swimming Championships which start on Sunday in Hefei.

Wang Wei, director of the Zhejiang Provincial Swimming Sports Management Center, said the 32-year-old will compete in the 400 metres freestyle, the event he won at the 2012 London Olympics, according to Xinhua news agency.

The triple Olympic champion was banned from competition for four years and three months for a dope test violation in 2018 in which he and members of his entourage smashed vials containing blood samples.

The ban, reduced from eight years on appeal, expired on May 28.

While suspended, Sun missed national trials for the Paris Olympics where China's swim team were under intense scrutiny over the country's doping record.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) confirmed reports in April

that 23 of the nation's swimmers tested positive for trimetazidine, a heart medication banned under the WADA code, in the lead up to the Tokyo Games.

WADA accepted the findings of a Chinese investigation that the test results were due to contamination from a hotel kitchen the team were staying at.

Sun served a three-month suspension in 2014 for taking trimetazidine, which he said was to treat a heart condition. The meet in Hefei is second only to China's National Swimming Championships in terms of competitive level and prestige, said Xinhua.

Though Sun is cleared for competition he may have little chance of swimming for China again.



SRI LANKAN batter Dinesh Chandimal in action during the first Test against England at Old Trafford.

De Silva and Rathnayake star in Sri Lanka revival against England

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Dhananjaya de Silva and debutant fast bowler Milan Rathnayake both made fine fifties as Sri Lanka recovered from a dramatic top-order collapse on Wednesday's opening day of the first Test against England at Old Trafford.

Sri Lanka were in dire straits at 6-3 after skipper De Silva won the toss, losing their first three wickets for no runs in 10 balls.

Yet they recovered to 236 all out, De Silva top-scoring with 74 and tailender Rathnayake, with only his third first-class fifty, close behind in making 72.

The pair checked England's progress during an eighth-wicket partnership of 63, with no other Sri Lanka batsman making more than Kusal Mendis's 24.

Chris Woakes struck twice in an over on his way to 3-32 in 11 overs. De Silva's impressive innings ended when he turned a quicker ball from off-spinner Shoaib Bashir straight to Dan Lawrence at leg slip, with the 20-year-old taking 3-55 in 23 overs. Ben Duckett and Lawrence, recalled in place of the injured Zak Crawley, guided England to 22-0 before bad light ended play for the day at 5:52 pm (16:52 GMT).

Sri Lanka's initial collapse ensured a dream start for stand-in England captain Ollie Pope, leading his country for the first time after Ben Stokes was ruled out with a torn hamstring.

The tourists came into their first Test in England in eight years on the back of just a solitary warm-up fixture — a defeat by the second-string England Lions — with De Silva insisting Tuesday that Sri Lanka had wanted at least one more game before the series started.

"The conditions are quite different to Asian countries," he said. "We wanted to play a few matches, but that's

what we get."

STUNNING SLUMP

Sri Lanka's collapse began in the sixth over when Dimuth Karunaratne top-edged a hook off fast bowler Gus Atkinson to wicketkeeper Jamie Smith.

Woakes then took two wickets in the next over, with Nishan Madushka, the other opening batsman, driving loosely at an outswinger and edging to Joe Root at first slip as he fell for four.

Five balls later, Angelo Mathews was plumb lbw for a duck playing no shot to a Woakes delivery that nipped back off the pitch.

Mendis was undone by express fast bowler Mark Wood, with Mendis gloving a superb 93 mph (150 km/h) delivery that reared up from short of a length to second slip. De Silva, however, pulled Atkinson for a commanding four and completed an impressively quick fifty off just 56 balls. He was reprieved on 65, when Smith missed a difficult stumping chance off Bashir, but was out shortly afterwards to leave Sri Lanka 176-8. But the 28-year-old Rathnayake, undaunted by the loss of his skipper, went to a 96-ball fifty in style when the left-handed batsman drove Bashir for a straight six that also took Sri Lanka past 200.

With the floodlights piercing increasingly gloomy skies, Pope turned to part-time spinner Root in a bid to snatch a wicket at a time when deploying the fast bowlers might have seen the umpires halt play for bad light. Rathnayake, however, responded by launching Root for six over long-off. He also drove Bashir through extra cover before hitting him to Woakes at mid-on. Before play started there was a minute's applause in honour of Graham Thorpe, the former England batsman and assistant coach, with both teams, as well as the match officials, wearing black armbands in his honour.

Arshad Nadeem eyes world title after Olympic glory

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: With his Olympic record still fresh in the mind, Arshad Nadeem is already looking to his next challenge: A gold medal at the World Athletics Championship.

From a small village of Pakistan to the podium of Paris, Arshad's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance — and, hopefully, he's just getting started.

"The way the entire nation celebrated my achievement in the Paris Olympics is quite encouraging for me and now I am setting my sights on a gold medal at the World Athletics Championship," Arshad, who set an Olympic record of 92.97 metres, said during a prize distribution ceremony here at the Wapda's Auditorium on Wednesday.

Arshad's fairy-tale success is an inspiration for all the sports persons in the country and the 27-year-old urges all the aspirants to set big targets as sky is the limit.

Arshad, who received a cash prize of Rs5 million by his department Wapda, thanked the private and government sectors which helped him prepare for the global showpiece.

Arshad, who previously won a gold in the Commonwealth Games in 2022, particularly mentioned his coach Salman Iqbal Butt, Rashid Saqi, Fayyaz Bukhari and his school's P.T Master Ramzan.

Arshad also shed light on the struggles he went through during his preparation for the Olympics.

"It was not an easy journey," Arshad said "I battled numerous injuries and had my knees and elbow operated. But I kept believing and finally God blessed me with the great achievement, which lifted Pakistan's flag at the global level."

Arshad also highlighted his doctors' work who gave him timely medical treatment which helped him prepare for the event.

"I am also thankful to the Athletics Federation of Pakistan, Pakistan Sports Board and the Punjab Sports Board and my two doctors Dr. Asad Abbas (at Tokyo Olympics) and Dr Ali Sher Bajwa (Paris Olympics) for my timely medical treatment I needed at the crucial stages," he said.

Wapda chairman retired Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani praised Arshad's success and also announced a job for Arshad's younger brother, who is also a javelin thrower.

"The Nation and their sports rise and fall together," Sajjad said during the ceremony. "Wapda sports persons have been bringing laurels to the county."



PAKISTAN'S javelin star Arshad Nadeem (L) receives a cheque from Wapda chairman retired Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani during a prize distribution ceremony at the Wapda Auditorium.

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Signs of trouble

THE state — both its civilian and military components — needs to take note of the troubling developments on the militancy front, before the country is dragged into a new cycle of terrorist violence.

The signs are not good, as an increasing number of security personnel are being targeted in the field, while militant groups have begun to make inroads in areas thought to have been cleared of the terrorist menace.

At least three soldiers were martyred in a gunfight with militants in Bajaur on Sunday, close to the Afghan border. The latest casualties indicate the grim reality that Pakistan has been losing an unacceptably high number of men in confrontations with terrorists.

Moreover, in KP's Tirah valley, there are disturbing reports that fighters belonging to the banned TTP and Lashkar-i-Islam have begun patrols in certain areas. LI had been active in the region for years; its dreaded leader Mangal Bagh was killed in Afghanistan in 2021. The TTP and LI have combined forces in the past, and the reactivation of the latter outfit is a fresh headache for the state.

Where troop fatalities are concerned, as this paper has highlighted previously, better gear and training are required to save lives. As per media figures quoting ISPR, at least 139 troops have been martyred while confronting terrorists up till July 2024. Militants employ asymmetrical methods, which are difficult to counter for traditional militaries. Even the American and Soviet militaries could do little to defeat foes using asymmetrical methods. Therefore, perhaps crack new units need to be trained in such methods to outsmart the militants in the field, while intelligence-based operations should neutralise terrorists before they can strike.

Regarding the patrols of terrorist groups, this development should not be taken lightly by the state. Locals in the Tirah area told this paper that while TTP and LI fighters were moving around with freedom, the police and Levies had 'vanished'. Moreover, residents said militants were demanding food and shelter from them, which the locals could only refuse at their own peril.

The administration cannot leave people in the affected areas at the mercy of terrorists. The writ of the state must be established forthwith as no violent non-state actor can be allowed to set up parallel governance structures. It should be remembered that militants started taking over territory in Waziristan and Malakand in similar fashion. These developments morphed into full-blown insurgencies that required the state to invest much blood and treasure to quell.

The same mistake must not be repeated. Perhaps the powers that be should redirect their attention from 'digital terrorists' and hone in on the actual terrorists who have risen up against the state in the past, and appear intent on doing so again.

By Dr Noman Ahmed

Roof of dignity

In a recent move, the Sindh cabinet approved Rs10.065 billion to resettle all those uprooted along Gujjar, Orangi and Mahmoodabad nullahs. The various demolition drives conducted in recent times razed thousands of houses, rendering scores homeless. The matter landed in the Supreme Court; specific directives were issued to the provincial government in the judgement on Oct 25, 2021, as well as other rulings. These verdicts lay down the concept and procedure of developing a resettlement scheme. Based on the submission of its reports, the Sindh government was directed by the apex court to provide land and essential infrastructure to the affected at the earliest.

A robust campaign was launched by the Karachi Bachao Tehreek, which demanded housing for demolition-affected people. Apart from those left to suffer along the three nullahs, many others still need a proper response, such as the victims of the anti-encroachment drive for the Karachi Circular Railway who are still running from pillar to post for some relief. Besides, the listing and verification process of the nullah affectees has been questioned by residents and community leaders in the neighbourhoods; it was argued that only bulldozed houses were counted, not the households that lived in them as many structures were home to two or three families. This may trigger numerous conflicts when the construction work begins.

Additionally, other concerns must be addressed with a focus on lessons learnt from previous resettlement endeavours. For instance, despite transportation and housing experts highlighting the enormous

number of houses and households earmarked for demolition and displacement in the Lyari Expressway Resettlement Project — a joint initiative of the federal and provincial governments — the authorities went ahead thoughtlessly. Over a quarter of a million were displaced.

The now defunct City District Government Karachi announced the allocation of plots measuring 80 square yards with Rs50,000 for every household. Four sites were allotted in Taiser Town, Hawkesbay and Baldia Town and an estimate of 14,811 plots was provided. But the affectees, claiming that their numbers were far greater, approached the court. In the end, the government provided 30,743 plots on 1,234 acres of land. The overall cost of the rehabilitation project rose significantly. It is, therefore, important that utmost care is taken by the authorities during reviews of the actual affectees' records. Political interference and influence have to be thwarted for transparent allocation of land to the affected. Lessons must be learnt from earlier resettlement efforts.

Moreover, construction requires comprehensive urban planning and design input. The authorities would do well to remember that a physical plan includes road layouts, right of way for buried infrastructure, neighbourhood parks and playgrounds, commercial areas, educational and healthcare spaces. An urban design exercise to accommodate mixed-use development is also considered necessary.

At present, Taiser Town is a sparsely populated area with low-density, low-rise development. In 20 years, this locality will be under pressure to lodge more

residents, resulting in haphazard densification. This should be tackled in due course with a larger plan comprising reserved areas for medium- and high-density developments for the locality.

In sum, without a forward-looking and technically sound urban design scheme, an isolated resettlement project cannot deliver appropriate living and working conditions for residents and visitors. Another crucial aspect is the availability of social support; eviction affectees are traumatised and need counselling so that they can connect with the housing scheme and become active participants in the decision-making process.

There should be more organisations such as Saibaan to mobilise communities and Khuda ki Bastis in Karachi and other cities must be remembered as model blueprints that can be replicated. The welfare association enabled low-income groups to formulate infrastructural choices and arranged for affordable technical assistance with donations. While road infrastructure and water supply are vital, settlers will be dependent on water tankers and informal paratransit mobility in the initial years. The average person now uses rickshaws and employed youth, as riders, service providers and small-scale entrepreneurs, have motorcycles. All the government needs to do is develop roads to link settlements to the city as connectivity alleviates the need for off-grid electricity and LPG gas depots. A technically viable, socially compatible and administratively accommodating approach towards vital development initiatives carves out comprehensive templates, which can be implemented across the country for many years to come.

By F.S. Aijazuddin

A golden buffalo

THE Summer Olympics 2024 are over. The victors have returned to savour their spoils, the vanquished to count their losses. These Olympics had 10,714 athletes competing before a worldwide audience of 30.6 million viewers — truly a global spectator sport. None but Olympians know the price they have had to pay — for full-time training, co-aching, medical, travel and other costs, apart from being deprived of a regular income.

The International Olympic Committee does not grant any awards beyond the medals themselves. It believes that the spirit of the Olympics is enough: "It is not to win but to take part; it is not the triumph but the struggle."

Before the Paris Olympics began, the World Athletics Federation announced that \$2.4m (\$50,000 each) would be given to each gold medallist in the 48 athletic events. Amid all the flattery, the Olympian has retained his sense of humour. National Olympic committees supplement this with incentives to their own nationals. Hong Kong topped the list with \$768,000. (It won two golds.) Singapore offered \$745,000, but that was clearly not enough. It won only one bronze. The lowest incentive (\$13,000) came from Australia, whose athletes won 18 golds. But as one Olympian put it: "A gold medal is a wonderful thing, but if you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."

Each country honours its Olympians in different ways — some with victory parades, others with cash rewards, a few with national awards. Far-sighted nations support their athletes on their way up Mount Olympus. The myopic wait until they have succeeded, and then applaud them on

the way down.

Pakistan's Olympian Arshad Nadeem has been smothered with garlands and suffocated with banquets ever since his triumphant return. The cornucopia of gifts emptied upon him have included cash of Rs280m, plus cars and other gifts.

In Punjab, the governor gave him cash of Rs2m and a car. The chief minister Punjab presented a cheque of Rs100m and the key to a Honda Civic car '92.97'. The chief minister also presented Nadeem's coach Salman I. Butt with a cheque of Rs5m.

In Sindh, the chief minister awarded Nadeem Rs50m. The Karachi mayor announced a Rs50m cash award for Nadeem and promised to establish an athletics academy named after the Olympian. The Sindh sports minister gave a cheque, both from his department and personal funds. The local government minister declared that an important road in Karachi would be named after Arshad Nadeem. The planning and development minister gifted a car to Arshad Nadeem's mother.

Army Chief General Asim Munir announced the allotment of a residential plot at DHA Multan (once a huge mango orchard).

Wapda has awarded Rs1m to Nadeem while his employer Lesco has proposed his promotion to the 19th grade. And President Zardari promised to award him the country's highest civilian honour — the Hilal-i-Imtiaz.

It is proposed to grant the Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Salman Butt (Nadeem's coach), and also to Nadeem's mother. While her efforts, like Nadeem's, were a solo achievement, some might cavil whether a SI award should be distributed so freely. They might say it demeans its stature. Apart, that is, from it

being regarded as a rebuke to shared parenthood. Surely, Nadeem's father Muhammad Arshad deserves acknowledgement too. He supported his son from his modest, honest earnings for 36 years as a construction labourer.

Nadeem has asked the government for a modern track and field stadium and a university for women in his hometown — Mian Channu.

In all this maelstrom of flattery, Nadeem has retained his sense of humour. When asked about the buffalo gifted to him by his father-in-law, Nadeem replied: "I was a bit surprised [...] I wondered since my father-in-law is a very rich person and has a lot of land ... if only he had given me four to five acres of farmland instead of the buffalo".

The rustic father-in-law may feel miffed. Having given Nadeem first his daughter and now a healthy buffalo, in Mian Channu that is regarded as largesse enough.

Hopefully, all the promises made to Arshad Nadeem will be honoured. He should heed the advice of the late Prince Philip who had experience in such matters.

Prince Philip visited Lahore in the 1990s to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund (of which he was president). He attended an auction of paintings by local artists. As soon as the auction ended, he took the Pakistani auctioneer aside and advised him to collect the money before the successful bidders left the event. "Be quick. They tend to change their minds once they have had their photographs taken with me."

The ancient Greeks rewarded their victorious Olympians with a crown woven from fresh laurel leaves. They found it cheaper than cash, and handy the morning after as fodder for the buffalo.

DAILY MIRROR

Tarar stresses maximum opportunities for youth in IT, agriculture, education & sports

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar has said that providing maximum opportunities to the youth in the fields of information technology (IT), agriculture, education, and sports is need of the hour.

While addressing the National Youth Convention in Islamabad, he said that 60 percent of the Pakistan's population comprises youth aged under 30 years who were capable to change the destiny of the nation.

Attaullah Tarar called for correcting the direction and economy of the country, bringing IT revolution and promoting quality education for the new generation.

The youth need to understand the vision behind the creation of a separate state for Muslims in the subcontinent, he urged.

The minister remarked that Indian atrocities in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and on Indian Muslims across the border had vindicated the stance of Muslims for an independent state.

People of Kashmir were still struggling to become part of Pakistan with great resolve, resilience, and determination despite the brutality and oppression of Indian rulers, he added.

The information minister told the participants of the convention that the Quaid-e-Azam was supported by a large number of youths in the Pakistan Movement.

"The youth contributed to the creation of this country, and the youth will change the destiny of this country", he said adding that migration of Muslims from Makkah to Madinah and from India to Pakistan had a lesson for everyone. Attaullah Tarar said that about 12,00,000 people sacrificed their lives during migration to Pakistan in 1947 as trains carrying Muslims were attacked and passengers butchered mercilessly.

He said countless women and girls were raped and molested during the process of migration.

The information minister said the holy blood of tens of thousands of martyrs was in the foundations of Pakistan which was created on the 27th of Ramadan. He said that Allah Almighty had created Pakistan on the holiest night of Laila Tul Qadr and he had the belief that this country would prosper, develop, and survive till eternity.

He said now it was the responsibility and duty of the new generation to work hard to make Pakistan a strong, modern, developed nation. "Pakistanis are a determined and hardworking nation and Arshad Nadeem's success is a beacon and a source of inspiration for youth", he maintained.

Referring to the determination and hard work of Arshad Nadeem, the minister said he made the first javelin by breaking a tree branch in his village near Mian Channu.

He said overcoming all hardships Arshad Nadeem brought the entire nation together by winning the gold medal as the entire nation celebrated his historic victory in a befitting way.

Attaullah Tarar said under the Prime Minister's Laptop scheme, free-of-cost laptops were given on merit to students of educational institutions. He said that laptops given to youth under the PM scheme played an important role in keeping the national economy stable during Covid 19. Similarly, he said that the PML-N government launched the Danish School system in Punjab for deserving students in the most backward areas and this step paid dividends.

Making long and alluring speeches was easier than doing something practical for the welfare of the people of the country, he opined. He said that unfortunately in this digital age, controversies and sensational things attract the attention of the users and constructive achievements fail to get proper coverage. The information minister stressed the need to fight the tendency of despair and dependency through the creation of hope and providing opportunities to the youth so that their talent could be utilized in a better manner for nation building process.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Shahab Ali Shah.

Pilgrims' bus accident: Embassy in constant contact with Iranian authorities: Dar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the Pakistan embassy in Tehran was in constant touch with the Iranian authorities in Yazd city, following a tragic bus accident in which 28 Pakistani pilgrims lost their lives.

The deputy prime minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of Pakistani pilgrims who lost their lives.

"We are also gravely concerned about the safety and welfare of injured pilgrims," he remarked.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that he had instructed Pakistan's Ambassador in Tehran to ascertain the exact situation and provide swift medical relief and recovery services as well as arrange repatriation of dead bodies to Pakistan.

"Our embassy is in constant touch with authorities in Yazd city. We thank the Iranian Government for their assistance and help," he added.

ADB Country Director calls on President Zardari

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yong Ye Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari.

In the meeting, the ADB country director briefed the president about the role of the Bank in the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The president appreciated the assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank to Pakistan during the floods. FHe also highlighted Pakistan's measures to deal with climate change, saying that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests on millions of acres of land.

President Zardari also appreciated the bank's services to Pakistan in the fields of agriculture, irrigation and education.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan Konstantinos Moatsos paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari.

President directs EOBI to pay pension to deceased employee's son with disability

INP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday directed the Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) to ensure lifelong payment of pension to Mr Muhammad Shehzad, a person with visual disability who had been denied pension by EOBI following the death of his father.

The President said that the person with disability (PWD) could not be left in a merciful situation by the State, given the fact that his elders were deceased and were receiving pension before their deaths. He regretted that EOBI displayed grave insensitivity by neglecting a PWD and that too at a time when all his predecessors had passed away leaving him without any support.

Mr Muhammad Shehzad (the complainant), who has been blind since birth, had filed a complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib, stating that his father, Mr Muhammad Afzal Zafar, was an Old Age Pensioner of EOBI and died on 20.12.2016. The mother of the complainant had already passed away during the lifetime of his father. He had requested EOBI to grant him a "family pension"

for life as a "disabled legal heir" of his late father.

EOBI, however, rejected his application by placing reliance on Section 22B (3) (i) of the EOBI Act, 1976, which provides that only male minors under 18 years of age are eligible for a family pension, whereas Mr Shehzad was 44 years old. The Mohtasib closed further investigation of his complaint, after which, Mr Muhammad Shehzad filed a representation before the President of Pakistan.

President Asif Zardari accepted the complainant's representation and emphasised that keeping in view the letter and spirit of the Constitution of Pakistan, particularly Articles 9 and 25, a Person with Disability could not be deprived of such a pension, since he deserved to be treated on a much better footing and placed in a more deserving category than any other recipient of pension in the country presently. He also endorsed Mohtasib's recommendation that EOBI's law in this regard should be reviewed and brought in line with the Federal Policy.

While accepting Mr Muhammad Shehzad's representation, the President directed EOBI to ensure payment of some reasonable pension/stipend.

No one to be allowed to destabilize country peace by violence politics: Rubina

APP

Quetta: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid on Thursday said that we would not allow anyone to destabilize the peace of country through making violence politics and chaos in state. She said that President Asif Ali Zardari's model of reconciliation politics was the guarantee of the stability of democratic institutions in Pakistan. She expressed these views while addressing at a ceremony in Industrial District Hub under the BISP program. She said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has always worked for the empowerment of women and the Benazir Income Support Program empowers women. Thanks to the thinking of Asif Ali Zardari, women have got a new identity, from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the unparalleled services for democracy and the country are unforgettable, she said. She said that we were aware of the deprivation and backwardness of Balochistan,

President Zardari, in the previous period initiated the rights of Balochistan and apologized to the Baloch nation. In the same way, ending the feeling of deprivation is also the focus of the political manifesto of the PPP and the government in recent times, she said. Senator Rubina Khalid said that the PPP has exposed the politics of anarchist group and the public has also rejected it.

She said that earlier it was said that we would not only end the backwardness of Balochistan, but also take this country out of the vortex caused by the anarchist group and move on the path of development.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that Bhuttoism was the name of an ideology and a thought, People's Party has made people aware of this ideology and thinking that could not be eliminated. Chairperson of the BISP thanked the people of Hub Balochistan for the wonderful reception and said that the mandate had given to PPP in Balochistan, God willing, people would never be disappointed.

KP Chief Minister and Asad Qaiser discuss rally cancellation

INP

PESHAWAR: Former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser has reached out to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

According to sources, a consultation took place between Chief Minister Gandapur and Asad Qaiser regarding the cancellation of a rally.

They discussed the situation in Islamabad and its surrounding areas.

It is reported that KP Chief Minister was not in agreement with the notion of rally cancellation.

Islamabad rally cancellation The PTI postponed the public gathering in Islamabad, which was scheduled to be held today (Thursday).

The event was being called off on the directives of PTI founder Imran Khan.

PTI leader Azam Swati met Imran Khan in Adiala Jail and informed him about the current situation and protest of a politico-religious party in the city.

Azam Swati conveyed the message of Imran Khan to postpone the public gathering to avoid any chaos and untoward situation.

Barrister Gohar and Azam Swati announced that the public gathering would be held on Sept 8 and it had already been notified.

IDSP Holds Youth Skills Event In Quetta

APP

QUETTA: IDSP University for Community Development on Thursday organized an event, International Youth Skills Day, in Quetta.

The purpose of the event was to empower young people with skills for a better tomorrow. In this regard, IDSP University for Community Development involves various educational institutions and skilled workers. This event is part of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) project "Restoring Social Services and Climate Resilience".

The Chief Guests included Commissioner Quetta Humza Shafiq, Principal of Poly Technical College guests Prof. Jamil, Al-Hamd University Quetta's Urwa Javed, DG BTEVTA Quetta Tariq Mengal, DG NAVTTC Hassan Bukhsh Magsi, and Dr. Quratul Ayn Bakhtyari, Founding Director of IDSP. In addition, students and skills workers highly appreciate the role of IDSP for organizing such events. The guests and participants visited different stalls and also appreciated entrepreneurs and skills workers for their efforts to introduce creative approaches in their small start-ups.

PM orders enhanced airport services for passengers

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to further improve the services at airports across the country for overseas Pakistanis, tourists, and passengers.

He was chairing a review meeting related to the introduction of reforms in aviation sector in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister ordered to operate more counters in order to save passengers from long time during international flights.

He asked to complete the safety audit of aviation sector of current year soon.

In order to promote tourism, Shehbaz Sharif directed authorities concerned to ensure the provision of best facilities for passengers at Skardu International airport.

He further instructed to devise a comprehensive framework related to the extension of Skardu International and Gilgit airports.

The Prime Minister ordered the relevant authorities to ensure the implementation of reforms and policy measures steps under the aviation act.

Highlighting the plan for provision of

facilities at airports, the Prime Minister said that additional facilities will be available to passengers with the installation of automatic immigration gates under the automated Border Control System.

He expressed gratitude to the ALLAH Almighty that country's aviation sector is heading in right direction.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister was briefed that airport management authority and civil aviation are separated to ensure efficient performance of duties of operator and regulator under the aviation act.

He was told that third party validation of all new projects and steps is being ensured.

Shehbaz Sharif was briefed that the number of counters have been increased and the waiting room has also been expanded for the convenience of passengers at Lahore airport.

Meanwhile, work on the feasibility report for the expansion of Skardu Airport will start soon.

The Prime Minister directed authorities concerned to complete these measures within a specified period and to give key importance to the element of transparency.



Islamabad: Turkish Ambassador, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci & Business Heads held meeting with Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik is also present on the occasion.

Donald Trump takes aim at Obamas for 'getting personal' at DNC

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his actions in response to former president Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama's scathing criticism of him, citing their "personal" attacks to justify his own behaviour. Politico reported.

"Did you see Barack Hussein Obama last night taking little shots? He was taking shots at your president and so was Michelle," Trump said at a campaign rally in Asheboro, North Carolina on Wednesday. "You know, they always say, 'Sir, please stick to policy, don't get personal,' but they're getting personal all night, these people."

Later at the rally, Trump asked the crowd: "Should I get personal, or should I not get personal?"

This came as the Obamas delivered speeches at the Democratic National

Convention (DNC), abandoning their previous call for their party to "go high" and instead delivering harsh rebukes of Trump.

"Going small is petty, it's unhealthy, and, quite frankly, it's unrepresentative," Michelle said to the boisterous crowd. "It's his same old con: doubling down on ugly, misogynistic, racist lies as a substitute for real ideas and solutions that will actually make people's lives better."

Barack's remarks, in particular, included a jab at Trump's size anxiety, insinuating that it extended beyond crowd sizes. He made this comment while looking down at his hands.

According to Politico, this departure from political decorum has become increasingly evident among Democrats since Trump's 2016 victory, culminating in a cycle where the Harris campaign issues snarky press releases, jabs aimed at taunting Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance.

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has assumed his responsibilities as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States

Cementing multifaceted Pak-US relationship, strengthening economic ties, enhancing people to people linkages and serving Pakistani community to be the foremost priority

By Khawaja Farooq

Washington DC: The newly appointed Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, has formally assumed his diplomatic responsibilities as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States.

The Ambassador had a busy day at the embassy today. He had a detailed meeting with the officers of the Embassy. Later, the heads of various departments gave a detailed briefing to the Ambassador. The Ambassador also held a zoom meeting with the Consul Generals of Pakistan in the United States. Talking to the officers, Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh emphasized the importance of Pak-US relationship. He stated that cementing multifaceted Pak-US relations, strengthening economic ties and enhancing people to people linkages would remain his foremost priorities. He also highlighted the importance of the Pakistani diaspora in the U.S., describing them as a valuable asset of the country. He noted that



the community was serving as a strong bond in Pak-U.S. relationship. He said that every possible effort should be made to ensure better service delivery to the community. The Ambassador stressed upon the need to pursue result-oriented diplomacy. Earlier upon his arrival in Washington yesterday, the Ambassador was received at the airport by officials of the US State Department and the officers of the Embassy.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of PTI Latif Khosa talking with media persons outside Supreme Court after Supreme Court decision of Mubarak Sani case, in the Federal Capital.