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COAS lauds defeat of 'naysayers' amid Pakistan's economic recovery

APP

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has emphasised that efforts to sow despair in Pakistan have been thwarted through the collective efforts of all stakeholders.

He made these remarks during a visit to the Karachi Corps area, where he was briefed on operational readiness and training initiatives, according to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday.

During the visit, General Munir met with Karachi's business community, commending their contributions to the nation's economic growth. He praised the efforts of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for creating an enabling environment for further progress.

Business leaders expressed confidence in Pakistan's economic indicators, attributing the positive developments to collaborative efforts.

"The naysayers who tried to create

despair and despondency in society have been defeated through the united efforts of all stakeholders," General Munir remarked, acknowledging the support of both federal and provincial governments in fostering economic recovery.

He also recognised the "praiseworthy role" played by Pakistan's international allies, particularly China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, in supporting the country's economic revival.

"Pakistan has remarkable potential in various fields, and we must have unflinching trust in the bright future of our country," the army chief said, expressing confidence that Pakistan would achieve its rightful place among nations.

As part of his visit, General Munir inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a new hub focused on advancing Pakistan's information technology (IT) sector, especially in artificial intelligence. The park is designed to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry, empowering the country's youth.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the 79th Session of United Nations General Assembly.

PM at UNGA urges immediate action on Gaza, Kashmir; calls for global climate justice

Shehbaz Sharif issues stern warning to India, says Pakistan would 'respond decisively' to any aggression across LoC

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday, delivering a powerful speech that touched on a range of urgent global issues. His remarks focused on Israel's military actions in Gaza, the unresolved Kashmir dispute, the global climate crisis, and the international community's failure to uphold justice and human rights.

Sharif began his address with a recitation from the Quran and expressed his pride in representing Pakistan for the second time at the General Assembly. He congratulated the newly elected president of the UNGA, Dennis Francis, and reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the UN Charter. "Our founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, declared that Pakistan stands by the United Nations Charter,

and we remain committed to peace and prosperity for the world," Sharif said.

Call for immediate action on Gaza
Prime Minister Sharif condemned Israel's ongoing bombardment of Gaza, describing the situation as a "genocidal war" and a humanitarian catastrophe. He painted a vivid picture of the suffering of Palestinian civilians, particularly women and children, calling for an end to the violence. "Our hearts bleed as we witness the tragedy unfolding in the Holy Land," Sharif said. "This is not just a conflict; it is the systematic slaughter of innocent people and an assault on the very essence of human life and dignity."

Sharif urged the international community to stop the bloodshed and work towards a durable peace through a two-state solution, calling for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem (Al-Quds Al-Sharif) as its capital.

Federal Minister Muqam Calls on Governor

APP

QUETTA: Federal Minister for SAFFRON and Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam called on Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail at Governor House Quetta here on Friday. During the meeting, they discussed important issues including regional developments, Kashmir dispute and Pakistan's political scenario. On this occasion, Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail said that there is an urgent need for the help and guidance of the federal government to strengthen the infrastructure in the province and deal with the current challenges.

Stressing on highlighting the collective feeling, he said that all parties have to give priority to domestic and national interests rather than personal interests to make the relationship between the federal and the provincial governments. He suggested for the periodic visits of the province by president of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the federal ministers.

He said that it would help to promote mutual understanding and benefit from each other's experiences in terms of construction and development. Federal Minister SAFFRON and Kashmir Affairs Engineer Ameer Maqam assured Governor Balochista.

Pakistan receives first tranche of \$1.03 billion from IMF under EFF

INP

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received the first tranche of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 760 million, equivalent to \$1.03 billion, from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the 37-month Extended Fund Facility.

This disbursement follows the IMF Executive Board's approval of a \$7 billion programme aimed at stabilising Pakistan's economy. The SBP confirmed that these inflows will be reflected in its liquid reserves, with an official update expected on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

The IMF package is seen as crucial in addressing Pakistan's

economic challenges, including balance of payments pressures and dwindling foreign reserves.

The international lender on Wednesday approved a \$7 billion new bailout package after Pakistan promised to overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to the provinces and agreed to limit subsidies.

The Prime Minister's Office said that the Executive Board of the IMF had approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility totaling \$7 billion. It also authorised immediate release of the first loan tranche of less than \$1.1 billion. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained since 1958 and 6th EFF.

Syedaal urges senators to effectively highlight issues of their respective areas

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Friday urged senators to effectively highlight the issues of their respective areas and work with relevant ministries to find solutions.

During a meeting with various senators, including Senator Naseema Ehsan, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation, Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan Mandokhel, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, and Senator Fawzia Arshad, he emphasized the importance of the Senate as the House of Federation, where all units of

the country receive equal representation.

He said that it is the responsibility and duty of the senators to bring the problems of their constituencies to the forefront.

Syedaal Khan added that with representation from all provinces and political parties, the Upper House of Parliament plays a crucial role in legislating for the benefit of the regions the senators represent.

He said that the current government is taking concrete steps to provide relief to the people of Pakistan. Both houses of parliament are actively working on measures to address the public's concerns. He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is committed to offering maximum relief to the people.

Tribal elders, people cooperation with security forces crucial for durable peace: CM Bugti

INP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday said that the cooperation of the tribal elders and the people with the security forces are essential for durable restoration of peace in the province. He expressed these views while addressing tribal elders at a Jirga in Zhob.

The tribal elders informed the Chief Minister about their issues. Assuring them, Balochistan Chief Minister said that measures were being taken to solve the issues of masses at their doorsteps who expected the incumbent government for solution of problems and provision of basic facilities.

He also directed concerned official on the occasion to address legal issues of public being faced by them in Zhob district soon.

An ambulance was sent to Shirani district and an armored vehicle was also provided to police immediately on directive of Chief Minister who gave these orders on the public demand of providing an ambulance.

He also issued orders for immediate deployment of teaching staff in Zhob Regional College with the aim to improve quality of education in the area. The CM ordered to speed up work on Zhob Bypass and repair of communication towers in Khurasan. On public complaints, the Chief Minister instructed for the appointment of Assistant Commissioner Kakar Khurasan and Tehsil Dar on vacant posts. He said that he would visit to every district of the province and examine the public issues personally so that they would provide maximum facilities in the area.

'X' banned to address national security concerns: Attaullah Tarar

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar says the ban on social media platform X has been imposed due to national security reasons and this should not be taken as an attempt to curb freedom of expression.

Talking to the Voice of America in New York, he said the ban is not unannounced and was imposed during the interim government.

The Minister pointed out that separatist and terrorist groups are using this platform against the country. He said BLA terrorists run their campaigns on X.

He said terrorists post all their terrorism-related activities on X and broadcast their

activities live on the social media, emphasizing that the terrorist groups cannot be allowed to misuse the social media platforms.

The Information Minister further said terrorists are misusing social media platforms to shed blood and kill innocent citizens. He said there should be some mechanism to regulate the social media to avoid its misuse.

He said a web management system already existed and there should be no issue in ensuring cyber security and data security under this system. Attaullah Tarar, however, said as a political worker, he would say that X should be opened. He said this matter can be amicably settled if compliance issues with X are resolved.



COAS General Asim Munir inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a new hub focused on advancing Pakistan's information technology (IT) sector, especially in artificial intelligence.

PM Shehbaz invites American banks to invest in Pakistan

Pakistan, Iraq agree to broaden scope of existing bilateral ties

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has invited American banks to invest in Pakistan in key sectors of infrastructure, energy, technology and agriculture.

He was talking to a delegation of prominent Pakistani American bankers on the sidelines of the 79th session of UN General Assembly in New York.

The Prime Minister assured the delegation of government's commitment to maintaining a stable macro-economic environment to facilitate foreign investors.

The Prime Minister informed the delegation about the key initiatives taken by the Government to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment to Pakistan, including broadening the tax base, enhancing the ease of doing business, and ongoing reforms in the state-owned enterprises. These steps have resulted in improved economic indicators and up-gradation of Pakistan's credit rating by international rating agencies, including, Fitch and Moodys. He also briefed the delegation on the establishment of a Sustainable Finance Framework, which will allow the Government to carry out a

green and sustainability bond issuance in the international capital markets.

Thanking the Prime Minister for the opportunity to interact with him, the delegation lauded the government's policies that have been instrumental in achieving the macroeconomic stability in Pakistan. The delegation also expressed a deep interest in cooperating with the government for the development of manufacturing sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises to help bolster the exports.

The delegation comprised high-ranking representatives from prestigious banks including JP Morgan, Natixis Corps & Investments,

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp, Goldman Sachs, Citizens Bank, Lazard, and Audax Group.

Therefor Pakistan and Iraq have agreed to further deepen and broaden the scope of existing bilateral ties.

A decision to this effect was made during a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Shia' Al Sudani on the sidelines of 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Prime Minister lauded the cordial ties between the two

brotherly countries, reinforced by strong historical, cultural and religious affinities.

He also commended the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Iraq for the Pakistani Zaireen.

The two leaders decided to benefit from the potential that exists between the two countries for enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Both the leaders noted with grave concern the ongoing Israeli carnage on Gaza and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and holding Israel accountable for the Gaza genocide.

Underscoring the commonality of views on international issues, both the

leaders resolved to reinforce the international efforts at the United Nations and the OIC platforms for immediate ceasefire in Gaza, unimpeded supply of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian brethren.

3 umpires are there, players too are 3: Imran Khan

ONLINE

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan has said there are three umpires and players are three too at present.

"there are three umpires and players are three too at present who have kept PDM with them only because they need each other to stay in power. We will not hold public meetings now but we will stage protest in Islamabad, on Minar-e-Pakistan and every where in Pakistan, he said this while talking to media men here on the occasion of hearing of Al-Qadir Trust reference in Adiala jail Friday.

What is happening there, they are three umpires and three players too. The fourth PDM is siding with them. They all need each other. Qazi Faez Isa had already evolved plan for extension. The chief justice decision regarding our electoral symbol was biased.

Supreme Court judges have made it clear in the decision of reserved seats case that PML-N and PPP are family parties. No one asks about their party election. Our three party elections were nullified. Chief election commissioner knows it when fraud election opens article 6 will be imposed on him.

He went on to say chief justice and chief election commissioner are linked to each other. The interest of both is extension.

Chief justice is now running after clause 83-A so that floor crossing could be declared just and they could get extension.

He stated third umpire too wants extension. He needs PDM support in this connection. They all are now necessary for each other to stay in power. They are annihilating supreme court, rule of law and democracy for the sake of staying in power. If country is ruined they don't care for it. The properties and wealth of all of these are abroad. Nation is begging for dollars. Morality is being butchered in the country. The institutions have been ruined.

They have not to give NOC to us, we will voice protest. If they give us NOC, they will send us outside the city. They will give time of 6 p.m and block the roads.

We will voice protest in Islamabad and on Minar-e-Pakistan. Nation will have to come out of homes now for the sake of Pakistan.

President visits family of martyred DC Zakir Baloch

INP

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday paid a visit to the family of Shaheed Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch and expressed his profound condolences to the grieved family.

Zakir Baloch was martyred in an attack in Mastung, Balochistan.

During the visit, the president expressed his profound condolences and prayed for elevation of ranks of martyred DC Zakir Baloch.

President Zardari said Zakir Baloch was martyred while fulfilling his responsibilities. He said that entire nation salutes the sacrifices of the martyrs and their families for the nation.

He also appreciated the spirit of patriotism of the martyr and prayed for the heirs to bear this irreparable loss.

Naqvi calls on INL delegation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, met with the delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the Ministry of Interior on Friday.

The delegation included US Deputy Ambassador Natalie Baker, Country Director INL Lynn Nelson, Police Advisor Ed Preston, and Police Program Specialist Faisal Gill.

Federal Interior Minister appreciated INL's exceptional cooperation in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces, citing several notable projects as praiseworthy. He emphasized for further strengthening this cooperation and making it more sustainable. He underscored the need for prioritizing high-impact projects through a master plan.

Interior Minister said that FIA is one of the most important investigative agencies of Pakistan. He expressed the desire to make the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) a dynamic organization, akin to the FBI, with INL's cooperation. He said that this project will be of pivotal importance in combating organized crimes in Pakistan.

He also stressed the need of restructuring the National Police Academy so that it can be made an international standard institution. He emphasized that it is also need of the hour to modernize the Frontier Constabulary which serves as a reserve police force across the country. Regarding Anti-narcotics efforts, Naqvi said that all possible measures are being taken.

Governor Punjab should communicate his concerns in writing: CM Punjab

ONLINE

LAHORE: If the Governor Punjab has a problem with those who have been appointed as Vice Chancellors, he should communicate that in writing...

then his office should communicate to us in writing and we will look into it. She said that they do not want any misgiving in Punjab and will want to work in tandem with entire state machinery.

Some TV channels also reported the CM as saying that he had accused the Governor of trying to get his own man appointed for the slot of VC however these reports were refuted by the Information Minister.

Earlier this week, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider told The Express Tribune

that he primarily had two objections over appointment of VCs, one that the appointment process was not transparent and secondly proper procedure as is given in law for the selection of VCs was not followed.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Mohammad Shias Al Sudani, Prime Minister of Iraq on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, in New York.

Admission test conducted for fall semester in Gwadar University

APP

Quetta: Gwadar University successfully conducted the entrance test for Semester Fall 2024 Friday in which a good number of aspirants from Gwadar district participated.

Gwadar University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir appreciated the test organizing team for conducting the test successfully.

The Vice-Chancellor in his statement said, "The high turnout in the entrance test reflects the growing interest of students in pursuing higher education in Gwadar University, we are dedicated to offering quality education and shaping future leaders."

He said that the University of Gwadar offers diverse programs in various disciplines including Management Sciences, Commerce, Economics, Chemistry, Education, Computer Science, and English which attracts students from different parts of Makran and beyond.

The entry test results are expected to be announced next week, the zero semester classes will start from the second week of October, he noted.

Chairman HEC Stresses Measures for Continuous, Sustainable Development of Higher Education Sector

Press Release

Islamabad: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has reiterated HEC's commitment to materialising holistic development of higher education sector and extending utmost facilitation to the universities for their role in the country's socio-economic development.

Sharing HEC's accomplishments during the 4th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training with Dr. Azimuddin Zahid Lakhvi in the chair, the Chairman HEC emphasised the need for continuous support from the state to higher education sector to ensure sustainable development of higher

education sector in the country. He said that HEC, in line with its core objectives, has made remarkable progress in terms of enhancing access, quality and relevance while employing financing, regulations and capacity building as its tools.

He elaborated that the number of universities has reached 265 in the country.

He maintained that the tertiary education rate was 2.1 percent before 2002, however it has now reached around 13 percent. Highlighting the



Improvement in gender parity in the enrolment ratio of male and female students in the higher education institutions,

he revealed that the ratio was 68 percent male and 32 percent female students respectively before HEC, however it has now come closer to 52 percent males and 48 percent females.

PTI's workers held protest during speech of PM at UNO



Bureau Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) America held a huge protest in front of UNO on the occasion of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's speech at UNO.

The PTI's protesters slogans were raised against the government of Pakistan and they kept demanding the release of Imran Khan soon.

Shahbaz Gill, Amjad Nawaz, Munir Khatana, Parvez Iqbal Zafar, Cheema Rana Javed also addressed the protest demonstration.



Haji Rasheed Ali along with Nawaz addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

APP's employee deprived of bike in Quetta

APP

Quetta: Unknown robbers lifted a motorbike of APP's Reporter from outside Noorani Masjid near Sariab Road area of Quetta on Friday. According to the details, the reporter of APP in Quetta went to Noorani Masjid on Sariab Road to offer Friday prayers.

After praying, as soon as he came out and the thieves took away a motorcycle which was parked near the Masjid. Police registered a case and started investigation. President of Balochistan Union of Journalists Khalil Ahmed, General Secretary Abdul Shakoor and others expressed their concern over the increasing incidents of theft in the city and demanded the IG Police, DIG Quetta and SSP Operations to take measures to prevent motorcycle theft in the city. Over a period of time, hundreds of media workers have been deprived of their motorcycles, the salaries of poor media workers are not enough to buy new bikes.

Overseas community appeals PM to replace diplomat posted in America

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's community address and dinner have been cancelled.

It is said that the Prime Minister has cancelled this drama after the conspiracy of the Chairman of Overseas Pakistan Foundation Syed Qamar Raza, Permanent Representative of Pakistan Mission Munir Akram and Consul General of Pakistan Amir Khan Attuzai was exposed.

From which overseas Pakistani Americans have appreciated this initiative and demanded that the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan

should be controversial. An investigation should be ordered into the move to create chaos among the community and journalists and the plan to embarrass Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif from the community should also be investigated in order to make the facts clear.

The Overseas community has appealed to the Prime Minister to immediately replace the diplomat posted in America and appoint a diplomat who loves the patriots and Kashmiris and is working on the mission of the Prime Minister in order to get the support of the world to free the jugular vein of Pakistan from Indian domination.



Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder, Imran Khan, at Quetta press club.



Veteran cricket umpire Aleem Dar to retire at end of 2024-25 domestic season

SPORTS DESK

Aleem Dar, widely regarded as one of the world's most respected and admired cricket umpires, will retire at the end of the 2024-25 domestic season, concluding a career that has spanned nearly a quarter of a century.

A true gentleman both on and off the field, Aleem is also a three-time winner of the prestigious David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year (2009-2011).

The 56-year-old Aleem also enjoyed a playing career of 17 first-class and 18 List-A matches between 1986 and 1998, before he made his first-class umpiring debut during the 1998-99 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

From 2003 to 2023, he served on the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, where he earned a reputation for his player-management skills, understanding of the playing conditions, calm demeanour, and outstanding decision-making.

He is currently part of the PCB's Elite Panel and remains one of four Pakistani umpires on the ICC's International Panel, making him eligible to officiate in ODIs and T20Is.

To date, Aleem has officiated in a record-breaking 145 Tests, 231 ODIs, 72 T20Is, 5 WT20Is, 181 first-class matches, and 282 List-A matches.

His contributions to the sport extend far beyond these numbers, with his professionalism and respectful manner making him a beloved figure worldwide.

Reflecting on his decision to retire, Aleem Dar said: "Umpiring has been my life for nearly 25 years and I have cherished the privilege of officiating some of the most iconic matches involving the greatest players of this generation. Throughout my career, I've strived to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, and it has been an honour to work alongside some of the finest match officials in the world. However, all great journeys must eventually come to an end, and the time has come for me to focus fully on my social and charity work. My hospital project and other initiatives are very close to my heart and require my full devotion and attention."



SRI LANKAN batter Dinesh Chandimal plays a shot during the second Test against New Zealand at the Galle International Stadium

Chandimal century powers Sri Lanka to 306-3 against New Zealand

SPORTS DESK

GALLE: Dinesh Chandimal's century in Galle powered Sri Lanka to 306-3 at stumps on Thursday's opening day of the second Test against New Zealand.

The left-hander was bowled by Glenn Phillips in the final session after hitting 15 boundaries in his knock of 116 — his sixth Test century at the picturesque venue of the Galle International Stadium and his 16th overall.

"The pitch is very good for batting compared to the one in the first game, but it was hot and humid and challenging," Chandimal said.

"I was given the new role at number three... I'm glad I have started off well."

Angelo Mathews (78) and Kamindu Mendis (51) will resume for the hosts on the second day.

It was a world record eighth consecutive fifty for Kamindu since the 25-year-old's debut against Australia at the same venue two years ago.

Mathews reached his own milestone by becoming only the sixth cricketer to make 2,000 Test runs at a single venue, in his case on the notoriously bowler-friendly Galle pitch, joining a select group that includes the likes of Joe Root and Graham Gooch.

Chandimal made his ton with a single off Kiwi spinner Mitchell Santner in a knock that capitalised on loose deliveries. He powered forward after the end of his 122-run stand with Dimuth Karunaratne, who was run out on 46 and walked back to the pavilion fuming after a miscommunication between the pair.

"It was a quick single and I wasn't prepared for it," Chandimal said. "My fault totally. I accept the blame. I feel sorry for him because he was batting so well."

Markhors qualify for final as Eliminator two washed out due to rain

SPORTS DESK

The Markhors have qualified for the Champions One-Day Cup final as the Eliminator two against the Lions called off due to rain at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Friday. According to the qualifying conditions in case of rain or other unforeseen obstacles in the play-offs, the team with the higher standing at the conclusion of the league games, would qualify for the final of the event.

As per these conditions, the Markhors, led by Muhammad Rizwan, topped the charts with three wins, one loss and 38 points whereas the Lions, led by Shaheen Afridi, were placed on the fourth spot with one win and three losses and 12 points.

Markhors will now face the Panthers in the final, scheduled for Sunday (September 29) at the Iqbal Stadium.

The Markhors and the Panthers have faced each other twice



in the tournament with their latest encounter being the Qualifier 1 where the former lost by seven wickets and the Shadab Khan-led Panthers eased their way into the final of the Champions One-Day Cup.

Their previous face-off was on September 12 where the Rizwan-led Markhors registered a 160-run victory against the Shadab-led team. Kamran Ghulam's 115 runs helped the Markhors put up a 348-run target against the Panthers and Naseem Shah's and Akif Javed's bowling prowess — they took three wickets each — aided Rizwan and Co in bowling out the Panthers on 187 runs.

Advertisement for 'Sishan Jig Kichhi' (Sishan Jig Kichhi) featuring contact information and a QR code.

Tender Notice from the Office of the Chief Officer District Council Chaman, inviting sealed percentage tenders for development works.

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Breathing space

PAKISTAN'S last-gasp \$7bn IMF bailout approved by the multilateral lender more than two months after an agreement was reached between the two sides sets a massive and difficult agenda for the government. The approval of the 37-month package will kick the 'default can' further down the road, providing the authorities some space to address the structural economic issues that have brought the country to the IMF's doors for a record 25 rescues since 1958.

The new programme targets debt sustainability and macroeconomic stability through consolidation of public finances, build-up of foreign exchange reserves, restoration of a debt-ridden energy sector, and an improved business climate to encourage private sector-led growth. In addition, the loan stipulates an expansion in social spending and protection, the imposition of an effective agriculture income tax, transfer of several fiscal responsibilities to the provinces and the curtailment of subsidies.

The funding programme, which makes Pakistan the most frequent borrower of IMF funds besides being its fifth largest debtor, also envisages a substantial increase in tax revenues to boost the tax-to-GDP ratio by three percentage points to 13.5pc in three years. The politically and economically beleaguered Shehbaz Sharif government has already implemented additional taxes of nearly Rs1.8tr, and heftily increased electricity and gas prices to get access to fresh IMF funds. As is evident from this year's budget, the wealthy classes have again evaded the extreme pain of fiscal and economic adjustments with the working classes shouldering most of this burden.

In spite of delays, the loan's approval was never in doubt. The question is: will this programme help Pakistan emerge from its economic crisis? Or, more importantly, will the government be able to meet the stringent loan conditions? This question becomes even more crucial because lenders like ADB believe that rising political and institutional tensions may make it difficult to implement the reforms that Pakistan has committed to delivering.

Struggling with boom-and-bust economic cycles for decades, the country has been facing anaemic economic growth, high inflation and a balance-of-payments crisis for over two years now. So far Islamabad has warded off a default and accessed IMF funds, with generous support from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. With debt payments totalling \$90bn over the next three years, this support will not be enough for the country to come out of the crisis.

No doubt the programme is crucial to end the uncertainty around Pakistan's ability to pay its debts. But the government needs to go beyond the stipulations of the bailout to drive long-term economic growth and break out of endless IMF rescue cycles. Is it prepared to execute the IMF-mandated reforms and also look beyond for longer-term stability? Its actions so far, especially its taxation measures, inspire little hope.

By Ghulam Shabbir

Islamic modernism

PRISTINE Islam was a scientific statement of man's role and relation to God and the universe. This movement of moral initiative was intent to create a world moral order with the instruments of state through socioeconomic principles of the Quran, which involved active goodwill and cooperation of its adherents. The upshot of this sociopolitical order was to reflect equality which all people share in the eyes of God. The Prophet (PBUH) succeeded in establishing an egalitarian moral order in Arabia.

When he departed, Islam was all set to launch its 'world career' beyond Arabia. Thus, under the Prophet and the first two caliphs, the interests of the community and the state were identical and indivisible. During the third caliph's rule the integrity of the state was shaken, and so was that of the community. During the fourth caliph's period the state was dismembered, and so was the community.

Religio-political wars harmed the community, particularly socioeconomic and political reforms. To Ibn Taimiyya, the period till 425 AH is considered the most creative time for the development of Islamic disciplines, ie, law, theology, hermeneutics etc, which he terms classical Islam. From the fourth century onwards, conjecture replaced scientific outlook and neo-kalam, neo-fiqh, neo-mysticism took root and since ijihad and ijma came to an early stop, the inner integrity of Islam suffered; indeed, mutually opposed 'Islams' developed throughout the latter centuries.

Ghazali struck an organic link between law, theology and mysticism but he sacrificed posi-

tivism and collectivism at the altar of personalism. He condemned reason as against faith to stem the aggressive tide of science and philosophy. But his temporary measure assumed permanence in orthodox Islam, while with Ibn al-Arabi's speculative philosophy, he tore asunder the symbiotic existence of reason and intuition, with reason condemned to oblivion in the interests of so-called infallible intuition (kashf). What Ibn al-Arabi forgot was that reason is both perceptive and formulative and Sufi intuition needs to be rehabilitated to stay accountable to true reason.

Dr Fazlur Rahman was the epitome of traditional and modern learning.

Ibn Taimiyya's fresh approach to the Quran and seerah reinvigorated positivism and collectivism of Islam. He went unheeded for centuries till the 18th-century reformer Ibn Abdul Wahab 'resurrected' him piecemeal, suited to his capacities and necessities. However, it was Sheikh Sirhindi who owned Ibn Taimiyya in almost all aspects of Islamic thought. It can be argued that he rescued reason and reality of the world from the iron grip of Sufism.

Two great 18th-century reformers — Ibn Abdul Wahab and Shah Wali Allah — sensed that the rot had set in on the realm of Islamic intellectualism and vehemently endeavoured for course correction. However, the encounter with the imperial West forced Muslims to reformulate Islam as a social proposition to make Islam again a socially geared religion.

Here the great 19th-century reformer Syed Jamal al-Din Afghani enters the arena. Neither enchanted nor haunted by Westernism, he appreciated the dynamic impulse, constitutionalism and scientific

attitude of that culture but condemned its materialistic metaphysics. He said Islam is neither the enemy of reason nor science, and it fell to Sir Syed and Mohammad Abduh to prove this statement. Both flung open the door of petrified tradition to fresh air, yet the formulation of Islamic modernism was far from their capacities. So, the none-too-sober character of Islamic modernism provoked a comparably none-too-thoughtful radical reaction. As a corollary, Islamic modernism split into two opposing movements — the one that accepted secular modernity, the other that assumed fundam-entalism. This is what happened both in the subcontinent and the Middle East. As a related development, says French scholar Jacques Berque "Today, all too many militants and intellectuals, are proponents either of an authenticity with no future or of a modernism with no roots." Allama Iqbal enhanced the legacy of Afghani.

His magnum opus, Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, wherein Abduh and Sir Syed fail to find a place even in the footnotes, proves to be the linchpin of Islamic modernism. However, Islamic modernism as a systematic thought found full expression in Dr Fazlur Rahman's constructs. He was the epitome of traditional as well as modern learning. Mystic tradition supplied him with vast reservoirs of faith, and modern learning equipped him with intellectual prowess. His belief in intellectual egalitarianism gave him the courage to speak and write the truth with no holds barred. In his discourse, revelation, reason and reality of the world are tuned to the same wavelength. As a lighthouse his legacy seems enough to lead the fleets to harbour. Are we ready to take the plunge?



By Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Cultural resistance

MOB lynchings under the pretext of blasphemy have become commonplace. In exceptional circumstances, law enforcement officials intervene and take accused persons into custody before the mob sets upon them. But two recent cases in Quetta and Umerkot, where accused persons were killed while in police custody, make clear that the rot runs deep.

Mercifully, there is another side to this story. The response of a wide cross-section of Sindhi political circles, intellectuals and common people to the Umerkot incident has been swift and considerable. Immediately after the event, a young Hindu man, Premo Kohli, prevented the enraged mob from setting the body of the lynched man, Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar, on fire. This act of bravery then became the rallying cry for a wider mobilisation, culminating in a public protest bringing together thousands of people in Umerkot, the scene of the original lynching, on Sept 25.

There is likely to be more mobilisation in the coming days on both sides of the ideological divide. It is not to be understated that the religious right — both mainstream and militant — has created significant pockets of support in Sindhi society in recent years. The right-wing always looks at emotive events like lynchings as opportunities to further its agenda. But of all of Pakistan's brutalised peripheries, Sindhi remains home to the most robust and historically powerful expressions of cultural resistance to right-wing militancy.

Ironically, it is from Sindh that mainstream Pakistani historiography traces its origins; in this familiar story, Islam entered the subcontinent through Muhammad bin Qasim's conquest of Sindh. But despite the investments made by the Pakistani state in propagating this official history, Sindhi public opinion has always resisted the idea that Muhammad bin Qasim was a liberator.

Sindh is home to a robust pushback against right-wing militancy.

Over the past eight decades, the Sindhi language and its literatures have been developed more than all of Pakistan's vernaculars. The vast majority of Sindhi-speaking children grow up learning how to read and write their mother tongue. Sindhi-language newspapers have a reach far exceeding Urdu and English ones.

Cultural resistance to the religious right, as well as the big landed pirs who instrumentalise their spiritual power, is not a recent phenomenon. The 17th-century Sufi saint and poet Shah Inayat

was also a Robin Hood figure who mobilised landless peasants — popularly called haris in Sindh — against landlords and local kingdoms. This legacy carried on into the 20th century under the tutelage of legendary figures like the communist leader Haider Bux Jatoti. These feats of popular resistance are immortalised in the words of Latif, and many others.

Despite all of this, Sindhi politics remains in the shadows of the PPP. For a brief period after it was formed in 1967, the PPP in Sindh embodied the aspirations of workers and peasants, as well as the progressive intelligentsia at large. While some of the latter remain convinced of the PPP's progressive credentials, today's

PPP is an umbrella for landlords and state functionaries that are anything but answerable to the people.

So it was with Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar, killed while in the custody of high-ranking police officials, who were in turn garlanded by prominent religious functionaries. To date, there has been no meaningful action taken by the PPP-led provincial government against these powerful men, let alone a public statement by PPP leaders condemning the mob lynching.

The PPP is not fundamentally responsible for Pakistan's drift towards the right — that accolade belongs to the military establishment and its organic intellectuals. But the PPP, like all mainstream bourgeois parties, almost always chooses silence rather than confrontation over incidents like the Umerkot lynching.

As the PPP continues to insist on finding a way to pass the latest constitutional amendment, which makes a mockery of the notion of separation of powers and institutional independence, it should not be forgotten that it was when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was prime minister that the second amendment was made to the 1974 Constitution through which Ahmadis were excommunicated.

Such expediencies have gotten us to where we are. Every day they push us further towards the proverbial abyss. The fact that Sindhi progressives continue to push back despite everything is a source of hope.

They are paralleled by young Pakhtun progressives resisting the forces of reaction and the establishment through the PTM, and Baloch women that are doing so through the BYC. The next step would be a countrywide umbrella that brings together all of these vibrant forms of cultural resistance to offer a genuine political-economic alternative to the establishment-centric system of power.

DAILY MIRROR

Amir Muqam Stresses For Welfare Of Coalmines Workers

APP

QUETTA: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Amir Muqam on Friday said that all out efforts would be taken to ensure the protection of coalminers and basic facilities as the workers working in the coal mines are the asset of the country.

The workers are working hard and contributing to the country's economy and development, Amir Muqam said while addressing a ceremony organized in the honor of coal mines workers.

He said that the people associated with the coal mines would be provided all the facilities and privileges for avoiding tragic incidents in the mining sites. He said on the mines where injustice was done with the workers will be sealed and ban would be also imposed on those mines in the province which lack precautionary measures.

Amir Muqam said that no compromise will be made on the protection and

rights of the workers working in the coal mine.

The government was the key priority to provide all possible facilities to the workers, their all legitimate demands would be addressed. He also announced 2 ambulances for the coal mine workers.

Engineer Amir Muqam hailed the approval of 7 billion Dollar IMF deal, which will stabilize the economy of the country.

"The political rivals of the PML-N and anti Pakistan elements tried their best to sabotage the financial deal to put the country in the financial crises, however their nefarious designs failed," Amir Muqam remarked.

Federal Minister said that those who destroy peace cannot be Pakistanis. He called upon on the people of Balochistan to do not be part of the anti-Pakistan campaign to sabotage the development and peace process of the country.

He said everyone has to play their role in maintaining peace, adding that no power can separate Balochistan from Pakistan.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League Mian Nawaz Sharif, has put the country on the path of development and strengthen the economy. Amir Muqam said that the Prime Minister is taking special interest in the development and prosperity of Balochistan.

Amir Muqam said that the development of Balochistan was the top priority of federal government as it has allocated Rs 130 billion development budget in the current PSDP for the uplifting of the province.

He said that Gwadar port will be practically operational which would be linked with Karachi through road.

Federal Minister Amir Muqam said that the Prime Minister has approved the solarization of 28,000 agricultural tube wells of Balochistan, which will bring a green revolution in the province.

He said that by utilizing the mineral resources of the province, Pakistan and Balochistan can be put on the path of development.



President, Asif Ali Zardari offering condolences to the family members of Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch Shaheed, in Karachi

Senate Body discusses Constitutional Amendments, LG & provincial representation

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chaired by Senator Farooq H. Naek, the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice on Thursday addresses critical issues surrounding constitutional amendments, local government empowerment, and provincial representation.

The Senate Body noted that Constitution Amendment Bills were being introduced by Members without seeking instructions/approval from the respective Parliamentary parties which was against the spirit and scheme of Article 63A of the Constitution of Pakistan wherein it was compulsory to act/vote on a Constitution Amendment Bill in consonance with the party directions. The matter was unanimously referred to the Committee on Rules of Procedure to propose suitable amendments in the Senate Rules in this regard.

A significant topic of discussion was a proposed amendment to Article 51 of the Constitution, introduced by Senators Manzoor Ahmed and Danesh Kumar. This amendment aims to ensure equitable representation for non-Muslims in the National Assembly by guaranteeing at least one reserved seat for each province. Senator Danesh Kumar emphasized that the current system, which allocates seats based on proportional representation, disproportionately benefits majority provinces, leaving non-Muslim communities underrepresented. Senator Khalil Tahir representing Christian community also voiced concerns in this regard.

The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Farooq H. Naek, while appreciating the Bill, asked the Minister for Law and Justice to come up with the appropriate amendments to substantiate the spirit of the proposed amendment. During the meeting, Senator Saadia Abbasi withdrew the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2021 (Insertion of Article 25B - Right to Nutrition and Food Security), introduced in the Senate on 27th September 2024. The Committee examined another bill by Senators Danesh Kumar and Manzoor Ahmed, proposing an increase in seats for the Balochistan Assembly. Senator Naek noted that while Article 51 provides for population-based seat allocation, Article 106 does not. He cautioned that any increase based on population could lead to demands from other provinces. The Committee examined examples of various.

Country's prosperity hinges on independent judiciary: Shibli Faraz

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shibli Faraz said on Friday that the country's prosperity hinges on the independent judiciary.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Faraz said: "I will not say this is the constitutional amendment but the evil amendment. The independent judiciary is not only the demand of the PTI but of the entire country."

"The lawyers should rise to the occasion for the protection of the judiciary," Faraz said.

"Tomorrow, we are having a protest," he said. "None of the PTI senators is in contact with the government," Faraz added. Meanwhile, expressing his thoughts, PTI leader Sheikh Waqas Akram said: "The purpose of bringing the

amendment is to ban the PTI. Those who had only bagged 16 seats are having no right to bring any amendment."

"The PTI will continue to show resistance against the constitutional amendment," Akram stated.

Akram asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) chief election commissioner and all other members to tender their resignations.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman had said that he will not support any act that goes against the constitution of the country."

Expressing his thoughts during the Senate session, Zafar said: "The premier or interior minister will have to tender the resignation. If you will not do this, then it will be up to your conscience."

"The arrest of the lawmakers from the Parliament House is condemnable," said Zafar.

Govt Working on Comprehensive Strategy to Promote Tourism in Balochistan: CM Bugti

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday said that provincial government was working on a comprehensive strategy to promote tourism in the province.

In one of his messages issued here on the occasion of World Tourism Day, he said that Balochistan is a vibrant area in terms of

tourism saying that covering almost half of the area of Pakistan, this region is famous for its long rivers,

plains, desert land and high mountain ranges where tourism promotion could attract the attention of tourists from all over the world.

The CM said that it is a matter of happiness for me that today the World Tourism Day is being celebrated under the theme "Tourism and Peace".

He said that Balochistan is the most beautiful region of the world in terms of tourism, where people

of every school of thought are settled, the residents here are still upholding the centuries-old traditions, geographically, this region has a unique status.

He said that he is determined to make Balochistan a visible tourist center of Pakistan because tourism could light the candles of love and peace between nations and cultures and tourism could promote peace.

The Chief Minister said that Balochistan has been a confluence of different civilizations since ancient times.

Balochistan's Darra Bolan, Darra Mola and Zhob have a historical status, while there is also the "Makran Desert", which is one of the world's largest deserts including the two plains of Kachchi and Lasbela.

Balochistan Education Department Suspends DEO, Issued Show-cause Notices To 5 Others

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Education Department has suspended two District Education Officers (DEO) and also issued show-cause notices to five others for avoiding initiating disciplinary actions against absentee which were badly affected the education service delivery.

On the directions of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, multiple reforms have been initiated in the education department to improve the education system and ensure the presence of teachers in schools and restore the non-functional schools in the province.

According to the officials of the education department, show-cause notices have been issued to the education district officers of Killa Abdullah, Awaran, Usta Muhammad, Ziarat and Kharan districts on negligence and making unnecessary delays in processing disciplinary action against chronic absentee teachers in their respective teachers.

According to the officials, these district officers were deliberately turned a blind eye on the absent of teachers due to which the education system was badly affected.

CM Bugti expressed his satisfaction on the restoration of closed schools in the province and said that these had been functioning for the last several decades, which is a good step.

Pakistan, Nepal vow to cement bilateral, regional cooperation

APP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Nepal have reiterated commitment to continue exploring avenues for enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation.

The bilateral ties were discussed in the meeting between Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Nepali counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli on the sidelines of 79th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Prime Minister congratulated K.P. Sharma Oli on assuming the office of the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Expressing satisfaction at the excellent bilateral ties between Pakistan and Nepal, Shehbaz Sharif conveyed warm sentiments and wishes for the people and the Government of Nepal on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

Pakistan, UK agree to promote relations in various sectors

PM emphasizes to deepen Pakistan-US trade ties

By Khawaja Farooq

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized to deepen Pakistan-US trade and investment ties.

He was talking to a delegation of the US-Pakistan Business Council, on the sidelines of 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The delegation comprised of President and other senior officials of the US-Pakistan Business Council and corporate leaders from the leading US enterprises.

The Prime Minister said attracting the US foreign investments in all sectors of Pakistan's economy is the government's priority.

He said the government is focused on further improving ease of doing business in Pakistan and in that regard accorded high priority to receiving suggestions from the corporate circles.

Introducing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to the participants, the Prime Minister said SIFC is aimed at bolstering investor confidence and expediting project implementation through customized solutions and demand-driven facilitation.

He underscored that SIFC is a high-level, one-window agency empowered to facilitate foreign investors in planning and implementing their ventures in four key areas: agriculture, IT, energy, and mining.

Shehbaz Sharif identified various areas in Pakistan's economy, particularly agriculture, tech sector including fintech, pharmaceutical, oil and gas and mining, where the US companies could benefit from the Government's policies and undertake projects for mutual benefit.

Therefore Pakistan and the United Kingdom have agreed to promote bilateral relations in various sectors, including trade and investment.

The understanding reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his British Counterpart Keir Starmer, on the sidelines of 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, discussion was held on Pakistan's economic situation, while Shehbaz Sharif shed light on government's measures for economic development, especially reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue and enhancing tax-base.



Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with a delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), in Islamabad.

Pakistan, China share energy security goals: Musadik Malik

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister of Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik visited the YanChang Petroleum, a leading Chinese energy company, on the sidelines of 8th Silk Route Expo in China.

The visit underscores both nations' commitment to enhancing strategic partnerships in the fields of energy exploration, innovation, and sustainable development.

Senior leadership of YanChang Petroleum gave Dr Musadik Malik an in-depth overview of the company's ongoing projects and future growth strategies.

The discussion focused on several key areas, including oil and gas exploration, refinery cooperation, integrated coal industrial complex, and technological innovations.

The Minister highlighted the importance of international collaboration to meet the growing energy demands.

He said Pakistan and China have shared goals in ensuring energy security, and this visit is an opportunity to explore new avenues for cooperation that align with both nations' commitments to innovation in the energy sector.

The Minister was also informed about company's latest advancements in energy technologies, including renewable energy integration and carbon capture initiatives.

It is noteworthy that YanChang Petroleum is one of China's leading energy companies with a diversified portfolio spanning oil and gas exploration, production, and refining, as well as significant investments in production of sophisticated chemicals like ethanol.

Pakistan, Belarus agree joint venture to establish tractor plant in Pakistan

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Belarus have agreed a joint venture to establish a tractor plant in the country to uplift the local agriculture sector and enhance productivity.

Consensus on this initiative was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Vadim Shagoiko in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Industry Andrei Kuznetsov of Belarus.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on a foot-and-mouth vaccine project to protect cattle, as well as on the capacity building of agricultural engineers in machinery design.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, on the occasion, shared a detailed plan on cooperation in the livestock and seed sectors, the mechanization of agriculture, and increasing market access for agricultural and livestock products.

He emphasized that Pakistan greatly appreciates the active engagement from the Belarusian side, aimed at fostering and enhancing bilateral cooperation and collaboration in agriculture and livestock.

The Minister also stated that Pakistani fruits should be granted access to the Belarusian market.

The Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food expressed his country's interest in establishing a veterinary medicine plant in Pakistan.

Rana Tanveer Hussain responded that Pakistan is ready to facilitate investment in veterinary medicine.



Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Malik Naeem Khan Bazai along with administration holds negotiations and demanding for his recovery as soon as possible, in Quetta.