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Prime Minister
Shehbaz Sharif

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Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

Ishaq Dar expresses condolences on Sheila Jackson Lee's demise



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday expressed sorrow over the death of U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a distinguished lawmaker and a steadfast friend of Pakistan," the Deputy PM wrote on his official X handle.

He highlighted her role as Chairperson of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, emphasizing her unwavering dedication to strengthening Pakistan-US relations, which he noted will be remembered always. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and loved ones during this difficult time," he added.

ECP to scrutinize nomination papers, affiliation certificates of 41 independent members

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission has decided to scrutinize the nomination papers and affiliation certificates of 41 independent members.

According to sources, the Election Commission will conduct a thorough examination of the affiliation certificates and nomination papers of the independent members.

There are concerns about discrepancies, including ambiguities in affidavits provided by one assembly member.

The Election Commission has instructed its legal team and relevant departments to meticulously verify the signatures on the affidavits of independent members. The review will also cover the signatures on the nomination papers. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Pak-China cooperation. APP

PM orders speedy implementation of bilateral agreements with China

Gov't determined to provide equal opportunities to all talented women: PM Shehbaz

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the concerned authorities to expedite process of implementing the agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) made with the Chinese government and companies, saying that delay in implementation of the agreements would not be tolerated. China is a time tested friend of Pakistan who helped Pakistan in every hour of need, the prime minister said while chairing a review meeting regarding Pak-China cooperation here at PM House.

He said the Chinese leadership was determined to further expand investment in Pakistan. The prime minister pointed out that the transfer of the Chinese industry to Pakistan would help improving the country's overall economy, increasing Pakistan's exports, and creating new employment opportunities. During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on progress of different projects that were launched with the Chinese cooperation. The prime minister was told that Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway would be completed through Public Private Partnership. It was informed that the plan to send 1,000 students for modern agricultural vocational training at government expense had been completed. The first batch of students was being sent to

China at the beginning of this academic year while the next batch would be sent to the Chinese modern agricultural universities after learning Chinese in Pakistan.

Furthermore, the meeting was informed that the plan to transfer the power plants running on imported coal to local coal was also in the final stages.

As regards business and investment opportunities in Pakistan, a road show was being organized in Beijing with the cooperation of China. A comprehensive road map was presented to the meeting regarding the transfer of Chinese industries in Pakistan.

It was informed in the meeting that the Chinese textile, medical and surgical equipment, plastic and leather industries will be partnered with Chinese companies to move to Pakistan. "78 Pakistani companies have initially expressed deep interest in cooperation for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan," the meeting was informed. In this regard, the Board of Investment (BoI) presented a comprehensive report on the progress and action plan.

The prime minister appreciated the steps and recommendations of BoI in this regard. He directed the relevant departments and officers to provide all kinds of facilities to Pakistani companies in collaborating with Chinese companies.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan,

Abdul Aleem Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Musadik Malik, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other high officials. Federal Ministers, Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Asif and Rana Tanvir Hussain attended the meeting via video link.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday, appreciating the Pakistani women for rendering valuable services in every field, said that the government was determined to provide equal opportunities to all talented women across the country. He was talking to the globally acclaimed Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiyani who called on him at the PM House.

The prime minister said providing facilities to the women in various sectors including information technology, education, professional training, sports and other sectors was part of the government's top priorities.

The prime minister congratulated Naila on becoming the first Pakistani woman to conquer 11 peaks, above 8,000 meters, calling it a proud moment for Pakistan.

He also congratulated Naila Kiyani for recently scaling 8,485 meters high fifth-highest peak Mount Makalu. PM Shehbaz Sharif also commended her work as an honorary ambassador for education and her efforts to promote professional training in the field of mountaineering.

President Zardari expresses grief over US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's demise

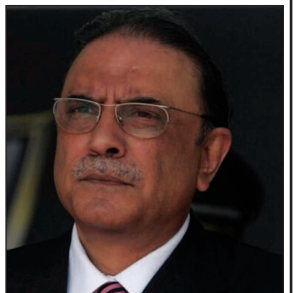
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday expressed grief over the death of the United States Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, founder and co-chairperson of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus.

He offered his heartfelt condolences to the family members and friends of the Late Congresswoman.

The president said that Congresswoman Sheila Jackson was a remarkable leader who always advocated for human rights, with a particular focus on women and children.

He highlighted that her contributions towards strengthening the relations between Pakistan and the USA would always be remembered.

The president stated that her efforts during the devastating floods of 2022 in Pakistan would never be forgotten. "Her advocacy and support during that difficult time provided hope and relief to the families affected by the floods", he added.



Tarar grieved over death of father of PIO Mubashir Hassan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of the father of Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mubashir Hassan.

In a condolence message, the minister expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Mubashir Hassan and his family.

He said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of PIO Mubashir Hassan's father.

Terming the death of a father a great tragedy for the children, he said the "vacuum created by the death of the father will never be filled".

The minister said at this hour of sorrow, he shared the grief of the bereaved family.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.



CJCSC felicitates Chinese people, military leadership on 97th founding day of PLA



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Friday congratulated the people, civilians and military leadership, and all ranks of People's Liberation Army on its 97th founding day anniversary.

The CJCSC praised the role of People's Liberation Army in China's development and its rapid modernisation to become an important force

for regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The CJCSC attended commemorative ceremony of 97th founding day of People's Liberation Army of People's Republic of China as a Chief Guest. While addressing the audience, the CJCSC highlighted close and fraternal "All Weather Friendship" between China and Pak-

istan and reaffirmed commitments to further expand and deepen the relationship.

During the speech, the CJCSC also underscored Pakistan's firm commitments to work closely with China on CPEC, defence cooperation and regional peace and stability. The ceremony was attended by a large number of civilians and military officers, journalists, businessmen and members of the civil society. PR

All Pakistani students in Bangladesh are safe: FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

Says our mission in Dhaka is in contact with all students



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has said that our mission in Dhaka is in contact with all students.

In a statement issued on Saturday, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Deputy Head of Mission has visited Chitagong to meet the students there as well. All students are safe.

She said that the High Commission has accommodated students at safe locations. These include the High Commission, Ambassador's residence and some other safe locations. SABAH

Strategy evolved to invite Chinese companies for investing in various sectors

ISLAMABAD: Strategy for "Joint Ventures" among various companies and business organizations of China and Pakistan has been evolved and according to the details, Chinese companies will be invited here to invest in 7 major and important sectors of Pakistan. Moreover, 78 business organizations from China and 167 from Pakistan will participate in this gigantic session which is expected to make great progress in the investment sector.

This was expressed in the briefing of the joint meeting of the Board of Investment Headed by Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan, said a press release. Federal Minister of Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that it is possible to increase the trade volume of Pakistan by one billion dollars with the cooperation of Chinese companies.

He said that there is no doubt that the ground realities and current conditions as compared to Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and other countries in the region, Pakistan is a more attractive and important country for China in terms of invest-

ment. Abdul Aleem Khan directed the high-ups of Board of Investment to immediately finalize details with companies who have to go in "Joint Ventures" for mutual investment.

He added that for this purpose Pakistani Embassy in Beijing should also be taken on board so that companies in China could be facilitated as much as possible. Abdul Aleem Khan said that Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Industry and Production, Food Security and Maritime should also be taken in to loop for ensuring maximum coordinated efforts for investment. Federal Minister of Investment Board said that new industries should be established in industrial free zones or in the areas where maximum electrical supply is possible. He also asked the relevant authorities to submit the details for Pakistan-China trade road map to the Prime Minister and get directions for further progress in this regard. Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also expressed in the briefing session regarding the investment of Chinese companies and said that the Ministry of Commerce has been instructed to fully coordinate and cooperate with the Board of Investment.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Directs to Expedite Launch of Chief Minister Solar Panel Financing Scheme

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting in which matters pertaining to 'Chief Minister Solar Panel Financing Scheme' were reviewed. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to simplify the solar panel financing scheme. She directed to ensure early completion of the required process for launching of the said scheme.

Secretary Energy Naem Rauf while giving a comprehensive briefing about the Chief Minister Solar Panel Financing Scheme apprised that under the pilot project, test run of the Chief Minister Solar Panel Financing Scheme has been launched at various sites. Rating and performance of solar panel system will be monitored as being installed at various

sites. Online monitoring of solar system is ongoing through the Solar PV App. It was further apprised in the briefing that the scheme will be launched from 14th August after reviewing its test run success. The eligibility for the scheme can be checked by sending a bill reference number and CNIC number on 8800. The successful consumers will be informed through SMS after conducting the balloting process by PITB. The district administration and Discoms (Distribution Company) will verify credentials of the successful consumers in the balloting process. A Bar Code and QR Code will be imprinted on the solar panel and on the system as well so as to save the scheme from being sold in the panel market. In the first phase, more than one lakh



consumers will be given solar panels through the balloting process. It was informed in the briefing that the consumers involved in electricity theft, having more than one meters, having out of order or tampered meters, and not paying electricity bills will not be eligible for the solar scheme. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Flour and electricity cost badly affects economic conditions of the people. We will definitely do whatever we can to provide maximum relief to the people. I want that every citizen of Punjab should be given relief in their electricity bill. We will gradually extend the scope of solar panel financing scheme." She added, "Punjab is the only province which took a lead by presenting rupees 625 surplus budget according to the IMF conditions." Quaid PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said, "No one can pay the electricity bill as it has become a burden not only for the poor but for everyone. We ended loadshedding in our tenure and kept the electricity bill under control as well. By 2017, the electricity bills were less and dollar rate was below as well. Since 2018, the poor have suffered a lot. A man roaming about on the road was assured

that justice will be provided to him. We had sent back IMF and who brought them back again is known by everyone. The country is not being treated in a nice and fair manner. The country was prospering by leaps and bounds during our tenure and suddenly its progress came to a halt. Those giving decisions will have to rethink even now and they should care for the people. The government should undertake all possible measures to provide maximum relief to the citizens." Senator Pervez Rasheed, Special Assistant to PM Rana Sanaullah Khan, Provincial Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant Rashid Nasrullah, MNA Bilal Azhar Kayani, Chairman P&D, Secretaries and other relevant officers attended the meeting. PR

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Overpopulation dilemma

UMMI KALSOOM

World Population Day this year – with the theme, ‘Harnessing the Power of Inclusive Data for a Resilient and Equitable Future for All’ – highlighted the pivotal role of precise and comprehensive data in shaping our future. Unfortunately, Pakistan is still wrestling with this fundamental requirement. The country’s irregular approach to conducting regular censuses and the absence of detailed data from the 2023 census present significant hurdles. Without trustworthy data, effective planning and tackling the myriads of challenges arising from the country’s swiftly growing population become increasingly complex. The availability of reliable data at the local administrative level is vital to ensure policymakers’ accountability. Furthermore, constituency-level data is crucial for political accountability and ownership, as political determination plays a key role in Muslim countries such as Iran and Bangladesh in achieving sustainable population growth.

This data forms the foundation for making informed decisions and executing effective policies. It enables us to identify areas of need, distribute resources wisely, and track progress towards our developmental goals.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is still wrestling with this fundamental requirement. To address these urgent issues, we need a robust data collection and management system that ensures transparency and accessibility.

The need to confront the challenges brought about by Pakistan’s rapidly expanding population, currently standing at 241.5 million, is more pressing than ever. This dramatic growth calls for a thorough reassessment of our strategies to ensure that our children have equal access to education, healthcare, proper nutrition, and economic opportunities.

This not only endangers the well-being of our current population but also puts the prospects of our youth at risk. If the current growth rate of 2.55 per cent continues, Pakistan will face colossal challenges in providing the necessary infrastructure and services to its burgeoning population. The Population Council reports that the country’s total fertility rate of 3.6 is the highest in the region, while the contraceptive prevalence rate remains worryingly low.

If this trend persists, Pakistan will need an additional 57,000 primary schools by 2040 to accommodate the surge of school-aged children. Already, millions of children are denied their fundamental right to education. The demand for new schools will exacerbate an already critical shortage, intensifying disparities in educational access and quality.

The current state of child nutrition is equally alarming, with 40 per cent of children experiencing stunted growth and 29 per cent being underweight. These figures raise serious questions about our collective capacity to provide necessities and essential healthcare services for future generations. Malnutrition not only impacts physical health but also impedes cognitive development, leading to a cycle of poverty and underachievement. Addressing these issues necessitates a joint effort from both the state and society.

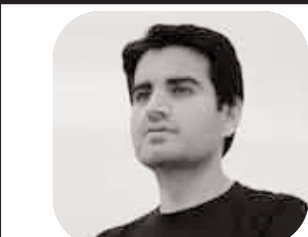
Policymakers must place population welfare and family planning at the forefront of development priorities. Sustainable population growth is integral to national prosperity. While the country’s major political parties have recognized these issues, the government must convert these commitments into tangible action plans and ensure accountability.

The media also has a crucial role in shifting public discourse towards population concerns, raising awareness and urgency. Significant, targeted investments in healthcare, education, and social services are vital to meet the needs of a growing population. The government should pledge to prioritize population management initiatives and healthcare, ensure universal access to family planning services, improve health infrastructure, and invest heavily in education, particularly female education. These crucial steps are necessary for managing population growth and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

The government must also prioritize the collection and dissemination of comprehensive and accessible data. We also stress the need for integrating population management into the curriculum and empowering teachers to discuss the importance of family planning, thereby equipping the younger generation with the knowledge to make informed decisions.

Prioritizing these initiatives will allow us to directly tackle the challenges posed by rapid population growth. Together, we can build a more prosperous and equitable future for Pakistan, where every child has the opportunity to flourish.

The writer works at the Population Council Pakistan’s Islamabad office.



Nauman Ahmad Bhatti

The remittance bubble

Meanwhile, the elite class, whose monthly income exceeds Rs2 million, remains largely exempted from any additional taxes. This glaring disparity highlights the government’s skewed priorities, favoring the affluent while neglecting the backbone of the nation’s economy – the middle class and skilled professionals.

In a world where developing nations vie to retain talent, Pakistan stands out by doing the opposite. By making life increasingly untenable for the middle class and skilled labour, the government indirectly encourages emigration. In 2023 alone, more than 860,000 Pakistanis left the country in search of better

opportunities abroad, a significant increase from 765,000 in 2022 and 225,000 in 2021.

This export of human capital is not just a strategy, but it is a symptom of a deeper economic malaise. Now, the line between patriotism and pragmatism is drawn with a dollar sign. Over the years, Pakistan has been increasingly dependent on remittances from abroad to keep its economy afloat. The amount of money that the Pakistani diaspora sends back home significantly contributes to GDP.

Economic policies appear to be designed with one primary objective: to maximize remittance inflows. This brain drain is not seen as a loss but rather as a strategic asset by the government. Leaders view the outflow of skilled labour as a means to bolster remittance inflows. The remittance target for 2024 is estimated at \$28.5 billion, up from \$24 billion in the previous year. As of now, the remittance-to-GDP ratio stands at around 7.0 per cent. This

figure surpasses the contribution of more than eight main sectors and subsectors of the GDP. It is because of this consistent increase over the last years that the government has started to rely on the remittance economy. Hoping that this money will add to its foreign reserves and stabilize the balance of payments; remittances have now become an important factor in policymaking.

This overreliance is not only unsustainable but also indicative of a deeper, more troubling trend: the systematic expulsion of the country’s skilled labour force through ill-conceived policies and neglect. Reliance on remittances is a short-

run. Most of the ones emigrating do not plan to be back. Once settled, they seek to have their families settled abroad with them. Whom will they send the remittance money to? The increasing cost of living in West Asian countries, like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which host a significant number of Pakistani expatriates, will reduce their amount of savings. The UAE’s plan to increase the remittance fee by up to 15 per cent will further strain the finances of overseas Pakistanis working there. On top of this, a global decline in the demand for manual labour is being observed, especially in Western countries where Pakistanis desire the most to be settled.

All of these factors will have a direct impact on remittance flows. The government seems to have no backup plan once the remittance graph takes a downhill trajectory. The onus for contributing to foreign reserves lies on the government, not the poor and the middle class. This exodus of skilled professionals will only lead to a shortage of qualified personnel in critical sectors such as healthcare, education and technology. Such a drain hampers innovation and progress.

The heavy reliance on remittances is an unsustainable economic strategy. Rather than the easy way out of kicking its people out to send back dollars, the government must do more. It must come up with a plan that will create a positive investment climate for entrepreneurs, provide incentives for local businesses, and tax the rich in a way that maintains healthy competition. Only then can the country shift its focus towards a sustainable economy and foster domestic growth.

The current economic policies are highly influenced by the IMF as part of the conditions to secure the next tranche of debt. The IMF-centric budget further exacerbates the economic divide, with generous concessions to the elite and increased pressure on the middle class. This approach is counterproductive as it leads to the exodus of skilled professionals whose potential contribution to the local economy can prove to be a game-changer.

The remittance economy may rise in the coming years. But, there are multiple reasons the remittance bubble is bound to burst in the long

Increasingly unliveable conditions here offer no incentive for anyone to stay

According to a recent Gallup survey, 56 per cent of Pakistanis would leave Pakistan for another country if given the opportunity. Why wouldn’t they? The increasingly unliveable conditions here offer no incentive for anyone to stay. Besides the government’s consistent inefficiency, its policies are also boosting brain drain in the country.

Consider the 2024-25 budget. Tax on low- and middle-income earners has been doubled. The low-income class has been exempted from income tax; while this may seem like a relief, the government’s intent becomes questionable when its next strategy is to increase tax rate for non-filers from 30 per cent to 45 per cent.

Filers are typically those who earn enough to require filing tax returns. Non-filers, on the other hand, include those who either evade taxes or do not earn enough to be in the formal tax system. This punitive measure disproportionately affects the poor and the middle class, which accounts to more than 75 per cent of Pakistan’s population. While higher taxation is not the primary reason behind such large-scale emigration, it is not an incentive to stay either.

The year 2023 saw the highest rate of inflation at 29 per cent. It is projected to be no less in the current year. As of 2024, 40 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. Unemployment also reached a record high in 2023 and stood at 8.5 per cent. The middle class, already burdened by these economic pressures, finds itself further squeezed by these tax policies.

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim community. Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based

on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain

Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms. In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to

the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan. This provided the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, as a ‘Direct Action Day’ to show Muslim solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand.

In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the party objective from within the Interim Government.

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Today in History

Pakistan



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To be continued....

Showbiz

Anne Hathaway gets groovy at Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour stop in Germany

Anne Hathaway rocks out to Taylor Swift’s ‘Shake It Off’ in Germany



Anne Hathaway was spotted at Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour show at Gelsenkirchen’s Veltins Arena in Germany on Friday, July 19, where she enthusiastically joined fellow concert-goers in dancing to the pop star’s hits.

Videos shared on social media platform X captured Hathaway grooving to tracks such as Ready for It, Shake It Off, and Blank Space from what seemed to be a VIP section.

In one clip, Hathaway was seen energetically raising her arms and jumping to the rhythm of Shake It Off, while another showed her tapping along to Blank Space while engaged in conversation with a companion nearby.

She was captured on video during show in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, bouncing from side to side and raising her arms in sync with the music. Swift’s July 19 show marked her final performance in Gelsenkirchen before heading to Hamburg for the next stop on her tour. During the concert, Swift surprised fans with a mashup of Paper Rings from 2019 and Stay Stay Stay, originally released in 2012 and included in the 2021 re-release of Red (Taylor’s Version).

Tech

PTA confirms global IT outage disrupts Microsoft services in Pakistan

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) confirmed that the global IT outage caused by a faulty update from a cybersecurity provider on Friday also resulted in Microsoft services disruptions for Pakistani consumers.

The software update by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike wreaked havoc on computer systems worldwide, grounding flights, forcing some broadcasters off the air and hitting services from banking to healthcare throughout the globe.

"This outage also affected consumers of Microsoft in Pakistan. The fault forced affected PCs and servers into a recovery boot loop, preventing proper startup. Some internet services are also affected because of this," read a statement released by the PTA.

The telecom authority said that the fault was identified, isolated and fixed as per CrowdStrike’s website. It suggested Microsoft clients update the software from

their support portal to restore services. The cyber outage was caused by an update to a product offered by CrowdStrike, which apparently triggered the issue, affecting customers using Microsoft’s Windows Operating System.

Microsoft later said that the issue had been fixed. Banks and financial services companies from Australia to India and Germany warned customers of disruptions and traders across markets spoke of problems with executing transactions.

"We are having the mother of all global market outages," one trader said. In Britain, booking systems used by doctors were offline, multiple reports posted on X by medical officials said, while Sky News, one of the country’s major news broadcasters was off air, apologising for being unable to transmit live, and soccer club Manchester United said on X that it had to postpone a scheduled release of tickets.

Foods that can boost your brain health — and don’t cost more than \$1 per serving

Brain doctors Ayesha and Dean Sherzai have spent their careers investigating how to have a healthy brain. "We learned that yes, there are things you can do," Mr. Sherzai told Business Insider. "Lifestyle has the most profound effect on brain health, more than anybody could imagine." One big study the two doctors often reference, which examined the diets of older adults living in public housing and nursing homes around Chicago, showed that those who adhered to a more brain-friendly diet pattern had a 53% lower risk of developing dementia. "These are unimaginable numbers," Sherzai said. "No protocols, no weird stuff, no vitamin concoction." It’s findings like this that have convinced the "Brain Docs," as they call themselves on social media, to focus on promoting "simple dietary changes" people can make immediately to promote better cognitive

health, instead of waiting for drugs to treat the symptoms of dementia later on in life. "We think that if you take care of brain health, you’ve taken care of all health," he said. "Everything you need for heart, for liver, for kidney is included in neuro." Evidence: Getting in at least one serving of leafy greens, like lettuce, spinach, or kale per day is associated with better performance on cognitive tests for competencies like working memory, spatial awareness and perception among older adults. Scientists think there’s probably something neuroprotective about the nutrients in the leaves, which include folate, nitrate, and lutein. Evidence: Studies consistently suggest plant proteins like legumes are good for the aging brain — and nutrition experts suspect that might be in part because they’re packed with B vitamins that help keep our nervous system humming along.

Cost: probably the priciest item on this list, at roughly \$3-7 for a carton of fresh berries like strawberries, raspberries, or blackberries. But since a serving of berries is only half a cup, you can still probably squeeze in a serving for \$1 or less. You can always opt for (cheaper) frozen berries, which studies show are just as nutritious as the fresh stuff — and sometimes even a little bit more nutritious — because fruits are typically frozen just as they reach peak ripeness. Evidence: Berries like blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries are rich in chemical compounds that help keep our cells running well. There’s evidence to suggest they may also prevent some of the oxidative stress that’s associated with cognitive decline, but more research is still needed to better understand the precise link between berry eating and better brain health.



Health

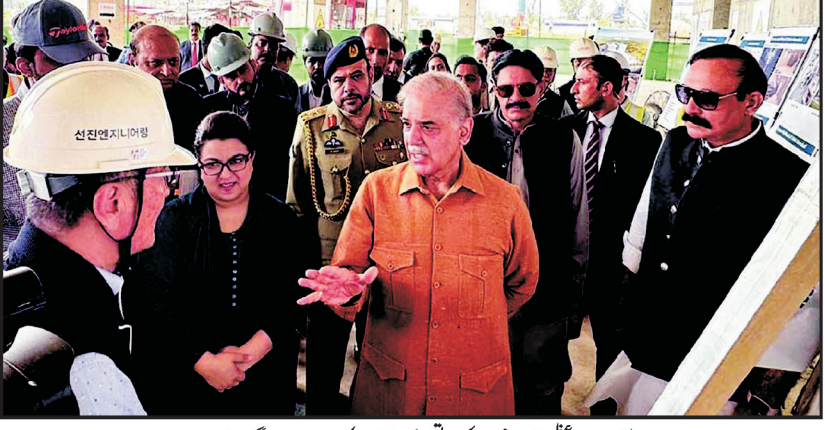
دی اینٹیشن سٹارٹ اپ گراف

اسلام آباد

اتوار 21 جولائی 2024ء

ابوظہبی کا کراچی بندر گاہ پر 25 کروڑ ڈالر سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) ابوظہبی پورٹس اتھارٹی نے 25 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے لیے ایک معاہدہ طے کیا ہے۔ اس معاہدے کے تحت ابوظہبی پورٹس اتھارٹی نے کراچی بندر گاہ پر 25 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کو ابوظہبی پورٹس اتھارٹی کے وفد نے شرفیبا لاجی پارک بارے میں بریفنگ دی جا رہی ہے۔

وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ کا 100 یونٹس تک صارفین کو مفت بجلی دینے کا اعلان

کراچی (جیو نیوز) سندھ کے وزیر اعلیٰ سید محمد یوسف نے ایک معاہدے کے تحت 305 میگا واٹ میں سے ہر ایک کے تین سو لاکھ روپے تک صارفین کو مفت بجلی دینے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔



اسرائیلی فوج کی بربریت حملوں میں مزید 25 فلسطینی شہید

اسرائیلی فوج کی بربریت حملوں میں مزید 25 فلسطینی شہید ہوئے۔ اسرائیلی فوج نے فلسطینی علاقوں میں حملوں کے نتیجے میں 25 فلسطینی شہید ہو گئے۔

محرم الحرام میں اداروں کا مشترک سود مند ثابت ہو، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز

لاہور (جیو نیوز) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے محرم الحرام کے دوران اداروں کے مشترک سود مند ثابت ہونے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔

کالعدم ٹی بی پی کے سرغنہ نورولی کی مخالف سخت کارروائی کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) حکومت پاکستان نے کالعدم ٹی بی پی کے سرغنہ نورولی کی مخالف سخت کارروائی کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

راولپنڈی، برساتی نالوں کی صفائی کا عمل دینے والا سسٹم چوری

راولپنڈی (جیو نیوز) برساتی نالوں کی صفائی کے لیے لگائے گئے سسٹم کی چوری ہو گئی ہے۔

پشاور اور راولپنڈی میں پٹرول پمپوں کی تعمیر

پشاور اور راولپنڈی میں پٹرول پمپوں کی تعمیر کے کاموں کا آغاز کیا گیا ہے۔

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اسلام آباد آئی ٹی پارک سے روزگار مواقع بڑھیں گے، شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد میں برٹس سپورٹ سینٹر بھی قائم ہوگا، اس منصوبے کی جلد از حد تک تکمیل کیلئے اس پر 24 گھنٹے کام جاری ہے۔

تحریک عدم اعتماد سمیت کسی مسئلے پر پیپلز پارٹی سے کوئی بات نہیں ہوگی، عمران خان

پیپلز پارٹی اور ان لیگ میں کوئی فرق نہیں، دونوں قدامت پسند اور سٹیبل طاقت ہیں۔

وزیر اعظم نے عالمی شہرت یافتہ پاکستانی کوہ پیما نائیک کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (ذرائع خاص) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے عالمی شہرت یافتہ پاکستانی کوہ پیما نائیک کی ملاقات کی۔

پاکستان اور آذربائیجان 2 ارب ڈالر کی باہمی تجارت پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان اور آذربائیجان کے درمیان باہمی تجارت پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے۔

چیف ایگیشن کمشنر اور ممبران کیخلاف سپریم جوڈیشل کونسل میں شکایت دائر

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) چیف ایگیشن کمشنر اور ممبران کیخلاف سپریم جوڈیشل کونسل میں شکایت دائر کی گئی ہے۔

مریم نواز کا مشن خوشحال اور ترقی کرتا پنجاب ہے، عظمیٰ بخاری

لاہور (جیو نیوز) مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب کے لیے خوشحال اور ترقی کرنے کا مشن ہے۔

پشاور اور راولپنڈی میں پٹرول پمپوں کی تعمیر

پشاور اور راولپنڈی میں پٹرول پمپوں کی تعمیر کے کاموں کا آغاز کیا گیا ہے۔

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Governor Kundi emphasizes urgent need for interfaith harmony

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday emphasized the urgent need for interfaith harmony, calling it pivotal for fostering peace. He said this during his visit to Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Jogian Shah here.

Accompanied by provincial president PPP, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, former minority wing leader and ex-MPA Kishwar Kumar, Nasib Chand and regional president Misbahuddin.

Governor Faisal Kundi received a warm reception from Sikh community leaders including Peshawar's religious head Singh Sahib Sajjan, Dr Sahib Ji, Baba Mahender Singh, Baba Ameer Singh, and Magan Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Faisal Kundi said that minority are the backbone of our country. He said that targeting the Sikh community in Peshawar is terrible and we condemned it.

Governor Faisal Kundi solemnly reflected, "Peshawar has witnessed sacrifices and sorrows. It tells the tale of martyrdoms, including martyred Qamar Abbas, Bashir Bilour, and Safwat Ghayur, journalists, and others from all walks of life."

While acknowledging past efforts for peace during the united government, Governor Kundi expressed concern over current challenges, stating, "We will not be silent spectators but active contributors to restoring peace. Today, I bring a message and mission of peace restoration."

Regarding community issues, Governor Kundi assured, "Efforts are underway to resolve issues based on priority. I will meet with the Minister for Religious Affairs and will work diligently to address concerns."

He said that I personally met with DG to resolve the community passport issue. INP

Edu ministry plans to convert 100 primary schools to solar energy

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to reduce electricity costs and promote sustainability, the Ministry of Federal Education has announced plans to convert 100 primary schools to solar energy in next two months.

The initiative is part of a larger effort to harness renewable energy sources and reduce the city's carbon footprint.

"This project will not only reduce electricity costs but also provide a clean and sustainable source of energy for our schools," said a spokesperson for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

In a statement, the spokesperson said the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, will involve the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of the selected schools. The solar energy system will be designed to meet the energy needs of each school.

The initiative is expected to save the ministry millions of rupees in electricity costs annually, which will be used to improve educational facilities. APP



ISLAMABAD: Strategy evolved to invite Chinese companies for investing in various sectors. (Story on page 1)

At UN, Pakistan pushes for preventing any state from dominating regional peace organizations

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan stands for boosting cooperation between the U.N. and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining world peace and security, a top Pakistani diplomat has said, while also stressing that no state should be allowed to dominate regional organizations.

"We must strive for a collective vision that benefits all," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council which held a debate on Friday under the chairmanship of Russia, the 15-nation body's president for the month of July. In this regard, the Pakistani envoy underscored that the particular national interests of member states do not hinder regional integration. "The quest for regional hegemony by one large state has undermined the potential of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)," the Pakistani said in an obvious reference to India. Established in 1985, SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) comprises: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. But India has all along been an obstacle in promoting regional cooperation through SAARC, a body established to bring prosperity to the peoples of South Asian region. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said, "Regional integration represents the next phase of institutional development in international relations — particularly in the realms of trade and industry. He therefore recognized the crucial role of



three bodies — the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) — in fostering economic growth and cooperation across borders, as well as in combating terrorism and drug-trafficking. Highlighting SCO's "immense promise and potential", the Pakistani envoy said that with some of the world's largest emerging economies as its members, this organization is poised to advance integrated regional cooperation, especially by enhancing trade and investment opportunities. "This was evident at the recent SCO Plus Summit meeting in Astana, in which Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif participated actively," Ambassador Akram said. In addition, he said that CSTO can enhance connectivity between the East and West, fostering a more secure region. Ambassador Akram also said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a flagship pro-

ject, noting that Pakistan will expand this effort — including to Afghanistan, to realize its full potential for investment.

Pakistan, he said, also believes that other regional organizations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), along with cross-regional groups, like the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), should also work towards expanding global integration through appropriate association agreements, and welcomed the establishment of the AU-AL-OIC Trilateral Commission.

"Such regional and inter-regional initiatives in association within the UN are crucial for fostering greater cooperation and understanding among diverse regions, and contributing to global harmony and collective progress," Ambassador Akram said. He said the framework for regional integration should include: "Pakistan remains committed to these objectives and looks forward to continued collaboration with the UN and with all regional and cross-regional partners," Ambassador Akram said in conclusion.

Earlier, the Secretaries-General of SCO, CSTO and CIS told the Security Council of the need for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations like theirs, as Council members' despite expressing support for regional expertise — disagreed over how increasing challenges in the Eurasian region should be addressed. APP

Yousaf Raza Gilani, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq condole passing of U.S. Congress Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has expressed deep sense of grief and sorrow over the demise of member US House of Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

"She was a great friend and supporter of Pakistan", the Chairman Senate said while eulogizing her services. He expressed solidarity with family of Sheila Jackson and said that Pakistan has lost a true friend. Her services for oppressed, the Chairman Senate said, would long be remembered.

Meanwhile the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has expressed his profound sadness at the news of the passing of Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Congress Representative and Chairperson of the Pakistan Caucus in Congress. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his message said, "I am deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee. She was a great friend of Pakistan and played a significant role in expanding bilateral ties between the two countries. Her support in addressing critical issues, particularly her efforts during the recent devastation caused by floods in Pakistan, were extremely commendable. My deepest condolences go to her family, friends, Congress, and the people of the U.S. in this hour of grief".

The Speaker added that the National Assembly of Pakistan stands with the people of the United States in mourning the loss of a remarkable leader and a true friend of Pakistan. She would always be remembered for her public service and efforts to uplift the marginalized segments of the society.

Hafiz Naemur Rehman demands forensic audit of IPPs & the public disclosure of their agreements

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Engineer Hafiz Naemur Rehman has demanded a forensic audit of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the public disclosure of their agreements. He reiterated that the JI sit-in in Islamabad, scheduled for July 26, would not conclude until the government provides relief to the masses.

In a statement issued from Mansoorah on Saturday, Hafiz Naemur Rehman said that the majority of the IPPs are owned by those currently in government. He said a few ruling families are looting the masses and transferring their money to foreign countries. According to Hafiz Naemur Rehman, people are paying billions in capacity charges to the IPP owners every month, with some IPPs being paid without producing a single unit of electricity.

Hafiz Naemur Rehman highlighted that the per-unit tariff in Pakistan is 18 cents, compared to 4 cents in China and 8 cents in India. He also pointed out that there are more than a dozen types of taxes included in electricity bills. SABAH

Funeral prayer of father of PIO offered; Governor KP attends



PESHAWAR: Funeral prayer of Ghulam Sabir, the father of Principal Information Officer (PIO), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mubashir Hassan was offered here on Friday. Besides others, the funeral prayer of the deceased was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, media persons, civil officers, journalists and elites of the city in large number. Later, the deceased was laid to rest at his ancestral

graveyard. The Qul of the deceased would be offered on Monday at Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Peshawar's colony at Jamrud Road Peshawar.

Late Ghulam Sabir was also the father of retired senior bureaucrat Ahmad Hassan and senior officer of BISE Peshawar Aftab Hassan.

The people and well wishers are coming to the residence of PIO Mubashir Hassan and are offering fateha for eternal peace of his father who passed away due to protracted illness. APP

Finleap and Khazana Cloud collaborate on nano-lending in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Finleap Financial Services, a subsidiary of the Shanghai-based Chinese Finvolution Group, secured a partnership here with Khazana Cloud to launch their Digital Nano Lending app, Daira.

Daira leverages Khazana Cloud's robust infrastructure for a seamless and secure loan application experience for Pakistani users. This partnership strengthens Finleap's position in the Pakistani market by providing a reliable and trusted cloud solution, Gwadar Pro reported.

"We're proud to announce a strategic partnership with Finleap, Pakistan's innovative digital lending platform. This MOU signifies Khazana Cloud's commitment to supporting the FinTech revolution in Pakistan.

Our secure and scalable cloud platform will be the foundation for Daira's continued growth and success", said Khazana Cloud in an official notification.

Sheikh Omer Nasim, Country Manager at Finleap while talking to Gwadar Pro, said that Finleap Financial Services (Private) Limited, is a nano-lending startup based in Pakistan and is in the process of obtaining a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pak-

istan (SECP), to operate as a digital-only non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company in Pakistan.

He said, our parent Chinese company, Finvolution Technology, is a renowned financial technology firm and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and has a rich history of establishing successful nano-lending businesses in various countries, including Indonesia and the Philippines. Omer Nasim also highlighted that his company aims to significantly enhance financial inclusion in Pakistan by focusing on digital nano-lending, thereby offering affordable credit to the underserved population.

"Finvolution Group also plans to make substantial foreign direct investments (FDI) in digital nano-lending in Pakistan", he said. Over the last two years, Pakistan's nano lending industry grew from scratch to a user base of millions, with over a hundred billion rupees in disbursed loans.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced guidelines to regulate this sector. Nano lending in Pakistan has seen significant growth, especially with the rise of instant credit apps. INP

Chambers of Commerce blast inflated power tariffs

KARACHI: Pakistan's business community leaders on Saturday unanimously demanded of the government for decreasing power rates.

"We have to pay 2,100 billion rupees for capacity charges this year," the chambers of commerce of Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Faisalabad have said. "Either the government save 240 million people of the country or 42 IPPs," the chambers officials said while commenting over the inflated power tariffs in the country. Senior Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FCCI) Sajjad Arshad said that the traders are not rioters, but the water has gone above the head. "If the problem not resolved promptly, it could go beyond the control," he warned. "There are 130 independent power producers (IPPs) operating in the country", he said.

LCCI's Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry while calling agreements with the IPPs as 'cruel', said that 25% industries have been shut down in two years. The electricity price in the country has been 25 to 30 rupees per unit, he said. It is surprising that this big secret that we have to pay 2,100 billion rupees for capacity charges this year, had remained under the carpet till now," another chamber official Johar Ali said. INP

NDMA convenes follow up meeting of Disaster Response Committee

ISLAMABAD: The second meeting of the National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) was convened at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters here on Saturday. The meeting aimed to review progress on directions given during first DRC meeting and preparations by provinces and departments for Monsoon 2024, a news release said. Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada chaired the meeting, whereas PM's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid was also present. The other attendees included senior officials from various ministries, NDMA, PDMA, SDMA, representatives from PMD, PCIW, NHA, FFC, Railways and relevant stakeholders. Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, delivered the opening remarks, which were followed by briefs on likely impacts of monsoon during upcoming weeks by officials of NEOC, preparedness on part of NDMA and updates from Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), State departments, and

other relevant stakeholders on tasks assigned at the initial meeting held on July 8th.

The chair was informed of the ongoing efforts to address potential emergencies, rectify shortcomings, and resource deployment plan for vulnerable areas and regions. After conclusion of formal updates, the Chairman NDMA directed the stakeholders to identify reserve deficiencies and leverage necessary resources available within local formations, departments and domestic/international humanitarian agencies operating in respective areas to address potential crises. PDMA Punjab and Sindh were instructed to continue surveillance of river water levels, eradicate encroachments on waterways and riverbanks, and ensure a state of readiness for potential flood emergencies. He also urged relevant departments to secure critical infrastructure such as roads and communication networks against potential threats. Romina Khurshid directed PDMAs/SDMAs to develop standardized response plans for effective disaster management, which will subsequently be presented to the Prime Minister during next follow up meeting. APP

Jazz secures landmark credit facility to enhance 4G network, promote digital inclusion nationwide



ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator has successfully secured the largest private sector syndicated credit facility, totalling up to Rs. 75 billion. The banking consortium was led by The Bank of Punjab (BoP), and this 10-year financing arrangement will significantly support Jazz's ongoing 4G network expansion and technological upgrades while supporting its new ServiceCo model, said a news release.

The signing ceremony was attended by VEON Group CEO, Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, and the Presidents of participating banks along with their representatives. The consortium includes prominent

financial institutions acting as mandated lead advisors and arrangers, namely Habib Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Meezan Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, Allied Bank Limited, The Bank of Punjab, Askari Bank Limited, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Soneri Bank Limited, Bank Islami Pakistan Limited and MCB Islamic Bank Limited.

Jazz, a major investor in Pakistan with over 30 years of history and investments exceeding USD 10.6 billion, leads the industry with a 45% revenue market share and serves over 71.4 million subscribers, including 49 million 4G users.

The company recently announced a major shift from a traditional mobile

operator to a ServiceCo structure, creating Strategic Business Units (SBUs) focused on digital financial services, software & analytics, data centers & cloud, and entertainment & digital platforms. Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, remarked, "By investing in cutting-edge digital infrastructure, we are committed to bridging the digital divide and promoting financial inclusion across the nation. This transaction reflects the financial community's trust in Jazz's solid market reputation and our leadership on the digital front.

It is a crucial step toward ensuring that all Pakistanis, regardless of location, gender, or socioeconomic status, can harness the transformative

power of the internet and digital services."

Zafar Masud, President & CEO of The Bank of Punjab, stated, "Leading this landmark transaction in the telecom sector exemplifies our strategic focus on digital transformation in Pakistan.

Our partnership with Jazz underscores BoP's dedication to advancing technological progress and supporting the growth of the telecom industry. This deal is a testament to our commitment to driving innovation and fostering economic development in the country."

In June 2021, Jazz secured a Rs. 50 billion 10-year syndicated credit facility from a banking consortium led by Habib Bank Limited. Earlier on, Jazz announced the successful closure of its Rs. 15 billion Sukuk led by Askari Bank Limited, marking a milestone as the first-ever and largest short-term unsecured Sukuk by a telecom operator in Pakistan, which won global accreditations from Euromoney Islamic Finance Awards and Asian Banking & Finance, and is expected to boost the use of Shariah-compliant financial instruments within Pakistan's capital markets. APP