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Banking on the apex court verdicts



THE two judges have issued dissenting notes in the reserved seats case even suggesting the government that if the apex court verdicts are not in consonance with the constitutional provisions, the government is not obliged to act upon the verdict. The sitting government and analysts have made this observation a point of heated debate despite the fact that this is a minority opinion, which, in no wise, can overrule the majority verdict. The two judges further said that PTI was not even a party to the case even then it has been granted the reserved seats. As we know, on Friday, July 12, 2024, the Supreme Court declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as a legitimate political party, making it eligible for reserved seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies. While the verdict may not immediately alter the government structure or threaten the incumbent prime minister and his administration, its far-reaching consequences cannot be overlooked. PTI has ample reason to celebrate this decision, as it bolstered its presence and influence in Pakistani politics. A debate has emerged, particularly within government circles, suggesting that PTI received more than it had sought from the Supreme Court. However, this argument lacks substance. As the highest judicial forum, the Supreme Court is expected to deliver justice while weighing the pros and cons of each case. Moreover, the court had not overstepped its mandate by considering the ground realities before reaching its conclusion. This verdict reaffirmed the court's role in upholding justice and reflects its commitment to a fair political landscape. If independent candidates are allowed to freely express their preferences, they are likely to join the PTI. Should all independents join PTI, it would become the largest party in the National Assembly. However, PTI would still fall short of forming a government independently, as 173 seats are required for a majority. In this scenario, PTI would deserve an offer from the President of Pakistan to form the government. Nevertheless, since the President is affiliated with the PPP, a coalition partner of the PML-N, it is highly unlikely that the President would extend such an offer to the PTI. A political crisis cannot be ruled out if the independents join the PTI, making it the largest party in the lower house. In such a case, the PTI may ask the sitting prime minister to seek a vote of confidence from the house. The PPP will act as a decisive factor in this scenario. This situation would certainly put the PPP in a strong position to negotiate its terms and conditions. It appears that the PPP is not satisfied with the PML-N government. Recently, President Zardari suggested that if the PPP can help form a government, it can just as easily topple it. When this coalition government was formed, there was an agreement between the PPP and the PML-N that Shehbaz Sharif would serve as Prime Minister for the first two and a half years, after which Bilawal Bhutto would assume the position for the remainder of the term. However, as time progressed, the PML-N reconsidered this arrangement and now intends to retain the Prime Minister's office for the full five years. The majority of Pakistanis voted for the PTI in the February 8 general elections, and by virtue of that, the party deserved to be handed over power. However, a government was formed by forcing various political parties into a coalition, and this approach has proven ineffective. Political and economic instability continue to pose significant challenges. Even friendly countries, including China, are wary of the situation in Pakistan and desire political stability to achieve economic stability. No matter if the PML N government rules for five years or the PPP takes over after two and half years, the political and economic crises are not going to end. Even if the PTI, by some stroke of luck, is able to form a government, things would not change at all because in that case the opposition would certainly not let the PTI to stand on its feet. The only viable solution to escape this quagmire is to hold snap or mid-term elections. All political parties should be allowed to participate freely, as only a free and fair election can ensure political and economic stability in the country.

Chief Editor's Profile: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the The News spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of The Post, a sister publication of daily Khabrain. In 2010, he launched his own publication Centreline. He has authored two books on European Union. He also served in Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) as Media Advisor/ Director Communication. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan affirm commitment to expand bilateral ties

Azerbaijan support on the issue of Kashmir has always been forthcoming

Special Correspondent

THE President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Pakistan on July 11-12. It was indeed a landmark visit and certainly further cemented already strong bonds of brotherhood and friendship between the two countries. Pakistan and Azerbaijan share views on various common issues. Azerbaijan support on the issue of Kashmir has always been forthcoming. Similarly, Pakistan whole-heartedly supported Azerbaijan in the Patriotic War against Armenia, in which the brave Azerbaijani forces regained control of the occupied territories. During the recent visit the Azerbaijan president also met with the prime minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif. On his arrival in Pakistan he was accorded a red carpet welcome and later a guard of honour at the prime minister house. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his meeting with the Azerbaijani president hoped that relations between the two countries would grow further even in the prospect. Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed the commitment to further expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages.

This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan, Mr Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the President of Azerbaijan, the President of Pakistan said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and had a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest. He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties. He highlighted the importance of Gwadar port, saying that Central Asian Countries



and Azerbaijan could benefit from it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region. The President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture. The President highlighted that the East had the potential to lead the world



towards prosperity. He added that Pakistan wanted to build a sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan. Speaking on the occasion, President Ilham Aliyev said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed a high frequency of people-to-people exchanges and both the countries needed to promote business-to-business relations for enhancing economic relations. He stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan could also explore the possibility of working together in the renewable energy sector. Later,

the President also hosted a banquet in honour of President Ilham Aliyev and his delegation, which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and journalists, at the President's House. The President expressed his warm greetings for the people of Azerbaijan and reassured Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan.

**PAKISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN
AGREED TO ENHANCE BILATERAL**

TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

On the side lines of the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, a high-level official delegation from Azerbaijan held meeting with the Pakistan side. The Azerbaijan side was led by Mr Parviz Shahbazov , Minister for Energy accompanied by Mr Sahib Mammadov, Deputy Minister for Economy, Mr Yusif Abdullayev, Executive Director of Export and Investment Promotion Agency(AZPROMO), Mr Ulvi Mansurov, Executive Director of Azerbaijan Investment Company, Mr Elchin Mammadov, Advisor to the Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Mr. Togral Kocharli, Head of Global Business Development of SOCAR Trading, Mr Emin Guliyev, Senior Specialist of Investment Promotion Department AZPROMO. The Pakistani side was led by Dr Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Water Resources, accompanied by Mr Awais Leghari, Federal Minister for Power, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Communication and Privatization, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce, Lt. General Sarfaraz Ahmed, National Coordinator (SIFC) and federal Secretaries. Dr Musadik Malik welcomed the delegation and recalled the historic ties between the two countries based on common faith and deep-rooted cultural af-



Azerbaijan, Pakistan join hands to beautify Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: In a landmark initiative to enhance the beauty of the Federal Capital, Chairman Horticulture Experts Team of Azerbaijan recently met with CDA Chairman, Mohammad Ali Randhawa, to kickstart the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Baku and Islamabad. Under this collaboration, horticulture experts from Azerbaijan will initially focus on renovating and landscaping four key locations including Srinagar Highway, Shakar Parian, Saidpur Village, and Melody Food Park. This effort is part of a larger plan by the CDA's environment teams, which are already carrying out landscaping work in various other areas of the city. – DNA

finities, which are evident when one moves across Baku. Multan Karvansarayi is a testament to the ties dating back to centuries. Pakistani delegation presented opportunities to enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries. Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum gave a detailed presentation on investment opportunities. Dr Musadik Malik emphasised that economic exchange needed to be strengthened in order to broaden our relationship. Pakistan was aiming for diversified markets in the region and partnering economic corridors stretching from Central Asia to Europe. He highlighted the vast investment opportunities in mines and minerals, particularly gold and copper. Azerbaijan had mining expertise. It could join hands with Pakistan. Cooperation in oil and gas sector was also discussed. Pakistan was a huge demand centre for energy. Both countries could also together leverage the IT potential, especially artificial intelligence, machine learning, training the human resource. Federal Minister for power Sardar Awais Khan Leghari

underscored the avenues in power sector where Azerbaijan's investment would bear high returns. Mr Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Commerce expressed his appreciation on the agreements signed during the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan from 11-12 July 2024. He underlined the importance of arranging extensive briefings to the private sectors of the two sides at an early date. Azerbaijan's side expressed it keen desire to begin working on the proposals and, in this regard, resolved to strengthen the working groups between both countries. Mr. Parviz Shahbazov thanked the Pakistan side for the detailed briefing on the investment opportunities in Pakistan. He underlined the importance of holding working groups meetings at an early date. The Pakistan delegation reiterated its full commitment and support to the Azerbaijan's investment in Pakistan and fast track progress on the matter. Both sides agreed to appoint focal persons, short list projects and present them to the leadership at an early date for their approval.

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Politics of *dharnas* and IPPs syndrome

The PML-N can rejuvenate its waning popularity by genuinely aligning with the people's interests. To stay politically relevant, the party must focus on tangible performance and delivery, particularly in economic matters. Providing significant relief to the populace can greatly enhance its chances of retaining leadership for a full term



Comment Ansar M Bhatti

PAKISTAN'S political arena is never short of drama. Every day, political and non-political heavyweights vie for dominance, creating a relentless tug-of-war. As this power struggle continues, the country and its citizens, often referred to as living in the "land of the pure," suffer immensely at the hands of these actors. The economic situation has deteriorated drastically, leaving many desperate to escape the nation by any means necessary to find relief from their prolonged agony and hardship. For those unable to leave, begging has become a last resort. Reports indicate that the number of beggars in Pakistan has reached twenty million, starkly highlighting the severity of the social, political, and legal injustices plaguing the country. Iraq recently lodged a complaint with the Pakistani government, revealing that they have identified at least 50,000 Pakistanis who entered Iraq as Zaireens (pilgrims) but never returned. Many of these individuals have resorted to begging in Iraq. Similarly, Gulf countries have expressed concerns regarding the Pakistani expatriates and labor force. During a Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis meeting, Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis Dr. Arshad informed the forum that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Ku-

wait have raised reservations on various issues related to overseas Pakistanis.

The disclosure comes months after the ministry back in September 2023 informed the same body that out of all the Pakistanis leaving the country, beggars are going abroad the most. The official had said that Pakistani beggars travel to Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the guise of ziarat [pilgrimage]. Most people visit KSA on Umrah visas and then indulge in begging-related activities. Out of all the beggars who were arrested, 90% turned out to be Pakistanis, the secretary had said.

The ground realities regarding the plight of ordinary people are far more alarming than reported in the media. Unfortunately, the government and those who actually control it seem least concerned about the suffering of the have-nots and even the middle class. While people continue to endure distress and injustice, the ruling elite is preoccupied with finding ways to extend their rule and suppress the opposition. Corruption reigns supreme in the country, and lawlessness takes a heavy toll on the defenseless masses. Bad governance is rampant, and the disconnect between the electorate and their representatives is growing ever deeper—a fact that often embarrasses politicians, especially when they are ousted from power and no one protests in their support. The ongoing Jamaat-e-Islami sit-in, like many recent sit-ins, appears to be politically motivated. While these protests often give the impression that they are staged in support of ordinary people, their underlying motives tend to be self-serving and personal. Take, for example, the PTI and Pakistan Awami Tehreek dharna in 2014 against the Nawaz Sharif government. It was initially presented as a movement to overthrow the government due to its failure to address the public's grievances and protest rigging in the 2013 general elections. However, as events unfolded, it became clear that the true motive was different. The then army chief, Raheel Sharif, was seeking an extension, which Nawaz Sharif was unwilling to grant.

The ongoing JI sit-in has a different approach and goals this time. The primary target appears to be the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), who, according

to the JI protesters and even some government officials, have been exploiting the nation for a long time. Interestingly, those currently in power are responsible for these contracts, as they were established during the tenures of either the PML-N or PPP. Additionally, many of the IPPs are owned, directly or indirectly, by leaders of these two parties. Chinese companies also have a significant share in the ownership of these plants. One aspect of the dharna might be to keep the owners of these plants under pressure for motives that are still unclear, though there likely is more to it than meets the eye. However, a positive outcome of such dharnas is that the public often receives some relief. For example, during Imran Khan's 2014 dharna, the government refrained from increasing the prices of daily-use items, especially petrol, to avoid further public anger. This time, regarding the issue of the IPPs, people might benefit from a reduction in electricity prices. However, it remains uncertain whether the core issue—the agreements—will be addressed earnestly and effectively.

Crises situations often give rise to numerous controversies. For example, in this particular case, some believe that the government's days are numbered and that the ongoing protests could lead to its downfall. However, I think this conclusion might be premature, as the core question remains: if not this government, then who would run the country? At the moment, the Establishment does not have a clear alternative to justify the removal of the current government. The PML-N faces a unique predicament, lacking support both internally and externally. Even its allies, notably the PPP, appear dissatisfied. The Establishment is also gradually withdrawing its backing to avoid public backlash, as the government has seemingly underperformed politically and economically in its initial months. The PML-N can rejuvenate its waning popularity by genuinely aligning with the people's interests. To stay politically relevant, the party must focus on tangible performance and delivery, particularly in economic matters. Providing significant relief to the populace can greatly enhance its chances of retaining leadership for a full term.

— *The writer is the newspaper editor*

Ambassador Steiner says Switzerland one of the top foreign direct investments in Pak

Pakistan greatly values ties with Switzerland: Jam Kamal



Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner has said Over the last 75 years, Pakistan and Switzerland have managed to engage in mutually beneficial relations in various domains. Today, Switzerland is one of the top foreign-direct investments in Pakistan. Thousands of jobs have been created in the country by a considerable number of Swiss companies. Ambassador Steiner expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the 733rd National Day and 75 years of Diplomatic Relations between Switzerland and Pakistan. Federal Commerce Minister Jam Khan was the chief guest. The Swiss ambassador further said, financial trade has been significant and reaches a volume of hundreds of millions of Swiss francs every year. And most importantly, more and more people in Switzerland are getting aware and take note of the opportuni-

ties that Pakistan offers. That is also one of the reasons why we have the privilege to welcome the Swiss foreign minister in Pakistan a few months after I had arrived here, he added. He said Switzerland and Pakistan will continue to move forward together and to grow together. 'We will continue to listen to each other and most importantly, we will continue to learn from each other. And wherever there is potential for even closer relations, we will keep out and do our best to deliver. I believe there are quite a few interesting areas that deserve further efforts from both sides'. He also congratulated all Swiss companies operating so successfully in the Pakistani market. He added he had the privilege to meet most of you personally over the last 24 months. 'You form a very important bridge between Switzerland and Pakistan, and you contribute in so many positive ways to bringing our two nations closer together. I would like to seize this opportunity

to thank you all for your wonderful contributions'. Ambassador Georg said we at the Swiss Embassy will be happy to continue to stay in touch with you, of course, to exchange with you and to support you to the best of our abilities. Of course, you will always be most welcome at the Swiss compound in the diplomatic inquiry. 'Secondly, I would like to say to our esteemed Pakistani counterparts, friends, and colleagues that Switzerland is grateful for the long-standing, friendly, and good relations with Pakistan', he added. Federal Minister Jam Kamal also spoke on the occasion and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would further be cemented. He said Pakistan greatly values relations with Switzerland and is looking forward to giving new dimensions to these relations. The minister also extended congratulations to the Swiss govt and the Swiss people on behalf of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



Morocco, Pakistan relations getting stronger and stronger

The plight of Gazans requires global efforts to genuinely work towards a definitive solution to the conflict



Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune has said the celebration July 30, 2024 of the 25th anniversary of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's ascension to the Throne is a moment for the renewal of the strong ties that unite the Moroccan citizens with their King and the commemoration of positive transformations and great achievements that Morocco has accomplished over the last twenty-five years under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. It is also a time to evaluate the present and reflects on the challenges that still lie ahead to achieve a modern and prosperous State.

The Ambassador expressed these views on the occasion of the Fifth Anniversary of the Accession to the throne of His Majesty of the Kingdom of Morocco. Ambassador Karmoune further said over the past 25 years, the democratic institutions have been strengthened, the country's GDP has tripled and the social protection policy has witnessed considerable efforts to improve access to medical care and social services. He said the Moroccan political landscape has undergone significant changes during His Majesty King Mohammed VI's reign. An in depth constitutional reform was adopted in 2011 to improve the efficiency of the political institutions. On the economic level, hundreds of mega restructuring projects have been achieved or are on the way to completion, be it in infrastructure, renewable energy, transportation, air-

ports, ports networks, digital connectivity, to mention only these. 'This infrastructure has enabled Morocco to diversify its economy and emerge as a major African industrial and technology platform, by developing key sectors like the automotive and the aerospace industries'.

He said these projects, coupled with an ideal environment for foreign investors, have boosted the competitiveness of the country and attracted significant foreign investment. Between 2007 and 2023, the country attracted around 37.5 billion US dollars in net foreign direct investments, averaging 2.2 billion dollar per year, placing the country as one of the most attractive investments destinations in Africa.

Morocco has become a catalyst or even a driving force that uplifts its own economy and those of neighboring and continental countries. The Atlantic initiative, launched by His Majesty is beginning to reshape the geostrategic landscape in Africa. This project, which aims to provide Sahelian countries with a maritime outlet, has been receiving much attention and praise for its great potential to establish multilateral partnership and boost African economic integration, he added. The ambitious plan will end the isolation of Sahelian countries such as Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mali by opening their doors to the Atlantic Ocean, something that will undoubtedly bring numerous economic benefits to these nations. He said considerable efforts have been made to improve access to medical care and services. The country is focusing

on providing solid and reliable social protection to all Moroccans. 3.8 million Families are now receiving a state social income and 23 million Moroccans are benefiting from mandatory health insurance.

On the Palestinian question, His Majesty reiterated Morocco's support for the Palestinian cause. He stressed that the plight of Gazans requires global efforts to genuinely work towards a definitive solution to the conflict. This should ensure that Gaza remains an integral part of the territories of an independent Palestinian state that will have East Jerusalem as its capital. 'On this occasion, as an Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the relations which unite our two countries based on mutual respect, trust and historical ties that have linked our two nations for more than 66 years'. Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune said 'on the political level, we are on an eye-catching, the cooperation is getting more and more stronger, by maintaining a regular political dialogue, reinforcement of the legal framework, numerous exchanges of high-level visits, and commendable coordination in the different International Organizations'. The Kingdom of Morocco is determined to continue its cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We strongly believe that working together will achieve our common development vision and embed our relations in excellence, he concluded.







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Exploring Pakistan-Ethiopia Cooperative ties



Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula

THE cooperative ties between Islamabad and Addis Ababa have been refreshed by the Ethiopian government's decision to open the embassy in Islamabad on May 11, 2023, to strengthen the economic cooperation between the two states formally. The Ethiopian government is highly ambitious to join Pakistan's efforts to explore the untapped potential of African nations in the contemporary international system parallel to signing various bilateral cooperative agreements with different African nations. During the inaugural ceremony of the embassy, the two-sided formal state authorities showed their commitment to working together in various areas of common interests, such as climate change, immigration, security and terrorism. While appreciating the Addis Ababa's choice of formalizing the ambassadorial relations with Pakistan, and the government of Pakistan accepted the need for boosting multidimensional cooperative ties between Pakistan and African nations.

The Islamabad-based decision-makers also acknowledge that the Ethiopian and Pakistani governments have common economic and development problems in the contemporary global order. In the welcoming remarks, Pakistan's state representatives dubbed the opening of the embassy in Islamabad as a new beginning in the bilateral cooperative interactions between the two states, and it has facilitated the two-sided leaderships in expanding the conventional patterns of their bilateral interactions in the diplomatic, political, economic, and social dimensions. On a reciprocal basis, the representatives of Ethiopia showed a keen interest in their government in deepening bilateral cooperation with Islamabad, which would enable the leaders of both sides to diversify their formal ties.

In this way, the decision to open an embassy in Pakistan has marked a significant development in the bilateral ties, and it exhibits the increasing values of diplomatic, trading, and cultural relations between the two nations. In cultural terms, the common ideological foundations provide solid grounds for the growth of cultural ties, and the prominent role of Ethiopians in Islamic history creates solid connections between Islamabad and Addis Ababa. The recent development of opening an embassy in Islamabad cannot be divorced from a comprehensive account of Pakistan-Ethiopia relations, which started in the 1950s when the leaders of both nations realized their shared values of mutual respect and bilateral cooperation in diverse directions. The major turn in the bilateral ties occurred

in 1973 with the formal opening of the Pakistan's Embassy in Addis Ababa under Islamabad's broader framework of Engage Africa Policy. The Engage Africa approach focused on various African states and preferred Ethiopia as one of the prominent nations appropriate for establishing collaborative connections with Islamabad in the areas of agriculture, education, and healthcare.

In this way, the governments of both nations witnessed a brief era of strong political coordination, diplomatic support, and economic cooperation throughout history. However, Addis Ababa's launching of formal ambassadorial services in Islamabad started facilitating the two-sided governments in exploring new platforms for trading collaborations. The signing of the Bilateral Trade Agreement in May 2023 is important in this regard because it led the two-sided business communities to establish their partnerships. The trading connections have already been established between both nations, and these relations made Pakistan a recipient of Ethiopian red kidney beans, chickpeas, pulses, hides and skins, tea, and coffee, whereas the Ethiopian government receives Pakistani healthcare products, chemicals, machinery, sugar, rice, and textiles. In this way, a smooth trading connection based on a commendable volume of import-export enabled the Pakistani and Ethiopian governments to recognize their potential for working together for mutual trade benefits. It has widened the scope of trade and investment opportunities between their respective business communities while encouraging their mainstream leaders to consider each other as reliable business partners in the contemporary international system.

The quest to augment the existing level of people-to-people contact between the two nations has led Ethiopian and Pakistani formal state authorities to take several practical measures to deepen the two-sided societal acquaintances. To overcome the challenge of certain social disconnects, direct flights between Karachi and Addis Ababa have started recently, and it enabled Pakistan to receive four direct Ethiopian flights. The launching of direct flights plays a creditable role in promoting the mutual interests of two states to foster economic growth with the promotion of bilateral cultural ties. This step started leaving positive impacts on the shared interests of trade, tourism, and pleasant societal contacts between Islamabad and Ethiopia. Direct flights create easy chances for business professionals and potential investors to

travel between both states while availing the benefits of reduced travel time and reasonable costs. In this way, the Ethiopian government has proved that its wealth of precious natural resources needs appropriate welcoming destinations around the world, where Pakistan has become an exception due to the non-existence of major disagreements between Addis Ababa and Islamabad. The absence of any political difference between two-sided governments provides additional support to the ongoing mutually collaborative patterns of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Through developing special formats of regular interactions between Islamabad-based diplomatically community and leading circles of Pakistan's business communities, the government of Ethiopia has conveyed an explicit message for fostering commercial ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia with the support of regular cultural and social contact. Therefore, the ongoing designs of political communication, diplomatic support, economic cooperation, and social interaction validate the determination of Addis Ababa to work with Islamabad in various unexplored dimensions of their bilateral cooperation. This pattern of multidimensional cooperative bilateralism contains substantial potential for convincing two-sided leadership to work on certain strategic extents. The strategic communication between both states has already witnessed teamwork in the training and capacity-building programs of United Nations international peacekeeping operations. Addis Ababa and Islamabad have established a comprehensive framework to enhance their bilateral partnerships in various areas. The leadership of both nations is strongly committed to expanding their collaborative potential. Over the past two years, since the opening of ambassadorial services in Islamabad, significant progress has been made, indicating that the two nations could work towards a more stable and cooperative future. This cooperation aligns with their shared goals of social prosperity and economic development.

— The writer is the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan

The Changing Dynamics of Indian Politics



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

THE 2024 Indian General Election results present a clear picture of how the political scene in India has changed compared to the 2019 elections. The results show notable shifts in the number of seats won by these major political alliances. The BJP and its allies have seen a significant reduction in their number of seats, dropping from 352 in 2019 to 293 in 2024. This 59-seat loss points to a decline in their previous dominance. Several factors might explain this decrease, such as voter dissatisfaction with the government's performance, economic problems, or successful opposition campaigns. Despite this decline, the BJP and its allies still maintain a strong presence in the parliament.

The Congress and its allies have also been closely analyzed, along with the category of other parties that do not align with either of the two main alliances. These shifts in parliamentary seats are essential to understanding the broader implications for India's political landscape. A significant part of this analysis delves into what these changes mean for India's political and socio-economic environment. The reduction in seats for the BJP and its allies suggests a change in voter sentiment since the 2019 elections when they held a commanding majority with 352 seats. This change could be due to various reasons, including possible voter dissatisfaction or more effective campaigning by opposition parties. Furthermore, the analysis aims to understand the factors contributing to these shifts. For instance, economic issues might have played a crucial role in altering voter preferences. If the public feels that the government has not effectively managed the economy, it could lead to reduced support for the ruling party. Additionally, successful opposition campaigns could have swayed public opinion, resulting in more votes for parties other than the BJP and its allies. The consequences of these election results are significant. With a reduced majority, the BJP and its allies might face more challenges in passing legislation and governing effectively. This situation could lead to a more collaborative or contentious political environment, depending on how different parties choose to interact in parliament.

The economic issues in India, such

as unemployment, inflation and slow growth, likely caused voter dissatisfaction. Despite efforts to improve the economy, ongoing problems may have made people lose faith in the ruling party's ability to handle economic matters. Rural distress, a long-standing problem, probably further alienated rural voters. Protests by farmers and their demands for better support and fair prices might have influenced voters, especially in agricultural states. Additionally, how the government handled social and communal issues could have swayed voter behavior. Perceived failures or bias in managing communal tensions might have turned voters against the BJP.

The natural tendency for voters to seek change after a long period of governance by the same party could also have played a role. This desire for new leadership often leads to significant shifts in election outcomes. The Congress party and its allies made a remarkable comeback, gaining 142 seats, bringing their total to 234. This success marks a significant recovery for Congress, which struggled in the previous election. Congress likely ran a more effective campaign, addressing key voter concerns and presenting a compelling alternative to the BJP.

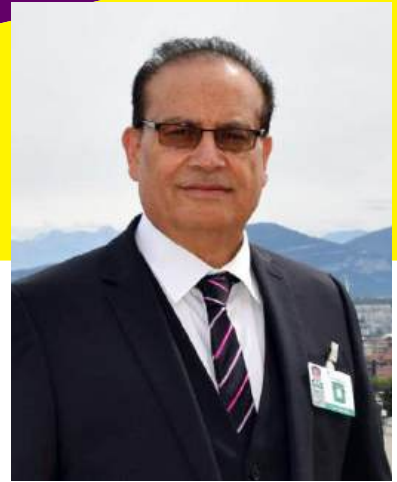
Strong leadership, strategic alliances and effective use of social media and grassroots mobilization could have contributed to this success. By focusing on economic and social issues, Congress may have resonated with a broader section of the electorate.

Promises of economic reform, job creation, and social justice might have appealed to voters seeking change. Forming strategic alliances with regional parties and other opposition groups likely bolstered Congress's seat count, helping consolidate anti-BJP votes and enhancing Congress's overall performance. Smaller parties and independents, categorized as 'Other,' saw a dramatic decline from 99 seats in 2019 to just 16 seats in 2024. This indicates a significant consolidation of votes towards the two major alliances, suggesting a less fragmented parliament. A more streamlined legislative process could result, with fewer coalition challenges. The decline of smaller parties may also indicate increased polarization within the electorate, with voters gravi-

tating towards the two dominant political forces. This polarization could lead to more intense political competition and sharper divisions within the electorate.

The new seat distribution suggests a more balanced parliament. With BJP and its allies holding 293 seats and Congress and its allies at 234, legislative processes might involve more negotiation and compromise. This balance could lead to more robust debates and diverse perspectives in policymaking. The shift in power dynamics might lead to changes in economic policies. Congress, with its increased influence, might push for policies focused on social welfare, job creation and economic equity. The BJP may need to adapt its economic agenda to address the concerns that led to its seat loss. Social policies could shift towards inclusivity and social justice, especially if Congress uses its gains to promote its agenda. Issues such as education, healthcare, and social security might receive increased attention. The reduced number of seats for smaller parties could simplify coalition dynamics, with fewer small parties to negotiate. However, the close contest between BJP and Congress could lead to intense political maneuvering and alliances. The reduced majority for BJP might pose challenges in passing legislation, necessitating more collaboration and consensus building. Congress, with its significant gains, could play a crucial role in shaping the legislative agenda. The 2024 Indian General Election results reflect a dynamic and evolving political landscape. The decline of the BJP and its allies, the resurgence of Congress and the reduction in seats for smaller parties indicate shifting voter sentiments and priorities. These changes suggest a more balanced parliament, potential shifts in policy direction, and new challenges and opportunities for governance. As India moves forward, the political landscape will continue to evolve, shaped by the actions and strategies of its key political players.

Lesson learned from Bangladesh...



Qamar Bashir

THE student protests in Bangladesh which began in June 2024, in Dhaka, quickly spreading to other cities such as Chattogram, Comilla, Rajshahi, and Sylhet have taught numerous lessons to all pillars of the state—political parties, civil society, and students. The students should understand that if they perceive injustice, their genuine rights being usurped, meritocracy being trampled, or positions and vacancies being filled through nepotism and favoritism, they must come forward and demand justice, meritocracy, and a fair distribution of national resources in a peaceful and non-violent manner. They must remain steadfast in their demands, even if it requires enduring physical abuse, unconstitutional arrests, or even death at the hands of the state's oppressive arms. They should bear in mind that if their demands are just, their narratives powerful, and their commitment unwavering, they can compel the government, the parliament and the judiciary to accede to their demands and force even the most powerful and entrenched rulers to step down or flee the country in total disgrace. In Bangladesh, the history of the student agitation against nepotism is very long and tortuous. Initially 50% of the job quota was reserved for the privileged groups and marginalized community, such as the descendants of freedom fighters from the 1971 Independence War, along with quotas for women, ethnic minorities, and disabled individuals. The breakup was 30% of the jobs reserved for the descendants of freedom fighters who participated in the 1971 Liberation War, 10% for women, 10% for disadvantaged districts, 5% for ethnic minorities and 1% for individuals with disabilities. The first mass scale agitation was started in 2018 by the students. Their narrative was simple; that the system was outdated and favored certain groups disproportionately, often those with connections to the ruling party; therefore, they demanded the quota system to be abolished altogether. The government of Hussina Wajid succumbed to the pressure and announced abolition of the quota. Later the government turned away from its commitment and caved in to the pressure of the vested interests and did

not translate its promises into reality. The matter was later taken to the supreme court which also succumbed to the pressures and reinstated the quota system in its totality on 5th June, 2024. This move triggered widespread anger among students and young graduates, who felt the system undermined merit-based recruitment. The protests started at Dhaka University and quickly spread to other educational institutions across the country, gaining momentum through social media. By mid-June, tens of thousands of students were participating in demonstrations, blocking major roads and intersections, and disrupting daily life nationwide. The government's response was harsh, deploying police and security forces to disperse the demonstrators using tear gas, rubber bullets, and batons. A nationwide curfew and internet shutdown were imposed to stifle the protests. This violent crackdown resulted in over 114 deaths, thousands of injuries and eleven among the protesters, with numerous arrests and reports of mistreatment. The death of Abu Sayed, a prominent protester, symbolized the brutality faced by the movement. This unrest prompted the Supreme Court to expedite the hearing originally scheduled for August and, on July 21, 2024, reduced the quota of freedom fighters from 30% to 5% and maintained 2% for other disadvantaged groups. Even this move of the supreme court was rejected by the students and they further intensified their protests and demanded complete abolition of the quota system terming it against the meritocracy. In addition they demanded broader reforms, unconditional release of arrested students, accountability of the government and accountability of the state apparatus responsible for the violence on the students. The Supreme Court learned a bitter lesson about the importance of balancing public sentiment with judicial decisions, particularly regarding affirmative action and meritocracy. The court realized that it is not merely a tool in the hands of those in power but has a greater responsibility to serve the public good. It understood that its duty is to protect the interests of the entire population, not just the vested interests of a few. The power of public

wrath was also evident; when the public is determined to achieve genuine objectives, even the court must yield to their demands. The Supreme Court acknowledged that it exists because of the general masses, not because of a select few. The government of Bangladesh learned several critical lessons. It realized that forgetting those who brought it to power was a grave mistake. The government came to understand that the very people who mandated it to power also had the capability to bring it down if their genuine demands were not met. The use of the kinetic arms of the government against its people would inevitably result in facing the people's wrath. The energy and determination of the populace could overpower even the most powerful arms of the government, leading to the administration stepping down in total disgrace. In Bangladesh, the institution that played an exemplary role was the army. It promptly recognized the popular sentiments of the people and timely realized that the government of Sheikh Hasina had lost the mandate of the people and no longer represented them. The army understood that once the populace, who had brought the government to power, withdrew their support, the government lost its mandate, legitimacy, and credibility to remain in power. The army aptly recognized that the entire state's power, including all its pillars and institutions, whether civilian or military, is subservient to the masses. If any pillar loses the people's support, it is doomed to fail and collapse. What the government and the judiciary did not realize, the army realized that once the government no longer had the people's support, it was not obligated to defend it anymore. It became imperative for the army to preserve its dignity and honor by facilitating a transition of power to a government chosen by the people, and the sooner this transition happened, the better.

Wily Politicians and Their Ill-Judgements



Dr M Ali Hamza

THE ninth vice president of Indonesia (2001-2004), Hamzah Haz was a smart politician known for his strategic manoeuvring. It was sad to hear about his passing on July 24, 2024. From newspaper journalism to teaching economics, from cabinet ministry of People's Representative Council (DPR) to serving as a minister of investment, and from the vice presidency to the position of party's presidential candidate in the 2004 Indonesian presidential election, Haz smartly played his cards. It is said that he adeptly navigated Indonesia's volatile political landscape during the post-Suharto era. His ability to form alliances and his pragmatic approach to governance helped him gain influence. However, Haz's tenure was marred by allegations of controversy over his conservative views. Despite these challenges, his political acumen allowed him to maintain a significant role in shaping Indonesia's political dynamics during a critical period of democratic transition.

Though Haz had a reputation as a wily politician, but his speech before Muslim clerics at Abubakar's Solo boarding school in May 2002 is remembered as ill-judged and has attracted lot of criticism. This article is not about a criticism on Haz but to learn from recent history where shrewd politicians have made politically incorrect statements and took inappropriate decisions. In the world of politics, strategy and cunning are often as crucial as vision and policy. While many politicians adeptly navigate the complexities of governance and public opinion, others, despite their political acumen, have made missteps that have tarnished their legacies. Here are some notable examples of wily politicians whose ill-judged actions have had significant repercussions.

Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, is perhaps the most infamous example of a shrewd politician undone by his own actions. Known for his foreign policy achievements, particularly in opening diplomatic relations with China and détente with the Soviet Union, Nixon's presidency was ultimately marred by the Watergate scandal. The attempt to cover up a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters led to his resignation in 1974, making him the only US president to resign from office. Nixon's involvement in the scandal and the subsequent cover-up was a profound misjudgement that overshadowed his political career.

David Cameron, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, is a prime example of a politician whose calculated risk backfired spectacularly. In 2016, Cameron called for a referendum on the UK's membership in the European Union, confident that the vote would favour remaining in the EU. However, the result was a narrow victory for the Leave campaign, leading to Brexit. The decision to hold the referendum, intended to settle internal party divisions and political pressure, instead resulted in Cameron's resignation and long-term uncertainty and division in the UK.

Aung San Suu Kyi, once celebrated as a symbol of peaceful resistance and democratic ideals, faced international condemnation for her handling of the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. As the de-facto leader of Myanmar, her government was accused of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya Muslim minority. Suu Kyi's refusal to condemn the military's actions and her perceived complicity significantly damaged her reputation. Her ill-judged defence of the military at the International Court of Justice in 2019 further alienated her from the global community. Nicolas Sarkozy, the former President of France, has had his share of legal woes that have overshadowed his political career. Known for his dynamic and often divisive leadership style, Sarkozy faced multiple investigations into alleged corruption and campaign financing violations. In 2021, he was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling, receiving a three-year prison sentence, two of which were suspended. These legal issues and the decisions that led to them have severely tarnished Sarkozy's legacy as a political leader.

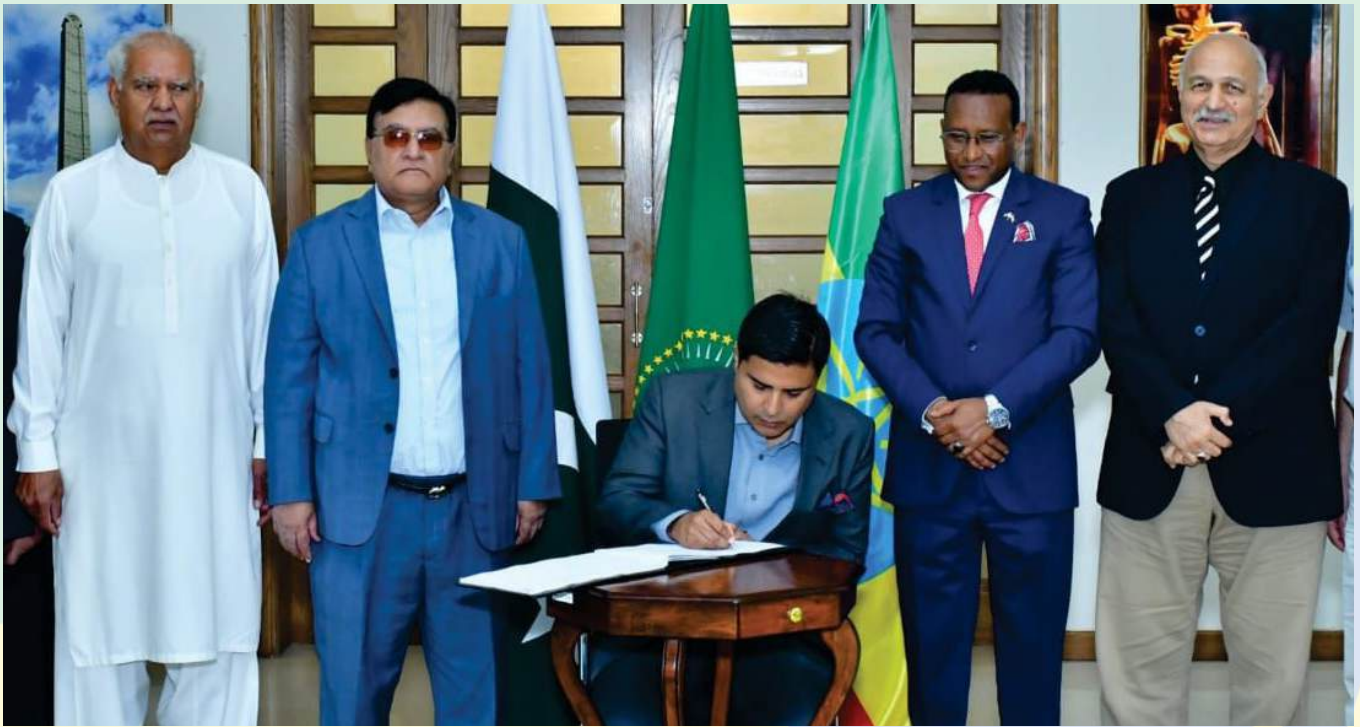
Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, is another politician whose career has been overshadowed by allegations of corruption. While he has been a dominant force in Israeli politics, Netanyahu was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in 2019. His alleged involvement in a series of corruption scandals, including accepting expensive gifts and offering regulatory favours in exchange for favourable media coverage, has cast a long shadow over his political achievements. Netanyahu's attempts to avoid prosecution and his divisive rhetoric have further polarized Israeli society. Moreover, his repeated decisions to launch attacks on Gaza have had profound implications,

both for his political career and for Israel's standing in the world. Netanyahu is facing political isolation and having fractures within his ruling coalitions, making governance increasingly difficult. Israeli citizens, tired of the endless cycle of violence, have staged protests and expressed their dissatisfaction with Netanyahu's leadership. War crime allegations, human right violations, diplomatic fallout, decline in tourism, stalled negotiation, huge cost of conflict, are the results of Netanyahu worst ill-judged decision. There are critics who believe that he had paid all this price to cover-up his series of corruption scandals and to secure his political career, but in vain.

Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, came to power with promises of reform and anti-corruption measures. However, his tenure was marked by economic instability and poor management, culminating in a severe financial crisis. Khan's government struggled with inflation, a burgeoning debt crisis, and an inability to secure consistent international financial support. His policies, including abrupt changes and a lack of coherent strategy, agricultural neglect, bureaucratic paralysis, suppressing political opposition, poor foreign policy, lack of substantial reforms in the education sector, mismanaged privatization, were seen as mis judgments that undermined his political credibility.

These examples highlight the fragile nature of political power and the delicate balance between strategic political manoeuvring and disastrous mis judgments. These politicians' ill-judged actions not only impacted their careers but also had far-reaching consequences for their countries and the international community. In the high-stakes realm of politics, even the most astute leaders can see their legacies unravel due to a single misstep. Indeed, the political world is complex, as are the personalities of politicians. Therefore, studying the darker side of wily politicians can be highly beneficial in manifolds.

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Solidarity expressed with Ethiopia over mudslide tragedy

The Ambassador expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support in launching Ethiopian Airlines' operations in Karachi, a key component of Pakistan's "Look Africa and Engage Africa" policy to strengthen government-to-government, people-to-people, and business-to-business relations

D. N. A

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency Jemal Beker Abdula has emphasized the strategic partnership between Ethiopia and Pakistan, expressing determination to enhance bilateral relations, particularly in trade and business. He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), led by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, which visited the embassy to offer condolences for the loss of over 260 lives in Ethiopia's recent landslides. On this occasion former Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was also present Ambassador Abdula highlighted the successful interactions between Pakistani and Ethiopian entrepreneurs through exchange programs, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. He also noted Pakistan's potential to benefit from Ethiopia's experience in addressing climate change. The Ambassador expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support in launching Ethiopian Airlines' operations in Karachi, a key component of Pakistan's "Look Africa and Engage Africa" policy to strengthen government-to-government, people-to-people, and business-to-business relations. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to its ties with Ethiopia, recognizing it as a gateway for exports to Africa. He emphasized the role

of Ethiopian Airlines in promoting bilateral relations and expressed the Pakistani business community's enthusiasm for exploring new avenues with Ethiopian entrepreneurs. Earlier, President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari had expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the people and government of Ethiopia for the tragic loss of lives caused by the devastating landslides last week. He assured Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula that the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) was fully committed to providing all possible assistance to the affected families. Additionally, he recorded his condolence message in the condolence book, further solidifying the Chamber's support during this difficult time." Former Senator and PAIDAR Chairman Mushahid Hussain Syed highlighted the importance of people-to-people exchanges and business-to-business connectivity in areas like education, trade, and sustainable development. Former ICCI President and United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari commended Ambassador Abdula's efforts in strengthening bilateral relations by saying that together both the brotherly countries have gained a sufficient ground and that Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to Pakistan will be a jump to further solidify ties between the two nations. The ICCI delegation included Malik Shabbir Awan, Faizan Shahzad, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Maqsood Tabish, Akhtar Abbasi, and Zia Chaudhry.



National Day of Egypt celebrated





Pakistan, France reiterate resolve to further cement ties

French Ambassador Nicolas Galey and Pakistan's Minister for Privatization, Investment Board, and Communications Aleem Khan reiterated their dedication to fostering the friendship between their two countries



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The French Ambassador to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey, hosted a reception to mark France's National Day, known as Bastille Day. Bastille Day, or "le Quatorze Juillet" in French, commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, a significant event in the French Revolution symbolizing the fight against oppression and the birth of a republic based on liberty, equality, and fraternity. A large number of guests from various walks of life attended the event, including PPP leader Sherry Rehman and Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori. The French Ambassador expressed his commitment to strengthening bilateral ties during the celebrations in Pakistan.

The event underscored the importance of the historical and cultural connections between France and Pakistan. Ambassador Galey highlighted France's support for Pakistan's development initiatives, particularly in sustainable energy, infrastructure development, and vocational training. He also emphasized the significance of cultural ex-

changes in enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation. French Ambassador Nicolas Galey and Pakistan's Minister for Privatization, Investment Board, and Communications Aleem Khan reiterated their dedication to fostering the friendship between their two countries. The celebration mirrored the festivities in France, including the grand military parade on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, showcasing the shared values and solidarity between the two nations. Privatization Minister Aleem Khan, who was a chief guest on the French National Day highlighted the importance of strong economic and trade relations between Pakistan and France. He reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to working closely with France to explore new areas of collaboration, especially in trade, education, and technology. "The friendship between Pakistan and France is not only based on cultural ties but also on economic cooperation. We are dedicated to expanding our trade relations and exploring new opportunities for collaboration," he said. Privatization Minister Aleem Khan expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-France relations, emphasizing the need for continuous dialogue and cooperation.





Serena Hotels Supports Young Female Talent with “Tee to Triumph” Golf Training Programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels proudly tees off the second season of the two-week “Tee to Triumph” golf training programme for young girls, under the Sports Diplomacy Initiative. This initiative, in collaboration with the Margalla Greens Golf Club, aims to provide these aspiring golfers with a platform to learn and improve their skills in a sport that is both challenging and rewarding. The training programme, currently underway at the scenic Margalla Greens Golf Club, is attracting enthusiastic participation from over

25 young girls. They are being trained under the expert supervision of the club’s coaches. The programme will conclude on August 1, 2024, with a closing ceremony. The participants have expressed their gratitude to Serena Hotels and Margalla Greens Golf Club for their unwavering support and for providing them with such a valuable opportunity. “We are pleased to partner with Serena Hotels on this wonderful initiative. The ‘Tee to Triumph’ golf training programme not only introduces young girls to the sport but also helps build

their confidence and discipline. It is a pleasure to see their progress and enthusiasm,” said Commodore (Retired) Majid Satti, Secretary Margalla Greens Golf Club. “Serena Hotels believe in the power of sports to bring positive change and inspire the younger generation. This sponsorship of the ‘Tee to Triumph’ golf training programme is a proof of dedication to encouraging talent, promoting sports, and empowering young girls to pursue their ambitions,” said Junaid Shafqat, General Manager Marketing & Communication.

Ambassador of Tajikistan calls on the Prime Minister



Ansar Bhatti

AMBASSADOR of Tajikistan, Amb. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House today. The Prime Minister welcomed the Ambassador and wished him a successful tenure in Pakistan. While fondly recalling his recent visit to Dushanbe earlier this month, the Prime Minister said he was touched by the warm welcome extended to him and hailed the friendly and productive discussions with H.E. President Emomali Rahmon during the visit. Expressing satisfaction at the MoUs/agreements signed between the two sides during his visit, the Prime Minister urged that timely implementation and follow up would help to strengthen bilateral ties even further. The Prime Minister renewed his invitation to President Rahmon to undertake an official visit to Paki-

stan at his earliest convenience, while adding that Pakistan was looking forward to Tajikistan's participation in the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad in October this year. The Tajik Ambassador briefed the Prime Minister on a number of proposals aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields including education, agriculture and defence as well as connectivity through land and air routes. While noting the proposals, the Prime Minister tasked relevant Ministries to get in touch with the Tajik Ambassador for further discussions. Regional connectivity projects including CASA-1000, also came under discussion. The Tajik Ambassador thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him, conveyed greetings of his President to the Prime Minister and expressed his country's desire to further enhance its relations with Pakistan.



FETO a terrorist, espionage organization, says Ambassador

Pakistan is remembered with appreciation for being among the first countries that took swift action against the organization's affiliates in the aftermath of the treacherous coup attempt in our country

ISLAMABAD” Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci has said “Victory of the Nation” is the main theme of this year’s commemoration ceremony of the “Democracy and National Unity Day”. It has been eight years since the July 15 coup attempt orchestrated by members of the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO) who had infiltrated our army, resulting the martyrdom of 251 of our citizens and the injury of over two thousand others. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of a ceremony held to Commemorate martyrs of July 15, 2016. The Ambassador further said FETO is not only a terrorist organization, but also an espionage organization with a “cult” character. FETO was established as a so-called “religious movement”. In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions. ‘The well-planned and widespread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions was carried out for decades latently for a full-scale plot, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016’. Ambassador Pacaci said the greatest credit for neutralizing the threat posed by FETO on the night of July 15 goes to the Turkish people, who demonstrated that they recognize no power over their own will and are ready to give their lives to protect their state and its democratic achievements. It was the night when the territorial integrity, demographical integrity and cultural integrity of Türkiye, in other words,

in every sense, Türkiye itself was protected by its own citizens under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this heinous coup attempt. In this context, we emphasize with concrete examples that FETO poses a security threat to other countries where it operates, aims to create political and economic spheres of influence, does not hesitate to violate the laws of the countries it is present in, and operates like a criminal and intelligence organization. It is now becoming internationally understood that FETO is not a social movement involved in education and charity as it tries to portray itself, but a dark and insidious terrorist organization with political and economic ambitions. While talking about Pakistan role, he said Pakistan is remembered with appreciation for being among the first countries that took swift action against the organization’s affiliates in the aftermath of the treacherous coup attempt in our country. The Supreme Court of Pakistan declared FETO a proscribed organization with the verdict rendered on 28 December 2018. Türkiye and the Turkish people are grateful to brother Pakistan. ‘FETO was declared as a terrorist organization by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held on 19 October 2016; and by on the 12th Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC on 27 January 2017’. ‘The night of July 15 showed us that the spirit of national unity from Turkish War of Independence remains steadfast. Democracy and the Republic can only be achieved through a spirit of national unity’. – DNA



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Envoys of 7 countries present credentials to President Zardari

The envoys of Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia and Botswana presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credentials ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr

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ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia and Botswana presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credentials ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr,. The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Zimbabwe, Mr Titus Mehliswa Jonathan Abu-Basutu, Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan, Mr Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, High Commissioner-designate of Rwanda, Ms Harerimana Fatou, Ambassador-designate of Argentina, Mr Sebastian Sayus, Ambassador-designate of Myanmar, Mr Wunna Han, Ambassa-

dor-designate of Cambodia, Mr Sok Chea, and Ambassador-designate of Botswana to Pakistan, Dr Batlang Comma Serema. Later, the envoys also held separate meetings with the President. Talking to the envoys, the President said that Pakistan had great investment opportunities and foreign countries should benefit from its investment-friendly environment. He highlighted that foreign investors should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, Information Technology, energy and mining sectors. The President stated that Pakistan wanted to broaden cooperation with all friendly countries in diverse fields, especially trade, investment,

and culture. He remarked that Pakistan attached great importance to expanding economic cooperation and further maximising trade volume with friendly countries to its fullest potential. He also called for increasing contacts among the business communities to boost economic and trade relations. President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the envoys on their appointment as ambassadors to Pakistan and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation. Earlier, the envoys were presented guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.





Bilal Raza shines

NOTTINGHAM: Renowned business figure of Pakistan and Deputy Editor of Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline Abid Raza in a picture with his son Bilal Raza, who has got prestigious Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Nottingham.
— DNA





ISLAMABAD: A meeting took place between the Ambassador Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, and the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam. – DNA



Sri Lankan FS plants a tree in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Mrs. Aruni Wijewardena who is visiting Islamabad, Pakistan for Foreign Office consultations took part in tree plantation drive and welcoming Monsoonal rainy season in Islamabad by planting a Marple sapling at newly acquired land (1.75 acres) for the new Sri Lanka High Commission and residence complex in Diplomatic Enclave Islamabad. Director General South Asia and Public Diplomacy in Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry, Mr. Niluka Kadirugamuwa and Deputy Director South Asia Mrs. Prashanthi Krishnamoorthy, High Commissioner Admiral (Retired) Ravi Wijegunaratne, Defence Advisor Brigadier Kaminda Silva, High Commission officials and their families also joined the event.

Serena Hotels' 'Tee to Triumph' Golf Training Programme for Young Girls

SERENA Hotels, in collaboration with Margalla Greens Golf Club, is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Tee to Triumph Golf Training Programme, which took place from 22 July to 1 August 2024. This esteemed initiative, aimed at nurturing young female talent, saw the participation of 25 girls aged between 7 and 18.

Throughout the programme, the participants benefitted from comprehensive training led by experienced golf coaches, who provided expert instruction on both the fundamental and advanced aspects of the game. The sessions were designed to enhance the girls' skills, build confidence, and promote teamwork.

The event was honoured by the presence of Ayesha Fauzan, a distinguished golfer and a source of inspiration for aspiring young golfers. As the guest of honour, Ms Fauzan's participation added a significant

motivational boost to the programme, encouraging the young players to pursue their golfing dreams with dedication and enthusiasm. The Tee to Triumph programme culminated in a special closing ceremony where the girls were recognised for their achievements. Medals were awarded in various categories, celebrating the remarkable progress and skill development showcased by the participants. The final day of the programme provided an opportunity for the girls to demonstrate their newly acquired abilities and receive accolades for their hard work and commitment. Serena Hotels and Margalla Greens Golf Club extend their sincere congratulations to all the participants and express their gratitude to Ayesha Fauzan for her invaluable support. This collaboration highlights a shared commitment to fostering young talent and advancing the sport of golf among young women.





**5TH AUGUST
YOUNG-E-ISTENSAL**

**5TH AUGUST
YOUNG-E-ISTENSAL**

**ILLEGAL ACTIONS OF
5TH AUGUST 2019**

**AN ATTACK ON
KASHMIRIS' RIGHT
TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

**5TH AUGUST IS THE DARK DAY WHEN INDIA REVOKED THE
SPECIAL STATUS OF INDIAN OCCUPIED JAMMU AND KASHMIR.**

The illegal acts hold no legitimacy under International Law.
The People of Pakistan and Kashmir have rejected these acts.
The Government of Pakistan and its People will continue their moral, diplomatic,
and legal support for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.



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Australian, Malaysia and Brunei envoys honored

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ISLAMABAD: Olympian M. Usman, Coach and Commandant of the Pakistan hockey team camp presenting souvenirs to High Commissioner of Australia Neil Hawkins, High Commissioner of Brunei Kamal Ahmad and High Commissioner

of Malaysia Dato Azhar Mazlan during a practice session of the Rising Stars Hockey Club. These diplomats are the active members of the Rising Stars Hockey Club. President Rising Stars Hockey Club Mehmood Ahmed and Sec-

retary Rising Stars Hockey Club Sohail Janjua, senior players Ansar Bhatti, Asif Bhatti, Khyber Ali, Zia Shah, Imran were also present on the occasion. Pakistan team will leave for to take part in the Asian champion trophy.





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HEALTHCARE CENTRE

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|  General Physician Services |  General Surgery |  Neurology |  Plastic Surgery |  Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation |
|  Medicine |  Pediatrics & Child Health |  Orthopedics & Sports Medicine |  Ear, Nose & Throat |  Laboratory Services |
|  Gynecology & Women's Health |  Cardiology |  Urology |  Psychology & Mental Health |  Nursing Services |
|  Dermatology & Aesthetics |  Psychiatry |  Pulmonology |  Ophthalmology |  Diagnostic Radiology |
|  Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle |  Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery |  Gastroenterology & Hepatology |  Nephrology |  Pre-employment Health Screening |



Keeping you Healthy!

Welcome to Islamabad's finest private medical centre, where your complete wellbeing is our top priority. Keeping you healthy and in good physical condition is at the heart of everything we do.

Our aim is to establish long-term trusting relationships with our patients and their families, offering them easy accessibility to health and continuity of care.



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