

Petrol, HSD prices cut by Rs8, Rs11 per litre

For the first time after coming to power, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's government on Saturday reduced the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs8 and Rs11 per litre, respectively, for the next fortnight ending October 15.

The price cut has come after an increase of Rs59 and Rs56 per litre in petrol and HSD rates, respectively, since August 15.

LPG rate increased

On the other hand, the government increased the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by about 9pc, pushing up the cost of 11.8-kg domestic cylinder by Rs246.15 for October 2023. This is on top of about 20pc jump in LPG price last month.

The announcement for decrease in petrol and HSD prices was made by the Ministry of Finance just before midnight, following clearance from the caretaker prime minister. "In the wake of variations in international prices of petroleum products and the improvement in the exchange rate,



the government of Pakistan has decided to revise the consumer prices of petroleum products," it said.

Under the decision, the ex-depot price of petrol was fixed at Rs323.38 per litre instead of Rs331.38 for next fortnight. Likewise, the ex-depot price of HSD was set at Rs318.18 per litre instead of Rs329.18 at present. The retail price at pump would, however, be well above Rs319 per litre.

Meanwhile, the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) set the price of LPG at Rs261 per kg for October against Rs240 in September, up by Rs21 or 8.7pc. As such, the 11.8kg domestic cylinder price was set at Rs3,079.64 for the current month.

Courtesy: Dawn

President Alvi calls for 'forgiveness to end political bitterness'



President Arif Alvi called for an end to bitterness to pave the way for "cooperation and forgiveness" to strengthen democracy.

Following the ouster of Imran Khan, which brought the PTI in confrontation with the establishment, the president had tried to act as an arbitrator to end the rift, but to no avail.

In the latest statement issued by the President's House, Mr Alvi said: "Bitterness should end, and a way should be carved for cooperation and forgiveness."

Following the end of his term on Sept 9, the president has refrained from making political comments, this being the first statement of its kind since then.

A source close to President Alvi said it might be possible that he feared the PTI was being sidelined.

In a separate meeting with Muhammad Ali Khan Durrani, the president said: "Democracy will be meaningless if people are not able to elect a leader of their choice."

Courtesy: Dawn

PM Kakar lands in China to mark decade of CPEC



Carrying high hopes about the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar arrived in Beijing on Monday to participate in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation.

At the airport, he was received by Chinese Minister of Science & Technology Wang Zhigang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moinul Haq, the PM's Office said in a press release.

The prime minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials.

PM Kakar will attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' to be held on Oct 18. He will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Li Xi, member of the Standing Committee of Politburo of CPC Central Committee.

The leaders will discuss all facets of bilateral relations, with particular focus on strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They will exchange views on major regional and global developments.

He will also meet leading Chinese entrepreneurs and preside over an interactive roundtable on the CPEC to explore new avenues for strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and China.

To further strengthen regional connectivity, trade, investment and people-to-people contact between the neighbouring regions of Pakistan and China, Mr Kakar will pay a two-day visit to Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China.

In Urumqi, he will meet the local leadership and business persons, and deliver a speech at Xinjiang University, 10 years of CPEC

"The visit of the prime minister comes in the backdrop of ongoing celebrations marking the 10 years of the CPEC, the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)," the press release said.

As the flagship project of the BRI, he said, the CPEC marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations by placing "economic cooperation and connectivity at the very centre of the bilateral agenda", making the two countries more interconnected.

The caretaker PM said Pakistan was a pioneering member of the "Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative proposed by President Xi and played an active role in giving it a more concrete shape".

Mr Kakar said in a world marred by multiple challenges like conflicts, economic recessions, food insecurity, social inequalities, and climate change, the salience of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership assumed great importance.

He thanked China for its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic security, and its principled support on the issue of Kashmir.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan emerges as top International Development Association borrower in 2023

Pakistan was the top borrower of the International Development Association (IDA) in fiscal year 2023, securing \$2.3 billion in funding, the World Bank said in its annual report.

The bank helped Pakistan respond to devastating floods with nearly \$1.7bn for five projects in the worst-affected Sindh province to build resilient housing, restore crop production, provide health services for mothers and children, and strengthen social protection and the local government's disaster response capacity.

The document, titled "World Bank Annual Report 2023 — A New Era in Development", states that the international institution approved \$10.1bn in lending for 37 operations in the South Asian region during the fiscal year 2023 — \$4.3bn in International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) commitments and \$5.8bn in IDA commitments.

IDA is the world's largest multilateral source of concessional financing, offering development loans, grants, and guarantees to the poorest countries. It aims to facilitate economic growth, reduce poverty, and enhance the living conditions of impoverished populations.

WB says Islamabad secured \$2.3bn in funding; okays \$10bn for 37 operations in South Asia

According to the report, the World Bank also supported 61 advisory services and analytical products for eight countries. These provided technical advice on issues such as debt management, governance, job creation, social protection, air pollution and climate resilience.

Across the region, the bank focused on enhancing human capital resilience to minimise the effects of crises. This included building resilience against the impacts of a changing climate and natural disasters and promoting resilience in economy, markets, and society to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.



The report forecast that South Asia's GDP is expected to grow 5.6 per cent in 2023 and to remain moderate at 5.9pc in 2024, following an initial post-pandemic recovery of 8.2pc in 2021. The region's growth prospects have weakened due to tightening financial conditions, limited fiscal space and depleting reserves, contributing to large downside risks in most countries.

Poverty in region

The decline in poverty is expected to recover in line with economic growth, with the number of people living on less than \$3.20 a day across the region forecast to be 754 million in 2023, lower than the estimates in 2019. South Asia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Over the past two decades, climate-related disasters have affected 750m people, more than half of people in the region. High inequality magnifies these impacts, as the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised bear the greatest burden of these disasters and have limited means to help them recover.

Across South Asia, the Covid-19 pandemic led to a collapse in human capital for millions of children and young people. Today's students could lose more than 14pc of their future earnings, while today's toddlers could see a 25pc decline in earnings when they reach adulthood. South Asia is confronting intensifying heatwaves, cyclones, droughts and floods. The changing climate could sharply diminish living conditions for up to 800m people.

In Punjab, which accounts for 73pc

of Pakistan's total food production, a \$200m project is promoting climate-smart technologies and practices to improve water-use efficiency, build resilience to extreme weather, and increase small-scale farmers' incomes.

Between April 2022 and June 2023, the World Bank approved 529 standalone and regional operations covering more than 110 countries across the four pillars of the framework, totaling \$104.9bn, including \$53.1bn under IBRD and \$51.8bn under IDA. Of the total amount, \$23.7bn was committed for countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and \$2bn for small states.

The World Bank works closely with countries, the private sector, civil society and other multilateral institutions to confront these challenges and find lasting development solutions. Through the Global Crisis Response Framework, the World Bank has been responding at unprecedented levels to the converging crises, approving 322 operations in more than 90 countries for a total of \$72.8bn in fiscal 2023. This includes \$38.6bn from IBRD.

Under the first year of IDA20, the organisation committed \$34.2bn for the poorest countries. To help these countries address the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, the bank front-loaded financial resources in 2023, building on the momentum from 2022. The total climate finance amounted to a record high of \$29.4bn, accounting for 40pc of total IBRD and IDA finance in fiscal 2023.

Courtesy: Dawn

ICC announces lineup for 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday unveiled the qualifying criteria for the highly anticipated ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to take place in Pakistan.

In a major development, it has been confirmed that the top 7 teams from the ongoing ODI World Cup in India will secure their spots in the tournament, with Pakistan being the eighth team as the host nation.



Unfortunately, this news brings disappointment for cricket enthusiasts from West Indies, Zimbabwe, and Ireland, as they will not be part of the Champions Trophy in 2025. The reason behind their exclusion is their failure to secure a berth in the 2023 ODI World Cup, as announced by the ICC.

This decision comes after an ICC Board meeting that saw the approval of a comprehensive 10-year cycle commencing in 2021, consisting of 8 men's global tournaments. The Champions Trophy is among the most prestigious of these events, and cricket fans around the world are eagerly looking forward to the competition.

The announcement of Pakistan as the host for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy has added an extra layer of anticipation and excitement to the tournament. With a history of hosting successful international cricket events, Pakistan is gearing up to provide fans with a memorable cricketing experience in 2025.

As the cricketing world eagerly awaits the Champions Trophy, it is sure to be a riveting spectacle featuring the top cricketing nations competing on the grand stage, while West Indies, Zimbabwe, and Ireland regroup and strive to secure their places in future cricketing events.

Courtesy:

Fee slapped on Afghan transit trade

In a significant move to curb the illegal entry of goods into the country, the government announced on Tuesday a 10 per cent processing fee on items imported under the Afghan transit trade agreement.

The decision — which aims to deter smuggling and ensure pro-per taxation — comes at a time when the government has ordered all illegal immigrants, including 1.73 million Afghan nationals, to leave the country or face expulsion.

According to the Customs Department notification (SRO1381 of 2023), the fee, calculated as 10pc ad valorem based on the original value of goods, must be paid in advance during the declaration process for Afghan transit commercial goods entering Afghanistan via Pakistan.

The items affected include confectioneries, chocolates, footwear, various machinery, blankets, home textiles, and garments.

10pc processing charges to be paid in advance at time of declaration for commercial goods imported via Pakistan

However, the notification stipulates that goods declarations filed before Oct 3 will not be subject to these new provisions.

Customs officials suspect that certain goods, though destined for Afghanistan, are clandestinely rerouted back into Pakistan, prompting this latest measure.

An official noted that cargo volume has surged recently. “Despite Afghanistan’s transit trade demand being \$1bn to \$2bn per year, we have observed a significant rise. This fee is expected to deter those involved in illicit trading,” the official said.

Under the transit trade agreement, Pakistan has the right to impose



processing fees on cargo, the official said.

Pakistan has previously extended economic support to Afghanistan. Since the Taliban’s takeover of Kabul on Aug 15, 2021, Islamabad provided tax and duty exemptions on various commodities, including fruits and vegetables. Besides, from July 6 last year, the government also allowed the trade of all products via land routes to Kabul in rupees.

To combat smuggling, Customs has adopted several policies under the Customs Act, 1969. Essential commodities like wheat, flour, sugar and

urea have been added to an essential commodities list to bolster the legal framework.

Besides, the Customs Act’s jurisdiction has been expanded to 10km from the original 5km near the borders with Afghanistan, India and Iran, and to 50km near specific Balochistan districts.

The government has also appointed the chief collector of customs (Balochistan) to address smuggling issues and liaise with law enforcement agencies.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani woman blasts off to final frontier today

Namira Salim is set to become the first Pakistani to reach the final frontier as she blasts off on a Virgin Galactic space plane today (Friday).

“Proud to fly the national flag high in space Insha’Allah on October 6,” she said on social media ahead of her departure alongside three other space travellers.

The other two passengers are British advertising executive Trevor Beattie and American astronomy educator Ron Rosano. Beth Moses, Virgin Galactic’s chief astronaut instructor, will also join the trio.

Virgin Galactic announced on Tuesday that it has delayed its next space tourism mission by a day, to Friday, October 6.

“The slip will give our team an additional day to complete vehicle prep and checks,” they wrote on their X account. “We look forward to taking to the skies (on Friday)!” The upcoming mission, called Galactic 04, will see three paying customers sent into suborbital



space and back on Virgin Galactic’s VSS Unity space plane.

Pakistani-Canadian man to pilot ship carrying Virgin Galactic space plane

The suborbital trajectory will allow passengers several minutes of weightlessness before returning to Earth. Though it doesn’t reach orbit, Unity will be high enough that passengers will be able to see the curvature of Earth against the backdrop of outer space.

Unity will lift off beneath the wings of its carrier plane, Virgin Mothership (VMS) Eve, from

New Mexico’s Spaceport America. Galactic 04 will be Virgin’s fourth commercial spaceflight endeavour, following similar flights in June, August, and September of this year.

In addition to Ms Salim, VMS Eve is also piloted by a Canadian of Pakistani origin, Jameel Janjua. He had completed over 4,000 flying hours in more than 45 different vehicles before he joined Virgin Galactic.

Kelly Latimer and C.J. Sturckow will fly the space plane while Nicola Pecile will join Mr Janjua to pilot Eve. Both vehicles will land back at Spaceport America after

completing the mission.

In a tweet posted on her official X (formerly Twitter) account, Ms Salim thanked Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar for congratulating her for being the first woman from Pakistan to go to space.

“By proving their mettle as trailblazers in multiple fields, Pakistani women are making the whole nation proud,” Mr Kakar had written on his X account, wishing her luck. Ms Salim, who makes history as the first Pakistani to reach space, was one of the first 100 people to buy a ticket with Virgin Galactic, having booked her ride in 2006. Back then, the price was \$200,000; it has since risen to \$450,000.

Namira, the founder and chairperson of the nonprofit Space Trust, is a longtime adventurer. According to her website, she’s the first Pakistani to visit both the North Pole (in April 2007) and the South Pole (in January 2008).
Published in Dawn, October 6th, 2023

'Novel' justification for variations in delimitation

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday justified the wide variation in the population of various constituencies in the preliminary delimitation scheme, saying parity only had to be maintained between populations of constituencies within a district, not the province.

Referring to an analysis by Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen), without naming the organisation, the election watchdog said the analysis regarding the preliminary delimitation report was based on a misunderstanding.

In a statement, the ECP said that under Article 51, 266 National Assembly seats have been allocated to the provinces on the basis of their population.

"Keeping in view the seats allocated to the provinces and their population, their quota was worked out on the basis of which seats were allocated to each district under rule 8(2) following which, keeping in view the population of the districts and the number of their seats, the delimitation was carried out," it explained. In a reference to criticism, it said the organisation did not regard the district as a unit to determine the seats while analysing the variation in population size of constituencies. "Rather, the quota of the province

was taken as a unit and the basic administrative unit i.e. the district was ignored, which has created ambiguity," the ECP added.

Electoral experts, however, disagreed with the position taken by the ECP, asserting that the law governing principles of delimitation was very clear and it talks about the population of constituencies of an assembly and not a district. They asserted that a rule could not amend or override a legal provision.

Section 20(3) of the Elections Act reads, "As far as possible, variation in the population of constituencies of an assembly or a local government shall not ordinarily exceed 10 per cent." Sub-section 4 says, "If the limit of 10 per cent under sub-section (3) is exceeded in an exceptional case, the commission shall record reasons thereof in the delimitation order."

In addition to the population during delimitation, the ECP noted, there are other principles which are mentioned in Section 20 of the Elections Act 2017, including administrative unit and homogeneity, which the commission has taken into account during the preliminary delimitation, it said.

The ECP claimed there was a difference of over 10 per cent in only



64 constituencies and said that the reasons for this variation had been recorded.

It said the facility to file a representation is provided in the law and rules to correct the errors in the initial delimitation. If such an error is found in the initial delimitation which is not allowed by the law, it will be corrected during the hearing of the objections, the statement added.

ECP meeting today
On the other hand, the ECP will meet today to discuss matters related to inviting international observers to monitor upcoming general polls.

The Elections Act empowers the electoral body to invite local or foreign observers to monitor the elections.

In a related development, the ECP has put off a consultative meeting with representatives of political parties on the code of conduct for

elections scheduled for October 4.

The meeting will now be held on October 11.

PTI seeks CJP's intervention
Separately, the PTI core committee on Monday urged the chief justice to immediately intervene to safeguard the sanctity and respect of the Constitution, as the caretaker government, the ECP, and some political parties, which were part of the previous PDM coalition government, were depriving people of the right to vote "for an indefinite period".

According to a statement, the PTI leadership requested the CJP to take measures to protect the sanctity of the Constitution as holding elections within 90 days limit was a mandatory constitutional requirement in the case of premature dissolution of the National Assembly. The statement did not reveal where the meeting of the core committee was held and who chaired it.

Courtesy: Dawn

Atif Aslam contributes PKR15 million as 'medical and food aid' for Gaza

In a heartwarming gesture of generosity, celebrated and beloved Pakistani singer Atif Aslam has stepped forward to make a substantial contribution of PKR15 million towards essential medical & food aid for Gaza, Palestine. The singer's benevolent donation comes at a time when the region is grappling with trying circumstances, and his act of kindness has been acknowledged with deep gratitude by the organisation to which he donated.

Taking to Instagram, the Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan shared a post featuring the talented star, expressing their profound appreciation for his altruistic gesture. The post read, "Deep gratitude to the esteemed Atif Aslam for his generous contribution of 15

million PKR towards essential medical and food aid for Gaza, Palestine during these trying times. We humbly request your support for the Alkhidmat Gaza Fund."

Atif's contribution to the Gaza relief fund is not only a testament to his compassion but also a shining example of how influential figures can make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. His generous donation is expected to provide crucial assistance in the form of medical aid and food supplies to the people of Gaza, who are facing challenging circumstances. This would, of course, depend on the situation pertaining to the opening of borders in Gaza as well, and how much aid is allowed in.



This act of kindness by Atif highlights the importance of global solidarity and the role that public figures can play in humanitarian efforts. As an artist with a significant following, his donation is expected to inspire others to contribute to similar causes and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by adversity.

Many Pakistani artists are doing var-

ious things to amplify the Palestinian cause. Celebrities like Osman Khalid Butt, Hasan Raheem and Ushna Shah have been vocal about what's happening in Palestine, becoming a voice for the many Palestinians who are facing a brutal genocide in the region. Atif, too, took to his social media to share a post "mourning the loss of innocent lives in Palestine."

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Pockets of 'illegal Afghans' identified in Sindh

A meeting of the Sindh Apex Com-m-ittee, attended by caretaker Chief Minister retired Justice Maqbool Baqar and Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir, was informed that pockets where illegal Afghan nationals were concentrated in the province had been identified.

The provincial government informed the meeting that an action plan to implement the federal government's policy on illegal foreigners' repatriation plan had been shared with the interior ministry.

Well-placed sources told Dawn the provincial government expressed its resolve to overcome any resistance after the meeting was informed about the possibility of resistance from some political parties to the action against illegal immigrants. They said that provincial, divisional and district implementation committees had already been notified of the interior ministry's policy.

As many as 3,234 illegal immigrants had been deported since

2021, while 728 Afghans were kept in various penitentiaries. The meeting was further informed that 72,754 Afghans were holders of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards while 67,826 others possessed the Afghan Citizen Card.

According to the sources, the provincial government requested the interior ministry to provide adequate funds to implement the illegal foreigners' repatriation plan.

They said it also urged the interior ministry to delegate the authority of issuing no-objection certificate (NOC) for bullet-proofing of vehicles to the home department to the extent of Chinese and other nationals working on different projects in the province, as the process of obtaining NOCs from the Centre was time-consuming. The interior ministry, however, responded that it would expedite the process of issuing NOCs.

During the meeting, according to an ISPR release, the army chief was briefed about the revised National



Action Plan, operation in katcha areas of Sindh, security of foreign nationals employed on CPEC and non-CPEC private projects, repatriation of illegal foreigners, foreign currency regularisation measures, Karachi Transformation Plan, progress on the SIFC initiatives in the province and Green Sindh initiatives.

The COAS emphasised that law enforcement agencies and government departments would continue enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to stop pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities.

“The COAS underscored the need for synergy among all relevant

departments for gainful effects of the landmark initiatives,” it said.

The ISPR release said the participants of the meeting affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people were united for progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier upon his arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Karachi Corps.

Months before the recent ultimatum given by the federal government to all undocumented immigrants, Sindh had witnessed tensions between ethnic groups which culminated in calls from nationalist parties for the expulsion of Afghan refugees.

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt firm on repatriation plan amid criticism

The government on Friday doubled down on its policy to evict all illegal immigrants including around 1.7 million Afghan refugees from the country, saying that the decision was in line with international practices.

Meanwhile, as law enforcement agencies continued their crackdown on people they call 'illegal aliens', a sizeable number of families have been crossing the border into Afghanistan over the past week.

“No country allows illegal people to live in their country whether it is Europe, whether it is countries in Asia, in our neighbourhood,” caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, told Hong Kong's Phoenix TV in an interview on the sidelines of a forum in Tibet.

“So, accordingly this is in line with the international practice that we have taken this decision.”

FM says decision in line with global practice; Punjab CM claims data of

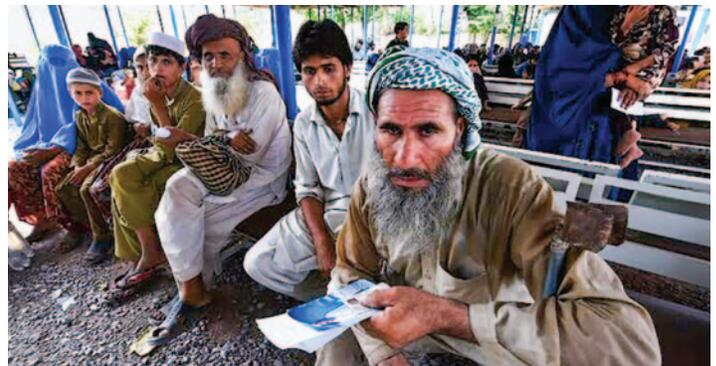
all foreign residents compiled

Pakistan's decision to ask illegal immigrants to leave by October 31 or face forcible expulsion has drawn criticism from within and without, with organisations such as UNHCR and Amnesty International calling on the government to rethink its plans. The Taliban government in Kabul has also expressed its reservations over the move.

“Whenever there was any problem, people would immigrate to Pakistan, take refuge in Pakistan,” Mr Jilani said during the interview.

“But now I think it has been more than 40 years, so the government of Pakistan has taken a decision,” he said, noting that the situation in Afghanistan had stabilised.

The caretaker foreign minister said Pakistan had been discussing the migrant issue with Afghanistan “for a very long time” and called on international humanitarian agencies to help with the process.



Separately, speaking to reporters on Friday evening, caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on all foreign nationals illegally residing in Punjab to depart voluntarily, saying that provincial authorities had collected initial data on foreign residents.

He was stern in his warning, saying that any foreigner found staying unlawfully in the province would not be permitted to remain, and stressed that illegal immigrants should leave Punjab of their own accord. In case they didn't, he cautioned, a comprehensive crackdown would ensue.

However, the caretaker Punjab CM assured that no one would be abused in this process.

Earlier, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the expulsion plan would be carried out in phases.

According to Reuters, she said it could start with people with criminal records, such as someone involved in a crime or smuggling, adding that the process would follow an orderly manner, in contrast to what she called misconceptions that all of them would just be expelled in one go.

Courtesy: Dawn

PCB seeks Foreign Office assistance over World Cup visa delays

The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) chief met the country's foreign secretary to raise "serious concerns and alarm" over the delay in Pakistani fans and journalists' visas for the ongoing World Cup in India.

Meanwhile, Zainab Abba one of the three Pakistanis to have been granted the Indian visa along with former cricketers Waqar Younis and Ramiz Raja as broadcasters left India amid a cloud.

Zaka Ashraf, chairman of the PCB's interim Management Committee, also requested the foreign secretary to take up the issue with India's Home Ministry through Pakistan High Commission office in New Delhi, the PCB said in a press release.

Despite the tournament having started on Oct 5, no Pakistan-based fan or journalist has been granted the visa to respectively cheer the national side and cover the 50-over showpiece. In fact, the Indian High Commission (IHC) has not so far

allowed for the visa applications to be submitted. ICC presenter Zainab Abbas leaves India amid cloud

Reportedly, the IHC is waiting for a green signal from the Indian home ministry to do so with Pakistan's high-octane clash against the hosts and archrivals nearing fast. Hence, in its attempt to help expedite the process, the PCB reached out to the Pakistan foreign office.

The board said Mr Ashraf has also taken "serious note" of the security threats being reported in Indian media and requested the government to evaluate players' security in the country.

"He emphasised that the well being and safety of the Pakistan squad was of paramount importance," the PCB statement read.

"PCB is extremely disappointed to see that journalists from Pakistan and fans are still facing uncertainty about obtaining an Indian visa to cover Pakistan games in ICC



World Cup 2023.

"In the meantime, PCB has again reminded ICC [International Cricket Council] and BCCI [Board of Control for Cricket in India] of their respective obligations and terms and conditions stipulated in the Host agreement to guarantee visas for fans and journalists of participating teams."

Late on Sunday, the ICC in its media advisory asked journalists from Pakistan to send their questions for team's Monday's pre-match press conference ahead of

their fixture against Sri Lanka on Whatsapp to one of their officials. Presenter leaves

Ms Abbas, who was to be a presenter for the ICC's digital coverage of the world event, had been facing a social media backlash after a complaint filed by an Indian lawyer with the BCCI, India's cricket governing body.

The complaint by Vineet Jindal was based reportedly on "derogatory and provocative" social media posts about India and Hindu religion that Ms Abbas is alleged to have made in the past.

According to the Press Trust of India, Ms Abbas had been facing a backlash on social media over the alleged anti-India posts. Reports in Indian media also claimed that she had been deported, but in a statement, an ICC spokesperson insisted that this was not the case. Rather, they said, she had left the country due to personal reasons.

Courtesy: Dawn

Naila, Sirbaz survive Tibet avalanche

Pakistani climbers Naila Kiani and Sirbaz Khan survived an avalanche near the summit of Tibet's Shishapangma peak (8,027 metres), but two climbers from the US and Nepal died, and two others from the US and Nepal went missing after massive avalanches engulfed the main climbing route.

Mr Sirbaz and Ms Kiani were part of the Imagine Nepal expedition team, commencing their summit attempt on Friday evening. Saad Munawar, the expedition manager of Mr Sirbaz, confirmed their safe return to Camp 1.

According to Nepalese media, the avalanche struck the climbing route above 7,800m as climbers attempted to reach the summit point early at around 7am Pakistani time. American climber Anna Gutu and her Nepalese guide, Mingmar Sherpa, lost their lives in the avalanche, while another American climber Gina Marie and her guide,



Tenjen (Lama) Sherpa from Nepal, are missing, it added.

Rescuers have recovered bodies of the two climbers, while a search for the missing ones is ongoing.

Mr Munawar said he had communicated with Mr Sirbaz via satellite phone, confirming their safe return to Camp 1 after abandoning their mission.

On October 2, Ms Kiani and Mr Sirbaz became the first Pakistani duo to summit Cho Oyu (8,201m) in Tibet, the world's sixth-highest peak.

Ms Kiani is the first Pakistani woman climber to summit 10 peaks above 8,000m and the only Pakistani to ascend seven peaks above 8,000m in six months. Mr Sirbaz is the only Pakistani to summit 13 peaks above 8,000m, and the only

one to conquer 10 mountains above 8,000m without the use of supplementary oxygen.

Karrar Haidri, Secretary of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, told that both Pakistani climbers had safely reached Camp 1.

Ms Kiani's official page on social media said, "We share with great sadness that 2 avalanches have caused the death of 4 climbers close to the summit of Shishapangma, leading to the aborted mission of Naila and Sirbaz. They are now both back at camp 1, very shaken and distressed after witnessing the avalanche take the lives of their very own friends @ginamarierzucidlo and @anyatraveler. The other climbers were Sherpas Mingma and Lama, both sources of inspiration in the mountaineering community. We share our deepest heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these climbers."

Courtesy: Dawn

Mahira Khan's ethereal bridal look

it looked like a fairytale wedding. Mahira Khan glided down a garden up in the mountains, towards her groom, Salim Karim. He got a bit teary-eyed and so did she. He lifted her veil and the two hugged. The guests around them clapped and cheered.

Even from a social media vantage point, the happy glimpses from the wedding of one of the country's biggest stars had many of us getting a bit emotional. Mahira had been very secretive about her nuptials. There had been rumours regarding the wedding but she hadn't given any confirmation. Not much was conclusively known about the event except that it was taking place somewhere in the mountains and was going to probably be sometime this September or October.



It was only when Mahira's PR team released a few precious videos which immediately went viral that we knew that Pakistan's sweetheart had indeed tied the knot.

The venue was a classic choice, Pearl-Continental Hotel Bhurban, and Mahira was a vision to behold. Her face was covered with a diaphanous veil, she wore minimal makeup and eschewing the usual cardinal red, she opted to wear ivory signed Faraz Manan.



Evidently, Mahira started planning her wedding dress with designer Faraz Manan six months prior to her wedding. "We planned it together," says Manan. "Since the wedding was going to take place during the daytime, in a garden up in the mountains, we coordinated the colour palette accordingly. The backdrop was silver and sky blue, the ivory was the colour of the clouds and the gold, of the sun. The neckline was wide with puffed-up shoulders.



"The silhouette was neo-classical, with art deco and colonial influences. She wanted a veil so I created one with French tulle bordered with beautiful, delicate scallops. The dupatta was also ivory and it was paired with a classic silk lehnga."

Mahira chose to accessorise with a heavy choker, teeka and earrings by Chhotanis Jewelry. "The outfit and the jewellery were coordinated together. She wore a 22-karat gold set with kundan stone-work and meena-kaari," according to a spokesperson of the brand.



Faraz, whose clientele includes notable international celebrities, adds, "She barely wore any makeup and I think she looked simply beautiful. Ultimately, Mahira Khan got married the way she wanted to and I am so happy that she chose to be a Faraz Manan bride!"

As images and videos from the very private wedding keep gracing our social media timelines, the exquisite details of the bridal dress can be observed. She may have played dulhan in multiple acting roles and looked stunning as one in fashion shoots, but on her actual wedding day, Mahira Khan simply glowed.

Courtesy: <https://images.dawn.com/>

Patron:
Ms. Seema Mughal
Vice Chancellor
Editor:
Dr. Sabir Ahmed
Assistant Professor
Graphics & Layout:
Shazia Anwar

Greenwichians interested
in contributions!
Shoot an email to the editor,
including your name,
roll number and your work at
drsabir@greenwich.edu.pk

Greenwich  *University*

Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th Street, Darakshan, Phase VI,
Defence Housing Authority, Karachi-75500, Pakistan
UAN: (021)111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98; Fax: (021)35851910
Email: gu@greenwich.edu.pk ; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk