

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ابو اسحاق نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے فریڈین  
ار تم رضی اللہ عنہ سے پوچھا کہ نبی کریم  
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے ساتھ تم نے کتنے  
غزوے کئے تھے؟ انہوں نے بتایا کہ  
سز جس میں نے پوچھا اور نبی کریم صلی اللہ  
علیہ وسلم نے کتنے غزوے کئے تھے؟ فرمایا  
کہ اٹھس۔  
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4471)  
**Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited**



## PAK vs NZ: Pakistan thump New Zealand to claim historic series victory

Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam starred as Pakistan thrashed New Zealand by 26 runs in the third PAK vs NZ ODI to record a historic series victory over the visitors at the National Bank Cricket Arena here on Wednesday. (Details on Page 7)



## Chinese FM arrives on May 5 on an official visit

At the invitation of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang would pay an official visit to Pakistan on May 5-6. It would be the maiden official visit Qin Gang to Pakistan since assuming office, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and State Councillor Qin Gang will co-chair the 4th round of the 'Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue'.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## PM in London

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being received by Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Special Representative of the British Foreign Secretary Mr. David Gordon-MacLeod at the airport in London on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## PM arrives London to attend King Charles III coronation ceremony

**Spokesman Report**  
Office Media Wing said in a press release.  
PM arrives London to attend King Charles III coronation ceremony  
The prime minister, during his stay, will also attend the meeting of heads of Commonwealth member countries.  
The prime minister is expected to hold bilateral meetings with other heads of state and government on the sidelines of the ceremony. He will also meet his elder brother Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

## US envoy calls on Finance Minister



**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Charge'd Affairs of the United States Andrew Schofer on Wednesday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohamad Ishaq Dar and expressed confidence in the policies and initiatives taken by the government of Pakistan for its economic stability.  
The envoy also extended his country's support to give further impetus to the economic and trade relations between the two countries, a Finance Division news release said.  
During the meeting, the minister exchanged views on remarkable bilateral relations and apprised the envoy of the current challenges being faced by the country, especially on the economic front.  
Ishaq Dar further communicated about the difficult policy decisions recently being taken by Pakistan aimed at stabilizing the economy that resulted into an upward curve ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.  
The minister also informed the US Charge'd Affaires about the on-going International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and assured his government's commitment to complete it.  
He thanked the envoy for the US support and reiterated his government's desire to further expand bilateral trade and investment ties with America.

# All eyes on Parliament as Supreme Court seeks proceedings record

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Following an uproar in National Assembly (NA), Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf tasked a committee to oversee the matter of handing over to Supreme Court (SC) the record of proceedings related to a bill, which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).  
The Supreme Court has sought the record of parliamentary proceedings regarding the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, aimed at clipping powers of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).  
During the session today, the treasury and opposition benches in the National Assembly (NA) strongly protested against the Supreme Court's directives, saying that 'the Parliament will not surrender'.  
After hearing the speeches, NA Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf tasked a committee, which was constituted earlier today to probe ex-CJP Saqib Nisar's audio leak, to oversee the matter of handing over the record to the apex court.  
Raja Ashraf vowed that he would not compromise on the supremacy of parliament. "There should be no doubt that the house is supreme when it comes to the country's matters," he added.  
Speaking on the NA floor, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif urged the National Assembly Speaker to set up a Committee of the Whole to "investigate the decisions of higher courts since Justice Munir to give legal cover to constitutional violations".  
The minister said there was unfortunately "a clash of opinion between two constitutional institutions". "A resolution should be drafted in that regard and the Committee of the Whole should be set up."  
He said they were not against any institution and "every institution should also not trespass on the domains of others".  
The minister said some 51,000 cases were being before the Supreme Court and over 400,000 cases in high courts.

The judiciary should decide the pending cases as many people were waiting for justice, he added.  
Meanwhile, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the speaker could not provide the proceedings of the House to the Supreme Court without seeking the consent of members.  
"It is a matter of the House's sovereignty" and it should be placed before the House for a thorough debate, he added.  
The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader said the Constitution was drafted by the Parliament under which the judiciary functioned.  
NA's Public Accounts Committee Chairman Noor Alam Khan - while speaking on the floor - said he has summoned the Supreme Court's Principal Accounting Officer to furnish the record of the apex court's funds for the last ten years by 16th of this month.  
He said the committee has also sought the record of salaries and plots obtained by judges of the apex court, including the chief justice of the Supreme Court.  
Besides, a similar record too has been demanded from the President, the Prime Minister, federal ministers, the Chairman of the Senate and the speaker of the National Assembly.  
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## Bilawal Bhutto to fly to India on May 4 for SCO meeting

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for External Affairs Bilawal Bhutto will fly to India on Thursday to attend a two-day meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation starting on May 4. Mr Bhutto will land Goa to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of SCO member states.  
Upon Pakistan's request, he had been granted permission by the Indian civil aviation authority to use the Indian airspace. The FM will depart at 11am from Karachi.  
The attendants will discuss wide range of issues including economic co-ordination and regional security. It will be the first visit of a Pakistani high-ranking government official to India since the visit of former PM Nawaz Sharif in 2014.

## PTI submits report on election talks in SC

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday submitted a detailed report of negotiations with the ruling alliance in the Supreme Court (SC).  
The report has been submitted to SC Registrar's Office will the details regarding three rounds of talks held with the coalition government.  
Talking to his Twitter handle earlier today, Fawad wrote that the party in its report will also request the apex court to implement its order [April 4 verdict] regarding the Punjab Assembly elections.  
PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said they [PTI] tried to take the matter forward with good intentions, adding that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar admitted that the party showed flexibility. "PTI showed flexibility for national consensus," he said, adding that on one hand negotiations were carried out while on the other hand government raiding the houses of our leaders.

**Govt-PTI agree on single-day polls**  
The third round of talks between delegations of ruling coalition and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) concluded late Tuesday, with both sides agreeing on holding general elections on the same day across the country.  
A three-member delegation - comprising of Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and Senator Ali Zafar - were representing PTI in the talks.  
Meanwhile, the delegation of ruling coalition includes PML-N's Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with PPP's Senator Yousuf Raza Gilani and Syed Naveed Qamar.  
Talking to media after the meeting, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar from the government's side said that a consensus was reached on holding elections on the same day across the country under a caretaker setup.  
The finance minister noted that both sides tabled their proposals on date for holding general elections.

"Both the side still don't agree on one point in the agenda," he said, adding that another round will soon take place.  
Ishaq Dar further said that the delegations will consult with their respective leaders, adding that flexibility was being shown from both sides in the negotiations.  
It is to be noted here that the government had assured the Supreme Court of holding talks with the opposition over elections in two provinces on April 26.  
During SC's last hearing on polls delay case, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had assured the Supreme Court that they will sit with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and try to find a solution on the election date.  
The Supreme Court - in its April 4 order - declared Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision to postpone elections to the Punjab Assembly till October 8 "unconstitutional" and fixed May 14 as new date.

## Promotion of freedom of press indispensable for supremacy of law: Azam Tarar

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Wednesday said that the promotion of freedom of the press was indispensable for the supremacy of law.  
In his message on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the law minister said that the current government and the Ministry of Law were committed to solving all media-related issues.  
He said that he paid tribute to brave and courageous journalists.  
He said that he felt proud of the journalists who put their lives at risk and do their professional duty.

## PTV Flix downloads cross 100K in 3 day of launch

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The downloads of PTV Flix, a new video-streaming over-the-top (OTT) platform of Pakistan Television, have crossed 100,000 mark within three days of its launch.



Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb launched the initiative last Sunday, which was aimed at giving viewers access to the PTV's vast library of content on their mobiles and Television screens.  
The minister, on the occasion, expressed her delight at the launch of the project, which was initiated in July 2022, saying it would connect

the viewers with a national treasure of shows, dramas, documentaries, sports, and other programs, particularly the ones produced during the golden era of the PTV.  
"Popular dramas and PTV shows like Dhoop Kinaray and Aynakwala Jin have become a part of our collective memory," she maintained.

## Federal govt likely to present budget on June 9

**Commerce Reporter**  
ISLAMABAD: As the PTI and the PDM-led government concluded the third and final round of negotiations on Tuesday, the government was set to present the annual budget for the fiscal year (2023-24) on June 9, sources said on Wednesday.  
The final round ended with both sides agreeing on holding elections on same day with no consensus on the date.  
Sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would

chair a meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) regarding the budget in the first week of June. "The budget will be prepared in line with the conditions imposed by the IMF," sources added.  
Amid negotiations, the budget had also been under discussion as the date for holding elections revolved around the date of the budget with PTI saying that it had wanted elections to be held before the budget while the government wanted it afterward.

## Strengthening bilateral ties

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri was called on by Ambassador Czech Republic H.E Mr. Tomas Smetanka at BISP Headquarters Islamabad on Wednesday. Both sides discussed the ways to further bilateral relations and explore new ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. H.E, Mr. Tomas Smetanka praised the working of Benazir Income Support Programme. Both exchanged souvenirs at the end.



# President for quick solution to issue of out of school children

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday urged upon all the stakeholders to find 'out of the box solution' to educate and impart skills to about 23 million out of school children in the country without divulging into 'a brick and mortar' ventures.

Speaking in 'Education Excellence Recognition' ceremony arranged by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said that the number of out of school children was a matter of disconcerting for him.

The UNISCEF in its latest report about the out of school children after the recent floods had placed these figures at 27 million, he said, adding that by going through formal meth-



ods of enrolling them and constructing schools would take time.

"The world is moving at fast pace with bewildering developments in the latest knowledge," he added.

President for quick solution to issue of out of school children

The president said the government wanted the

spread of latest science and technology throughout the fabric of society with new methods of education and techniques, but the other stakeholders like the industrialists and businessmen should also come forward to play their part in this regard.

He said the issue of number of out of school children posed a question mark and everyone

should find a quick and out of the box solution.

The president noted that the country was not quick to jump onto the bandwagon of latest revolutions in the realms of science and technology and stressed upon adoption of a holistic approach to the realities by accelerating pace of changes to match the rest of the world.

He said the education was a subject which now devolved to the provinces, and all the provinces were spending about 20 to 28 per cent of their budget on this sector.

In some of the neighbouring countries, the ratio of school attending children stood between 98 to 100 percent but in Pakistan, it was 68 percent.

President for quick solution to issue of out of school children

The president said that it was also a law of nature that those nations had excelled in different fields who had quest for the new and innovative ideas.

He also stressed upon enhancing the number of students at the higher education level and regretted that the formal attitude in this regard should be discarded.

## PM for ensuring full benefits of bumper wheat crop to farmers

### Bureau Report

LAHORE :Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed for practical steps to ensure full benefits of the bumper wheat crop to the farmers.

He expressed these views while talking to Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Mohsin Naqvi who called on him here.

During the meeting, the Punjab caretaker CM briefed the PM about the procurement of wheat production in the province.

Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over the bumper wheat crop production in the province.

Overall law and order situation in Punjab and other matters of mutual interest also came under discussion during the meeting.

## Kuwait and NDMA Pakistan to Collaborate for Disaster Mitigation



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD :His Excellency Nassar Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Kuwait Ambassador to Pakistan called on Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lt General Inam Haider Malik, HI (M) in his office today.

Chairman NDMA expressed his gratitude to the Government of Kuwait and diplomatic team in Pakistan, for generous support during floods 2022. He shared the significance of enhanced utility of modern technology in creating networked, satellite intelligence on climate based interface and proactive national readiness being developed by Pak NDMA for possible greater usage in region. Pakistan's capability to project future disasters and accordingly plan mitigation models based on scientific solutions are underway. Besides disaster risk reduction, the high-end approach will enable teams of experts for dissemination of awareness campaigns and multi-lingual early warning messages through automated system to reach public via all possible means of communication. NEOC will prove to be a model disaster mitigation/management hub

for the region, and NDMA will replicate same on provincial levels at later stage, highlighted the Chairman.

The Ambassador appreciated the envisioned NEOC of Pak NDMA and agreed to formulate strategies for participative investment in pre-disaster planning and management, to reduce loss of human lives and infrastructure.

They discussed necessity of continued support in the fields of disaster mitigation specifically sharing of satellite feeds/soft wares for pre-disaster predictions, and exchange of academic experts through platform of National Institute of Disaster Mitigation (NIDM) of NDMA for developing shared intellectual repository. The two sides reached consensus on expanding the capacity-building of Pakistan's national disaster response efforts.

"Kuwait and Pakistan enjoy long history of friendship and brotherhood, the ties between the two countries are rock solid and unbreakable, "Our people are deeply indebted for the support by Pakistan especially when medical professionals were sent to help combat Covid 19", the Ambassador endorsed while ensuring possible cooperation.

## Police operation against dacoits in Kacha Area will be continued: Maqsood ul Hassan

### Kiran Asim

RAJANPUR: Police operation under the command of Additional Inspector General Police South Punjab Maqsood ul Hassan. He said that this criminal gang belongs to the areas of South Punjab, South Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh. These dacoits have come and settled in the Kutch area for the past several years. They kidnap people and kill them, apart from looting, they also occupy people's lands, and they are also involved in different types of crimes. They are

also required to Balochistan government. Apart from this, they are also required by various police stations in various districts of South Punjab. They kidnap people and take them to Kacha area, make videos of them, torture them and demand money from them. The Punjab government has decided to eliminate them. The government of Punjab as well as Sindh government also wants to eliminate them. So that the writ of the Government of Pakistan can be established in Kacha.

The operation against dacoits in Kacha continued on 25th day, fierce exchange of fire between dacoits and police continued, elite personnel were martyred in the exchange of fire, 3 dacoits were killed, police forces equipped with modern weapons after the resistance entered in Kacha Mianwali 2 of Imrani gang.

The hideouts and ambush sites of the Imrani Gang were completely destroyed and police pickets were established at the robbers hideouts.

According to DPO Rajanpur, the Imrani gang was

involved in serious incidents like kidnapping for ransom, robbery and murder. In Chak Bele Shah, police forces have completely surrounded Basti Ganman Imrani, further advancement and clearance is in progress, police forces equipped with long range weapons are supported by armored vehicles all the time.

Intelligence sources also claimed that 33 criminals are arrested. 8 Dacoits have killed, The robbers have modern weapons. They have rocket launcher Kalashnikov, RMG and Indian made weapons are

also being used by the bandits. The Indian Intelligence Agency (IA) is providing Indian made weapons to the Kacha robbers through Balochistan. There are around 3,000 total personnel who are participating in this operation. These robbers have been receiving instructions from numbers of South Africa and India. Indian intelligence agency RAW is heavily involved in giving weapons and instructions to Kacha Dacoits. The terrorists present in Kacha belong to ISIS (Daesh) and are supported by RAW.

## Flight Tactical Exercise 'Anatolian Eagle-2023' kicks off in Konya, Türkiye

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The opening ceremony of Anatolian Eagle 2023, International Flight Tactical Exercise was held in Konya, Türkiye. Pakistan Air Force contingent, consisting of F-16 fighter jets along with the air and ground crew is also amongst the exercise participants.

Anatolian Eagle is an annual exercise which is being hosted by the Turkish Air Force. The exercise is one of the largest and most complex joint air force exercises in the world which aims at promoting interoperability between participating nations while providing an opportunity for shared learning.

## APC calls for ensuring supremacy of parliament

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD : The All Parties Conference (APC) was convened on Wednesday to ensure the supremacy of parliament.

The APC issued a joint declaration, saying that the political, judicial, and economic crises had created uncertainty in the country. The APC added, "If there is no politics in the country, there remains a threat to the constitution and the supremacy of parliament".

Emphasising the need to make political decisions in parliament, the APC said that if political decisions were made in the courts, there will be a judicial crisis. The function of the court was to interpret the constitution, while the function of the parliament was to enact legislation, added the APC.



Giving its stand regarding the elections, the APC was of the view that the elections should be held simultaneously and all parties should play their part through negotiations to fix the date of the elections.

The APC lamented, "The National Action Plan (NAP) was established to end the menace of terrorism. Why has the NAP not been implemented? Those responsible for not implementing the NAP should be held

accountable".

According to the APC, not having a full court and writing the constitution instead of interpreting 63-A and not accepting the 4-3 decision is the root of the crisis.

## Russia says Ukraine tried to kill Putin with drone attack on Kremlin

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of attacking the Kremlin with drones overnight in a failed bid to kill President Vladimir Putin, according to the state-run RIA news agency. The Kremlin said it considered the attack to be a "planned terrorist action" and reserved the right to retaliate, RIA reported.

It said two drones had been used in the alleged attack on Putin's residence in the Kremlin citadel, but had been disabled by Russian defences.

Putin was not injured, and there was no material damage to the Krem-

lin buildings, the Kremlin said.

"The Kremlin has assessed these actions as a planned terrorist act and an assassination attempt on the president on the eve of Victory Day, the May 9 Parade," RIA said.

It said Putin had not changed his schedule and was working as usual.

"The Russian side reserves the right to take retaliatory measures where and when it sees fit," it said. An unverified video circulating on Russian social media including the channel of the military news outlet Zvezda showed pale smoke rising behind the main Kremlin Palace in the walled citadel after the purported incident.

# PARC holds National Dialogue on Agricultural Research

*We need to fully utilize the potential of Agriculture sector: Tariq Bashir Cheema*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A three-day National Dialogue on Agricultural Research started at the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad. Speaking at the inaugural session, the Honorable Minister of National Food Security and Research, Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema, highlighted the government's commitment to promoting the agricultural sector and improving the livelihoods of farmers. The minister emphasized the importance of research and innovation in achieving sustainable agricultural development and achieving the target of self-sufficiency in edible oil production. The minister advised the Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research to pinpoint governance and financial issues hindering agriculture research.

Organized by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, the Dialogue shall witness eminent agricultural scientists and policy makers from all over the country as well as international organizations to define futuristic pathways for agricultural research. The event aims to explore challenges, recent trends, and



novel technological innovations in the field under the theme of 'Harnessing Agriculture Potential to Boost Pakistan's Economy'. The inaugural session was attended by national and international stakeholders in agriculture.

The Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research emphasized to improve governance through establishment of a well-coordinated system among different institutions and rationalize existing resources to improve efficiency of the research system.

Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) welcomed the distinguished guests. He highlighted the importance of research to deal with the food security challenge of the country.

He shared PARC led coordinated efforts of National Agricultural Research System like; germplasm sharing, variety development and release – more than 700 varieties, Agricultural Linkages Program – throughout NARS. He further emphasized National Agricultural Research System needs autonomy to enhance collaboration with international partners in technology, joint projects, exchange programs and capacity building.

Former Chairman PARC, Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik graced the occasion and regarded that Pakistan has highly qualified human resource power in agricultural research in all cutting-edge technologies.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, emphasized that PARC should have leading role in agricultural research coordination. In this reference, he acknowledged that three-day dialogue will further strengthen the strategy for coordination.

The National Dialogue on Agricultural Research is a crucial initiative that brings together all stakeholders in the agricultural sector to collaborate, exchange ideas, and explore innovative solutions for sustainable agricultural development. The event is expected to contribute significantly to harnessing the agriculture potential to boost Pakistan's Economy.

# Punjab's Caretaker Minister Lauds CBD Punjab's Progress in Modernizing Lahore's Infrastructure Development

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Housing and Urban Development Punjab, Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, paid a visit to Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), where he was briefed on the CBD Punjab's projects, especially the CBD Punjab Boulevard and Kalma Chowk Underpass remodeling.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin Executive Director Commercial CBD Punjab, Mohammed Omer, Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain, Director Business Development CBD Punjab, Ali Waqar Shah, Director Project Management CBD Punjab Asif Iqbal, Director Construction



tion CBD Punjab, Asif Babar, officials during the visit. The Caretaker Minister visited the

under-construction barrels of CBD Punjab Boulevard. CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin and Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain updated the Caretaker Minister about the development work progress. Caretaker Minister showed his satisfaction and praised the efforts of CBD Punjab to complete the project on the timeline given by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

The CEO of CBD Punjab, Mr. Imran Amin, expressed his confidence in his team's ability to complete the project as per the timeline and to the highest possible standards. He highlighted the dedication and hard work of the CBD Punjab team and expressed his gratitude to Government of the Punjab for their support and encouragement.

# IIUI bids farewell to Dr. Ayaz Afsar

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was arranged at the new campus in honour of outgoing Vice President Academics of International Islamic University (IIU) Professor Dr Ayaz Afsar who retired on Wednesday.

Other than Dr. Ayaz Afsar, the farewell ceremony was joined by the Acting IIUI President Dr Nabi Bux Jumani, Vice President Research and Enterprise, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed along with Deans, Directors and senior faculty members.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jumani appreciated the efforts of Dr. Ayaz Afsar saying that his prudent approach, sane opinion and patience have led the Academics wing towards unmatched progress and vision. He said that the university would keep benefiting from his insights as being one of varsity's prudent contributors. He said Dr. Ayaz Afsar shall always be consulted to



guide in the light of his experiences. He thanked Dr. Ayaz for his untiring work, honesty, selfless and altruistic services he granted to the university. Dr. Jumani also conveyed high regards and appreciation by Worthy President IIUI who wished for a peaceful and prosperous life for Dr. Ayaz.

On the occasion, reminiscing his more than three decades journey at

IIUI, Dr Ayaz hailed the mentors he had worked with. In addition, he specially mentioned Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotabi, saying that he found his approach and vision above all. He also appreciated Dr. Hathal's leadership and his keen approach to set IIUI on a track of progress. He said the team he worked with has truly all the potential to make IIUI a leading international university across the globe. He also thanked the Vice Presidents and Deans for the appreciation and kind words in the farewell.

He discussed his immense love and bonding with IIUI saying that the university that faced many ups and downs, now, has been put on the pathway of the progress and prosperity that has been followed by the recent management.

After the ceremony, Professor Ayaz was accompanied by Prof. Dr. Jumani, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Deans, Directors and senior faculty members who saw him off for the departure.

# Ayesha Omar is set to appear as the lead in new Film 'Taxali'



**News Desk**

KARACHI: Ayesha Omar, the talented and versatile actress, has recently wrapped up shoot for film 'Taxali.' This film promises to be an intense and issue-based project that explores important societal concerns.

Written and directed by Abu Aleeha, the film has been shot in the historical Walled City of Lahore, adding a unique visual dimension to the film's narrative. 'Taxali' is expected to be an engaging and thought-provoking cinematic experience for audiences.

Ayesha Omar, who has become a household name in Pakistan's entertainment industry, is extremely hopeful and excited about the project. "I am thrilled to be part of 'Taxali' and to work with Abu Aleeha, who is a talented filmmaker. I am excited to take on this challenging role and bring this story to life on the big screen. We wanted to keep it completely under wraps until we had shot major chunks of the film," said Ayesha Omar.

The official release date for 'Taxali' will be announced soon, and the movie is expected to have a theatrical release in Pakistan as well as being sent to major festivals worldwide. Fans of Ayesha Omar can't wait to see her deliver yet another powerful performance and eagerly anticipate further updates on this exciting project. Stay tuned for more news about 'Taxali'.

# SRSP with the collaboration of UNICEF started working for the basic rights of children in education and health

**Adam Khan Wazir**

TANK: The Sarhad Roller Support Program (SRSP) with the collaboration of UNICEF started working for the basic rights of children in education and health in Tank District.

In this regard, Child Protection Committees have been formed for the rights of children in 20 flood-affected villages of 4 Union Councils of Tank District.

However, 7 Safe Places Centers have been established in primary health centers and schools in these rural areas.

In this project of Sarhad Roller Support Program (SRSP), work is going on regarding the improvement of mental development and physical health of children, and sports activities are being organized among children to attract the young nation towards positive activities.

In order to equip the young nation with the jewel of education, a campaign will be conducted for admission to schools.

Public social circles appreciated and paid tribute to this effort of (SRSP) Sarhad Roller Support.

One attachment

# Parties face to face in Wana Bazar, as a result of firing, three people were killed

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In Tribal district of Lower South Waziristan Wana Bazar near city police station due to long-standing enmity, two parties exchanged fire.

As the information received, due to long-standing enmity belonging to the Wazir Ashraf Khel tribe, two parties came face to face in Wana Bazar due to which heavy firing took place.

Eyewitnesses say that three people were killed on the spot while one boy was injured, including one bystander.

Among the dead, Naseeb's father Abdul Manan, Gul Noor's father Abdul Qadir, Hazrat Usman's father Mughal Khan and a boy Khatib Ullah was injured.

Official sources say that the injured Khatib Ullah has been transferred to a local hospital for treatment and the operation has started, his condition is out of danger.

The funeral prayers of the deceased persons were performed, the entire area was mournful over this tragic incident.

In this regard, the political leaders and tribal elders of the area played a positive role and visited the houses of both parties and by consensus, the parties from both sides gave respite due to the unfortunate incident.

The tribal chiefs and political leaders set an adjournment till the tenth day of Eid-ul-Azha, on which both sides agreed.

On the other hand, the political and social circles of the area expressed their indignation over the display of weapons and killings in the market, saying that the police officials are not performing their duties properly.

# World Press Freedom Day celebrated in Faisalabad

**Bureau Report**

FAISALABAD: Journalists while participating in the rally held outside the District Council on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day expressed that they have no fear but Allah Almighty.

The pen is mightier than the sword & speak eye to eye or ask for your right comes only to him, who has the courage to hold the sword in his hand, said Abdul Majid photojournalist (AP) on World Press Freedom Day.

Furthermore, Muhammad Naseem Shah Central Assistant Secretary General, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Dastoor) expressed that, Societal individuals have paid tributes Salutations to all the journalist brothers Whose pen has always been the voice of truth and the oppressed persons.

He elaborated that If the function of Media/ Journalism is shut down for 24 hours, the entire country might be shut down in darkness to loot each and everyone with bag and baggage even no one will be able to hear the news.

Shahid Ali President Faisalabad Press Club, on this occasion of May 3rd which

is recognised as the World Press Freedom Day expressed, Let us pledge to promote the honest and peaceful journalism to smoothen the atmosphere of the humanity and society.

Journalists would play their role for the construction and development of the country as well as promoting the prosperity collectively and individually.

Mian Rashid Asghar pointed out that, make it sure, a journalist strives to make the society better by moving into to the depths of the Ocean, the majestic mountainside, bearing negative temperatures and intense heating & fighting against the bloodthirsty beasts found in the forests or society. He further informed that a journalist finds each & everything for the survival and well-being of the humanity.

Sajjad Haider Munna President Faisalabad Union of Journalists ( Dastoor) said that, journalism is recognised as the fourth Pillar but this Pillar has specific qualities in which it furnishes itself and other Pillars providing the information containing accuracy and completeness of the most important things.

He further pointed out that, Socializa-

tion is the process of knowing another person's culture and learning how to live within it. When we talk about culture, we are referring to the totality of moral norms, values, language, attitudes and other aspects comprising a society. All of us have roles to accomplish within our society, and socialization helps us to harbor knowledge and skills to satisfy these societal roles.

Hamid Yaseen President Faisalabad Union of Journalists ( Barna) expressed that Journalism teaches how a child learns the values, norms and behaviors that should be displayed in order to live accordingly to a specific culture.

So occurrence of exclusiveness is due to promoting the journalism, when a person learns an appropriate behavior to be displayed within a smaller group which is still part of a larger society. The changes within the values, attitudes and beliefs of an individual are seen to be less important than the changes made in him as he participates in the larger society.

He further referred to the Australian Prime Minister was talking to the media when the owner of the house in front came out and said, Mr. Prime Minister,



these people are standing on my grass, move them back, and the Prime Minister stopped talking and pushed the media representatives back and the landlord thanked the Prime Minister and went back inside.

If it was Pakistan, there would have been police presence in the entire area. Secondly, the landlord would also be happy that the Prime Minister is in front of my house. The third is that someone would have picked up this man by now

if you had this courage!

Naseer Yousaf Vohra President Central Cloth Board Ithad Pakistan applauded the role of journalists who perform their duties with insight & they are recognised as eagles with eagle eyes.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:46 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:53 pm
Maghrib	6:52 pm
Isha	8:25 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Enquiry	117
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

**HOSPITALS**

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MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
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Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
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**DEPARTMENTS**

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CDA	9208301-04
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RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3

**Delay in Dengue Spray**

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Dengue Virus is posing life threats over more than ten thousand people along the inter provincial bordering territory of Gondal Mandi district Attock due to inordinate delay in fumigation and spray following the directives of the deputy commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza. The socio-political figures of the area include Qazi Badar Manzoor Numardar, Joint Secretary Pakistan Medical Association Attock Dr. Sheikh Inam Rabani, PTI Vice Chairmen Tehsil Attock Qazi Nazim Waqar, former naib tehsildar Malik Abdul Rashid and PML(N) ex-general councilor Mr. Fiaz Ahmed Awan while talking to media have said that the sewerage system was choked by land grabbers near causeway of Hazro Gondal road, Nullah, Chail, illegal car washing decks along the grave yard, dilapidated building of rural health centre piled up filth are nurseries of the dengue larva, mosquitoes and other dangerous germs posing a serious life threats to the people. They further said that the socio-development status of the area could be ameliorated if the Punjab Government incurred one percent as it was earning more than Rs.500 million income per annum from the business community of Gondal Mandi.

**CDA Board visited ICCI**

**Chairman gives representation to ICCI in CDA Board Meetings**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA Captain (Retd) Noor Ul Amin Mengal along with his team visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and speaking on the occasion said that the business community is an important stakeholder in the development of the city, therefore, President ICCI would be invited as a member to CDA Board meetings to include the voice of business community in CDA's policy making process. CDA Member Finance Syed Mazhar Hussain Shah, Member Engineering Syed Munawar Shah, Member Planning & Design Waseem Hayat Bajwa, Member State Muhammad Afnan Alam Khan, Member Environment Captain (Retd) Anwar ul Haque, Member Inspection Riaz Randhawa, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon and others were present on the occasion.

The chairman said that CDA

will provide plots to ICCI for construction of expo center, school and hospital while sports ground will also be given to the chamber. He said that CDA is making business-friendly policies to facilitate the business community. He said that commercial plots will be given to the business community on 33-, 50- and 99-years lease so that they do not face any problem in doing business.

He said that commercial building drawings will also be approved within a month. He said that all the markets of Islamabad will be developed and upgraded on modern lines. He said that to solve the problem of parking in the markets, 6 more parking plazas will be constructed through private sector by allotting them plots on lease for 33 years. He said that 9 sectors including car show rooms and transport terminals have been exempted from commercial fee and plots would be given to them on 33 years lease. He said that sanitation system in rural areas will be outsourced and



public toilets in markets will also be built through private sector on leased basis. He said that powers have been withdrawn from building inspectors and a better system is being introduced.

He said that all mega projects in Islamabad will be completed by July this year. He said that the Building Control Cell Inspectors who had issued notices in the previous dates would be suspended

and legal action would be taken against them. He said that the issue of encroachments in markets will be addressed in consultation with ICCI and concerned market associations. He also announced CDA Liaison Officers for ICCI who will assist in resolving CDA and MCI related issues of the business community.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce and Industry, in his address, highlighted the key issues of the business community including representation of ICCI in CDA Board, allotment of plots to ICCI for expo center, school and hospital, allocation of sports ground to ICCI, development of markets on modern lines, provision of vegetable, fruit and meat shops in markets, addressing issues of parking, roads, sewage,

sanitation issues, ensuring availability of fire fighting system for high rise buildings, graveyard for Christian community, withdrawal of BCS notices issued in previous dates, operation of buses on new routes in Islamabad in consultation with ICCI, expediting work on Bara Kahu Bypass, Abolition of BCS NOC for property transfer in family, avoidance of auction of commercial plots without infrastructure, reduction of additional story charges etc.

Faod Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, emphasized the need to dualize the roads of I-9 and I-10 Industrial Areas, run cheap buses for workers and establish check posts in industrial areas.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif for appointing an excellent and business-friendly person as Chairman CDA and demanded that the term of office of Chairman CDA should be given 3 years constitutional protection.

**Called on**

PM AJK Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq called on President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. During the meeting discussions on issues of mutual interest in particular threadbare discussions were held on government affairs.



**Naqvi condemned the Indian plan to hold the G20 meeting**

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: Former Minister of Information, Agriculture and Livestock Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, and member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, has vehemently condemned the Indian plan to hold the G 20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir. In his special statement, issued here Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that Such incidents cannot hide the brutality and serious human rights violations by the Indi-

an Army in Occupied Kashmir, the Kashmir issue is an internationally recognized conflict that has been on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for more than 7 decades.

He said that such activities cannot change the geographical status of Kashmir, such activities cannot divert the attention of the international community from India's brutal oppression of the oppressed Kashmiris. He said that Occupied Kashmir is internation-

ally recognized. He said that Occupied Kashmir has been forcibly and illegally occupied by India since 1947 and this dispute has been on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for the last seven decades, the G-20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir or The plan to hold the event would be a blatant violation of the internationally recognized disputed status of the region and this deception will not be recognized by the international community. He said that

Kashmiris do not accept India's forced occupation and India's They are continuing their freedom struggle against the forced occupation. He said that the G20 member countries should not participate in this meeting in occupied Kashmir, especially the Muslim countries in the G20 should not participate in this meeting. He said that India is involved in serious violations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir and the world should realize it and respond to it he added.

**AKU-IED's Master's Programme receives Highest Accreditation from NACTE**

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE), a prestigious division of the Higher Education Commission, has awarded the highest 'W' category accreditation to the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development's (AKU-IED) Master of Education (MEd) degree programme. The MEd programme is the first and only master's level programme to receive such a ranking in the country.

NACTE is renowned for its rigorous requirements and evaluation criteria, hence the programme underwent thorough examination. This accreditation establishes AKU-IED as a top school for teacher education by recognizing the programme's exceptional quality, rigorous curriculum, qualified faculty, and cutting-edge facilities.

Expressing his views on the rating, Dr Farid Panjwani, Dean of AKU-IED said, "We are honoured to receive this accreditation from NACTE which demonstrates our dedication to offering education that satisfies the highest standards of excellence."

The MEd programme is intended to provide teachers with advanced training in curriculum creation, teaching methods assessment, research, and leadership. The programme also aims to improve the professional competence of educators and equip them to meet the evolving demands of the education sector.

Dr Muhammad Memon, Chairperson of NACTE said, "AKU-IED has always been at the forefront of providing innovative and high-quality teacher education. This 'W' category accreditation is testament to the institution's dedication to upholding high standards in teacher education. We applaud AKU-IED and its leadership for their efforts and commitment to enhancing the quality of teacher education."

**Cabinet gives nod to proposed Fifteenth Amendment 2023**



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: The AJK Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ch. Anwar-ul-Haq here today, gave a final nod to the proposed Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment Act 2023. The meeting, which was attended by ministers as well as top officials of the government, also gave green signal to the draft amendment seeking abolition of the quota of Ministers under Article 14 of the Interim Constitution of Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1974.

The draft will be accordingly presented in the Legislative Assembly for the final approval. Pertinently, the cabinet also approved several measures to improve the governance system in the state. In a rare move, the cabinet fixed the petrol limit for ministers to 500 litres per car, which was earlier unlimited. The Cabinet also approved all orders issued by the Prime Minister since he assumed office. Addressing the cabinet meeting, the AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that the federal government has expressed its willingness to provide development funds worth 12 billion rupees to the government of Azad Kashmir. "It is the sole responsibility of the state machinery to utilize these funds in a timely and transparent manner", he said, adding that there was a dire need that projects of public interest should be accomplished on priority basis. Spelling out his government's priorities, the PM said that the establishment of merit and rule of law in the state was his government's first and foremost priority.

"No society or state can flourish without the implementation of the rule of law", he said, adding that everyone has to be accountable under the law. The prime minister said that he was ready to present himself for accountability. He made it clear that all ministers, chief Secretary, secretaries, heads of departments, and officials were bound by the law and were also responsible/accountable for their every action. Expressing his dissatisfaction over the prevailing accountability system in the state, the Prime Minister said that the accountability bureau and the anti-corruption department were ineffective because they lack authority.

The cabinet meeting was attended by Senior Minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Noor, Government Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Usman Chachar, Principal Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, SM/BR Choudry Liaqat Hussain, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Secretary Services and General Administration Raja Amjad Parvez, Secretary Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Irshad Ahmad Qureshi, Secretary Information Ansar Yaqub and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

**World Press Freedom Day**

**UNESCO facilitates stakeholder consultation to identify media development priorities**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The consultation was organized in collaboration with European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan, High Commission of Canada in Pakistan, and Friedrich Naumann Foundation. More than 50 participants from civil society, government agencies, parliamentarians, digital media professionals, academia, international organizations, and missions participated. Under this year's global theme of World Press Freedom Day "Shaping a Future of Rights"-Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights diverse group of experts focused on identifying priorities for media development. It is a follow up of recent research that took place in Pakistan based on UNESCO's global tool Media Development Indicators developed to



assess media landscape in countries. During the event, media as a fundamental right, the significance of its freedom and media ethics, sustainability, and financial viability and themes such as disinformation, hate speech online especially in relation to election reporting were also discussed in detail.

The inaugural panel discussion highlighted the importance of safeguarding press freedom and promoting media diversity. UNESCO Director and Representative, Youssef Filali-Meknessi highlighted UNESCO's significant role in leading the debate to ensure that media freedom remains intact despite growing

challenges such as disinformation or hate speech. Ms. Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner reaffirmed Canada's unwavering support for media freedom globally highlighting the role of media as a cornerstone of a robust democracy.

During the expert panel discussion titled "Lessons learned from media development indicators and ensuring sustainability", the participants shared commitment to improve the media sector especially in dealing with generating revenues, countering disinformation and online hate speech to restore the credibility of information and quality of reporting. Zafar Abbas, editor DAWN

and convener of editors' safety forum highlighted the need for sustainability in media for more independent and responsible reporting. Mahim Maher, convener of Pakistan Digital Editors Alliance suggested to invest more in digital platforms to create a credible news platform. Haroon Rashid, Managing Editor, Independent Urdu, and Jahanzab Haque Digital Strategist DAWN proposed to make newsrooms more economically sound and sustainable, and ensuring and sharing best practices. The session was moderated by Asad Beg, Media Matters for Democracy.

Ms. Gharida Farooqi moderated the panel "Implementing Democratic Safeguards in the Media Space". Parliamentary Standing Committee Chair Naz Baloch acknowledged the challenges facing the media industry, especially by the women journalists and the need to adapt to rapidly changing technologies.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
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 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.  
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 Email: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**  
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

# Combating illiteracy in merged areas through education, development; a way forward

**Fakhar Alam**

**R**emained underprivileged throughout the known history before the independence of Pakistan, and even after for the last seven decades, the people of merged areas (erstwhile Fata) were deprived of quality education, health and development as no worthwhile effort was made to bring them into national mainstream.

This long negligence bred poverty, socio economic imbalances, unemployment and illiteracy, which led to dearth of economical and educational stakes and downfall of social values in merged areas.

The persistent uncooperative environment, lackluster development work and poor investment in the education sector strengthened the roots of militancy and deteriorated the law and order situation in the area in past.

The two-decade long militancy in erstwhile Fata had caused huge loss to the education sector and many students, especially females left schools and colleges due to repeated attacks by terrorists and militants.

Syed Zainullah Shah, Chief Planning Officer/Special Secretary, Higher Education Department told APP that work on Education City at Barwan South Waziristan had been started, which would

be completed with an estimated cost of around Rs2,772 million.

"The consultants have submitted their proposals for establishment of different campuses of top educational institutions and universities including agriculture, engineering, IT and vocational studies at South Waziristan, while a project management unit (PMU) has also been created for quick implementation of the mega project," he said.

"The proposed Education City would be established on 7,000 kanal and additional land would also be procured for its expansion in future," he added.

The UET Peshawar, Agriculture University of Science and Technology Peshawar, Swat University of Science and Technology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Peshawar and other top private sector universities had showed their willingness to establish their campuses at South Waziristan's Education City, he underlined.

The government would provide land to the universities while they would complete construction work of their campuses with their own finances, he said.

Zainullah Shah said a public sector university at Barang tehsil of Bajaur district would be established with an estimated cost of around Rs1,000 million to provide quality education to tribal youth at their doorsteps. "Bajaur university's feasibility has been completed and work on the project would start soon," he said, adding

the university would be established on an area of 4,000 kanal.

He said a mega 'stipends project' for merged areas' students costing around Rs1,700 million had also been planned, under which scholarships would be provided to all the talented students of the public sector colleges and universities.

Under 'transport for all' project costing around Rs1,440 million, he said 46 hiace buses were provided to different colleges of merged areas to provide quality transport facilities to teachers and students under AIP, he added.

Shah further told that a public sector library was being constructed at Wana South Waziristan tribal district with an estimated cost of Rs20 million to help all those tribal graduates who wanted to appear in competitive examinations and research works.

"The library was the long awaited demand of tribal students of South Waziristan and every efforts were being made to complete it in next two to three years," he said.

As result of successive governments' pro education uplift measures, the number of male students had increased to 419,425, while female students to 219,833 during 2021-22 in merged areas against 406,857 male and 202,969 female in 2020-21 respectively, he mentioned.

According to BISP, over Rs40 billion scholarships have been dispersed among

students so far since its inception under Taleemi Scholarship Program.

Under this landmark initiative, Rs1,500 stipend per quarter was being provided to each male student and Rs2,000 to each female student at primary level, Rs2,500 to each male student and Rs3,000 to each female student at secondary level and Rs3,500 to Rs4,000 to higher secondary schools students respectively.

Zainullah Shah said a state-of-the-art Cadet College at Wana district South Waziristan and Mohmand Cadet College in district Mohmand had been completed which had also start admitting students.

The first ever Fata university on 460 kanal land at Dara Adamkhel was also established where classes up to PhD level were commenced with 50pc subsidy on fees to all tribal students enrolled in eight different disciplines.

One library each was also being established at Khyber, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurram, Orakzai, North Waziristan and South Waziristan.

Meanwhile, as many as 10 new colleges were completed in merged areas raising its total number to 55, he said, adding 300 new lecturers and subject specialists were also recruited for 45 colleges.

Work on solarization of colleges costing around Rs1.6 billion was launched and Rs1.399 billion were earmarked to provide 5,500 internships to tribal students, he concluded.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

## A great tribute to acknowledge valiant struggle, sacrifices of workers

**Spokesman Report**

said, "We prefer wheat harvesting these days due to high profit margin compare to other labour jobs."

"Purchasing of own tractor-thresher was my dream but could not materialize it due to financial constraints," he said.

He urged the government to give interest-free loans to labourers so that they may establish their own businesses.

"The policy led to the formulation of a social security network, old age benefit schemes and workers welfare fund while the 1973 constitution ensured all rights to labour class," said Syed Noman Bukhari, senior lawyer of trade and labour laws and member of Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) while talking to APP.

He said Pakistan was a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) after its independence in 1947 and has protected all rights of the labourers including right of union and jobs in 1973 constitution. Pakistan has ratified 36 ILO conventions of which eight were important conventions, thus empowering labourers of all rights.

The Labour and Culture Department KP spokesman told APP that several housing projects were launched for the labourers in the province.

He said 2,056 flats at Labour City Regi Lalma Peshawar were constructed for registered industrial workers. Funds had been allocated for sanitation, water and street lights in Mardan Labour Colony.

Ikhtair Wali Khan, PMN KP spokesman and former MPA said that minimum labour wage has been increased to Rs25,000 per month by the present government. The federal government has planned to send around one million skilled labourers for abroad employment this year.

As many as sixteen countries including South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Romania, Portugal and Malta have shown keen

interest in hiring services of our skilled labourers. Since April last year, over six lac Pakistanis were sent abroad for employment.

He said one window OPF facilitation desk at Bacha Khan Airport Peshawar having representatives of 13 departments including PIA, NADRA, Immigration and Passport, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Customs, ANF, Bureau of Immigration and Overseas Employment, ASF, Overseas Employment Corporation, CAA and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation was established to swiftly address complaints of the overseas Pakistanis.

The allocation of five percent quota in public sector universities for children of overseas Pakistanis and financial support in the shape of payment of fees to them in foreign universities through Higher Education Commission was planned.

Overseas Pakistanis Foundation housing scheme has been launched at Budhni Road, Peshawar spread on 991 kanals near the motorway exit, which encompasses 681 residential and 74 commercial plots for labourers, he added.

Provincial President Peoples Labor Bureau KP, Shah Zulqarnain said the then PPP governments has increased salaries of labourers by over 150 percent besides giving them shares in profits of companies and regularized their jobs.

Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples' Party KP and Minister for State, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha said the employees and labourers were given all due shares in the government and semi government organizations during the Govt of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed.

He claimed that PTT government has failed to address problems of labourers. Under the new labour policy, he said that 400 percent of the workers' salaries were increased and services of the temporarily workers were regularized besides restoration of the sacked employees.

## Climate resistant crops, an emerging challenge

**Iftikhar Ahmed**

**I**n recently observed harsh weather phenomena, research on climate resistant crops is emerging as a major challenge for agricultural researchers.

Last year floods that destroyed crops on vast tract of land and recent torrential rains and hail and wind storms that badly affected the wheat crops have already rung alarm bells for the policy makers and experts working in agricultural sector.

The nation will also be facing serious food security issues with its population almost nearing to 240 million and it is high time to seriously move forward to produce climate resistant and high yielding crops.

Although scientists at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Faisalabad are working on climate resilient varieties of wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane, cotton, pulses, vegetable and oil-seed yet this process needs to be prompted at mass scale.

"Climatic changes are badly affecting countries including Pakistan not only by changing seasons duration but also affected crops sustenance and yield," said Dr Naveed Siddiqui, Director Agronomy Department Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

He said Quinoa is a good quality health grain, a native of South American region but is now well-adapted in even dry regions of Punjab like Layyah. Its protein content is higher than cereal crops like rice and wheat, is more nutritious and recommended as Gluten free meal for gluten sensitive patients.

"Safflower or locally Kasumba is another oilseed crop known as pseudo saffron and is used in cooking that contains good quality oil and is resilient to climatic stresses," he said. "Like safflower, another oilseed crop Camelina has been introduced with great oil content and resistant to changing climate."

He said research on Chia crop, buckwheat and

Amaranth is also going on at UAF and hopefully these climate-resilient health grains will soon reach the common people as by the time its production is less and price is high.

Dr Hahd said five more major crops are also being tested for adaptation to climate also ensuring sufficient yield capability. "Our one such recent success is to insert two new genes to present sugarcane seed making it resistant to insect, pests and weeds as well as climatic changes, same time producing better yield.

He also mentioned to testing another high protein containing crop "Lupin" for its adaptability in semi-arid environment. "Its protein ratio is about 33-35% as this crop has been tested through various agronomic approaches and has shown good adaptation potential to climate change."

He said that Agronomy Department UAF is also busy in basic and applied research in different areas of field crop production and soil management under varying agro-ecological conditions and socio-economic conditions of the farming community.

The experts were optimistic that although evolution is a time consuming activity yet their efforts would bear fruits within next few years and number of under research crops varieties would be declared safe for public cultivation after approval by the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Commission.

Climate change is an ongoing phenomenon and may severe further in coming years, therefore a timely action was imperative to avert future losses and boost agricultural sector to ensure sufficient food items.

Since, Pakistan is already facing malnutrition challenge with its magnitude at 17.7% and global warming phenomenon is feared to further aggravate this situation, therefore a holistic approach was also direly needed to club efforts of different institutions working in these areas, to cope with upcoming challenges.

## 100th birth anniversary of Heydar Aliyev

# Azerbaijan, Pakistan enjoying ties based on ancient, historical traditions of both countries: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov has said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have very good and friendly relations and these ties are based on ancient historical traditions of both countries.

Addressing an event arranged to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people, he said, "President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attaches great importance to Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations, which were constructed by Heydar Aliyev. The ties between the two brotherly countries are at a high level in all fields."

The ambassador further said that Pakistan was one of the first states to recognize Azerbaijan after it declared independence.

Heydar Aliyev, he said, was the "architect of the development of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations". He attached great importance to Pakistan.

On April 9-11, 1996, Heydar Aliyev paid an official visit to Pakistan and during his stay, several documents were signed between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

"That visit played an irreplaceable role in the development of relations between the two countries," he noted.

While sharing about Heydar Aliyev, the envoy said, 2023 was declared the



"Year of Heydar Aliyev" and the day would be celebrated solemnly in Azerbaijan and abroad.

He said Heydar Aliyev proved that he was a visionary and decisive politician when he first led the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic from 1969-1982.

As a result of the intense activities of Heydar Aliyev, great successes were achieved in the economy, industry, agriculture, education, and culture, the envoy said.

The adoption of the Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1978 and the establishment of the Azerbaijani language as the state language are the services of national leader Heydar

Aliyev. At that time, when the totalitarian Soviet regime ruled, the determination of the legal basis for the preservation and development of the moral wealth of the Azerbaijani people, especially the language, in the supreme law of the republic was considered a very brave step, the envoy added.

In 1991, Heydar Aliyev was elected as chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan. In May-June 1993, when Azerbaijan was on the verge of civil war and loss of independence, the people of Azerbaijan demanded to bring Heydar Aliyev to power.



On June 15, 1993, Aliyev was elected as chairman of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan, and on June 24 took the office of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On October 3, 1993, in a nationwide voting which saw a high turnout, he was elected as President of the Republic of

Azerbaijan.

When Heydar Aliyev came to power, he eliminated chaos and anarchy, economic and political difficulties in the country.

The Agreement of the Century, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, and other internationally important

projects are connected with the name of Heydar Aliyev.

As a result of the great leader's wise policy, high-speed socio-economic development was ensured in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan became a country with a strong position in international relations.

## 10th anniversary of the China Belt and Road Initiative

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the China Belt and Road Initiative, an exhibition titled "Star Moon Road; China-Pakistan Contemporary Arts Exchange Exhibition," has started at the University of Education, Lahore in collaboration with the Lahore Museum on May 3, 2023. The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held in the main campus township of the university, which was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.) while the chief guest of the ceremony was Punjab Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram. 16 famous artists from China and 2 from Pakistan are participating in the exhibition, whose works will be exhibited. Chinese Deputy Consul General Mr. Cao Ke, well-known political and social personalities of Pakistan,



vice chancellors of various universities, intellectuals, experts related to the department of culture and arts, university directors/principals and students were present in the opening ceremony.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Nasir Pasha said that China is our great and sincere friend,

who supported us in every difficult hour, the people of these countries are also have deep love for each other, so it is very important for the people of both countries to be aware of each other's culture, arts and traditions.

The Health Minister commended the management of the University of Education, Lahore, especially the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.) for the grand exhibition. Speaking on this occasion, Chinese Deputy Consul General Mr. Cao Ke said that the exhibition of the best works of Pakistan is continuing in China, which will provide a new way for the Chinese people to understand Pakistani culture and civilization.

Chinese Deputy Consul General Mr. Cao Ke also expressed his happiness over the holding of the exhibition. Later, the participants of the event visited the artworks and appreciated the work of the artists.

## AIMCUK's organized 10th Anniversary and Eid Mill Party

Arif Chaudhry

BOLTON: Allama Iqbal Medical College Lahore Graduate Doctors Organization AIMCUK spirited Dr. Ayaz Asghar and Chairman AIMCUK and his team organized the organization's 10th anniversary and Eid Mill party annual gala dinner at the local hall in Bolton-to work for the organization. They were awarded with special shields. Professional doctors from all over the UK, along with other family members, added to the glamor of the annual banquet. Allama Iqbal Medical College Lahore UK Chairman Dr. Usman Khan said that our organization is also playing a role in social work in Pakistan along with giving good loans to students coming to Britain for medical education from Pakistan. It is the spirit of AIMCUK. Dr. Ayaz Asghar said that the organization was established



ten years ago and the main objective is to educate and train doctors coming to the UK who have graduated from the new Allama Iqbal Medical College and teach them the skills to perform professional services. Dr. Yunus Faraz welcomed the giving of good loans to students. Dr.

Irfan Rasheed, the main member of the organization, said that we have achieved many goals in the last ten years and are determined to do so in the future. Dr. Kashif Chauhan said that the organization supported and helped the new doctors in every way. Dr. Saima Niaz

said that while paying attention to maintaining the mental health of the doctors during their education, they also helped them so that they could continue their education. Secretary of Social Relations of the organization Dr. Arooj said that the interaction with professional doctors from all over the UK in a healthy environment was useful. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Dr. Syed Nair Abdi MBE, said that at the annual banquet, you could see the spirit of patriotism and you will feel that the doctors living in the UK have great love and devotion for Pakistan. Professional help. Dr. Ghulam Ali congratulated the organizers on the completion of ten years of the organization. Children's music was also provided to add to the splendor of the annual banquet. The guests were treated to delicious traditional Asian cuisine.

## Give the new leadership a chance: Rabina

Arif Chaudhary

ROCHDALE :Rabina Asghar, the daughter of Lala Ali Asghar, the famous businessman and politician of Rochdale, the senior leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, is running as a councillor in Spotland and Falling Ward Rochdale. Rabina Asghar has requested the community of Spotland and Falling in Rochdale to elect her to solve the problems of the constituency. Give the new leadership a chance. I will fulfill the trust of the community.



Roundtable Conference

## 75th anniversary of Pakistan-Russia Diplomatic Relations

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable with H.E. Danila Ganich, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan, on 'Commemorating 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and Russia.'



The discussion was chaired by Amb. Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ms. Sahar Kamran, former Member Senate of Pakistan; Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani (R), Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President, IRS; Ambassador Shah Jamal, former Ambassador of Pakistan; Ambassador Tasneem Aslam, former Ambassador of Pakistan and Spokesperson; Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, DG, ISSRA, NDU; Dr. Tughral Yamin, Senior Research Fellow, IPS; Dr. Farah Naz, Assistant Professor, NUST; Dr. Shabir Ahmed Khan, Director, Area Study Centre for China, Russia & CARs; Dr. Asma Naveed, Professor, NUML; Dr. Afia Malik, Research Economist, PIDE; Mr. Ali Salman, Executive Director, PRIME and Research Associates from CASS and IPRI.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, and the research faculty of ISSI also participated in the Roundtable.

In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood outlined the different phases of Pakistan-Russia relations over the past 75 years - including in the cold war era, the post-cold war years, and the current phase. He underlined that the relationship, currently, was marked by friendship, increased mutual understanding, and growing cooperation across myriad domains. Noting convergent interests across a range of regional and international issues, he observed that the desire for enhanced cooperation was driven by Pakistan's deepening engagement with the Eurasian region and the imperatives of geo-economics.

## Uzbekistan and Germany enhancing multifaceted relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and his spouse, at the invitation of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier, arrived in Berlin.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev began his visit to Germany from negotiations with Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The President of Uzbekistan sincerely thanked the German Chancellor for the warm welcome.

It was emphasized that Uzbekistan sees Germany as a reliable and strategic partner. The two countries are connected by deep historical roots. In recent years, relations between Uzbekistan and Germany have been develop-

ing dynamically in all areas.

A twofold increase in mutual trade and the number of joint projects was noted with satisfaction. The volume of German investments in the economy of Uzbekistan reached \$5.5 billion, of which 4 billion were attracted over the past few years.

A high assessment was given to the joint Business Forum held during the visit. Following the event, agreements were reached on the implementation of new trade, investment, and technological projects worth \$9 billion. The projects include cooperation in green energy, mining, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries, modernization of transport infrastructure, digitalization of agriculture, innovation, and other priority areas.

An agreement was reached on a full-scale partnership with KfW

Development Bank, Deutsche Bank and the German Society for International Cooperation to support the projects of German companies in Uzbekistan.

The readiness of the Government of Germany to further support Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO and the soonest signing of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union was expressed.

The importance of continuing the political dialogue was emphasized. The parties welcomed the signing during the visit of the Intergovernmental Declaration on deepening multifaceted cooperation.

Olaf Scholz supported the new regional policy of Uzbekistan on the creation of an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust in Central Asia, deepening integration in the region.

An agreement was reached to launch a dialogue platform in the Germany - Central Asia format.

Issues of ensuring regional security were discussed, including in the context of the situation in Afghanistan.

The need for continuing humanitarian projects was confirmed, including through the capabilities of the logistics hub and the Educational Center for Afghan Youth in the city of Termez.

The main attention was paid to the development of transport and logistics. The parties agreed to develop the Trans-Caspian Corridor, which will create an effective route connecting the Central Asian region with Europe.

The rich cultural and humanitarian agenda was noted with satisfaction. The German side highly appreciated the unique



exhibition of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan that is opening these days in the city of Berlin.

The parties welcomed the

growing interest in the study of the German language in Uzbekistan. An agreement was reached on the technical assistance of the

Government of Germany to the expansion of the study of the German language in the regions of the country.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,087.93	41,927.64
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,171.68	41,915.81
Index Value	Change
8,861,733,817	+160.29
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	3 May, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,788.37	+15.34
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	3 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,703.73	+19.20
Percentage	Time
+0.057%	3 May, 12:55 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
29,157.95	+34.77
Percentage	Time
+0.12%	2 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	754.59	762.59
Canadian Dollar	212	214.2
China Yuan	41.04	41.44
Danish Krone	41.86	42.26
Euro	313	316
Hong Kong Dollar	36.15	36.5
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	2	2.05
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.13	935.13
Malaysian Ringgit	63.62	64.22
New Zealand \$	175.01	177.01
Norwegians Krone	26.41	26.71
Omani Riyal	737.03	745.03
Qatari Riyal	77.95	78.65
Saudi Riyal	75.9	76.7
Singapore Dollar	213	215
Swedish Korona	27.47	27.77
Swiss Franc	316.59	319.09
Thai Bhat	8.28	8.43
U.A.E Dirham	78	78.8
UK Pound Sterling	357	360
US Dollar	285.85	288.75

# Pakistan's business costs are unmanageable, competition is impossible: Mian Zahid

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the cost of doing business is kept under control in every country which is necessary for development.

In the countries where the cost of doing business is left unchecked become beggars, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community of the European Union and neighbouring countries take cheap loans and concessions from the government for production, export and technology sectors, while in our country due to the continuous increase in the cost of doing business, planning has become impossible for the businessmen.

The local business community is suffering from extremely high costs of electricity and gas, governance issues and other factors, leaving



them unable to consider long-term business planning.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that business has become almost impossible therefore many entrepreneurs are taking refuge in the real-estate sector.

The industrialists of developed countries have the full capacity to compete with other countries in the global market, due to which the economy of their countries develops, while our business community is unable to compete in the global market.

Due to weakness in the system it has become increasingly difficult for our exports to boost exports and earn foreign exchange for the country, he said.

The business leader said that many businessmen know that Pakistan and the property sector cannot develop together but still our policymakers seem least interested.

Due to the investment in the property market by industrialists, acquiring a plot and building a house has become a dream for the middle class.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the current economic situation, the real-estate sector has become a haven for domestic industrialists and has become a very profitable business.

At present, the real estate sector is attracting most of the country's capital and the production

sector, which is a major source of employment and foreign exchange in the country, is becoming a loss-making business, unless this trend is changed, the country cannot develop and will always be in need of loans.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that how can a country progress when people working in foreign countries earn more foreign exchange than the industrialists and send 30 billion dollars to the country annually?

The price of the shares of a well-known business organization in a neighbouring country has decreased by 108 billion dollars in a few days, while the personal wealth of the head of the group has decreased by 48 billion dollars, but it has not made any difference, while Pakistan is knocking on every door to arrange a few billion dollars since months.

He said that the culture of Pakistan and India is not much different but there is a huge difference in policies which has made India a global economic power and Pakistan has become a beggar.

## Appreciation

KARACHI: Worker of local administration repairing the CCTV Cameras at Sadr area, in Provincial Capital.

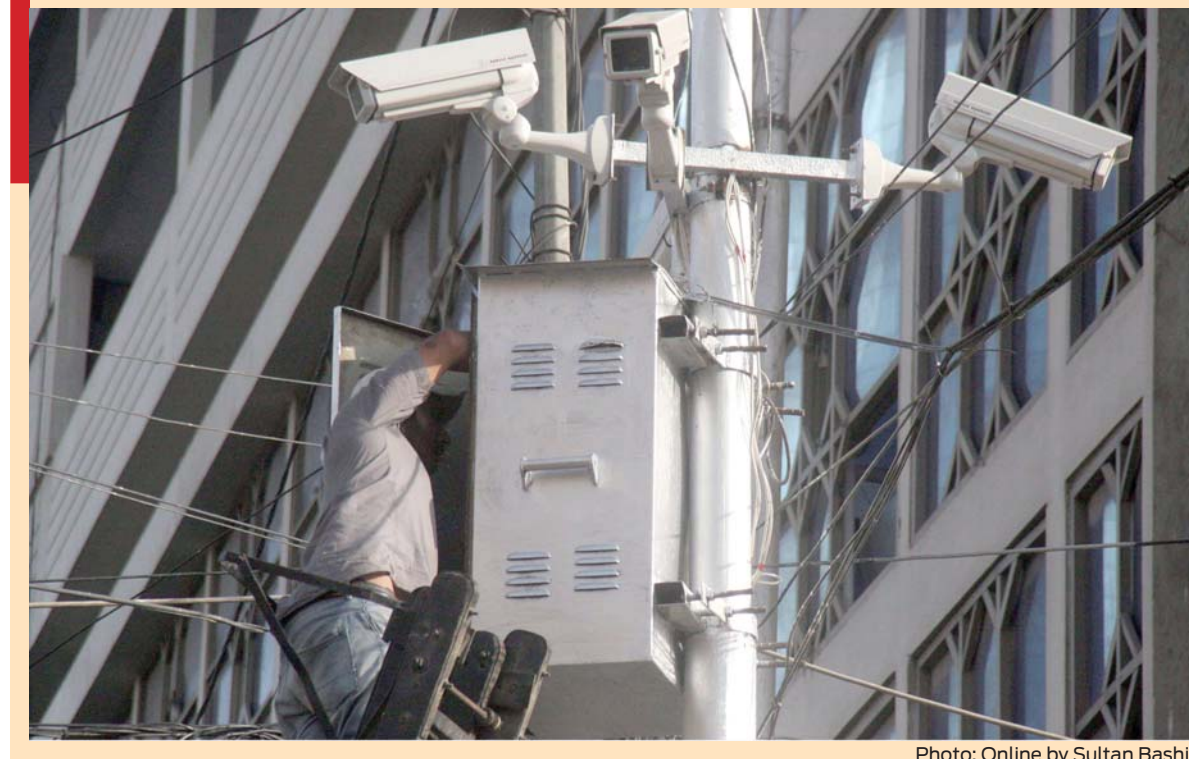


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Paymob and 1LINK Partner to Fuel Digital Payments in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Paymob, the leading financial services enabler in the Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan (MENA-P) and Pakistan's largest inter-bank network, 1LINK, have announced a partnership agreement to power instant online payouts for merchants registered with Paymob via 1LINK's payment infrastructure, with Bank Alfalah Ltd. serving as its settlement bank.

This partnership represents a unique and novel offering to merchants in Pakistan by creating an end-to-end digital payments acceptance mechanism integrated with Paymob's exclusive payout solution suite. To this effect, merchants will be able to instantly transfer funds via Paymob's platform directly into any 1LINK member/bank account across Pakistan. This process equips merchants to



make swift payments to their vendors and suppliers, thereby digitizing cash payments in their supply chain. Additionally, Paymob merchants will be able to pay utility companies, telecom operators, and numerous other businesses via 1LINK.

Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO 1LINK commented, "We are pleased to onboard Paymob to facilitate their merchants for swift and secure payment and settlement—yet another step to strengthen the merchant network. This strategic partnership will allow a one window solution to Paymob merchants for sending payments domesti-

cally. This business proposition will promote cashless payments for Paymob App users thus contributing towards the digital ecosystem. We look forward to a long-term partnership with Paymob in future."

Speaking at the occasion, Fawad Abdul Kader, Paymob Country Manager in Pakistan commented, "Partnering with 1LINK unpacks the digital payment infrastructure for Paymob to create use cases for smooth enablement of financial services for our merchants. It will provide us with access to 1LINK's expansive network of banks/members and services

## SECP introduces regulatory framework for 'Online Only' brokers

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the regulatory framework for online only brokers through amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Rulebook, paving the way for the launch of Online Only Brokers in Pakistan.

Cognizant of growing demand for online investing platforms, the SECP is committed to promoting innovation in the securities market while ensuring investor protection. This regulatory framework is a significant step towards achieving that goal.

Under the new regime, the customer onboarding process will be conducted online and the Online Only brokers will be able to provide trading services to its clients, exclusively through online means. The Online Only Brokers

will be a sub-category of Trading Only brokers. As a result, the custodial and clearing services will be performed by Professional Clearing Member, resulting in significantly less compliance and operational requirements, thereby allowing the brokers to concentrate on their core competencies of brokerage services and distribution. This will enable new entrepreneurs to start brokerage business at lower preliminary and operational costs. The new category will also attract new investors in capital market as it offers greater convenience for managing investments via online means.

The framework includes net worth requirements of PKR 7.5 million and a single member company is also eligible to apply. SECP has also notified license issuance and renewal fees at PKR 50,000 and PKR 25,000 respectively for Online Only Brokers.

## Outstanding Contribution

# Dubai Duty Free reflects on 40 years of success at ATM 2023

**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI :Dubai Duty Free helped to strengthen Dubai's reputation as a leading international tourist destination, said Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Colm McLoughlin as he took to the Global Stage today at Arabian Travel Market 2023.

In a fascinating conversation with Euro News Dubai Bureau Chief Jane Witherspoon, McLoughlin recalled highlights from four decades at the helm of Dubai Duty Free and shared the organisation's plans for the future.

Dubai Duty Free is one of the largest dutyfree operations in a single airport in the world and covers a total retail area of

40,000 square metres across Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport. In addition, Dubai Duty Free has raised the profile of the city of Dubai through the promotion of high-profile international events such as the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, which generates over US\$1 billion in TV exposure for Dubai.

McLoughlin said: "Over the past 40 years, it has become increasingly important that the entire journey is enjoyable for the passenger, and a key part of this journey is spent at Dubai Duty Free."

McLoughlin arrived in the UAE in July 1983 as part of the consultancy team from Aer Rianta, the Irish Airport

Authority, which was contracted by the Dubai Government to launch a new duty-free operation at Dubai International Airport. He has remained at Dubai Duty Free since then and became Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the organisation and its subsidiary businesses in 2011.

Under his leadership, Dubai Duty Free grew from a US\$20 million company in 1984 to a \$1.74 billion operation last year, with 2023 sales expected to reach over US\$2 billion. Aligning with the 'Working towards net zero' theme of ATM 2023, Dubai Duty Free will be increasingly emphasising CSR initiatives and sustainability in the coming



years. During the session today, McLoughlin was presented with the Pearl Award, a prestigious award created especially for the 30th edition of ATM. Presenting the award, Danielle Curtis Exhibition Director

ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: "It is an absolute privilege to present you with the prestigious Pearl Award. This is fitting tribute to a stalwart in the tourism industry and someone who resonates with many of the ideologies behind

the award, including wisdom, enlightenment and longevity.

"I am delighted to share this accolade with you in recognition of the incredible contribution that Dubai Duty Free, under your stewardship, has made to tourism and the economy, in a career that spans over 40 years. We thank you for all that you've done and wish you even more success in the future."

McLoughlin concluded: "I'm absolutely thrilled and excited to receive this award and I would like to thank the team and staff at Dubai Duty Free, and of course our chairman H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.

"Looking to the future, it is important that we keep on

## ZONG 4G Announces Corporate Partnership with Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD : ZONG 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, has signed a contract with Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics one of the country's largest manufacturers and suppliers of tiles and ceramics, to provide customized corporate voice, data, and Enterprise solutions. The partnership will enable Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics to perform daily operations with increased efficiency and reliability.

As part of the partnership, ZONG 4G will provide Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics with tailored data and voice services for its core operational business. The contract signing ceremony was held in the presence of representatives from both companies.

Commenting on the partnership, the official spokesperson for ZONG 4G said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with SHABBIR TILES AND CERAMICS LTD. At ZONG 4G, we are committed to providing innovative and reliable communication solutions that cater to the unique needs of our corporate clients. With this partnership, we aim to support Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics in achieving their business objectives and enhancing their customer experience."

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Farooq Raza Khan, Director GCSS at ZONG 4G, said, "Our customized corporate voice, data, and Enterprise solutions are designed to meet the specific needs of businesses, and we believe that this partnership will enable Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics to improve their operational efficiency and productivity. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics

The partnership between ZONG 4G and Shabbir Tiles and Ceramics is a testament to ZONG's commitment to providing customized and reliable communication solutions to businesses across Pakistan. The telecom operator has established itself as a leader in the telecom industry with its extensive network coverage and innovative services.

# PAK vs NZ: Pakistan thump New Zealand to claim historic series victory

## A Sports

KARACHI: Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam starred as Pakistan thrashed New Zealand by 26 runs in the third PAK vs NZ ODI to record a historic series victory over the visitors at the National Bank Cricket Arena here on Wednesday.

Pakistan's ODI series victory over New Zealand marked their first win over the opposition after a 12-year hiatus.

Set to chase 288, New Zealand bundled out for 261 in the final over and thus succumbed to their third consecutive defeat in the five-match series against Pakistan.

The touring side had a flying start to the run chase as their openers – Will Young and Tom Blundell – laid a solid foundation with an 83-run partnership.

The duo dominated the home side bowlers until the 16th over before a direct hit from Salman Ali Agha marked the end of Young's knock, who scored 33

off 41 deliveries.

Blundell then stitched a brief partnership with in-form Daryl Mitchell as the pair could raise 30 runs before the latter fell victim to Mohammad Wasim Jr after scoring 21 off 24.

Wasim Jr then played his part in drawing another breakthrough for Pakistan as his brilliant fielding effort in the deep caught Blundell well short of his crease.

The right-handed remained the top scorer for New Zealand with a 78-ball 65, which featured seven boundaries.

New Zealand captain Tom Latham, who demoted himself in the batting order, put on brief partnerships with Mark Chapman (13) and Henry Nicholls (1) before finally perishing in the 42nd over after playing a cautious knock of 45 runs in 60 balls.

Debutant Cole McConchie then took the reigns of New Zealand pursuit after Latham's dismissal but fell short of steering his team home as he received no support from the other end as

New Zealand tailenders crumbled against a ruthless Pakistan bowling attack.

The right-handed batter made an unbeaten 64 in 45 balls with the help of six boundaries and two sixes.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jr and Naseem Shah bagged two wickets each while Agha Salman had a scalp to his credit.

Put into bat first in the third PAK vs NZ ODI, Pakistan pile a massive total on the scoreboard at the back of a brilliant 90-run knock by Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam's 56.

The home side had an unwanted start to their innings as they lost their in-form opener, Fakhar Zaman for just 19 in the ninth over as Matt Henry struck gold for New Zealand.

After losing their in-form batter Pakistan soon got their dependable pair – Babar Azam and Imam-ul-Haq – anchoring the proceedings as the duo stitched their eighth 100-run

partnership and put the hosts in command.

The pair was looking solid to take the game away from New Zealand until Henry castled Babar in the 29th over – soon after he amassed his 26th half-century.

Babar Azam smashed three boundaries and a six on his way to a 62-ball 54.

Imam-ul-Haq then found brief support in the form of Abdullah Shafique, who could score 19 off 23 before falling to Cole McConchie, who bagged his maiden wicket in the format.

The left-handed opener then found himself in agony as he fell just 10 short of his well-deserved century after Adam Milne's in-swinging delivery outclassed him in the 38th over.

The back-to-back dismissals, however, did not Pakistan much as a vital 54-run partnership between Agha Salman and Mohammad Rizwan kept the home side in the hunt for a big total.

Salman scored 31 off 29 while



Rizwan made 32 off 34 deliveries before they fell in the 46th and 47th over respectively.

Brief yet crucial cameos by Shadab Khan (21 off 10) and

Mohammad Nawaz (11 off nine) bolstered Pakistan's total at the back as the pair raised 25 runs in the last 13 deliveries.

Right-arm quick Henry led the

bowling attack for New Zealand with three wickets while his new-ball partner Milne bagged two. McConchie, on the other hand, had a scalp to his name.

## Fakhar, Rizwan improve in ICC Rankings

### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman has attained a career-best second position while his teammate wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan has moved up in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings released Wednesday.

Fakhar Zaman has attained a career-best second position in the Rankings after smashing back-to-back centuries in the first two ODIs of their ongoing five-match series against New Zealand, said a press release.

The left-hander's scores of 117 and 180 not out earned him Player of the Match awards in both ODIs and have helped him progress eight places in the list led by Babar Azam. Fakhar's previous best was seventh position attained in April 2021.

Meanwhile, Rizwan was another Pakistan batter to move up the rankings – from 64th to 58th position



– after notching up unbeaten knocks of 42 and 54, while fast bowler Haris Rauf has advanced 12 slots to 51st position after his hauls of two for 65 and four for 78.

New Zealand batters Tom Latham and Daryl Mitchell too have made significant progress. Latham is up three places to 29th after scoring 20 and 98 in the two matches, while Mitchell's two centuries have lifted him 57 places to 51st in the rankings.

In other movements on the ODI rankings table,

Muhammad Waseem of the United Arab Emirates has moved up three places to 62nd among batters after scoring 48 against Oman in the semifinal of the Asian Cricket Council Men's Premier Cup in Mulpani, Nepal.

Oman captain Zeeshan Maqsood has advanced six places to 43rd among bowlers and three places to fifth among all-rounders after grabbing four for 32 and scoring 40 in that match.

Oman's left-arm seamer Bilal

Khan has moved from 36th to 33th after his four-wicket haul.

In the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, Sri Lanka players have made significant progress after completing a 2-0 series win over Ireland in Galle.

Angelo Mathews has inched up one place to 22nd after scoring 100 not out, Kusal Mendis is up three places to 39th after top-scoring with 245 while opener Nishan Madushka's knock of 205 puts him in 102nd position in the batting rankings.

Prabath Jayasuriya is up six places to 13th in the bowling rankings after picking up seven scalps in the match while other spinner Ramesh Mendis is up 10 places to 22nd following his six-wicket match haul.

Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie's scores of 95 and 46 have lifted him 29 places to 93rd while Harry Tector and Lorcan Tucker have also progressed.

## PSG suspend Messi for two weeks after Saudi Arabia trip



### A Sports

Paris Saint-Germain has suspended Lionel Messi for two weeks after the Argentinian star travelled to Saudi Arabia without the club's permission, reported BBC on Wednesday.

According to the details, Messi missed the club's training session on Monday to attend promotional events in the Kingdom.

He asked permission from PSG before his trip to the Gulf state but the club refused owing to a change in their training schedule.

Messi believes he did originally have permission to travel to Saudi, but that was then withdrawn due to a change in the club's training schedule, said BBC.

Messi's contract with PSG expires in June this year, and his reported trip to Saudi Arabia comes amid multiple reports that the 35-year-old is not interested in renewing his contract with the French club.

## Hosts West Indies confirm white-ball series schedule against England



### A Sports.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Tuesday announced the full series schedule for the England men's team tour to the Caribbean Island in December 2023.

The tour begins with a three-match One-Day International (ODI) Series, followed by five T20 Internationals (T20Is).

The ICC Men's ODI and T20I world champions, England will travel to Antigua, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad in the pre-Christmas white ball tour.

The tour will begin in Antigua with two ODIs at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on December 3 and 6. Kensington Oval in Barbados will host the final ODI on December 9 December and T20I series opener on December 12 before the action shifts to Grenada for two T20Is on December 14 and 16.

The tour concludes in the week before Christmas with the fourth and fifth T20Is at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad, which will be hosting a West Indies vs England fixture for the first time on December 19 and 21 and the first time that England has played on the island since 2009.

"We are delighted to be able to confirm the England match schedule and to welcome once again their many travelling fans to the region for a pre-Christmas white-ball tour." said CWI's Chief Executive, Johnny Grave.

## Sarfraz Ahmed appointed ambassador of Nelson Mandela talent hunt programme

Former Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Nelson Mandela talent hunt programme for U19 cricketers of Karachi.

Sarfraz – who led Pakistan to U19 World Cup triumph in 2006 – joined the Nelson Mandela talent hunt programme which will provide opportunities to budding cricketers in the metropolis.

"It is a great opportunity for all U19 cricketers of Karachi. I am very much confident that this step will change the landscape of Karachi's cricket," said the Champions Trophy 2017 winning captain while addressing the media at National Bank Stadium.

Nelson Mandela talent hunt program will conduct trials to select players in different zones of the city. As many as 60 players will be selected through trials after which four teams will be made. Thereafter, a team of 15 players will be sent to South Africa for gaining exposure.

## PBBF awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards

### Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards to dozens of former and current sports dignitaries, sports legends, administrators, organizers, match officials and media personnel at a grand ceremony organised here at the Lahore Garrison Golf and Country Club on Tuesday evening.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance and former Governor State Bank of Pakistan Tariq Bajwa was the chief guest on this occasion. Former PCB Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Tauqeer Zia, top cricket umpire Aleem Dar and President Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) Maj-Gen (ret'd) M Akram Sahi were among the other notable guests of honour.

Bringing such a huge number of former and current super stars and sports legends under one roof made the event a



huge success. The recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards were applauded by the organizers and participants of the event for their remarkable achievements in their respective fields.

Col (ret'd) Asif Dar was the most active person in hosting such a grand event with the support of Pakistan Basketball

Federation officials including PBBF President Alamgir Khan, PBBF SVP Abdul Jawwad, President PBBA Col (ret'd) Naseem Butt, PBBA General Secretary M Akram and others.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Din Muhammad, the

first gold medal winner of Pakistan. Besides him, the coveted awards were also awarded to world record holder cricket umpire Aleem Dar, AFP President Maj Gen Akram Sahi, Col Naseem Butt, Olympian javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, Shafiq Chishiti, hockey legends Ch Akhtar Rasool, Manzoor ul Hassan, Dr Tariq Aziz, Munir Dar (late), Tanveer Dar, Tauqeer Dar, tennis legend Rashid Malik, Nooh Dastgeer Butt, Dastgeer Butt, Mohsin Nawaz, Alauddin Gogi, PBBA Secretary M Akram and Saima Shahzad.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Guest Tariq Bajwa said that the sports stars always made the country proud on many occasions and are true role models for our youth. "Definitely, it is a nice measure to acknowledge the contributions of sports stars and organizers for the country". He urged the young athletes to take inspiration from them and work hard in their respective sports.

## Arsenal back on top of Premier League after beating Chelsea

### Sorts Desk

LONDON: Martin Odegaard fired Arsenal back to the top of the Premier League as the Norway midfielder's double inspired a 3-1 win against woeful Chelsea on Tuesday.

Mikel Arteta's side lost control of the title race after last week's 4-1 defeat at Manchester City.

But the Gunners signalled their intention to push City all the way to the wire with a much-needed first win in five games.

Odegaard's brace was followed by a Gabriel Jesus strike as the hosts raced into a three-goal before half-time at the Emirates Stadium.

Noni Madueke's second half goal was no consolation for Chelsea's wretched performance.

Arsenal are now two points clear of second placed City and while Pep Guardiola's men remain favourites to win the title, the north Londoners have at least applied a little pressure on the champions.

City will go back into first place if they beat West Ham at home on Wednesday in the first of their two games in hand on Arsenal.

"The first 60 minutes, I thought we played really well. That was everything I want to see from our team," Arteta said.

"Speed, quality, movement, two beautiful goals, we connected with our crowd and created an incredible atmosphere.

"We wanted to earn the right to be top of the league. We are happy to be there."

After 10 weeks at the top, Arsenal

were knocked down to second place by City's win at Fulham on Sunday.

Three successive draws, including two blown two-goal leads, and the calamitous loss at City have led Arsenal to be written off as title race chokers.

But Arteta insisted this week that the title was still winnable and his players responded to the Spaniard's rallying cry.

Troubled Chelsea were ideal opponents for Arsenal to get back on track before a tricky trip to Newcastle on Sunday.

The Blues have now lost all six games since Frank Lampard returned as caretaker boss to replace the sacked Graham Potter.

Languishng in 12th place, Chelsea are on an nine-game winless run in all competitions and face the prospect of failing to finish in the top half of the



table for the first time since 1996.

"We were too nice to play against in

all aspects in the first half. Not good enough," Lampard said.

"It's tough because you want to win games, but it's our job, we'll work on it."