

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے نصرت علی نے بیان کیا، کہا کہ مجھے میرے والد نے تجریدی، انہیں قرہ بن خالد نے، انہیں قناد نے اور انہوں نے انس رضی اللہ عنہ سے سنا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: ہر پڑھنے سے محبت رکھتا ہے اور ہم اس سے محبت رکھتے ہیں۔  
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4083)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Minister sets target to enroll 52,000 OOS children by June 30

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister Federal Education and Professional Training, and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Education Foundation (NEF), chaired a meeting of the Board. Esteemed board members, including senior officers from the Ministry of Education and Finance and renowned educationists attended the meeting. (Details on Page 3)



## PTI miscreants damaged important installations and monuments under conspiracy: Atta Tarar

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that PTI miscreants wanted to divert attention from Imran Khan's corruption through vandalism and anarchy but strict action would be taken against them as per law. (Details on Page 8)

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## Signing ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan "Road to Makkah Project" aimed at facilitating Pakistani Hujjaj on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign 'Road to Makkah' agreement to facilitate pilgrims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday signed an agreement for the execution of "Road to Makkah" project aimed at simplifying the immigration process for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims.

The agreement was signed at the Prime Minister House during the visit of Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr. Nasir Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Dawood here.

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah and Saudi deputy interior minister signed the document while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki witnessed the ceremony.

Minister for Religious Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mahmood, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi were also present.

Under the agreement, the Hajj and Umrah pilgrims of Pakistan would be provided immigration facilities in Pakistan who would be exempted from the process at Saudi airports.

In the first phase, the service would be available at Islam-

abad International Airport where around 26,000 pilgrims would benefit from the facility.

The Saudi authorities assured that the facility would later be extended to Karachi and Lahore airports as well.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also signed the joint minutes of the meeting in which they discussed the issuance of Pakistani passports to the Burmese Muslims residing in Saudi Arabia.

According to the details, the passports of the Burmese Muslims were not renewed after 2012 which created some difficulties for them in the Kingdom.

Under the arrangement, the Burmese Muslims and their children would be issued passports to improve their legal status in Saudi Arabia.

As per the discussion, a bilateral committee would be formed comprising the representatives of Saudi Arabia and the interior ministry to work out early issuance of the documents to the Burmese Muslims.

Following the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz presented a souvenir to the Saudi dignitary who also reciprocated the gesture by presenting a memento to the prime minister.

## COAS says 'orchestrated May 9 violence will never be allowed again'

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir said that 'recently planned and orchestrated tragic incidents' of May 9, the day military installations were attacked, will never be allowed again at any cost.

"No one will be allowed to disrespect our martyrs and their monuments. They are a source of inspiration and pride for the rank and file of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, Government officials and the people of Pakistan," the army chief said during his visit to Sialkot Garrison.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), COAS Asim Munir visited Sialkot Garrison and laid floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument while paying rich tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the pride, honor and dignity of the nation.

"The martyrs have been promised the highest abode in the life hereafter and shall continue to maintain the highest levels of respect amongst the people of Pakistan," he said.

COAS Munir further said that the State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will always maintain all martyrs and their families in very



high esteem and continue to honor them and their supreme sacrifices with utmost respect and dignity.

The army chief underscored that recently planned and orchestrated tragic incidents will never be allowed again at any cost.

He reassured the ranks and files that all those responsible for bringing shame to the nation on Black Day of 9th May would certainly be brought to Justice.

He also appreciated under command formations for their hard work, devotion, high morale

and professionalism.

During his interaction with officers and troops, COAS stressed upon maintaining focus on Army's professionalism and preparedness to deal with complex internal and external security challenges including propaganda warfare.

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Gujranwala Corps.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Army has vowed action against perpetrators who attacked military installations in

'politically motivated and instigated incidents' in the past few days.

The resolve was expressed during a Special Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) under the chairmanship of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir.

The forum was briefed that a well-coordinated arson plan involving desecration of Shuhada pictures and monuments, burning down of historical buildings and vandalism of military instal-

lations was executed to malign the institution and provoke it towards giving an impulsive reaction, a press release said.

The Commanders condemned, in the strongest possible sense, these politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations and public/private properties. The Commanders also communicated the anguish and sentiments of the rank and file of the Pakistan Army on these unfortunate and unacceptable incidents.

## FM invites S. Korean investors to invest in different sectors of Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that there were immense opportunities for the South Korean businessmen and traders to invest in different sectors of Pakistan, including technology.

The foreign minister expressed these views during

a meeting with Ambassador of South Korea to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo who called on him, a press release in Urdu language said.

The foreign minister said both countries enjoyed historic and friendly ties.

He said Pakistan was providing trained human resource to South Korea in different sectors and wanted to further enhance it.

## Pakistan, UK to join hands to eliminate hate content on social, online media

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and United Kingdom on Wednesday agreed to work together to eliminate content related to hate and terrorist attitudes on social and online media.

The decision was made during a meeting between Acting British High Commissioner Andrew Dagleish and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb.

During the meeting, the promotion of bilateral diplomatic relations including cooperation in various fields of media, digital media, media training and filmmaking was also discussed.

The minister congratulated the ambassador and the people of UK over the coronation of King Charles III.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to the United Kingdom and his participation in the coronation of King Charles III were mani-



festations of the friendship based on respect and trust between the two countries.

Stating that Pakistan attached special importance to bilateral relations with Britain, she expressed the determination to further strengthen the bilateral ties.

During discussion on the cooperation in film policy and media training, the minister said film and drama played an important role in highlighting the culture and positive identity of any country.

Marriyum Aurangzeb appreciated the role of British government for development of health, education, governance and human resource in Pakistan.

She said Pakistan government would get help from Britain's modern media curriculum to provide training to journalists.

The Acting British High Commissioner appreciated the progress made in the information sector including the economic policies of the present government of Pakistan.

## IHC bars Imran Khan's arrest in cases across Pakistan till May 31

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday extended its order barring authorities from arresting former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in cases — including those that are undisclosed — registered across the country until May 31.

Imran's lawyer, Barrister Gohar, additional attorney general and advocate general appeared before court.

During the course of the proceedings, the government's lawyer requested more time from court to provide information about the cases filed against the PTI chairman.

The court accepted the request and adjourned the hearing until May 31.

Meanwhile, Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday moved to Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking exemption from appearance in multiple cases.

Imran Khan's interim bail will be heard today at 3:30pm. IHC Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb will conduct the hearing.

In his plea, the former PM stated that PDM parties held a protest outside the Supreme Court so there could be a law and order situation if he [PTI chief] joins the hearing today.

The former prime minister has requested the court to grant him exemption from appearance in the interim bail case as he is consulting different forums for seeking bail on the court's orders.



## Pakistan–Saudi Arabia relations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan and Saudi Deputy Interior Minister, HE Nasser Bin Abdul Aziz zal Dawood in a group photo during the visit of Saudi delegation in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Pak, Iraq enjoy strong brotherly ties: FM

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that the brotherly bonds between Pakistan and Iraq were deeply rooted in common religion and shared interests.

He said that multi-dimensional cooperation and exchange of high-level delegations were the parts of these bilateral relations.

The foreign minister was talking to Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan Hamid Abbas



Lafta who called on him, a press release said.

The foreign minister further said that Pakistan always supported Iraqi brothers and sisters in difficult times.

Ambassador Lafta expressed his gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their consistent support and cooperation.

On behalf of Iraqi foreign minister, the ambassador, extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Bilawal to visit Iraq.

## No action at Zaman Park in sight until deadline: Punjab govt

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab interim minister for information Amir Mir on Wednesday night said the government had no intention to arrest PTI chief Imran Khan until the 24-hour deadline was met.

He said the provincial caretaker setup would reveal its plans after the expiry of the deadline. "The deadline will expire at 2pm tomorrow (Thursday)," he added.

Mr Mir went on to say that Mr Khan had always been claiming such things to incite people.

Earlier, the caretaker Punjab



government gave a 24-hour deadline to the PTI to hand over "30 to 40 terrorists" who, it claimed, were hiding at Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore to police.

The warning came from caretaker Information Minister Aamir Mir who addressed a presser in the provincial capital. The minister said the PTI had started behaving like a

non-state actor as its chief had been targeting the military for more than one year.

He claimed that attacks on military installations and at other places were carried out during May 9 violent protests under a plan, saying the government had adopted a "zero tolerance policy" towards it.

Mr Mir told reporters that interim Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had given a "free hand" to the Punjab police to deal with "arsonists".

The interim minister said it had been decided that those who attacked military installations would be tried in military courts. He said no innocent

person would be penalised as all cases were being forwarded after confirmation. He said the "PTI miscreants" crossed the red line on May 9. He said more than 3,400 attackers had been arrested and 254 cases registered.

Out of those, he said, 795 attackers had been identified and 78 had been physically remanded. He said 906 miscreants had been judicially remanded while the arrest of other miscreants was under way.

He also said the caretaker CM had barred the Punjab police from using force and weapons to avoid bloodshed.

## PTI demands media coverage of Zaman park search operation

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded media coverage of the search operation of Zaman Park, the residence of former premier and party chairman Imran Khan.

Taking to Twitter, the PTI

demanding the media coverage of Zaman Park search operation as the Lahore police surrounded the residence of Imran Khan.

The PTI stated that the Punjab Police — not exceeding four people — can search the property in the media's presence.

## Bushra Bibi 'summoned' by NAB in Al-Qadir Trust Case

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned Bushra Bibi — wife of former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan — in the Al-Qadir Trust case, tomorrow (Thursday).

A three-member team of the anti-graft body reached Zaman Park to hand over the summons to Bushra Bibi for tomorrow's appearance.

It may be noted that on May 15,

Lahore High Court (LHC) granted bail to Bushra Bibi until May 23 in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

On Tuesday, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had also Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and former SAPM on accountability Shahzad Akbar on May 18 and May 22, respectively.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and Shahzad Akbar have been directed to appear before NAB to join the probe along with the related documents.

## Platform to be set up to connect Sichuan, Punjab business community: Ambassador Haque

## Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque has said that a platform would soon be set up between Sichuan and Punjab to connect the business community of the two places.

In a recently held meeting with entrepreneurs from 50 enterprises in Sichuan and Chongqing area in China at the China-Pakistan Economic and Cultural Exchange Incubation Center in Chengdu, he invited all of them to be part of the platform.

Commercial Counsellor, Ghulam Qadir, also attended the meeting and introduced some new progress and potentials of Pak-China cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

"Agriculture is a key area. We are very strong in this sector. I would like to share with you that protocol for exporting Pakistan's dairy



products is very near completion. It will open a market of USD 10 billion. Another related sector is meat, we are all set to export Pakistani beef for the first time to China in less than a month. Our protocol on red pepper and other products will also be approved. For example, the first batch of cherry buyers from 18 Chinese enterprises has arrived in Pakistan."

After his speech, some entrepreneurs required the contacts of Pakistani beef exporters. Li Hongwu, chairman of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce said that they have been trying to bring Pakistani beef to Chengdu for more than four years.

"It's great to know that the channel has been finally opened. I think the future commercial cooperation between Sichuan and Pakistan will be more and more smooth."

"We are going to hold an international food and agriculture expo in August in Karachi. We hope to take more than 50 companies from Chengdu to Participate," said Ghulam Qadir.

Apart from agriculture, Pakistan is also interested in cooperation in new technologies. Ghulam Qadir showed his interests during his talk with a drone company.

## PTI miscreants damaged important installations and monuments under conspiracy: Atta Tarar

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that PTI miscreants wanted to divert attention from Imran Khan's corruption through vandalism and anarchy but strict action would be taken against them as per law.

Addressing a press conference here, Tarar said that PTI workers desecrated the holy places of the country while memorials of martyrs as well as sensitive installations were attacked following a conspiracy. He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's house in Lahore was not spared and Imran Khan's nephew Hasan Niazi was seen involved in the attack on Jinnah's house.

He said that miscreants also burnt pictures of martyrs and plane of 1965 hero M.M Alam in Mianwali was also targeted. He said that PTI miscreants also damaged the monument of Captain Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) whose bravery



was appreciated even by the enemy.

All these criminals will be punished and a precedent to be set to avoid any incident of mischief in future, he said and added that prosecution teams and teams of legal experts had been constituted for the purpose. He appealed the courts not to neglect such shameful acts as these are related to the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

He said there is an audio of Murad Saeed inciting workers while several PTI leaders can be seen leading the miscreants. He said that the model of Chaghai mountain was damaged and Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar was also set on fire which announced the independence of Pakistan in 1947.

## PTI demands media coverage of Zaman park search operation

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded media coverage of the search operation of Zaman Park, the residence of former premier and party chairman Imran Khan.

Taking to Twitter, the PTI demand-

ed the media coverage of Zaman Park search operation as the Lahore police surrounded the residence of Imran Khan.

The PTI stated that the Punjab Police — not exceeding four people — can search the property in the media's presence.

## PTI leaders summoned in National Crime Agency £190m Scandal

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has summoned former federal ministers and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in National Crime Agency £190m Scandal or Al-Qadir Trust Case.

Sources told that the accountability watchdog has decided to make PTI leaders — who were part of PTI cabinet — part of investigation.

In this regard, the NAB issued summons notices to former federal ministers Ali Zaidi, Shafiqat Mehmood, Hammad Azhar and Zulfi Bukhari. Meanwhile, the bureau also summoned former federal minister Faisal Vawda in the case.

Furthermore, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has also summoned Bushra Bibi — wife of former premier and Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan — in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

A three-member team of the anti-graft body reached Zaman Park to hand over the summons to Bushra Bibi for tomorrow's appearance.

Earlier, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) changed the title of the Al-Qadir Trust case to 'National Crime Agency £190m Scandal', summoning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on May 18.

According to details, the accountability watchdog summoned Imran Khan on May 18 in a 'personal capacity' in the Al-Qadir Trust case, which title has been changed to 'National Crime Agency £190m Scandal'.

Sources told ARY News that the NAB instructed the former prime minister to bring the documents related to the case.

PTI's Maleeka Bokhari, Ali Muhammad, Shireen Mazari re-arrested after release



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Barrister Maleeka Bokhari, Ali Muhammad Khan, and Shireen Mazari were on Wednesday arrested once again shortly after being released from custody.

Ms Bokhari was arrested outside Adiala Jail, where armed personnel of the Islamabad police apprehended the PTI leader and swiftly transported her to an undisclosed location. On the other hand, Mr Khan was taken into custody by Punjab police from outside District Jail, Jhelum and shifted to an undisclosed location.

Both were arrested despite the Islamabad High Court's earlier orders to release them this afternoon. This development comes on the heels of the recent detainment of Dr Shireen Mazari and Falaknaz, who were also re-arrested shortly after their release from custody yesterday.

On the other hand, Iman Mazari, daughter of PTI leader Shireen Mazari took to Twitter to share that Ms Mazari was re-arrested minutes after Ms Iman had expressed fears of her mother's re-arrest.

IMF deadlock: Pakistan may turn to 'friendly countries for bailout'

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the delay in the revival of \$6.5 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout programme, Pakistan is now looking towards friendly countries for more funding. The staff-level agreement between International Monetary Fund and Pakistan is being delayed from February 9.

The current loan programme with the IMF will end on June 30, 2023, and Pakistan is now 'considering' a new IMF programme on renewed conditions.

The fund is delaying the ninth review with Islamabad which has 'forced' Pakistan to get rid of the current loan programme and generate more funds from friendly countries, sources said.

Sources further say during the tenure of Imran Khan's government, 'tough' demands of the IMF were also agreed upon for the loan programme. The incumbent government imposed taxes of Rs170 billion through the money budget in February as per the demands agreed upon by Imran's government. Prices of gas and electricity were increased up to 40pc and the rupee further depreciated as the IMF was assured to bring the dollar exchange rate as per open market.



# Kashmiris to protest demos on May 22 against India's' first move of hosting G-20 Summit In Occupied Srinagar

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Kashmiris on both sides of the ceasefire line and the world over would hold protest demonstrations on May 22 to register their anguish over India's controversial move to host a G-20 working group meeting in Srinagar. In his special statement, the Prime Minister said, "Occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir is not a part of India but a disputed territory recognized by the United Nations". He said that the region has been reeling under India's brutal repression for the past several decades.



"India that has forcibly occupied the territory has no right whatsoever to host an international conference in the region", he said. Terming Kashmir as one of the oldest disputes pending

on the UN agenda, the PM said that, as per the international covenants, the future of Kashmir could only be decided by Kashmir through a free and fair referendum held under the supervision of the United Nations. He regretfully noted that India has deployed more than 900,000 forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "Indian forces deployed in the region are not only involved in serious human rights violations but also in heinous war crimes", the PM said.

He said that the entire pro freedom political leadership, human rights activists and journalists have been thrown behind bars. He said that Occupied Kashmir has been turned

into an open-air prison. He said that the ground reality in Kashmir belies the Indian claims of normalcy. "If the situation in Occupied Kashmir is normal then what is the reason behind the deployment of troops on such a large scale", the PM questioned. The Prime Minister appealed to the G20 members to boycott the Srinagar meeting. Terming the promotion of Kashmir-cause as his government's top priority, the PM said, "The Government of Azad Kashmir will use all its capabilities and resources for the liberation of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir". The Prime Minister also asked the Kashmiris living abroad to hold strong protests against India on May 22.

## AIOU to close admissions today

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set May 18 (today) as the last date for new admissions for the second phase of the semester spring 2023. AIOU has offered Associate Degree (BA/BCom), BS, B.Ed, and Post Graduate Diploma programs in the second phase. According to the Director Admissions, Syed Zia ul Hussain Naqvi, the date of admissions will not be extended anymore. It is pertinent to mention here that Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has allowed the continuing students to enroll themselves till May 25 without late fee charges. Admission forms and prospectus of all these programs are available on the university website [www.aiou.edu.pk](http://www.aiou.edu.pk).

Moreover, examinations of postgraduate programs (MA, M.Sc, M.Com, MBA/MPA, MLIS, M.Ed, and Postgraduate diplomas) offered in autumn 2022 semester will be held from May 22, 2023. The date sheet is available on the university website ([www.aiou.edu.pk](http://www.aiou.edu.pk)). Roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS portal and dispatched to the students at their addresses as well.

## Two-day workshop on science journalism in Urdu concludes



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Khwarizmi Science Society in collaboration with COMSTECH organized a two-day workshop on "Science Writing and Science Journalism in Urdu" at the Center of Excellence in Solid State Physics, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The renowned Pakistani science journalist and writer Mr. Aleem Ahmed conducted this two-day workshop during May 15-16. The workshop was delivered in Urdu and it was attended by 20 participants from different institutions.

Mr. Aleem Ahmad delivered comprehensive eight lectures during the workshop, covering from the basic to the advanced knowledge of popular science writing and journalism. He shared his 35 years' practical working experience in the field of science writing. Mr. Aleem Ahmad delivered all necessary knowledge required by any aspiring popular science writer to start science writing. After the lectures he conducted a comprehensive writing exercise session in which each participant wrote an article on the different science topic. The purpose of the workshop was to train the participants to write fluent and easy to understand articles in Urdu on science topics for popular media to popularize the science among the masses.

## Bank transactions shouldn't be taxed

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Wednesday said the failed experiment of levying tax on bank withdrawals should not be repeated. The move would prove to be the last nail in the coffin of our sinking economy, he said. Such a move will promote the undocumented economy as the business community did not accept this decision before and will not accept it now, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICICI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that in the past the business community have used their own parallel banking system against the decision of imposing withholding tax on withdrawing money from the banks.

## Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in his work at Tuff Tiles making factory along the Lehtarar Road, as due to the newly constructing towns in that area, the demands of such things are very high, in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Governor Punjab inaugurated the newly Constructed Project of SOS Children Home

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Governor Punjab Engineer Mohammad Balighur Rahman inaugurated the newly constructed project of SOS Children Home. On this occasion, the founder and president of SOS Children's Village Pakistan Ms. Soraya Anwar, former governor of Punjab and elected president of SOS Village Pakistan Shahid Hamid, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain Retired Saqib Zafar, Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khat-tak, Executive Vice President S. OS Village Mrs. Mahnaz Farid Sheikh, former Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana, Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir were also present. Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rahman visited the rooms, TV lounge, dining rooms



and other areas of SOS Children's Home.

Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rahman appreciated the facilities provided to the children. Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rahman also met the children in SOS Home and encouraged them. Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rahman also appreciated the construction

work and beauty of SOS Home. He said on this occasion that we all should actively participate in good and charitable works. SOS Home is an exemplary project and it is a great pleasure to see it. On this occasion, Mrs. Mehnaz Farid Sheikh said that SOS Village has been raising destitute and orphaned children for 25 years. The best education, health and other facilities are being provided

to the children in SOS Village. The efforts of all the personalities associated with SOS Village Multan are appreciable. Mrs. Mehnaz Farid Sheikh said that the establishment of S.O.S. Home will provide housing facilities to 80 such children who have only a single mother. The mother will be reunited with the children on weekends. Addressing the ceremony held in OS Village, he said that Allah Ta'ala gives various

trials to man in this world, but we all have to help such people in the society who are suffering from any difficulty.

Speaking at the event, Founder President SOS Village Surya Anwar spoke about the introduction, work and new projects of SOS Village and said that 62 projects of SOS Village have been completed and the 63rd project will also be completed tomorrow in Rawalkot. Ga and are going to start more projects in the backward areas. Executive Vice President Mahnaz Farid Sheikh gave a detailed briefing about SOS Multan. On this occasion, Governor Punjab Engineer Balighur Rahman was presented by SOS Village by Founder President Surya. Anwar, President-elect Shahid Hamid Executive Vice President Mehnaz Farid Sheikh presented the commemorative shield

# Wazir tribal Elders held a rally in Wana to express solidarity with Pak Army



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In the District of Lower South Waziristan Wana, to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army, the tribal elders took out a big rally, the body was attended by people of different schools of thought.

The participants had placards and banners in their hands on which slogans in favor of Pak Army were written.

Tribal elders Malik Bismillah Khan, Malik Jameel, Malik Azizullah, Malik Abidullah and Maulana Badshah Khan Wazir who participated in the rally raised slogans in favor of Pakistan Army and expressed solidarity with them.

The rally participants appreciated the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army for the country and the nation

and said that they will not compromise on the immense sacrifices of the Pakistan Army.

The attack of the miscreants on the cantonments of the Pakistan Army on May 9 is not enough to be condemned.

The rally participants said that the people and the Pak Army are on the same page for the sake of the country and the region

On May 9, the miscreants/followers of a political party attacked military installations and used offensive words against state institutions, which are not acceptable in any case and immediate action should be taken on the riots and the people involved should be severely punished, the government has been requesting that no concession be made to the planners.

# Rallies demonstrate solidarity with Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps in Peshawar

**Adam Khan Wazir**

PESHAWAR: In a powerful display of unity and support, different rallies led by former government officials from Peshawar & Khyber districts took place till Fort Balahisar, Peshawar. The rallies aimed to express unwavering solidarity with the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps, showcasing a remarkable turnout of former and present officials, local elders, residents and a significant number of youth. The participants of the rallies fervently chanted slogans in favour of the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps, demonstrating their utmost admiration for the brave soldiers. Carrying placards adorned with pro-Army and Frontier Corps messages, the attendees passionately expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the perseverance and patience exhibited by the soldiers of Frontier Corps North. In a unified voice, the rally participants vehemently condemned the attacks on defense



institutions' buildings that occurred on May

9. They urged the government to take decisive action against the individuals responsible for these acts of aggression, emphasizing the need for strict punishment. During the rallies, the speakers reiterated their unwavering commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army and other law enforcement agencies. They acknowledged the indelible sacrifices made by the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps in the pursuit of peace in the tribal districts. The rallies participants declared the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps as a source of immense pride and recognition for the tribal people. The rallies served as a powerful testament to the enduring bond between the people of tribal areas and the brave defenders of the nation. The unity showcased during the rallies serve as a resounding message of support, encouragement, and appreciation for the selfless efforts of the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps.

## Announcement

Everyone is hereby informed that Mr. Asim Shahzada resident of Wazirabad and Muhammad Kashif resident of Model Town Humak Islamabad. Due to the closure of Wazirabad Pakistan branch of KIBIZ CONSULTING GROUP Canada, they have been dismissed from their posts with immediate effect. No commercial or other transactions should be done with these persons, otherwise the institution will be not responsible in case of any loss or any of their transactions or words and actions.

**KIBIZ CONSULTING GROUP Canada**





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 3: 29 am  
Zohr ..... 12: 04 pm  
Asr ..... 4: 59 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7: 03 pm  
Isha ..... 8: 40 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
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Raja says the purpose of politics is to get rid of problems of country



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hamid Nawaz Raja, a public leader and the candidate of PP-12 provincial constituency of Punjab, while expressing his reaction to the order to prevent the arrest of Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan in any further case till May 31, said that it can only be regretted, I wish all Pakistanis would get this facility.

Hamid Nawaz Raja, the candidate of PP-12 constituency of Punjab, said that the purpose of politics is to get rid of the problems of the country and the people. Not to use people and institutions for their personal interests, the law should be equal for all. During the last few days, in the form of government property, the country has been damaged worth billions of rupees. Now is the time to put an end to the politics of personal interests. The people have to elect a genuine leadership capable of playing their effective role in taking the country on the path of development.

# Minister sets target to enroll 52,000 OOS children by June 30

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister Federal Education and Professional Training, and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Education Foundation (NEF), chaired a meeting of the Board. Esteemed board members, including senior officers from the Ministry of Education and Finance and renowned educationists attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain commended the NEF for its unwavering efforts in catering to the needs of Out of School Children (OOSC) in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). He also expressed satisfaction with the ongoing programs implemented for the disintegrated group of children in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and ICT and congratulate on successfully win the UNESCO project for training non-formal teachers.

Minister Rana Tanveer

Hussain highlighted the grave concern of OOSC of age 5-16 years in Pakistan, emphasizing that the country ranks at the bottom in this regard. Recognizing the severity of the challenge, the Ministry of Federal Education has launched the Zero OOSC Initiative in ICT. Under this initiative, allied departments of the Ministry, in collaboration with NGOs and the private sector, are actively working towards identifying and enrolling OOSC. He acknowledged the efforts of NEF in this regard.

The Minister set an ambitious target to enroll all OOSC in ICT, amounting to approximately 52,000 children, by June 30, 2023. To ensure retention for the children, Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain directed Ministry officials to allocate Rs. 200 million for two years to the NEF for the purpose of catering to the educational needs of OOSC in ICT.

Distinguished members of the board, including Prof. Dr. Nasir



Mehmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Ms. Fajar Rabia Pahsa, CEO of PAGE, Ms. Khadija Khan, CEO of PAEC, Ms. Munaza Gillani, CEO of Sightsavers, and others, expressed their appreciation for the Ministry's initiative and

efforts in tackling the issue of Out of School Children.

Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain also addressed the sorry state of the quality and applicability of education in Pakistan. He highlighted the unfortunate situation where numerous Ph.D. degree holders remain unemployed. Recognizing the global trend of investing in skills education for progress, the Ministry has prioritized skills education, quality of education, and addressing the OOSC crisis. Once all OOSC in ICT are enrolled in schools, a refined strategy will be implemented in other regions of the country.

Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain remains committed to providing accessible and quality education to every child in Pakistan. The Ministry's proactive initiatives, collaboration with stakeholders, and targeted investments will pave the way for a brighter future for the nation's youth.

## The future is hanging

ISLAMABAD: A van driver is hanging students bags behind the van, as due to the greed such drivers hire extra students, exceed of van capacity, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## The life of shopkeepers and daily wage workers has become miserable: Sheikh Waheed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of Merkazi Anjuman e Tajraan Liaquat Road, said that Demonstrations, processions, riots, indecent conversations, blocking roads, burning tires and daily violence have disrupted the life system, which I strongly condemn. The selfishness and infighting of politicians poor people, business community, hotel owners, The life of shopkeepers and daily wage laborers has been ruined.

In his important statement, Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that our businesses have been destroyed. During the protests, the life of the common man and the state are targeted because of their personal interests. Sheikh Waheed said that everyone is worried about themselves.

There is no peaceful situation for the people and traders, we are left helpless. The country is presenting the scenario of Beirut, we are also guilty of these situations. We elect the wrong people, who, after being elected by our vote, add to our problems instead of solving them. Today, which city or town of our country Pakistan is not safe from evil and corruption. If the people still do not take the fingernails of consciousness and do not choose the right leadership, then the conditions of the people will deteriorate further. In these circumstances, the business community has to unite so that our businesses can avoid further risk.

## PIDE & KIU 2 Days Conference Kicked Off

News Desk

GILGIT: PIDE, in collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) and Karakoram International University (KIU), organized a 02-Day Conference at the Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit.

Abdul Khalid Khurshid, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, while emphasizing the importance of the rule of Law for any societal development, said that Smallholder farmers in Gilgit-Baltistan play a vital role in the region's economy. However, to help them unlock their true potential, the regional government needs to introduce targeted measures to increase their productivity in terms of agriculture and livestock.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque Vice-Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, said that the 02 Days Conference on the Vision for Gilgit Baltistan is a unique opportunity to focus on the development of this region.

Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro VC of PIDE, explained the vision behind collaboration efforts under the banner of the PIDE Conference "Gilgit Baltistan Beyond Mountains."

Prof Dr. Atta Ullah Shah, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University (KIU), said that the vision for Gilgit-Baltistan should be to save the entire region's ecosystem.

Earlier, in his online address, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan said that the development of Gilgit Baltistan has been hindered by several obstacles, with poverty being the main issue. Poverty has led to a lack of access to essential services such as education and healthcare and has caused a decrease in economic opportunities. As a result, many people cannot rise above the subsistence level and escape poverty.

In the session of the "Charter of the Economy," speakers stated that it is essential that the focus be placed on rural development in GB. We always learn from people, so sit with the local people, discuss their issues and vision, and help them achieve that vision instead of coming up with it.

Panelists further stated that we don't have constitutional rights and that Gilgit Baltistan is the only region with no separation moments because it loves Pakistan.

The people of Gilgit Baltistan have always been sandwiched in political wars, and its economy is Zero.

# Mushaal fires a broadside on Modi for turning IIOJK into fortress, gigantic prison

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick fired a broadside on the notorious Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government for turning the occupied Kashmir into a fortress, military garrison and a gigantic prison; however, she vowed that brave Kashmiri people would leave no stone unturned to make G-20 summit a flopped show.

Mushaal, who is the wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said in a statement on Wednesday that notorious Indian government was holding G20 meeting in IIOJK aimed at diverting global attention from its illegal occupation of the scenic valley.

Moreover, she said that hindutva regime was organizing the event in the disputed region to hoodwink the world and divert attention from its atrocities and inhuman acts in the occupied territory.

She urged that Pakistan should approach all G-20 countries conveying its reserva-



tions over the holding G-20 meeting in the disputed region.

Mushaal stated that it was high time Pakistan should sensitize the G20 states about the state terrorism and rising human rights violations in IIOJK.

The Chairperson went on to say that Pakistani government should write to all the member countries of the group to boycott the summit because their participation in

the conference in a disputed region would send a wrong message that these states were siding with the oppressor and usurper.

She stated that besides deploying over one million troops, India was using its dreaded intelligence agencies and investigation institutions like National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate and State Investigation Agency to create panic, fear and intimidate Kashmiris ahead of G20 meetings in the territory.

The Hurriyat leader urged that 'Now is the time', the G20 countries "Boycott Kashmir Summit" should show same solidarity with Kashmiri people, who had been facing worst atrocities at the hand of the occupied forces for the last seven decades, the way they demonstrated with Ukraine in the face of Russian invasion.

Lashing out at the RSS-Inspired hindutva regime for killing a Kashmiri youth by an Indian goon in Saudi Arabia, she asked: "Indians are after our blood in Kashmir, India and the outside world. Is there any place where a Kashmiri should feel safe, completely?"

# Higher Tobacco Tax – More Govt. Revenues

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Health activists urged the government to remain steadfast on its decision of increasing tobacco taxation in order to generate more revenue for the national exchequer. During an event organized by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), health activists presented a Simulation Model on Tobacco Taxation which explained how increased tobacco taxation is a win-win situation for the government and people of Pakistan.

Malik Imran, Country Head, Campaign for tobacco-free kids (CTFK), mentioned that taxation is a key revenue source for any government and taxing non-essential items such as tobacco

must be taxed to maximum in order to ensure fiscal imbalance, so the national exchequer does not suffer by it. He mentioned that due to government's decision of increasing Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes in February 2023, an additional 11.3 billion FED revenue was obtained in fiscal year 2022-23 which is an increase of 9.7% from the previous year. Furthermore, an additional 4.4 billion VAT revenue was obtained in fiscal year 2022-23 which is an increase of 11.5% from the previous year. This additional 15.7 billion revenue makes up 0.201% of our GDP which is a significant boost for a struggling economy like Pakistan.

Imran mentioned that these self-explanatory figures reveal that increased taxation is bene-

ficial for economy but the tobacco industry misleads everyone by crying the illicit trade excuse. Imran added that the blown up figure of illicit trade is used to divert people from the under-reporting. These companies under-report their production and then sell their non-reported products in the illicit market, causing billions of loss to the national exchequer.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that tobacco is the largest silent killer in Pakistan as above 170,000 people die due to tobacco use each year. This pandemic also causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. He explained that increased prices



bring a decrease to production and consumption which decrease the health cost burden. According to the estimates, there has been 31.7% decline in declared production of cigarettes in fiscal

year 2022-23 compared to the previous year. Learning from this example, which is also recommended by World Health Organization, Pakistan should increase taxes on regular intervals so that

inflation and per capita income is accounted for and Pakistanis remain protected from harms of tobacco products.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC said that the

children of Pakistan are being targeted by the tobacco industry so that "replacement smokers" could be recruited. Around 1200 Pakistani children between ages of 6-15 years start smoking every day. He mentioned that on average Pakistani smokers spend 10% of their monthly income on cigarettes. Therefore increased prices remain the most effective tool in keeping these killer products away from spending power of children and low-income groups.

Khalil added that all stakeholders must cast their differences aside and unite to protect our children and youth from the harms of tobacco. Increasing tobacco taxes is such a step which should be regularly implemented.



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# Maritime Security Challenges: Pakistan

**Dr. Karim**

**Introduction:**

**M**aritime security is a critical aspect of a nation's security framework, particularly for countries with extensive coastlines and strategic maritime positions. Pakistan, with its long coastline along the Arabian Sea and its location at the crossroads of vital trade routes, faces a range of maritime security challenges. This essay aims to delve into the maritime security challenges faced by Pakistan, highlighting the factors that contribute to these challenges and the measures taken to address them.

**Piracy:**

One of the primary maritime security challenges for Pakistan is the threat of piracy. Pirates operate in the waters of the Arabian Sea, particularly in the Gulf of Aden, Strait of Hormuz, and near the Somali coast. Piracy not only poses a risk to seafarers' lives but also has significant economic implications. Commercial vessels, fishing boats, and even naval assets are targeted, leading to increased costs, disrupted trade, and a decline in maritime activities.

Pakistan has actively participated in international efforts to combat piracy. It has contributed naval forces to multinational task forces, such as Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) and Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), which focus on counter-piracy operations. These collaborative efforts, along with enhanced surveillance and intelligence sharing, have resulted in a reduction in piracy incidents in the region.

**Illegal Fishing:**

Illegal fishing is a major challenge to Pakistan's maritime security. Foreign fishing vessels often engage in unauthorized fishing activities in Pakistani waters, depleting fish stocks and undermining the livelihoods of local fishermen. This not only poses an ecological threat but also erodes Pakistan's maritime sovereignty.

To tackle this issue, Pakistan has taken steps to strengthen its maritime enforcement capabilities. It has increased patrols and surveillance in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and established joint maritime patrols with neighboring countries to deter illegal fishing activities. Additionally, the country has implemented stricter regulations and laws against illegal fishing, including imposing heavier fines and penalties on violators.

**Smuggling and Trafficking:**

Pakistan's coastline provides opportunities for various illegal activities, including drug smuggling, arms trafficking, and human trafficking. Criminal networks exploit weak enforcement capabilities and use maritime routes to transport contraband, thereby posing a significant challenge to maritime security.

To address these challenges, Pakistan has been working to enhance its maritime law enforcement capabilities. It has improved coordination among relevant agencies, such as the Pakistan Navy, Coast Guard, and Maritime Security Agency, to conduct joint operations and intelligence sharing. Furthermore, Pakistan has established dedicated maritime security units and implemented stricter border control measures to curb smuggling and trafficking activities.

**Border Disputes:**

Pakistan has territorial disputes with

neighboring countries, primarily India, over control of certain maritime areas. The Sir Creek region in the Arabian Sea is a notable example. These disputes contribute to tensions and potential conflicts, thereby impacting maritime security in the region.

Efforts to resolve border disputes through diplomatic means are essential for maintaining maritime security. Pakistan has engaged in bilateral dialogues and negotiations with India to address the Sir Creek dispute. However, the resolution of border disputes requires sustained diplomatic efforts and mutual cooperation between the parties involved.

**Maritime Terrorism:**

The threat of maritime terrorism is another significant challenge faced by Pakistan. Terrorist organizations have been known to exploit maritime routes for their activities, including attacks on ports, coastal infrastructure, and commercial vessels. Such attacks can disrupt trade, create fear among the population, and inflict severe economic damage.

Pakistan has been actively countering maritime terrorism through a multi-faceted approach. It has strengthened its coastal security by deploying additional security forces, improving surveillance systems, and implementing stringent security measures at ports and other critical maritime infrastructure. Collaboration with international partners in intelligence sharing and capacity building initiatives has further enhanced Pakistan's ability to counter maritime terrorism.

**Capacity and Infrastructure**

Pakistan faces challenges concerning limited maritime enforcement capabilities and infrastructure. Insufficient patrol vessels, maritime aircraft, and

surveillance technologies hinder effective monitoring and security of its maritime domain. Inadequate port facilities and coastal surveillance systems also pose challenges to maritime security.

To address these capacity and infrastructure gaps, Pakistan has been investing in the modernization and expansion of its naval fleet. The acquisition of advanced surveillance technologies, such as maritime patrol aircraft and coastal radars, has significantly enhanced the country's maritime domain awareness. Furthermore, Pakistan has undertaken initiatives to develop and upgrade its port facilities, including the deep-sea port of Gwadar, which has the potential to become a major economic hub in the region.

**Conclusion:**

Maritime security challenges in Pakistan encompass a range of issues, including piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling and trafficking, border disputes, maritime terrorism, and capacity and infrastructure limitations. Pakistan has recognized the significance of these challenges and has been actively working to address them through various measures. Strengthening naval capabilities, participating in international counter-piracy efforts, improving maritime law enforcement, engaging in diplomatic dialogues to resolve border disputes, countering maritime terrorism, and investing in capacity and infrastructure development are essential steps taken by Pakistan to enhance maritime security. Continued collaboration with regional and international stakeholders is crucial for effectively addressing these challenges and ensuring a secure and stable maritime environment for Pakistan and the broader region.

## Retired teachers of ICT schools struggle for their pending dues

**R**etired teachers from various colleges of Islamabad under the ambit of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) find themselves caught in a distressing situation as they face difficulties in obtaining their pending dues, including the grant of traveling allowance (TA) on retirement and house rental ceiling.

Despite years of selfless service to the federal department and the nation, these educators have been left disappointed and disheartened by the callous attitude displayed by the authorities.

Inam Ellahi, a retired Associate Professor of Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8, who served for about 30 years in different ICT colleges, while sharing his concerns told APP, "I retired in August 2022, and it's now May 2023, but my pending grant of TA has not been cleared by the FDE. Additionally, my rental ceiling remains unpaid for a year. It would have been a fitting gesture if retired teachers were given their dues before retirement, but unfortunately, nobody seems to care."

Professor Azhar Ali Abbasi who got retirement in August 2022 expressed similar sentiments, revealing that he had also been denied his rental ceiling.

Dr Mehboobullah, retired from Islamabad Model College for Boys H-9 seven months ago, expressed his worry over his weak financial position, stating, "Despite paying a monthly rent of Rs 75,000 from my pocket, the department has not contributed its share of rental ceiling for over a year. This has put me under immense financial strain as I continue to reside in a rented house at Sector I-10/2."

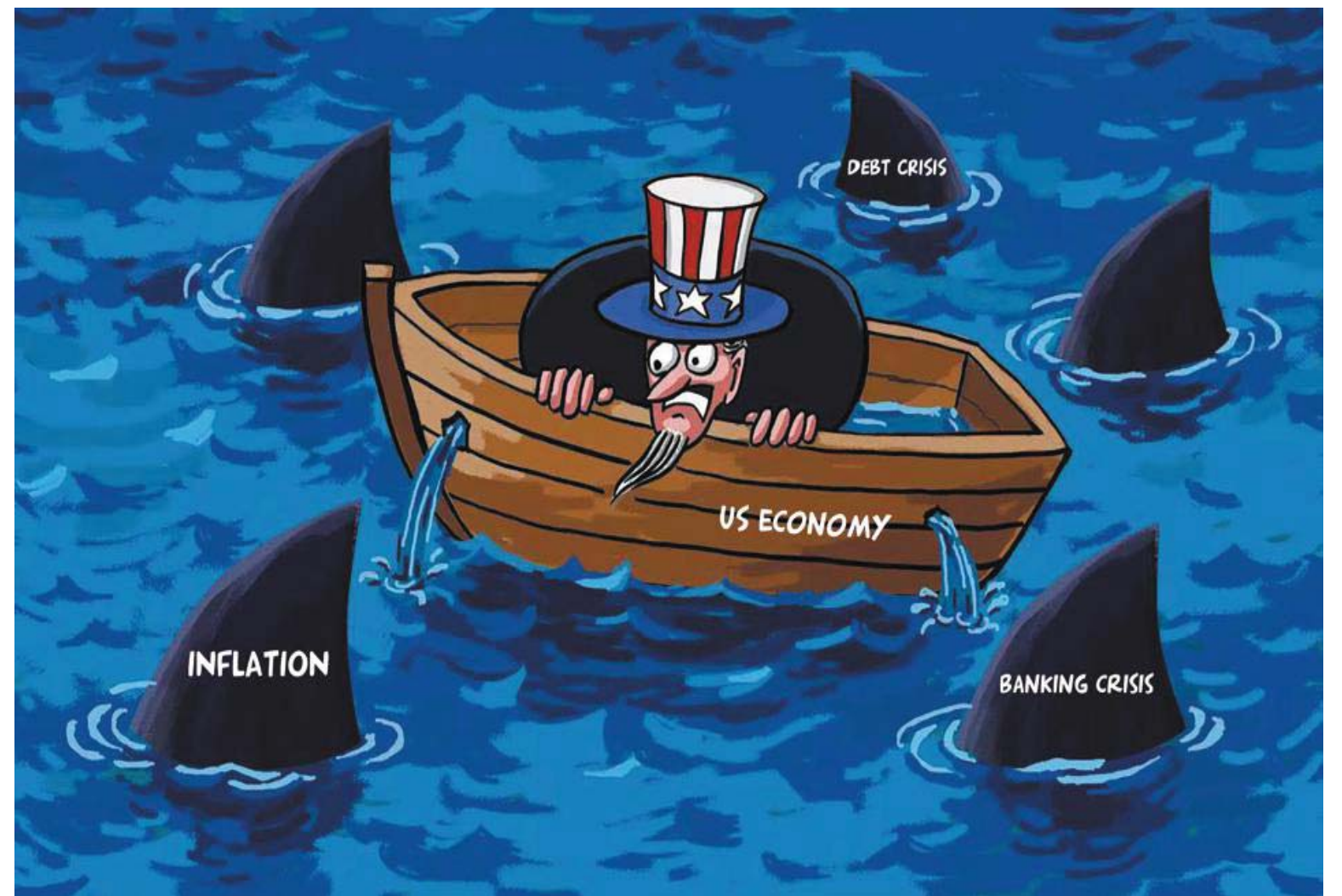
Professor Iftikhar Ahmed, who was retired from Islamabad Model Postgraduate College of Commerce H-8/4, shared a similar complaint regarding the non-payment of his rental ceiling for 19 months.

A retired female associate professor said that teachers were considered the builders of the nation, yet when it comes to rewarding their dedication, the FDE displayed a callous attitude, which was deeply disappointing. The retired teachers deserve timely and fair compensation for their services. By neglecting their pending dues, the FDE not only undermines the value of their services but also perpetuates financial distress among retired teachers.

She urged the Education Minister to intervene and address their issues. She believed that it was the responsibility of the ministry to ensure that retired teachers receive their entitled benefits in a timely manner, considering their invaluable contribution to the education system and the nation as a whole.

When contacted, official sources of FDE informed APP that the Directorate is facing acute shortage under house ceiling which was about Rs. 2.5 billions. To clear the said liability, the FDE has submitted a request to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, while the Education Ministry has submitted a summary to the Finance Division in that regard.

As and when Finance Division approved the summary, the liabilities will be paid, accordingly, he added.



## Modern brick-kilns; a profitable, healthier and socially responsible industry

**Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali**

**A**mong others, air pollution is perhaps the most pressing global environmental issue deteriorating public health and economies, especially in developing countries including Pakistan.

In order to eradicate this hazard, a lot of countries are taking concrete measures such as introducing no-car zones (in specific areas) by providing better public transport and avoiding reliance on cars.

Likewise, globally, environmental and climate experts are bringing together brick producers, public policy officials and experts to achieve a substantial reduction of black carbon and hazardous emissions from the brick kilns by transforming them into a more profitable, healthier and socially responsible Zigzag technology industry.

Zigzag technology is a new method of firing bricks in a kiln that uses a modern design to reduce Carbon and Sulfur emissions of pollutant particles, making it efficient.

In this technology, the bricks are arranged in a zigzag pattern. Flue gas recirculates through the bricks, which leads to a more efficient burning process.

According to the World Air Quality Index, Pakistan, unfortunately, has ranked as one of the world's most polluted countries, however, the incumbent government is making various considerable efforts to protect the environment.

Conversion of brick kilns, across the province of Punjab, into zigzag technology which is more environmentally and eco-friendly than traditional brick kilns is a good omen in this regard.

Environment Protection Department Director Naseem Ur Rehman told to media that Punjab was home to approximately 7,896 brick kilns,

mostly located near or inside urban areas.

He said with Punjab province completely converting to zigzag technology, the air index quality could further be improved if all the remaining kilns in the country were also shifted to a similar technology design.

"This new technology reduces these toxic carbon emissions by 60 percent and also saves 30 percent of energy," Naseem added.

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data reveals that the country has around 20,000 traditional brick kilns, which are mostly located in and around urban areas and use fuels that after burning emit lethal emissions including black carbon soot and gasses, contributing significantly to climate change and air pollution.

Due to increased smog during the months of September and October, the Punjab Government didn't allow the owners of Fixed Chimney Bulls Trench Kiln (FCBTK) to run their kilns resulting in the loss of millions of rupees.

The traditional brick-making method is mostly used in Pakistan for hand-made bricks, which are baked in Fixed Chimney Bull's Trench Kilns.

This method is one of the most polluting ways to produce bricks, responsible for many social and environmental issues including climate change, air pollution, deforestation, land use impacts, cardio-respiratory diseases and deforestation.

Dr Mahmood Khalid Qamar, a noted environmentalist told to media that different types of fuel burning make it difficult to identify exactly the formulation of air pollutants emitted by the brick-kiln sector.

"Nonetheless, these intoxicated pollutants are extremely hazardous for both human health and biodiversity, as they are mostly made up of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide (CO2), nitrogen dioxide and sulfur oxides," he informed.

Brick-making using the traditional method had a lot of adverse effects which was why it had become obsolete in advanced countries.

The black smoke emerging from the top of the chimney was a result of incomplete combustion releasing more toxic gases containing carbon in the air, Dr Mahmood added.

As a result of incomplete combustion, air pollutants like Sulphur Oxides, Carbon Monoxide, Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Nitrogen Dioxide, forms of particulate matter (PM) including black carbon, and additional compounds produced by burning coal and other fuels were exposed to the environment, he elaborated.

The National Energy Efficient Conservation Authority (NEECA) and Environment Protection Department Punjab (EPD, Punjab) were working with the All Brick-Kiln Owners Association (ABKOA) of Pakistan to introduce environment-friendly and cost-effective brick-kiln technology, said Shoaib Khan Niazi, President All Bricks Kiln Owners Association.

Moreover, EPD, Punjab was also working with the National Energy Efficient Conversation Authority and All Brick Kiln Owners Association of Pakistan in that regard, he added.

Niazi informed that the project was being facilitated and supported by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Previously, these kilns were using energy from fossil fuels which have a huge injurious impact on the nearby urban or rural population. "Kilns established closer to cities and villages increase the chances of cardio-respiratory and vascular diseases," said Pulmonologist Dr Zeeshan Ali of Jinnah Hospital.

Rubber, coal and shoe soles were among the major sources of fuel to run these Kilns which inevitably cause carbon emissions having a damaging impact on climate, he said, adding in hilly areas the black mass evolving from the kiln-chimneys was black carbon which when quotes a layer of snow, increase its melting rate manifolds.

## 'Remedy for Hatred of Murderous Thoughts'-I

**W**e greatly desired to collect the pearls of justice with the support of wisdom and knowledge individually and collectively.

Waive the phenomena "The Love of Power" certainly this vortex will end in smoke & on track with Quaid's Motto, "Unity, Faith & Discipline."

Then recollect without wasting the time that the Prophet (PBUH) practically applied the sense of equality and brotherhood that He (peace be upon him) established among members of the Islamic Society, even on himself.

And I ordered you to be just between yourselves Surah Ash-Shura: 15.

When the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was inspecting the rows of the Companions before the battle of Badr; the past one Companion that was slightly protruding from the line, so the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) pushed him back to be in line with the others. As a result, the man left complaining about this and wanted to take retribution from the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet (peace be upon him) allowed the man to take retribution from him. Consequently, the Companion asked the Prophet to uncover his stomach in order to retaliate. The Prophet complying with the Companions' wishes shows how He (peace be upon him) was a physical representation of great justice with both his relatives and non-relatives; a justice that is based on the truth and gives people their rights. But all the Companion did was to embrace the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and kiss his stomach; the Companion wanted that to be the last thing he did before entering the battle. Therefore, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) supplicated Allah for the Companion to receive good.

During the battle of Badr; three of us would have one camel to ride. Abu Lubabah and Ali ibn Abu Talib were with the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), and it was the Messenger of Allah's turn to walk. Consequently, the other two said, 'We will walk instead of you and let you ride.' The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, 'You two are not stronger than me, and I am not in less need of rewards than you,' related by Ahmed.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) disliked to receive different treatment from his Companions, and wanted to bear the same difficulties and hardships as them; moreover, he gave this reply to make sure justice was upheld and all were treated equally.

**Prophet Muhammad's justice, even against his close relatives**

The story of the woman from Bani Mukhzum who stole highlights this point. Her family sought the help of Usama ibn Zaid in order for him to intercede for them with the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him). But the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) did not accept such intercession, replying with words that history has preserved for all time.

What destroyed the nations before you, was that if a noble amongst them stole, they would forgive him, and if a poor person amongst them stole, they would inflict Allah's legal punishment on him. By Allah, if Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad, stole, I would cut off her hand related by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

**Prophet Muhammad's justice, even against his Companions**

One of the Muslims called Ta'mah stole a shield from his Muslim neighbour. The shield was in a bag of flour and a track of flour fell from a hole in the bag until it stopped at a house.

*To be Continued*





# Palestine's Abbas calls on UN to 'suspend' Israel as Nakba marked

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas insists that Israel must respect UN resolutions on Palestine or cease as a UN member.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has urged the United Nations to suspend Israel's membership in the world body unless it ends its aggression against Palestinians and implements UN resolutions establishing separate Israeli and Palestinian states as well as the return of Palestinian refugees.

Abbas spoke on Monday during the first official UN commemoration of the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from what is now Israel amid the violence of the partition of Palestine 75 years ago.

More than 760,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in 1948 when Israel was created, an event Palestinians call Nakba — or catastrophe — and marked each year on May 15.

In an hourlong emotion-filled



speech, Abbas asked the world's nations why more than 1,000 resolutions adopted by UN bodies regarding the Palestinians had never been implemented.

He held up a letter from Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Sharett, after resolutions were adopted in 1947 and 1948 promising to implement them and said: "Either they do respect these obligations, or they stop becoming a member."

"We demand today officially, in accordance with international law and international resolutions, to make sure that Israel respects these resolutions or suspend Israel's membership of the UN," Abbas said in his speech.

Abbas accused Israel of having "never fulfilled its obligations and the prerequisites for its membership" of the United Nations.

The Palestinian president counted "around 1,000 resolutions" adopted

by the UN General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council related to Israel. "To date, not one single resolution was implemented," he said.

Abbas added that Nakba "did not start in 1948 and it did not stop after that date".

"Israel, the occupying power, continues its occupation and its aggression against the Palestinian people and continues to deny this Nakba and rejects international resolutions regarding the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland," he said. There are 5.9 million Palestinian refugees living in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, according to the UN.

The UN is commemorating Nakba at its headquarters in New York City this year for the first time after a resolution was passed in November.

UN member states expressed support for the Palestinian people and their cause on social media.

## NA Deputy Speaker Calls on Deputy Chairman of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan in Baku



Spokesman Report

AZERBAIJAN: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Mr. Zahid Akram Durrani called on Mr. Adil Abish Oglu Aliyev, Deputy Chairman of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan in Baku today, while paying tribute to national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, he emphasized strengthening of Pak-Azerbaijan ties. It is pertinent to mention that Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani is on official visit to Azerbaijan to attend the 100th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev's birth in Azerbaijan.

Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani also conveyed warm greetings and good wishes from the people of Pakistan, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He paid tribute to Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of Azerbaijan, acknowledging his exceptional contributions to the progress and development of his country. Heydar Aliyev's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to his people were emphasized by Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani. He highlighted the National Leader's instrumental role in steering Azerbaijan towards progress and prosperity, fortifying its economy, and establishing an efficient public administration.

During the meeting Deputy Speaker Mr. Zahid Akram Durrani also said that Parliament to Parliament contacts would enhance businesses and trade opportunities between both countries. He also said that Azerbaijan as central Asian country can take benefits from Deep sea routes for enhancing their international trade. He also expressed gratitude to deputy Chairman for participating in international constitutional convention in connection with Golden jubilee celebration of constitution.

Mr. Adil while extending his gratitude, said Azerbaijan always intended to promote trade relations between nations. He also stressed on the need to play pivotal role as Parliamentarian to bring both countries people closer. He also informed that traders and businessmen are keen to invest in Pakistan and he is looking forward for easy process of business. He also said that Azerbaijan people love people of Pakistan with core of their heart as Pakistani people always supported Azerbaijan.

# Pakistani PM, Iranian president to jointly open border market, electricity line

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with some other top officials from the two countries, will attend at the common border line of the two neighbouring countries on 18th May, 2023 in order to jointly inaugurate the two important projects

of Pishin-Mand Joint Border Marketplace and Polan-Gabed Power Transmission Line.

Per as the determination of the authorities of the two countries and according to the agreement made previously, the two projects were under the process of construction and presently ready to be inaugurated officially. The historic meeting of the officials of the two countries takes place in a great day for the people of the two countries particularly the



residents of the border regions of the two sides.

According to the neighbourly approach of the Iranian government, priority is given to the expansion and development of the all-out relations and ties, especially in the economic and trade spheres, with the neighbouring countries including Pakistan. Now this engagement is realised in view of the firm determination of the authorities of the two countries to boost trade and enhance cooperation in all areas.



Jinnah House, Lahore



Police Mobile



GHQ, Rawalpindi



Historic Air Force Jet, Mianwali



Martyrs Monument, Sargodha

# 9th May Black Day



Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Statue, Mardan



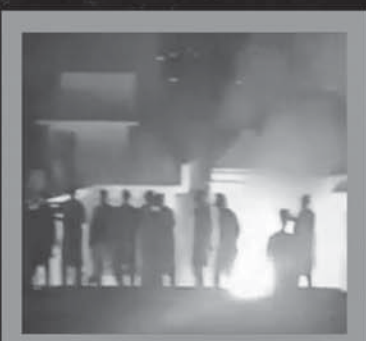
Chaghi Model, Peshawar



Edhi Ambulance, Peshawar



Radio Pakistan, Peshawar



FC School, Timergara



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



#SayNoTo9thMay

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\*Published in Public Interest



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,833.66	42,006.24
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,110.03	41,818.33
Index Value	Change
2,910,506,896	-172.58
Percentage	Time
-0.41%	17 May, 2023 5: 00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,723.23	-27.85
Percentage	Time
-0.36%	17 May, 4: 35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,421.85	+409.71
Percentage	Time
+1.24%	17 May, 1: 28 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,093.59	+250.60
Percentage	Time
+0.84%	17 May, 3: 15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Bahrain Dinar	777.88	785.88
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2
China Yuan	42.07	42.47
Danish Krone	42.7	43.1
Euro	318	321
Hong Kong Dollar	37.31	37.66
Indian Rupee	3.56	3.67
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	952.27	961.27
Malaysian Ringgit	65.03	65.63
New Zealand \$	182.07	184.07
Norwegians Krone	27.57	27.87
Omani Riyal	760.2	768.2
Qatari Riyal	80.35	81.05
Saudi Riyal	78.5	79.3
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	28.25	28.55
Swiss Franc	326.82	329.32
Thai Bhat	8.66	8.81
U.A.E Dirham	80.5	81.4
UK Pound Sterling	366	369
US Dollar	292	296

# Our armed forces are a national pride: 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 attacks and violent incidents on military installations, martyr memorials, and private and national properties on May 9 are very alarming.

The rioters involved in these attacks and the politicians behind them do not deserve any concession, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the amount of damages, which according to the initial estimate is around 60 billion rupees, should also be recovered from these miscreants and their patrons and any kind of restraint should not



be shown to deal with such terrorists in future. Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that the entire nation and the armed forces are suffering from grief over the events of May 9 and it had a very negative effect on the morale of the army.

The hostile nations are very happy over such gory events in Pakistan which they think is part of their unholy agenda against Pakistan.

Therefore, he said, we fully support the decisions made in the special conference of the National Security Council and Corps Commanders to punish the culprits.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that no one can be allowed to go to this extent for his alleged personal and political purposes. Anarchy is being fueled by propaganda against the military leadership which aims to create a rift between the people and the army.

It is necessary to deal with all the traitors, at home and abroad, with iron hands, while the

propaganda of the enemy should be defeated with the support of the people.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that it has become necessary to expose and crush the forces active in bringing unrest and disorder to the country so that the affairs of the country can be corrected and the economy can be improved.

No political organization can do such treatment to those who risked their lives to protect the geographical and ideological borders of the country, but only a terrorist organization can do it, therefore, after a wider and more transparent investigation, justice should be done in a way that deters people from doing so in future.

Without justice the economic and democratic stability in the country is impossible, he said.

## Yango ride-hailing service app commences testing in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Yango, the international online ride-hailing service and an established player in the mobility sector on a global scale, is starting its testing phase in Pakistan.

Expanding broadly throughout Europe, Middle East and Latin America including UAE, Norway, Finland, Bolivia, Peru, Morocco, Algeria and having secured a prominent position in Sub-Saharan Africa, Yango turned its view to South Asia. The service has ambitions to continue developing in the region.

With over 20 countries already covered worldwide, Yango is excited to introduce its modern, safe, and affordable ride-hailing solution to the dynamic Pakistani economy.

"Launching Yango's test run in Pakistan has generated immense excitement. Our business model thrives on collaborating with local enterprises, aspiring to create economic opportunities and enhance the transport infrastructure in Lahore and beyond. As we kick off this trial phase, feedback from users and drivers will be crucial



in optimizing our services, catering to the Pakistani market's specific needs," observed Adeniyi Adebayo, Yango's Chief Business Development Officer.

Adebayo further noted, "By prioritizing comfort, safety, and affordability, we're addressing the growing demand of the local community. Yango has incorporated

advanced security features and technology to facilitate a seamless and enjoyable ride experience for users and drivers alike. As our service continues to make waves across the globe, expanding into Pakistan is a strategically sound move for Yango, and we're keen to meet the high expectations of the country's discerning population."

## Seasonal fruit Lychee

KARACHI: A vendor is arranging and displaying seasonal fruit (lychee) to keep fresh at his roadside setup, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Political chaos, economic crisis led the country to catastrophic losses: Humayun Sayeed

**Commerce Desk**

LONDON: Convener Standing Committee FPCCI for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Investment and former Vice President FPCCI Sheikh Humayun Sayeed strongly condemned the recent wave of unrest in the country and the attacks by miscreants on the sensitive Army historical places and government facilities including the public properties in the country.

## Punjab Govt to expedite ICCI Industrial Estate project

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Punjab's Industry and Commerce Minister S.M. Tanveer said that on his instructions, Punjab Industrial Estate Management and Development Company has identified four places for establishment of industrial estate by ICCI and stressed that the Chamber should finalize one of them to expedite the completion of industrial estate project. He said this while addressing the business community at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

S.M. Tanveer said that promoting industrialization, enhancing exports, increasing remittances and development of agriculture will have to be focused to revive the economy. He said that Pakistan has immense potential for development and product development with the help of professionals is being focused on to improve exports. He said that he is also working



on various initiatives for economic empowerment of women.

Punjab's Excise & Communications Minister Bilal Afzal said that due to his efforts, funds have been released for the rehabilitation of Kahuta Road, while other roads covering 2600 kilometers will also be repaired.

United Business Group Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik said that his group

will bring forward young business leaders from the platform of FPCCI so that they can play their effective role in the economic development of the country. He was confident that UBG will win the upcoming elections of FPCCI.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in his address, stressed that at least 10-year economic policies

should be formulated for the better promotion of business and investment, because the continuity of policies is very important for the development of the economy. He said that successful business leaders of the country should be inducted in the federal and provincial cabinets so that they can play their role in improving the economy. He said that the business community can bring

the economy out of the current crisis with unity and consensus.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that to increase exports, Pakistan has to focus on product development and stressed that the government should cooperate with the private sector in this regard.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that S.M. Tanveer is

very active in solving the problems, so the business community should take full advantage of his services.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, group leader stressed the importance of industrialization and hoped that the industrial estate project of ICCI would be completed soon with the support of the Punjab Government.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President and Secretary General UBG, said that the government spends billions of dollars on imports every year, while we need to promote exports better, so the government should focus on imports substitutions to improve the economy.

Aamir Atta Bajwa, Jawad Kazmi, Malik Manzoor, Chaudhry Mukhtar, Khalid Javed, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ajamal Baloch, Shahid Ghafoor Pracha, President of Rawalpindi Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon and others also spoke on the occasion and gave useful suggestions to revive the economy.

## SECP amends NBFC Regulations to adapt to new technologies

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has revised the Non-Banking Finance Companies and Notified Entities Regulations, 2008, with a view to promote the development of the digital financial environment and financial inclusion.

The SECP has carried out a thorough analysis of current regulations to remove redundancies and exercised broad public consultation to propose amendments in the regulations. The focus was to address market requirements, provide ease of doing business through digitalization, and protect the interests of NBFCs' customers.

For the introduction of digital fund management, lending platforms, and trustee services, enabling provisions have been made. These provisions are designed to make it easier for digital technologies to be used in order to increase accessibility, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness.

Amendments have been introduced to ensure AMCs will inform unitholders of account activity and keep client information confidential, as well as a time frame for dividend distributions

and provisions for borrower protection for lending NBFCs have been introduced.

Investment Advisors are allowed to offer portfolio management services to any investor, but must formulate a risk management policy and contingency plan approved by their Board of Directors for better risk management, accountability, board oversight, and client protection.

Non-deposit-taking NBFCs have been given greater flexibility in determining their exposure limits, as the total unsecured exposure limit of 100% of equity has been removed. Additionally, new licensed lending NBFCs have been given one year to meet the minimum investment requirement in their core businesses. Further, the time to file CEO applications has been extended from 10 days to 30 days.

The procedures have been simplified by eliminating redundant provisions and expressions and introducing a consolidated fit and proper criterion, affidavit, or undertaking. The application of Fit & Proper Criteria has been made necessary for pension fund managers (insurance companies).

## PepsiCo and WWF completed watershed recharging project in Haripur



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan has successfully completed an inclusive Water Replenishment Project for community access to clean water in partnership with WWF-Pakistan in Hattar, District Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under this multi-stakeholder project, the company has constructed four groundwater recharge wells with University of Haripur and University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Taxila. The project's total recharge capacity is 8,400 m<sup>3</sup> and it galvanizes PepsiCo Pakistan's goal to empower communities with replenishment and sustainable use of water resources. The project comes under the PepsiCo Positive (pep+) sustainability agenda of PepsiCo Pakistan, which includes water conservation and doing good for people and the planet.

This knowledge exchange initiative provides a robust mechanism and roadmap to empower the students at the University of Haripur and UET Taxila so they can continue working on sustainable water use solutions for their community. The students have actively taken part in implementa-

tion phase of the project with experts from WWF-Pakistan. It has also brought the community at large together as beneficiaries since it will supply access to clean and safe water to community members.

To mark this achievement Yaser Ghani, VP Ops PepsiCo Global Concentrate Solutions (PGCS), Professor Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Khan Babar, Vice Chancellor of UET Taxila, and Head of the Environmental Engineering Department of UET Taxila came together with the faculty members, PGCS Hattar management, WWF team and the students to celebrate this achievement for reviving the local aquifer for the entire community.

Speaking at the occasion, Yaser Ghani said, "This project represents a significant milestone towards PepsiCo's Net Water Positive Vision, which aims to replenish more water than we consume by 2030. But this project is more than just a milestone. It is a testament to our commitment to sustainability and we could not have accomplished it without the support of our partners and stakeholders who are united for tangible change and community uplift."



# Pakistan's top climber Shehroze Kashif summits Mount Dhaulagiri and sets a world record

By Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The young Pakistani top mountaineer Shehroze Kashif has successfully summited Mount Dhaulagiri which is the 7th highest peak in the world at 8167 meters above sea level. After scaling Dhaulagiri, he has now become the youngest Pakistani mountaineer to have summited the 12 highest mountains of the world. Once again, this expedition is sponsored by BARD Foundation. He also recently summited Annapurna I, the world's 10th-highest mountain.

"I aim to promote the sport of mountain climbing by generating opportunities for the youth to fulfill their dreams and passion in the same field", says Shehroze. He spoke about his unstoppable desire to scale maximum highest peaks in the world, ultimately setting a world record as the youngest mountaineer to have summited all 14 highest peaks of the world. He has also expressed his profound gratitude and



respect for BARD Foundation, which is helping him pursue his dreams without any financial obstacles.

Shehroze started his journey at the age of 11 when he first summited Makra Peak (3,885 m). He also became the youngest Pakistani climber in the world by successfully climbing both Mount Everest and K2 at the age of 19 in 2021. His mission is to become the youngest in the world to climb all 14 peaks.

The Managing Director of BARD Foundation Mehreen Dawood said, "Our heart is bursting with joy to see Shehroze's enthusiasm. BARD Foundation is immensely proud to have such an association with Shehroze. His remarkable achievements and thirst to keep moving forward serve as a beacon of hope and he is an inspiration to other young people who aspire to follow their passion and fulfill their ambition, particularly in mountain climbing. Each stride

towards his goal fills us with a sense of accomplishment and success, inspiring us to pursue our own goals. As he sets out on new adventures, we vow to continue providing our unwavering support and assistance in every possible way."

BARD Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

## PCB unveils details of Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament

By Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan's best women cricketers will be in action in the City of Lights, Karachi, from Friday, 19 May, in the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament 2022-23.

Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament has been designed to provide maximum matches to these cricketers and will be played in two iterations – in the first, four sides will play T20 matches on round-robin basis and three teams will play one-day matches on double round-robin basis with the final on 4 June.

The first phase of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament will see probabilities for ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup – to be played in Hong Kong in June – showcase their skills, talent and get the desired match practice in challenging conditions under the banner of Strikers. The team will be captained by Pakistan ace



fast bowler Fatima Sana.

The other three sides are Blasters, captained by Muneeba Ali, Pakistan's only batter to score a century in T20s, Challengers, led by left-arm orthodox Sadia Iqbal, and Dynamites, skippered by right-handed top-order batter Sidra Amin.

These six T20 matches will be played from 19 to 21 May at Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre Oval Ground and State Bank Ground.

From 23 May, Blasters, Challengers and Dynamites will feature in the 50-over

behind holding the tournament in two phases, Head of Women's Cricket, Tania Mallick said: "I am thrilled to announce the upcoming Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament in Karachi. This is a fantastic opportunity for our talented women cricketers to showcase their skills and compete against each other."

"We have planned the tournament in two phases to offer a diverse range of formats and challenges to the players. The first phase will feature four teams playing in the T20 format, providing valuable experience and preparation for our Pakistan Emerging team players, who will represent us in the Emerging ACC Women's T20 Tournament later next month."

"The second phase of the tournament will see three teams competing in the one-day format, and I am confident that this phase will offer high-quality cricket and thrilling competition."

## Squads for the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament

**BLASTERS:** Muneeba Ali (captain), Aleena Shah, Anam Amin, Asma Amin, Ayesha Bilal, Ayesha Javed, Ayesha Zafar, Diana Baig, Fajar Naveed, Iram Javed, Kainat Imtiaz, Saba Nazir, Saqia Riaz, Zaib-un-Nisa and Zunera Shah

**Support staff:** Mauhtashim Rashid (head coach), Nahida Bibi (assistant coach), Qurat ul Ain Kazmi (manager) and Areesha Anwar (physiotherapist)

**Challengers:** Sadia Iqbal (captain), Aima Saleem, Amber Kainat, Areesha Noor, Fareeha Mehmood, Fatima Zehra, Huraina Sajjad, Javeria Khan, Javeria Rauf, Kaynat Hafeez, Maham Tariq, Masooma Zehra, Noreen Yaqoob, Saima Malik

and Warda Yousaf

**Support staff:** Taufeeq Umar (head coach), Hajra Sarwar (assistant coach), Shagufta Kazim (manager) and Bisma Ahmed (Physiotherapist)

**Dynamites:** Sidra Amin (captain), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Fatima Shahid, Ghulam Fatima, Humna Bilal, Khadija Chishti, Laiba Nasir, Maham Manzoor, Nashra Sundhu, Omnia Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sidra Navaz, Waheeda Akhtar and Yusra Amir

**Support staff:** Waseem Yousafi (head coach), Rehmat Gull (assistant coach), Saira Iftikhar (manager) and Ammara Fatima (physiotherapist)

**Strikers:** Fatima Sana

(captain), Anoosha Nasir, Dua Majid, Eymen Fatima, Fatima Khan, Gull Feroza, Gulrukh, Lubna Behram, Najiha Alvi, Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Shawaal Zulfikar, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tuba Hassan and Umm-e-Hani

**Support staff:** Mohsin Kamal (head coach), Muhammad Kamran (assistant coach), Aisha Jalil (manager) and Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist)

**Tournament schedule (matches to start at 9am):**  
First phase (T20 format)  
19 May – Dynamites vs Blasters, State Bank Ground  
Challengers vs Strikers, Oval Academy Ground.  
20 May – Dynamites vs Challengers, State Bank Ground

**Blasters vs Strikers, Oval Academy Ground.**

21 May – Dynamites vs Strikers, State Bank Ground

**Blasters vs Challengers, Oval Academy Ground.**

**Second phase (50-over format)**

23 May – Blasters vs Dynamites, State Bank Ground

25 May – Blasters vs Challengers, State Bank Ground

27 May – Dynamites vs Challengers, State Bank Ground

29 May – Dynamites vs Blasters, State Bank Ground

31 May – Challengers vs Blasters, State Bank Ground

2 June – Challengers vs Dynamites, State Bank Ground

4 June – Final, State Bank Ground

## Mountaineer Naila Kiani to be awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz

In recognition of her achievement in successfully summiting the world's highest peak Mount Everest, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday approved the conferment of civil award Sitara-i-Imtiaz on renowned mountaineer Naila Kiani.

Kiani Sunday summited Mount Everest – becoming the second Pakistani woman to raise the country's flag at the world's highest peak. Samina Baig was the first woman mountaineer from Pakistan to scale the mighty Everest in 2013.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a notification, containing the prime minister's approval for the conferment of the award on the mountaineer.

The PM Office has directed the cabinet secretary to complete all the formalities in this regard.

Earlier, the PM had announced to confer Sitara-i-Imtiaz on Kiani as she brought laurels to Pakistan, through her achievement.

It is pertinent to mention here that Kiani – just two days after summiting the world's highest mountain Everest – Tuesday morning became the first Pakistani woman to summit six 8,000-meter mountains after she successfully scaled Mount Lhotse in Nepal.

Lhotse is the fourth highest mountain in the world at 8,516 metres, after Mount Everest, K2, and Kangchenjunga.

## Djokovic sets up rematch with Rune in Italian Open quarter-finals



Novak Djokovic advances to the Italian Open quarter-finals after defeating Cameron Norrie with ease, but the match was not without some tension.

Djokovic will face Holger Rune, a rematch of last year's Paris Masters final. Djokovic, a six-time clay champion in Rome, has a good chance of winning another title as the world number one, Carlos Alcaraz, was eliminated on Monday.

Djokovic won the first set against Norrie without any trouble, but in the second set, Norrie broke back while hitting Djokovic with a smash, which irritated the top seed.

## BCCI 'not ready' for any Pakistan-India bilateral series: Indian Media



By A Sports

NEW DELHI: The Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) reportedly refused any potential Pakistan-India bilateral series, an Indian news outlet reported on Wednesday.

The possibility of the much-anticipated Pakistan-India series skied high after the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Najam Sethi, in an interview with Sydney Morning Herald, hinted the bilateral series could be held at a neutral venue.

"Yes, I think bilateral Test matches can be played in Australia, England, South Africa," Sethi said. "But I think the best bet would be England, and following that Australia. If you can get a house full in any of the Australian stadiums, fine, that would be great," he added.

Meanwhile, Najam Sethi's green signal to the potential Pakistan-India bilateral series did not go well with the BCCI as the Indian cricket governing body said to have no plans for any series against Pakistan.

"No plans for such kind of series to happen in the future or upcoming days. We aren't ready for any kind of bilateral series with Pakistan," an Indian media outlet quoted BCCI source.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan and India last locked horns in a bilateral series in 2012-13 when Pakistan toured India for a three-match ODI and two-match T20I series, with the visiting side winning the ODI series 2-1 while the T20I series ended in a draw.

The two sides, however, last met in a Test series in 2007-08 in India, with the home team winning the series 1-0.

The arch-rivals have since only met at Asia Cups and ICC events as the BCCI refused to play a bilateral series against Pakistan on political grounds.

## Inter win Milan derby to reach Champions League final



By Sports Desk

MILAN: Inter Milan reached their first Champions League final in 13 years as Lautaro Martinez's sole goal of the match gave them a 3-0 aggregate win against AC Milan on Tuesday.

Inter Milan will undoubtedly be the underdogs against either Real Madrid or Manchester City in Istanbul on June 10, but the way they managed both legs of this all-Milan tie suggests they will be hard to beat.

The key moment of the night at the San Siro came when Argentinian Martinez exchanged passes with substitute Romelu Lukaku and drilled a shot from inside the penalty area that Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan allowed in at his near post.

Martinez, Inter's captain, hailed the cohesion of his team over the two matches against their city rivals.

"What counts is the squad. I experienced it at the World Cup (with Argentina)," he said.

"It makes it easy if you have a united squad with everyone pulling in the same direction. It means you get to play these very important matches in the best possible way."

He added: "After winning the World Cup and experiencing what is the pinnacle for a player I knew we could reach this final, and we did it"

His goal effectively killed off the tie.

Trailing 2-0 from the first leg, Milan had pushed hard in the first half, spearheaded by Rafael Leao who shot across the goal and past the post with one of his side's best chances.

Maignan then superbly dropped to his knees to collect Edin Dzeko's glancing header from Hakan Calhanoglu's pacy free-kick. Lukaku's introduction in the second half proved the spark that Inter needed to extend their lead.

Absent for much of the season with injuries and with a damaged reputation following a disastrous World Cup with Belgium, Lukaku has slowly worked his way back to his best.

## Strict security in place for National Games, DIG Quetta

By Sports Desk

KARACHI: Intending to keep intact proper facilities and security in place for the officials and members of the Sindh contingent in Quetta, Dr. Farhan Essa, Chief-de-mission, Sindh contingent for the 34th National Games Quetta, met with security personnel and managers of various Sindh contingent teams in different disciplines of the games like Managers of football, Softball, Baseball, Boxing, Rugby, Badminton, Fencing, Hockey, Gymnastic, kabaddi, volleyball and others and discussed matters about how to maintain security and safety steps and others measures aimed at their wellbeing while staying in Quetta for the Games.

Several steps like boarding and staying arrangements of the various teams of the Sindh contingent were also discussed and they were also advised not to indulge in unnecessary movements without the prior knowledge of the concerned authorities and stay focused on their game to win more and more medals for the Sindh in the mega event so that they remain safe and secure and also excel at the Games.

Meanwhile, Farhan Essa also called on DIG Quetta, Capt. Retd Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, who assured him that proper and strict security arrangements are in place for the Games, which are being held in Quetta after nineteen years.

The security apparatus is fully alert and there is no impending danger to athletes, as such they should fully concentrate on their games with full confidence and ease.

## Shamyl Hussain's half-century gives Pakistan U19 T20 win

By Sports Desk

RAJSHAH: Shamyl Hussain's half-century and Arafat Minhas' quick-fire 41 guided Pakistan U19 to a four-wicket win over Bangladesh U19 in the solitary T20 match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi on Wednesday.

The win means Pakistan U19 take the four-day, one-day series and T20 series trophies home.

Chasing 160 to win at eight runs an over, the tourists lost player of the one-day series Shahzaib Khan in the first over for nought. Opening batter Shamyl Hussain was joined by captain Saad Baig and the pair knitted 41 runs for the second wicket. At the departure of Saad (24, 16b, 3x4s, 1x6) in the sixth over, Mohammad Tayyab Arif (16, 19b, 1x4) stitched a 41-run partnership for the third wicket with Shamyl.

Following Tayyab's wicket in the 12th



over and Pakistan U19 still requiring 71 to win from 51 balls, left-handed Shamyl was joined by another left-hander Arafat Minhas. The pair added 56 runs for the fourth wicket off just 33 balls. Over the course of the partnership, Arafat scored 41 off 22 balls, smashing seven fours and one six. Shamyl, on the other hand, contin-

ued to keep one end intact and brought up his maiden half-century on the tour. He was dismissed on the last ball of the 19th over, scoring 67 off 49 balls, hitting seven fours and one six.

The tourists chased down the target on the first ball of the final over with four wickets in hand.

For Bangladesh U19, Iqbal Hossain Emon took three wickets for 23.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Bangladesh U19 managed to score 159 for 15 in 20 overs. Opening batter Jishan Alam top-scored for his side with a 26-ball 52, which included five fours and four sixes.

For Pakistan U19, Ahmed Hussain bagged two wickets for 25 from three overs.

**Scores in brief**

Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by four wickets  
Bangladesh U19 159-5, 20 overs (Jishan Alam 52, Ariful Islam 30; Ahmed Hussain 2-25)

Pakistan U19 160-6, 19.1 overs (Shamyl Hussain 67, Arafat Minhas 41; Iqbal Hossain Emon 3-23, Rohanat Doullah Borson 2-39)

Player of the match – Shamyl Hussain (Pakistan U19)