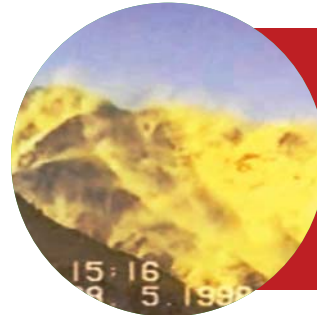




**Talha personally monitors Hajj operation to ensure flawless execution**

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Saturday said he was personally overseeing the entire Hajj operation, ensuring its smooth execution through various channels. (Details on Page 8)



**Youm-e-Takbeer**

Today, the complete Pakistani nation celebrates the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer and commemorates the remarkable achievement of establishing Credible Minimum Deterrence. This achievement has reshaped the power dynamics in our region. Armed Forces pay rich tribute to the brilliant minds who conceived and achieved this accomplishment under daunting challenges. We salute the scientists and engineers who turned the impossible into a reality. Long Live Pakistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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**Solidarity**

LAHORE: Activists of Central Jamiat Ahle Hadith are participating in the rally at Mall Road to express their solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Online

**Rana Sanaullah claims to expose 'PTI's conspiracy to malign LEAs'**



Mian Abdul Rasheed

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Saturday night asserted that intelligence agencies intercepted a telephonic conversation that sheds light on a "conspiracy hatched by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to malign law-enforcement agencies (LEAs)". Addressing a press conference, the interior minister claimed that the intercepted conversation revealed about a plan to "stage a raid and rape at a known PTI leader's home". "The planned raid will also involve casualties as a result

of firing," Rana Sanaullah alleged. He further claimed that the 'drama' was to be carried out today which is why the government decided to apprise the nation of this 'evil plan'. He alleged that the conspiracy was being hatched to later claim that human rights were being violated in Pakistan, thereby igniting a global outcry. However, the minister did not provide any proof of his claim. The interior minister reiterated that those responsible for the events on May 9 would be brought to justice. "It was evident that the purpose of the drama was to mislead the people of Pakistan", he said. "Propaganda was being carried out against Pakistan by giving money to people like Zalmay Khalilzad [Former US special representative to Afghanistan]", he added.

**PM felicitates nation on Youm-e-Takbir, says no compromise over country's defence, sovereignty**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said the country's defence, sovereignty, national dignity and freedom was above everything to the nation and no one had the courage to take away its freedom. In a message on the occasion of Youm-Takbir to mark the day of nuclear tests carried out by Pakistan in 1998, the prime minister said the day reminded that for the defence, solidarity and national interests, they would not budge from any sacrifice. He said the historic day was a clear declaration of "no compromise over country's sovereignty, and defence". "Twenty five years ago today, the people of Pakistan announced the invincibility of their defense by detonating five nuclear explosions in response to India's nuclear explosions," he added. The prime minister stressed

that they would have to move ahead with the same spirit as manifested on Youm-e-Takbir to attain economic sovereignty and self-dependence. He underlined that it was a day to get united for the solidarity of the country as it was the main strength of the nation and expressed his determination that with such unity, hard work and staunch faith, they would turn Pakistan into "an economic power". The prime minister paid tributes to the patriotism of then prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who raised the head of Pakistan among the comity of nations with pride, adding the former prime minister had rejected all the pressures and temptations of billions of dollars and made Pakistan, the seventh nuclear world power and the first Islamic country possessing nuclear deterrence. He also lauded Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear programme



and also paid rich tributes to Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who, as an opposition leader backed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's decision of nuclear tests in 1998. "I want to tell the youth that there were deep political differences between the government and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto but setting aside all the differences for the sake of the country, she supported the government," he added. The prime minister said the armed forces of the country had rendered valuable services for the country's nuclear programme which had been a golden chapter in its history. He also appreciated Dr

Abdul Qadir Khan, (Mohsin e Pakistan), all scientists, engineers and other individuals who contributed to Pakistan's atomic programme. The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to Saudi Arabia and other brotherly and friendly countries that had helped Pakistan during the economic sanctions. The prime minister said the mountains of Chagi still echoed with the same resolve, and Balochistan province still bore distinction with regard to defence of the country. PM Shehbaz said on May 28 1998, the whole world was on the other side putting pressures, threats and giving temptations, but the leadership of the country, with the support of nation and the opposition, made the impossible, possible. "We also faced economic difficulties. The unity of the nation is the real nuclear power of Pakistan," he added.

**Judicial Commission stops probe into audio leaks after SC order**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A three-member judicial commission, led by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, stopped probe into the multiple audio leaks pertaining to the judiciary after the apex court order. A five-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial had stopped proceedings of the judicial commission on Friday and suspended the notification issued by the federal government. The court issued its ruling on the petitions against the judicial commission on audio leaks constituted by the federal government and issued notices to the parties. The bench — headed by CJP Bandial, comprising Justice Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed. The Attorney General presented the ruling of the five-member bench of the supreme court in the second session of the judicial commission headed by Supreme Court senior puisne judge Qazi Faez Isa. The judicial commission stopped its proceedings, "We will issue an order of the

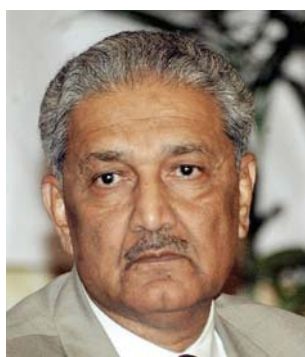
proceedings of the commission held today," Justice Isa said. "I apologize the witnesses appeared in the commission today," he said. Earlier, in the session of the judicial commission, Justice Faiz Isa said, "We have to do some works, which we don't like but bound to do according to the oath". "We have to perform this painful probe. Now we will be accused of violating the constitution in talk shows," Justice Isa observed. Justice Faez Isa said that the commission was constituted under the Inquiry Act. "We were entrusted a responsibility under the law, it might be a difficult task to the commission. Can we refuse a difficult task given under the law and our oath," the top judge questioned. "Mr. Attorney General, we regret, it is judicial order of the supreme court, we could not continue further," Justice Isa addressing the AG said.

**'Father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb' A. Q. Khan**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: When Pakistan commemorates May 28 as Youm-e-Takbeer, it also remembers the unforgettable role of nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan in building Pakistan's nuclear programme and its success in the form of the country's nuclear weapons tests in 1998. Dr Khan his name will always shine in history as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb which made the country's defence invincible. When India conducted six nuclear tests between May 11 and 13 in 1998, it not only presented Pakistan a security challenge but also offered a rare opportunity to conduct its own tests and become the world's seventh and Muslim world's first nuclear weapon state. The successful tests on May 28 in Chaghi, a north-western district of

Balochistan, were an achievement which could be made possible only with the years-long struggle of the national hero, Dr Khan, who spearheaded the country's nuclear programme for more than two and a half decades. Dr A.Q. Khan was the man who, according to historians, himself approached then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after India carried out its first nuclear tests in 1974 and told him that Pakistan could also run its own nuclear programme. At that time, he was working for Anglo-Dutch-German nuclear engineering consortium, Urenco, in the Netherlands and had a firsthand experience of the rare shortcut technology of uranium enrichment. He came to Pakistan in December 1974 to meet Bhutto and briefed his team about the technology and asked them to start



creating the infrastructure before his return from Holland. Almost a year later he left his job and joined the country's nuclear programme. Prime Minister Bhutto was particularly worried about the country's defence following the debacle of East Pakistan in 1971. In Pakistan, basic infrastructure to get nuclear capability was non-existent at that time. The Pakistan Atomic

Energy Commission (PAEC) was the only institution to work on development of nuclear technology, but it lacked the required expertise. Pakistan felt itself vulnerable when India conducted her first nuclear tests in 1974. Dr Khan initially worked with PAEC, headed by Munir Ahmad Khan, for a short period. In July 1976, Bhutto gave him full control of the Kahuta Enrichment Project that had been already operative with the name of Project-706 since 1974. When he joined, it was called Engineering Research Laboratories (ERL). However, then military ruler General Ziaul Haq through an order renamed ERL as [Dr A.Q.] Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) on May 1, 1981. It took almost three years for Dr Khan to build his own team to undertake a successful nuclear programme. He and his team hired

scientists and started purchasing the required material from abroad. As the metallurgist had been living in Europe for 15 years, he knew about their nuclear industry and their suppliers very well. During his job in Holland, he had been extensively travelling in Europe, thus he helped Pakistan in purchasing equipment from there. "We started developing centrifuges in our Rawalpindi office. It was 6th April 1978 when we achieved our first centrifugal enrichment of uranium," Dr Khan told Aaj News TV in an interview in August 2009. "But, it was not weapons-grade enrichment rather it was of low grade. However, it was enough to confirm the viability of the project," he added. He also said that they faced a lot of challenges but successfully managed to achieve 90 percent results in the enrichment programme by the early 1983.

**Imran challenges search warrants for Zaman Park residence**



**Bureau Reprt**

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday moved Lahore's anti-terrorism court, requesting the cancellation of search warrants for his Zaman Park residence. The former prime minister named the state, Lahore commissioner, DIG operations

Lahore, SSP operations Lahore, and others as respondents in the petition. In his plea, Imran Khan maintained that the law enforcement officials acquired the search warrants with malicious intent. "It is most respectfully prayed that the search warrant relating to petitioner's house situated at Zaman Park, Lahore may kindly be set-aside which lacks the requisite legal parameters for a valid warrant in the interest of justice and fair play," he said in his plea. It is pertinent to mention here that the police obtained the search warrant for Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence from the ATC on May 18.



## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of the participants with the experts of a seminar on China's new paradigm of development organized by Devcom Pakistan at COMSATS University.



Spokesman Photo by Raja Farid

## Talha personally monitors Hajj operation to ensure flawless execution

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Saturday said he was personally overseeing the entire Hajj operation, ensuring its smooth execution through various channels.

Speaking at the final training session of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj (Pilgrims' Assistants) held at the Haji Camp Islamabad, the minister informed attendees that he had taken proactive steps to address any concerns or complaints from

the pilgrims.

To facilitate efficient communication, Senator Talha had distributed a WhatsApp number to all intending pilgrims, encouraging them to register any complaints they may have at any point during their spiritual journey.

Additionally, he revealed that he had personally funded the establishment of an online portal to receive and manage these complaints effectively.

The minister made it clear that he would not tolerate any negligence or lethargic attitudes from the pilgrims' assistants.



He emphasized the importance of their assigned duties and warned that anyone found displaying reluctance or failing

in their responsibilities would face deportation.

Senator Talha's dedication to resolving issues faced by

intending pilgrims extended to personally addressing their concerns. He had been actively responding to their problems, even going as far as calling them to ensure their satisfaction.

In his address, the minister urged the Moavineen-e-Hujjaj to carry out their duties responsibly, adhering to their job description and ensuring the contentment of the pilgrims.

By emphasizing the significance of their role, Senator Talha sought to create a harmonious and fulfilling Hajj experience for all involved.

## Tragedy strikes: snow avalanche claims 11 lives, leaves 13 Injured in Gilgit Baltistan

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a devastating incident on Friday evening, a snow avalanche swept through the Shounter top area of district Astore in Gilgit Baltistan, resulting in the loss of at least 11 lives and leaving 13 others injured.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police for the Diamer-Astore Division, Tufail Mir,

confirmed the casualties and informed that a control room has been established in the district to coordinate rescue efforts and aid in the recovery of individuals trapped under the debris.

Rescue teams swiftly mobilized to the site and are currently engaged in the challenging task of extracting people from beneath the snow.

Tragedy strikes: snow

avalanche claims 11 lives, leaves 13 Injured in Gilgit Baltistan

As per the latest report from the Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), eight bodies have been recovered by Rescue 1122, the district administration, and local volunteers. The search for the remaining victims is still underway.

The injured individuals, described as being in critical

condition, have been evacuated to DHQ Hospital Astore for urgent medical treatment.

According to the GBDMA, the unfortunate incident occurred when a group of 25 people from the Gujjar family, accompanied by their livestock, were en route from Kashmir to Astore and were caught in the path of the avalanche.

Tragedy strikes: snow avalanche claims 11 lives, leaves

13 Injured in Gilgit Baltistan

The Fore Command Northern Areas (FCNA) has dispatched relief items and para-medical staff via helicopter, but their arrival at the site has been delayed due to inclement weather.

The GBDMA, along with the DDMA and other line agencies, has supplied essential relief items such as tents and food packs to assist those affected.

## Pakistan Navy, ANF seized narcotics in joint operation



### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy and Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) on Saturday seized a huge quantity of narcotics in Counter Narcotics Operation.

Pakistan Navy troops and ANF personnel in a joint Intelligence Based Counter Narcotics Operation in the North Arabian Sea seized

approximately 4,020 Kgs of narcotics (Hashish) worth approximately US \$ 65.148 Million in the international market, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The successful counter-narcotics operation by Pakistan Navy reaffirms Pakistan Navy's resolve to deny illegal activities at sea as well as along the coast.

## Punjab CTD arrests 12 terrorists in IBOs

### Raja Furqan Ahmed

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday claimed to have arrested 12 alleged terrorists associated with proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State (IS) in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in different cities of Punjab. According to details, the terrorists were arrested during Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) carried out in Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Multan and Gujranwala. The terrorists were identified as Mir Ahmed, Habibur Rehman, Imran Muddasir, Zia, Adeel and Farooq.



Explosive materials and equipment for making suicide vests were also recovered from the terrorists, the CTD spokesperson said. The statement reads that 40 suspects were arrested during 249 combing operations in this week alone while over 12112 people were questioned in the combing operations.

## AJK PM for improvement of governance system on latest lines in State

### Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR :Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Saturday called for a strong and stable system for improvement of the governance system on the latest lines in the State.

He was talking to a delegation of Central Bar Association (CBA) Muzaffarabad which called on him under the leadership of its president Raja Aftab Ahmed Advocate at the federal metropolis.

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq continued that being conscious citizens, it was our collective responsibility to maintain a balance between rights and duties.

The PM told the visiting delegates that efforts were underway to bring significant improvement in the health, tourism, livestock and information



technology sectors.

On this occasion, CBA President Raja Aftab Khan Advocate appreciated the steps taken by the Prime Minister in relation to good governance and wished him well for his future endeavours.

The visiting delegates congratulated the PM on assuming the office of Prime Minister. The CBA President also invited the Prime Minister to address the Central Bar, which the Prime Minister accepted.

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# یوم تکبیر

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India seeks death penalty

# Mushaal urges PM, FM to raise voice for safe release of Yasin

Amjad Mehmood

LAHORE: Mushaal Hussein Mallick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, urged the Pakistani government to raise the issue of senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's detention at all fora globally because the notorious Narendra Modi fascist regime was hell-bent to silence the most powerful voice of Kashmir freedom movement for ever.

Mushaal, wife of an imprisoned Yasin Malik, after visiting Jinnah House Lahore in a media talk expressed her alarm that the fascist government would eliminate him, as India's top anti-terrorism investigation agency again sought the death sentence for Yasin Malik, chief of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), after he was given life in prison in a concocted and politically motivated case on May 25, 2022 for his crime to raise voice for right to self-determination of Kashmiris.



The chairperson demanded that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto should take up the case of Yasin Malik before the world leaders and at relevant UN forums and in human rights organisations to protect his life.

The hurriyat leader stated that her husband life was in great danger because the Indian authorities could not buy his loyalty; hence they were now resorted to hang him to silence the most popular leader of contemporary Kashmiri freedom fight.

rights organisations to protect his life.

The hurriyat leader stated that her husband life was in great danger because the Indian authorities could not buy his loyalty; hence they were now resorted to hang him to silence the most popular leader of contemporary Kashmiri freedom fight.

She warned that Yasin was not an ordinary leader and if anything happened to him the entire region would be engulfed in wars flames for which Indian notorious government would be responsible.

She said that it was high time, Pakistani government should play a proactive role to not only save his life but to build maximum pressure on the Indian government to ensure his release from illegally detention.

Mushaal expressed fear that Modi's actually hanging his entire political career down the drain. However, she vowed that the notorious Indian authorities should not think this would ever silence the brave Kashmiris.

She warned that Yasin was not an ordinary leader and if anything happened to him the entire region would be engulfed in wars flames for which Indian notorious government would be responsible.

The Chairperson recalled that Kashmiri people had been struggling peacefully to break the shackles of Indian

slavery and always discourage violence; however, she warned that if they approved his death sentence, then the situation might go out of control; hence the Indian authorities should not only reconsider their decision of life imprisonment but should set him free because he was incarcerated in fake and fabricated cases.

Mushaal urged that UN bodies, world powers and human rights organisations should raise voice for safeguarding the life of Yasin Malik and ensure his release from jail who was put in death cell despite fast deteriorating health condition.

Mushaal visited Jinnah House and expressed solidarity with Pak army on behalf of Kashmiri people.

She strongly condemned the attack on Jinnah House Lahore on May 9, 2023 by arsonists.

## DC Multan announces strict screening, surveillance of dengue mosquitoes

Kiran Asim



MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the district administration is conducting strict screening and surveillance at homes and public places throughout the district to prevent the breeding of dengue mosquitoes.

In this regard, special teams of district departments including the health department have also been formed.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that he has also ordered to file cases against the property owners who do not take measures to prevent dengue. People are requested to keep their surroundings clean and dry. Earlier, the district administration The teams carried out dengue surveillance throughout the district and carried out larva destruction measures.

## District administration will make Aligarh school an ideal educational institution Umar Jahangir



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over a joint meeting of Aligarh school management and district officials. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that a board of governors will be formed for transparency in Aligarh school affairs.

In which influential representatives of educationists and civil society will be included. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that faculty and curriculum will also be formed for exemplary education and training of children studying in Aligarh School so that this school will be modernized. Earlier in the meeting, various issues related to Aligarh School were also discussed.

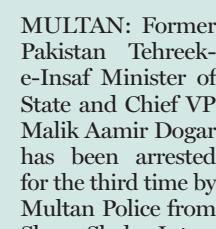
## Iqbal Town police arrest gang of mobile phone thieves: DSP

Main Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of City Police Officer Usman Akram Gondal, SP Iqbal Town Irtza Kamil presided over a press conference at Police Lines Complex in which DSP Factory Area Usman Waraich, SHO Thana Roshanwala were also present. SP, Iqbal Town said that the city police would have taken great action. A gang of mobile phone thieves has been arrested. Special teams have been formed to arrest this & other such gangs. SP on this occasion Iqbal Division further said that the city police will continue its crackdown against the criminal elements, protecting the lives and property of the public is one of our top priorities. They further said the dignity and honour of all the citizens are priorities with out any pressure & police is well aware and conscious under their conscience to provide intime relief fearing Allah almighty.

## Police arrested PTI Ex Minister Amir Dogar

Quratul Ain Asim



MULTAN: Former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Minister of State and Chief VP Malik Aamir Dogar has been arrested for the third time by Multan Police from Sher Shah Interchange, while Multan Police has transferred him to jail on 14-day physical remand from the local court. Transferred from district court to jail in a van Malik Amir Dogar said from the prisoners' van that my spirits are high. I am the bold and brave son of Malik Salahuddin Dogar. My father has always considered handcuffs as his jewel and jail as his second home.

He said that no matter how many retaliatory actions are taken against me, I stand firm with Khan and will remain firm. On the other hand, the family of Malik Amir Dogar has condemned the arrest of Malik Amir Dogar and has said that the closure of these businesses is the real thing. I want to stop the economic killing of the poor workers whose business is associated with our institutions.

## Classical music evening "Nishist-e-Khas" with Ustad Hamid Ali Khan

News Desk

KARACHI : Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized a mesmerizing classical music evening "Nishist-e-khas" with Ustad Hamid Ali Khan. President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah welcomed Ustad Hamid Ali Khan along with a large number of classical music lovers. Ustad Hamid Ali Khan sung. Various classical tunes and ghazals including Amjad Islam Amjad's kalam and received full applause from the audience. A large number of classical music lovers attended the Nishist-e-Khas to listen to him. On this occasion, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that Ustad Hamid Ali Khan is with us today, it is a matter of pride for us, once upon a time we used to do classical Baithak every month, we have started this series again in the name of Nishist-e-Khas, every month we will perform with different singers of pure music, Nishist-e-Khas started with the eyes of Patiala family, Ustad Hamid Ali Khan, last big name in ghazal, thumri and song. Classical singer Ustad Hamid Ali Khan expressed his opinion and said that people want to listen to classical music, such concerts should be organized, Arts Council Karachi. President Ahmad Shah is doing a good job.



# DIG Motorway North Zone to ensure prompt response to road users' problems: spokesman

Mian Rashid Aghar

ISLAMABAD: Good manners, timely assistance and exceptional law enforcement with etiquette are the hallmarks of the Motorway Police. This was expressed by the DIG, Motorway North Zone Muhammad Yousaf Malik.

According to the details, DIG Motorway North Zone Muhammad Yousaf Malik especially visited the Sector M2 North. On this occasion of this special visit, operational issues were considered where inspection of patrolling vehicles and residential facilities of officers were reviewed overall.

The DIG Motorway instructed the Sector Commander and DSP that all resources' implementation, every possible help to the road users should be ensured without any delay & resistances.

Apart from this, he informed that the field officers facing about their problems might be obliged o issuing the



orders to resolve instantly.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG, Motorway said that politeness, timely assistance and law enforcement without discrimination, has been the policy of Motorway Police which will be

continued and no lapse will be tolerated against the expectations of the peoples.

The problems of the officers and employees are closely monitored and practical steps have been taken for their timely solution.

He further elaborated that Motorways police has eagle's eye to provide safe and secured travelling all times.

He said that people's facilitation on Motorway services would be as dear as our own lives.

# Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 off to a strong start

Tahir Amin Malik

Skills Todo, a leading platform for talent development and skill enhancement, is proud to announce its highly anticipated event, Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023, Which has begun and event will continue today on 28th at the prestigious Expo Centre in Lahore. The two-day extravaganza aims to increase IT exports by bridging the talent gap and showcasing the immense potential of the local tech industry. In first days Akhuwat Foundation Chairman Dr. Amjad Saqib and Haroon Malik, Ceo Corvit were also present on this occasion. There were 60 stalls were displayed on first days.

Supported by influential entities including the Pakistan Software Export Board, the Ministry of IT and



Telecommunication, the Punjab IT Board, P@SHA, and the Pakistan Tech Forum, Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 is set to be the premier gathering of industry leaders, government officials, tech enthusiasts, and aspiring professionals.

The event will feature a wide range of attractions designed to provide unparalleled exposure to the tech and training industry. Attendees can look forward to engaging with leading companies, universities, and academic partners who will showcase their innovative products, services, and programs. With hundreds of CXOs and industry leaders in attendance, participants will have the opportunity to network and forge valuable connections.

Registration for Skills Gala & Talent Hunt 2023 is now open and completely free. Interested participants can sign up at skills.gala.org to secure their spot at this exclusive event. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a transformative experience that will shape the future of Pakistan's IT industry.

## Kashmiri youth found dead in Wazirbagh area of IIOJK

MIRPUR: A 25-year-old Kashmiri was found dead in Wazirbagh area of Anantnag district in south part of the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), said a report reaching here from across the line of control on Saturday.

Local residents spotted the body and promptly alerted his parents after quick search.

The deceased has been identified as Irshad Ahmad Allie, 25, son of Ghulam Nabi Allie, a resident of Shaksaz Mohalla, Kadipora in Anantnag.

The cause of death could not immediately be ascertained but it is firmly believed by the locals that the ill-fated Kashmiri youth was martyred by the armed Indian occupational forces during their fake encounters and search operations against the freedom monger population of the Muslim-majority Indian occupied Kashmir valley targeting the innocent Kashmiri youths, the report added. APP

# Raja Rasalu-a film by Faisal Mir

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in Pakistan's cinema history, a Visual Effect-based film is set to bring to life a 2000-year-old story of heroism and bravery 'Raja Rasalu'.

"As 'Raja Rasalu', the much-anticipated adventure film Directed by Faisal Mir, Written by Waqar Fani and Produced by M.Rashid & Faisal Mir. Executive producer Meraj-ud-Din enters its post-production phase, fans and moviegoers alike are eagerly awaiting its release. The film promises to take audiences on a thrilling journey back in time, exploring the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan through a captivating tale of Raja Rasalu the legendary king of Sialkot, Who was the head of the Rajpoots and one of the most popular figures in the history of the Punjab region is a treasure part of Pakistan's cultural heritage, and director Faisal Mir is keenly aware of the importance of bringing this tale to life on the big screen. With this film, he hopes to entertain audiences and help preserve and promote Pakistan's rich history and cultural heritage. The making of 'Raja Rasalu' said the director presented numerous challenges for the production team, from recreating authentic sets and props to finding suitable locations for the ancient story. However, the team's dedication and creativity paid off, resulting in a visually stunning film that blends history and fantasy seamlessly.



"We're thrilled to bring 'Raja Rasalu' to audiences worldwide," says director Faisal Mir. "This film has been a labor of love for everyone involved specially, and we're confident that audiences will be swept away by the incredible adventure we've created.

The production team of 'Raja Rasalu' is gearing up for the second spell of shooting, which will capture the remaining sequences of the film. Currently The post-production of the first spell of shooting for 'Raja Rasalu' is in full swing, with the editing team meticulously reviewing and fine-tuning the footage. The team is working closely with and VFX artists to create a seamless visual experience for the audience.

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## Govt ensuring benefits of oil price slide to common man, says PM

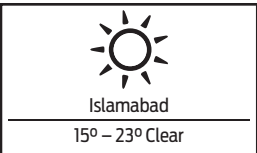
LAHORE, MAY 27 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the government was taking steps to pass on the effects of the reduction in prices of oil to the common man.

He said that efforts were afoot to ensure public relief in the upcoming fiscal budget.

The prime minister was talking to Minister of State for Finance Ayesha Ghous Pasha who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister reiterated that they had steered the country out of the difficult times and appreciated the economic team for striving and continuously making efforts to stabilize country's economy.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:21 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	5:02 pm
Maghrib	7:10 pm
Isha	8:50 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

**HOSPITALS**

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
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**PM, NA Speaker and Minister for Information warmly felicitates to newly elected office bearers of CPNE**

**City Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb warmly felicitated

Mr. Irshad Arif, Mr. Anwar Sajidi and Mr. Ejaz ul Haq on their election as President, Senior Vice President and Secretary General of CPNE respectively. While conveying heartfelt congratulations to newly elected office bearers of CPNE, he expressed his confidence that newly elected office bearers would render CPNE more proactive and well organized council for protecting rights of media representatives.

While applauding the historic and historical contribution of print media in the progress and development of Pakistan, he said that print media would continue to play this significant role. Further, he paid tribute to all media personnels for serving the cause of free and independent media. He said, "parliament of Pakistan will remain at forefront to safeguard and legislate for ensuring freedom and independence of media in country."

Earlier, Minister for Information and Public Relations KP Barrister Feroze Jamal Kakakhel congratulation to newly elected office bearers of CPNE. He also congratulated Tahir Farooq on his assumption of responsibility as President of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

# Marriyum rules out talks with elements which 'attacked state institutions'

**Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday ruled out negotiations with Imran Khan, stating talks could not be held with those who attacked the state, rather were awarded punishment.

In a statement issued here, the minister said Imran Khan was not appealing for negotiations; he was, in fact, seeking an "NRO".

Taking a jibe at Imran, she said the foreign agent who committed robbery on Rs 60 billion was to be brought to justice.

She ruled out talks with those who attacked sensitive installations and buildings which were symbols of national pride including General Headquar-



ters, those who desecrated the memorials of martyrs and Ghazis, who attacked ambulances, hospitals and schools and were involved in vandalism.

She said talks cannot be held with those who poisoned the minds of the youth.

The minister said that negotiations could not be held with the leaders of the criminals and

terrorists.

She said while his party crumbled like a castle of sand, Imran was pleading for talks, recalling how electables were brought in planes to join the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Marriyum Aurangzeb opined that parties not formed on any political ideology were disintegrated like the PTI.

The entire leadership of the PML-N including Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shahbaz, Maryam Nawaz spent hundreds of days in jails and detention centres, she said adding they faced false cases but stood firm and finally emerged victorious.

She said Imran Khan refused to negotiate with his political opponents on the economy, Kashmir and security issues.

Imran was not ready to sit with the opposition parties on critical issues like corona pandemic and the FATF issue, she said.

She maintained that dialogue could not be held with those who set the country on fire, create chaos and anarchy, fills the minds of masses with hatred, and harbour armed groups.

## Construction

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in dusting the road before carpeting the patch under newly constructed flyover at IJP Road in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# China's new development paradigm to ensure global security, trade

**Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese model of inclusive and participatory economic growth is a path to modernization featuring globalization and multi-lateralism based on shared common security for every single country and the regions.

The BRI is connecting countries and civilizations for cultural harmony and trade. Pakistan is a major beneficiary of China's new development paradigm that has no aggressive plans against any country. The CPEC was launched when no country was willing to invest in Pakistan's infrastructure, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said at a seminar on Saturday.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, the chairman of the Senate Defence Committee and founder chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, said

Pakistan's bureaucratic hurdles and political instability are the main reasons for slow-paced progress on the CPEC initiatives. Pakistan shall act fast before it's too late. All stakeholders shall play their role in expediting the progress on CPEC.

The seminar titled "China for a new security, connectivity and trade paradigm" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) in collaboration with the China Study Centre, Comsats University Islamabad Campus. The Research and Media Fellow at Centre for China and Globalization (Beijing) Zoon Ahmed Khan chaired the seminar.

The guest speakers included Ambassador (ret'd) Naghmana Hashmi, University of Peshawar pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Zahid Anwar, NUST

China Study Centre Director Ms. Xian Yang, Bahria University Assistant Prof. Dr Hassan Daud But, Comsats University China Study Centre Director Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed.

Zoon Ahmed Khan said China's development is human centric that hastransformed the Chinese society to become very productive. Now the GDP growth is exaplery with no person below the poverty line. Every village in China has its own solutions to the problems.

Ambassador (ret'd) Naghmana Hashmi said: The intensification of Sino-American competition currently forms the most important instance of great-power competition which has the potential of becoming a major conflict engulfing the entire world. It has added to the uncertainty, instability and

chaos in the already worrying and unpredictable flux in the world order prevalent these days.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said: China has numerous development models that can help the developing countries. Moreover, China is also out there to finance projects in every sector on a win-win model but the partners have to be more proactive and efficient.

Xian Yang said: The post-COVID-19 world has changed completely. New business models have been put into practice in China. We have to face the reality that business has entered the 4.0 era. How can China's economic model interact and communicate with Pakistan in the 4.0 era and produce good results is the topic we want to share today. China's trade situation today.

## DG Career Group of Institutions inaugurated Career Home Tuition Services



**City Report**

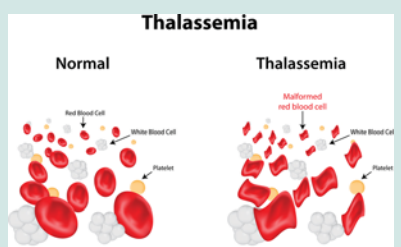
ISLAMABAD: Director General Career Group of Institutions Professor Muhammad Amir inaugurated Career Home Tuition Services. Addressing the opening ceremony, CEO Islamabad Career Colleges Pvt Javed Intazar said that Career Home Tuition Services will prove to be a professional institution. Tuition services were started after the long demand of parents. The administrator of the institution will be Ilyas Hussain Shah, who will be dealing in his office at Career Boys Hostel, Kiyani Road, Bhara Kahu. In which a system of regular registration of teachers and students has been made. It will keep a check and balance on performance. Home tuition services will work in Islamabad city, rural suburbs, towns and societies. Teachers, parents and students can register on mobile.

Special prayers and sweets were distributed after the opening ceremony. Deputy Director Directorate of ICC Salim Al Azam, Principal of ICC College Section Muhammad Adnan Abbasi, I. CC Matric Section Principal Fazlur Rehman Khattak, Middle Section Administrator Muhammad Shabbir Khan and a large number of academicians participated.

## Thalassemia Center to starts functioning in Attock during next month

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK : Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that the provincial government Thalassemia Center will start working during next month in District Hospital. He expressed these views in a seminar held in Attock on Saturday.



League of Human Welfare organized the seminar in collaboration with district administration Attock and Pakistan Thalassemia Welfare Society, attended by over 80 thalassemia children patients and their parents besides medical superintendent Isfandyar Bukhari District Hospital Dr. Jawad Ellahi, CMH Attock Colonel Dr. Asad Numan Kayani, Frontier Foundation administrator Dr. Fakhar Zaman, Medical Social Welfare Officer Muhammad Zubair and others. The speakers further stressed over the need for special attention towards thalassemia patients to make them useful members of the society.

Atif Raza added that building will cover an area of one kanal, the civil works of which will cost about Rs 4 million. He added that it would be equipped with 20 beds while and eight to ten doctors would be deputed in the center.

Prof. Maqsood Ealhi, President League of Human Welfare captivated the audience as the keynote speaker, delivering an insightful presentation on thalassemia prevention in Pakistan. He said that collective efforts were required to overcome this disorder by creating awareness among the masses to get blood screening before marriages and promoting culture of donating blood.

Rana Muhammad Saeed Regional Coordinator Punjab Thalassemia Prevention Program in his address has said that the world had controlled the disease of thalassemia to a great extent but the situation in Pakistan was not so good.

Frontier Foundation administrator Dr. Fakhar Zaman in his address has said, "People should carry out hemoglobin electrophoresis test before marriage to prevent spread of the disease." He added that a simple test can transform the course of a family's future and urged young people not to overlook it before marriage.

## Central leader PML-N Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, others address at Martyrs' rally in Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Central leader Pakistan Muslim League (N) former federal minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmed while expressing complete solidarity with the Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan (Martyrs Reverence Day) rally in Attock said that the entire nation stands with the Pak Army as the sacrifices of martyrs will always be written in the history with golden words who laid their lives for the defense of our country.

Among others, the rally was also addressed by the General Secretary Pakistan Democratic Justice Party Sheikh Ehanuddin Ahmed Advocate Supreme Court, PML (N) leaders Haji Sai fur Rehman, Sheikh Nasir Mehmood, Saleem Shahzad, Sheikh Salman Sarwar. The speakers paying homage to the martyrs have also pledged to stand with their families who rendered their lives to protect the motherland.

They said the day was observed to pay glowing tributes to the nation's heroes, Ghazis, and martyrs and expressed its unflinching solidarity with their families. Calling the tragic and heart-rending events of May 9 a wake-up call, they said the nation has to identify and expose all such people who wanted to destroy the foundations of Pakistan. "May 9 has drawn up a dividing line between the protectors and builders of Pakistan and those who wish to weaken it.

They said that the entire nation stands with Pakistan Army like an unbreakable mountain and would continue to guard the dignity and respect of our Martyrs till last breath. They said the martyrs are our benefactors, and nations that fail to remember those who sacrificed their lives for their people cannot exist for long.

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said the martyrs' sacrifices served as a guiding light for the nation and emphasized that their mission of protecting and ensuring peace in the homeland would continue. He strongly condemned the violent events of May 9, terming them a black chapter in Pakistan's history. He eulogized the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Pakistan armed forces, and condemned in strong terms the May 9 attacks on military installations and martyrs' memorials.

He said that the nation was shocked over these vicious attacks that left deep scars on the hearts and minds of conscious citizens. Meanwhile, several commemorative ceremonies were held in various towns of district Attock to mark Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan (Martyrs Reverence Day) in remembrance of the courageous heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the motherland.

Quran khwani and prayers were organized besides the visit of the high officials to the graves of martyrs and their respective families. In the ceremony, students of various educational institutions presented tableau, songs and speeches expressing their love and devotion to the armed forces. In their speeches, officials have paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the nation, who sacrificed their lives while defending Pakistan.

# Pakistan need for a strong emergency care system says Medical Director Maroof Int'l Hospital

**Tooba Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Medical Director of Maroof Int'l Hospital (MIH) Dr. Mir. Abdul Waheed said that Pakistan has an increasing need for a strong emergency care system, as emergency conditions - acute cardiovascular disease, road injuries, and stroke - form the top 10 leading causes of death. Before the COVID 19 Pandemic, the ER doctors to patient ratio was 1:1300. However, this ratio increased to 1: 3200, leading to an insufficient number of Emergency Medicine (EM) Specialists, and a large gap in quality emergency care provision.

Whilst addressing the participants at an event organized by Maroof Int'l Hospital Islamabad on the occasion of Int'l Emergency Medicines Day 2023 with a theme "Your Safety - Our



Priority", Dr. Mir Waheed said having Emergency Medical Teams available, and ready to deploy is crucial when

we respond to major outbreaks and disasters. According to the curriculum of the College of Emergency Medicine

(CEM) United Kingdom, EM is a field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of the acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of undifferentiated physical and behavioral disorders. It is a specialty in which time is critical. Especially the first hour is called "the golden hour" in a patient's recovery. And if a trained EM consultant available, diagnoses & treats the patient in a timely fashion, the outcomes will be different. Studies have proved that most deaths occur in the first hour of trauma.

Mr. Haroon Naseer, the CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital said that the developed countries have emergency medicine systems and well-designed special training programs for medical



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

# Central Asia is region with varied cultures and diverse landscapes

Central Asia is famous for its numerous shrines of saints in the history of the world. Central Asia consists of five countries, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, sometimes Afghanistan is also included in the historical context based on geographical affiliation. The Russian language dominates here, but local languages such as Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Tajik, Turkish and Kazakh are also popular. Among the total population of 72 million in this region, 35 million are from Uzbekistan, 19 billion from Kazakhstan, 7 million from Kyrgyzstan, 10 million from Tajikistan and 6 million from Turkmenistan. Be it rivers, mountains, seas or bordering dry and snowy deserts, the natural beauty of Central Asia is its own example. Its developed country is Kazakhstan and the poorest country is Kyrgyzstan. In view of the importance of Gawadar Port, the CPEC project is the most important and expensive project so far, due to which the neighboring countries will also get immense commercial benefits, but we do not have complete information about the countries with which we want to develop trade relations, nor do the people of these countries have awareness about Pakistan. Due to Pakistan's weak diplomacy, specific foreign policy and the gap between international media representatives, our arch-enemy conveys information about Pakistan to Central Asian countries through journalism and literature. As a result, we have been deprived of economic cooperation in the region and have been far away from commercial benefits. It is very important to have information about Central Asian countries so that we can get far-reaching results.

In this regard, for the interest and awareness of our readers, we are making use of the famous writer, poet and teacher of the late Dr. Rauf Ameer's Book "SHAHRA E RESHAM KI JAAN—KAZAKHSTAN", in which we are supported by the prominent anchor and columnist Mrs. Iffat Rauf. It should be remembered that Prof. Dr. Rauf Ameer was appointed as a Scholar at Pakistan Chair at Ablai Khan University, Almaty, Kazakhstan in November 2006. In this regard, the agreement reached between the Pakistani ambassador in Kazakhstan and the Rector of Ablai Khan University that the chair holder will carry out research on Urdu and Pakistan, and if teaching responsibilities are assigned to him by the university, he will also fulfill them. Moreover, the chair holder will act as a bridge between the university and the Pakistani community and strengthen mutual relations.

Similarly, 498 flights are running daily in 28 countries including Europe, Russia, South and East Asia and Central Asia. In 2022, the number of passengers traveling by air was 4.5 million, which is 9 times more than in 2021. Due to the geographical importance of this region, in 2022, the United States started direct flights under the Open Skies Agreement, emphasizing mutual relations. 70% of Kazakhstan's land is reserved for transit traffic from China to Europe and other countries. Five railways and six international automobile routes are active between China and Kazakhstan and it is estimated that products can be delivered to designated areas in 10 to 15 days, while 51 major projects worth 3.5 billion dollars are pending. Three ports on the Caspian Sea are also active.

After the independence of Kazakhstan, relations with Pakistan were cordial for some time, but due to the threat of global terrorism, this relationship was severed. After 2021, the work of restoring relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan has started again. A sincere, active and hard-working Ambassador Qistafin Yezhan was appointed in the Kazakh Embassy in Islamabad. As a result of his efforts, mutual relations were restored. He constantly meets with Pakistani ministers, officials and sportsmen to promote trade and tourism, apart from participating in conferences, exhibitions, he also visits universities. Sajjad Ahmed, the recently retired Pakistani ambassador posted at Noor Sultan Kazakhstan Embassy also fully supported in building mutual relations, thus a trade transit agreement QTTA has been concluded between Pakistan, Kazakhstan, China and Kyrgyzstan regarding Gawadar Port. Pakistani products were well received at the Pakistani Made exhibition held in Almaty last year and direct flights between the two countries have also been started in March 2023. The government of Kazakhstan plans to hold an international conference for cultural reconstruction in its capital in 2023 and considering Pakistan as a special guest, the President of Kazakhstan Qasim Jomart Tokayev is expected to visit Pakistan this year. In recent days, a business delegate of Pakistani business men met the Ambassador of Kazakhstan for Pakistan Mr. Yerzhan Qistafin, Mr. Tahir suleman was leading the delegate alongside Ms. Sumera Nisaar, Mr. Adil Jahangir, Mr. Chaudhry Shakeel, Mr. Fayyaz, Mr. Mattiullah and business & media co-ordinate Ms. Iffat Rauf. During the session many issues and obstacles of business with Kazakhstan were addressed to which the humble and genial Diplomat replied with great kindness. H.E. Mr. Qistafin informed the group about the growing economy and business collaboration of Kazakhstan with developed countries. In addition, for bilateral trade serious and immediate actions are taken, the direct flights will soon be launched from Pakistan to Kazakhstan in June 2023. The Karakoram High Way will provide a direct route to Kazakhstan for local business men. He also emphasized on start of manufacturing industry at Kazakhstan alongside an export of industrial products. Kazakh government showed great interest to enhance collaboration in fields of trade, tourism, education, sports, culture and media.



Analysis

Shahid Awan

## May 28, a historic day for Pakistan

The nation is fervently celebrating 25th anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests conducted on May 28, 1998 which was a historic day that led to achievement of invincible defence capabilities and ensured regional stability through power equilibrium.

The day brought a revival for the entire Pakistani nation and became a moment of pride for the Muslim Ummah.

The day, now remembered as Youm-e-Takbeer is being celebrated every year across the country as a day of national pride and thanksgivings which made Pakistan the seventh nuclear nation of the world and the first Muslim state, having the nuclear arsenal in its defense stockpile to exercise maximum deterrence for peaceful purposes.

The tests not only demonstrated the resolve of the Pakistani nation to safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty, but also the desire to preserve strategic balance in South Asia.

The historic statement of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that they would starve but transform the country into a nuclear power, led to achievement of this milestone.

On that day, the Pakistani leadership, notwithstanding external pressures and Indian hegemonic designs to tilt power balance through its nuclear tests, opted courageously in 1998 to respond, and restored the power balance in South Asia by conducting nuclear tests.

With such tactical and sagacious response by Pakistan on May 28, 1998, it became "a red letter day" in the country's history, silencing the belligerent ruling junta in its neighbourhood that was clamouring with ill-conceived expansionist designs.

Youm-e-Takbeer, which literally means "the day when Allah's name was exalted" regularly infuses new verve into the high soaring spirits of a nation which refused to cover down by the repeated threats of war mongering mindset in its neighbourhood.

The history of acquiring the modern nuclear technology for exercising maximum restraint and for purely peaceful purposes, entails commitment, patriotism and strong obligation on the part of Pakistani leadership, for territorial integrity of the country.

India had tested its "device" for the first time in 1974 which compelled Pakistan to expedite its nuclear programme with renewed commitment.

Amid slogans of "Allah-o-Akbar", Pakistan conducted its first test on May 28, 1998, at the RasKoh hills in the Chaghai District of Balochistan.

But resisting the mounting external pressures to restrain and not to respond in kind, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif went for the bold decision to test the Pakistani nukes and thus balancing the strategic slanting power in the region.

Pakistan is committed to the promotion of environment of peace and stability in South Asia, while preserving its capability to ward off aggression or adventurism in any form.

It is a partner in international efforts to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime based on the principles of non-discrimination and equal security for all states.

It adheres to the latest international standards on export controls and maintains highest standards of nuclear safety and security.



Amjad Rasmi

## Comprehensive strategy needed to avert food insecurity

Imran Nazir

With growing threats of climate change and its population hovering around 230 million, Pakistan is under recognizable pressure of food insecurity as well as employment generation for the survival of its people.

Amidst changing world dynamics in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, Pakistan's agricultural production has also gained more importance to maintain food security and address issues like hunger and malnutrition to develop a healthy and prosperous society and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger.

Although the country has a bumper wheat crop this year, its agriculture sector still faced challenges like changing weather patterns, depleting groundwater table, increasing urbanization and lack of value chain infrastructure.

According to a World Bank (WB) study, the majority of Pakistan's population in rural areas reside below the poverty line which necessitates raising agricultural productivity to generate more income opportunities for them to improve the rural economy.

Torrential rains and floods like last year are also a challenge for the policymakers to avert the effects of such future catastrophes for securing crops and livestock of people associated with agricultural sector.

Keeping in view all these issues, the government is working on a multi-pronged strategy by ensuring supply of certified seeds of major crops like wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and maize.

"The government has launched a track and trace seed policy to provide certified seeds of cash crops like wheat, cotton and rice to farmers," said Imtiaz Ali Gopang, Food Security

Commissioner, Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

He informed that under this initiative, during 2022-23, paddy seed availability was 67,289 metric tons, about 148% of the total seed required for the Kharif 2023-24 crop. Moreover, certified seeds availability for maize crops during 2022-23 was around 28,029.31 metric tons (85% of the total requirement), he added.

Gopang said for sowing maize in 2023-24, its seed availability was 24,667 metric tons including 7,154.55 metric tons local and 17,521 metric tons of imported seed which was around 75% of the total requirement. "The government was also ensuring the provision of seeds for pulses and oil seeds to enhance their per-acre output."

A committee was also formed to review proper wheat usage and storage mechanism including the development of silos to ensure the availability of grain at sustainable prices.

Cotton Commissioner Dr Zahid has also informed that the ECC has fixed cotton (Phutti) intervention price at Rs 8,500 per 40 kg for current sowing to revive its production, bring stability to the domestic market and ensure a fair return to farmers. "We expect, this initiative would help bring more areas under cotton cultivation."

"The public and private sector seed agencies of Punjab and Sindh have procured 15,983 metric tons and 1,686 metric tons of seed respectively," he informed.

He said departments concerned were also working on research and development to produce high-yielding seed varieties of different crops.

Meanwhile, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali informed that due to advancements in seed production technology, local output of major cash crops witnessed a manifold increase with minor crops like oil seeds, pulses and vege-

tables also witnessing growth.

"PARC, in collaboration with Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA), would establish 35 aeroponic greenhouses to produce first-generation seed potato tubers for large-scale cultivation to produce virus-free potato seed," he stated. "With this initiative, more than 30 per cent of potato seed requirements could be met from tissue culture labs established at National Agriculture Research Center (NARC)."

Dr Mansoor, Project Director Pulses Enhancement Program of PARC mentioned developing six commercial varieties of beans to help reduce reliance on imported pulses. "These are the first commercial varieties of beans produced in Pakistan that will boost pulses cultivation locally and enhance their output."

He said PARC under the Public Sector Development Program had also launched a five-year research project to increase national average produce of pulses like chickpea, mung bean, mash, lentils and beans by 30% to meet local demand.

Although the government has introduced numerous measures to boost the agricultural sector with different government departments, it was also working on multiple high-yield seed varieties. These measures must transform into a visible change in the lives of poor farmers as well as provision of sufficient food for people.

There is also a dire need to control unbridled population growth, enhance productivity and raise awareness on the prudent use of commodities avoiding wastage in daily life, especially during wedding ceremonies.

A comprehensive strategy for price controlling, the exploitative role of middlemen and hoarding of commodities for illegal profit gains must also be in place besides charity initiatives to reach out to hunger-stricken rural and urban poor.

## The Iran-Saudi Arabia friendship has great potential to help build regional connectivity

In a region often plagued by geopolitical tensions and discord, it is essential to recognize the importance of fostering harmonious relationships between neighboring nations. One such relationship that holds tremendous potential for the Muslim Ummah and surrounding nations is the developing friendship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This article aims to explore the significance of their newfound closeness and the positive impact it can have on the entire Muslim Ummah and the broader international community.

The Iran-Saudi Arabia relationship has been marked by historical tensions, fueled by geopolitical competition, sectarian differences, and regional power struggles. However, it is crucial to recognize that times have changed, and both nations now understand the need to set aside their differences and work towards peace and stability in the region.

The Middle East region has been grappling with a multitude of challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, and political instability. The renewed friendship between Iran and Saudi Arabia has the power to bring much-needed stability to the region.

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia possess vast economic resources and potential. By fostering closer ties, they can unlock substantial economic opportunities and create mutually beneficial partnerships. Increased trade and investment between the two nations can stimulate economic growth, boost employment, and improve the standard of living for their citizens. Furthermore, their collaboration can have a ripple effect on surrounding nations, spurring economic devel-

opment and prosperity across the Muslim world.

One of the gravest challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah and the international community is the threat of extremism and terrorism. Iran and Saudi Arabia, as influential actors, can join forces to address this menace. By sharing intelligence, coordinating security efforts, and promoting interfaith dialogue, they can work towards eradicating radical ideologies that distort the true teachings of Islam. A unified front against extremism will not only protect

the Muslim Ummah but also contribute to global peace and security.

The improved relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia can position them as vital diplomatic players in regional conflicts. By leveraging their influence, they can play a constructive role in mediating disputes, facilitating dialogue, and finding peaceful resolutions. Their collective diplomatic efforts can have a far-reaching impact, diffusing tensions and fostering stability beyond their own borders.

The friendship between Iran and Saudi Arabia holds immense potential for promoting unity, peace, and progress within the Muslim Ummah and beyond. By setting aside historical differences and embracing cooperation, these two influential nations can reshape the regional dynamics and contribute to a more stable and prosperous Middle East. The positive impact of their closeness will extend to neighboring nations, fostering a sense of solidarity, and inspiring hope for a brighter future. It is in the interest of the entire Muslim Ummah and the international community to support and encourage the growing bond between Iran and Saudi Arabia.



Analysis

Fyza Raja



**IS Brief on what happened**

# Developments of the Crisis in Sudan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: What happened on 15th April 2023, was an abortive coup d'état to seize power by force. The rebel RSF started its treacherous attacks on the General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the residence of the General Commander of the Armed Forces and the President of the transitional Sovereign Council, trying to arrest or kill him. The rebel forces militia simultaneously launched attacks against all bases of the Army, the airports in the different states of Sudan, and many strategic government sites.

Immediately after the treacherous attacks, the RSF was dissolved and designated as a rebel and illegal organization. On 19th May, Gen Abdel Fattah Al Burhan removed the leader of the rebel forces militia, Mohamed Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, from his post as his deputy on the ruling Sovereign Council, and appointed Malik Agar, one of those who signed a peace agreement with the government in 2020, as deputy on the Transitional Sovereign Council.

Despite the obvious betrayal of the rebel RSF, the President of the Transitional Sovereign Council has declared general amnesty to those who will lay down arms, given a chance to join the Sudanese armed forces.

**What is RSF?**

The Rapid Support Forces was formed in 2013, under the full control of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The number of the RSF was about 20,000 troops. After the overthrow of the National Salvation regime the RSF began to expand in number, economically and politically as well, allied with some minor civilian groups and political parties, mainly

those belong to the Freedom and Change Forces (central council).

Falsely the commander of the rebel forces militarized to fashion himself a supporter of the civilian and democratic transition in Sudan. The rebel forces militia and their political allies signed what is named the Framework Agreement, isolating the main political powers in the Sudan, and leaving the thorniest political issues like the integration of the RSF in the Armed Forces and the period of transition, unsettled. The rebel forces militia also insisted on applying the Framework Agreement without the consent of the Sudanese Armed Forces, which can be considered one of the main indirect reasons of the crisis.

**Rebel RSF violations of human rights and breaches of international norms and laws**

At the beginning we have to mention that the Sudanese Armed forces have been adopting a strategy that allows limited and reasonable use of force in compliance with the international laws and norms in such circumstances, to ensure the safety and security of the citizens and protect the infrastructures and the Sudanese people gains from destruction. Whereas, since the beginning of the rebellion, the rebel forces militia used to commit human right violations and breaches of local and international laws.

The rebel forces militia continuously target diplomatic and international organizations premises and staffs. They committed attacks, looting and destruction of tens of diplomatic premises and their properties, among them lately the Pakistani Embassy, moreover to their brutal crimes of rape and sexual harassment against the females working in international



aid field. The rebel forces militia also committed abduction of retired officials and intentional killing of civilians.

The rebel forces militia occupied hospitals, schools and vital services facilities. They also hide in populated areas, using people as human shields and depriving citizens of their necessary needs and their rights to access to health, water and other services.

The rebel forces militia have even targeted convoys of evacuation of diplomats and foreigners. Confirming its insistence on spreading chaos and threat-

ening the security and safety of citizens, the rebel forces militia-tormented prisons in Khartoum and other states and allowed thousands of inmates, including those sentenced to death, to escape.

Recently, the rebel forces militia occupied mosques using them, along with schools and hospitals, as war places. They also launched terrorist attacks against two churches, the Episcopal Anglican Church of Sudan, All Saints Cathedral, located in Khartoum and Margis Church in Omdurman.

**How the Sudanese Government**

**regard the conflict**

The Government of Sudan affirms that fighting against the rebel forces militia is an internal issue, and that the Sudanese Armed Forces are living up to their constitutional role in protecting the sovereignty of the Sudan and its people.

The Sudanese Armed Forces have destroyed all bases of the rebel RSF in Khartoum state, seized their bases in the different states of Sudan and cut off their supply lines and their communications. Now all States of Sudan are under full control of the government, except small pockets in Khartoum state, which are used by the rebel forces militia as human shields, like hospitals, schools, mosques, churches and services facilities.

Therefore any kind of foreign intervention is unacceptable and intolerable, except initiatives related to humanitarian issues that will help life of people to return to normalcy.

**What the Sudanese Government expects from the international community**

The Sudanese government regrets the silence on the crimes committed by the rebel forces militia, and calls on the international community, especially brotherly countries like Pakistan, to condemn in strongest terms the rebel forces militia for the crimes they are committing against the state, and also against unarmed civilians, diplomatic missions, and properties, which stand obvious evidence of breach to all norms and international humanitarian law.

The silence of the international community towards the continuous breaches of International Humanitarian by the rebel forces militia leads them to commit further war crimes against civilians either citizens

or diplomats.

We also call on the international community to exert all kinds of pressure on the rebel forces militia, so as to lay down arms and end fighting.

The government of Sudan urges the international community, besides condemning these terrorist and criminal attacks, to designate the rebel forces militia as terrorist organization, and to hold them accountable for violation of the international and humanitarian law.

**Is there any external factor in the current Sudanese crisis**

Sudan is very rich of natural resources. It has most of the strategic minerals, millions acres of arable land, different sources of water, different climates, millions of livestock, taking in mind its expected role in food security in the near future. Sudan enjoys very important geopolitical and geo strategic location, having a shore of about 800 kilometers on the Red Sea representing it as a gateway to seven closed African countries. Also the Sudan is rich of diverse of tourist areas. The most important and valuable resource for the Sudan is the human resource of its very educated and patriot people.

Therefore, many foreign powers may have played crucial roles in the current crisis in Sudan, pushed by their own interests and their greed in the Sudan's resources.

Many unfriendly countries would try to weaken Sudan and deprive it of the initiative to build a strong and united state, and to prevent it from developing its capabilities, as that is necessary for bolstering and strengthening their own national interests.

The successive rebel movements stand obvious examples of the external intervention in the Sudan affairs, and the

current military coup cannot be an exceptional case.

**Concluding words**

We hope the conflict would soon be over and normalcy return back to Sudan, because the continuous of war in the Sudan will definitely bring more problems, not only for Sudan, but for all countries of the region, especially those neighboring Sudan.

Therefore Sudan used to accept and uphold the agreements and truces for humanitarian reasons initiated by brotherly and friendly countries, among them the recently short-term ceasefire agreement signed in Jeddah, under the auspicious of Saudi Arabia and The United States, hoping that the rebel forces militia will commit to it so as to protect civilians of Sudan and also to help them access their humanitarian needs as well, but unfortunately the rebel forces militia always never commit to their agreements.

I would also like to mention that the enlightened patriot Sudanese people will change this crisis into opportunities, and will achieve sustainable peace, stability and social integrity, reaching a smooth transition to democracy and civil governance, as the Commander of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan committed and promised many times. And the Sudanese people will draw the right lessons from this conflict by defeating and eliminating the rebel forces militia to avoid the repetition of its mistakes in the future.

I also remind the international community that the Sudan now is very in need of medical and humanitarian supports, especially the life-saving medicines and medical supplies, besides other humanitarian aids.

## In Manchester, Scholars Schools award laptops to talented students

**Arif Chaudhary**

MANCHESTER :The ceremony of awarding laptops to the talented students under the Scholars Schools System was held at the Scholars School System Manchester Campus, in which the students who achieved 100% attendance and 100% pass rate of the Scholars Schools System were given appreciation certificates and laptops. While the special guest of the ceremony was Member of British Parliament Yasmeen Qureshi, CEO Scholars Schools System Zahid Bhatti. Director of Admission Nabeel

Sheikh. Head of HR Ashok Kumar. Simon Jones. Other management of the Scholars Schools system attended.

On this occasion, the CEO of Scholars Schools System, Zahid Bhatti, said that the first campus of Scholars Schools System was established in Birmingham in 2006, followed by London, Manchester.

And the Scholars Schools system on the Bradford campus is modeled after Leeds University and offers students courses in business management and health and social care. We also have a number of good courses for women who are housewives.

through which they can improve their skills and become an employed and respected citizen, Head of HR Ashok Kumar, Simon Jones, Professor Ezen-du Atiwa, Director Admission Nabeel Shaikh, Yasir Ejaz and Rabab Zahra conducted various courses in Scholars School System.

On this occasion, Member of Parliament Yasmeen Qureshi visited various departments of Scholar Schools System and appreciated their efforts. Later, CEO Zahid Bhatti gave a detailed briefing to the media representatives about the aims and objectives of the scholar school system.



## EU, Central Asia special envoys discuss Afghanistan as part of broader regional effort

**Spokesman Report**

ASHGABAT: On May 26, 2023, the fourth meeting of the EU and Central Asia Special Representatives and Special Envoys for Afghanistan was held in the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan. The forum was attended by special representatives and special envoys of the EU, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for Afghanistan and the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan R.Otunbayeva, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, the Consuls General of Turkmenistan in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. The directors of the World Bank branches in Afghanistan and Kazakhstan have also participated via video-conference.

During the meeting, a detailed exchange of views took place on priority issues of regional security and development, as well as problems related to the socio-economic situation in Afghanistan.

It was noted that meetings of special representatives in this format have become regular and serve as a positive platform for developing approaches to ensuring peace and security in Afghanistan.

The current meeting provided an opportunity for an in-depth exchange of information on events and the economic situation in Afghanistan, as well as an opportunity to discuss further cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The parties expressed their firm



commitment to turning Afghanistan into a stable, peaceful and prosperous country and recognized the efforts of the international community to continue to provide assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the prospects for economic stabilization and recovery of Afghanistan were discussed, the importance of creating favorable conditions for economic activity, the financial and banking sector and the restoration of the socio-economic infrastructure in Afghanistan was noted.

The participants of the meeting stressed the need to continue dialogue and cooperation within the framework of the "Central Asia-European Union" format and expressed a common opinion that in order to stabilize the political, economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, a broad consolidation of the international community is necessary—the states of the world,

primarily the Central Asian region, as well as authoritative international structures.

Interest was also expressed in close cooperation to implement of joint projects related to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the integration of the country into the system of global relations.

As a result of the meeting, a Joint Statement was adopted.

Joint Statement by Special Representatives and Special Envoys for Afghanistan of the European Union, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan and the EU Special Representative for Central Asia following the meeting on 26 May 2023 in Ashgabat

The fourth meeting in the EU and Central Asia Special Representatives and Special Envoys for Afghanistan and the EU Special Representative

for Central Asia format was held on 25-26 May in Ashgabat. It provided an opportunity for an in-depth exchange on developments and economic situation in Afghanistan, and allowed to discuss continued cooperation in assisting the people of Afghanistan and intensification of cooperation in areas of common interest. During the meeting they also had an exchange with UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Head of UNAMA Roza Otunbayeva and via video link with the World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan, Melinda Good, as well as World Bank Country Director for Kazakhstan, Andrei Mikhnev.

The Special Representatives and Envoys

Reaffirmed their strong commitment to the people of Afghanistan and to seeing Afghanistan develop into a stable, peaceful and prosper-

ous country with long-term prospects for lasting peace.

2. Recalled and reconfirmed principles and expectations expressed in previous statements following discussions in this format in Tashkent, Almaty and Brussels, including regarding the human rights and security situation.
3. Underlined the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government and of upholding civil, political, social economic and cultural rights of all Afghans.
4. Recalled the concerns expressed in UN Security Council Resolution 2681 (2023) at the increasing erosion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dire economic and humanitarian situation and recognised the efforts of the international community to continue assisting the people of Afghanistan in a principled manner and in accordance with international law and universally recognized norms and principles, despite difficult circumstances.
5. Urged the Taliban to lift all bans on Afghan girls and women restricting their rights to education, work and participation in public life. These bans – beyond being serious human rights violations – are having detrimental effects on the ability of the international community to deliver humanitarian aid to the Afghan people, and need to be lifted for the Afghan economy to prosper, and ultimately for Afghanistan to achieve long-term stability and peace.
6. Discussed prospects and challeng-

es for economic stabilization and recovery of Afghanistan, noting the importance of favourable conditions for economic activity, the financial and banking sector and the restoration of social-economic infrastructure in Afghanistan being created, which would allow for further assistance by the international community.

7. The participants called on the Taliban to prevent the Afghan territory from being used as a safe haven for hosting, planning, training, financing or exporting terrorism and violent extremism to other countries.
8. Negative spill-over effects from Afghanistan, such as terrorism, violent extremism, drug trafficking and other illicit crossborder activities, will negatively impact the region. Also, the use of shared natural resources has to take the needs of all neighbours into account. Participants welcomed the efforts by the regional countries and organisations, as well as international partners, to prevent and address such developments.
9. Given the shared goal of wanting to see peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region, the participants highlighted the need for continued dialogue and cooperation among the participants of this format and the wider international community.
10. The participants agreed to continue meeting in this regional format on a regular basis at alternating venues as a platform for consultation, coordination and cooperation, and supported the proposal to hold the next meeting in the autumn.



**FPCCI Advocates Enlistment of Tech Firms with PSX : FPCCI**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI : Mr. Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has advocated that Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) should facilitate and enable Pakistani IT, FinTech, Software Houses and other tech firms to enlist with PSX; and, take the internationally-proven route of Initial Public Offering (IPO) to generate capital for rapid scaling-up domestically and establishing their footprint internationally as well.

Mr. Farrukh H Khan, MD PSX, apprised that, under the auspices of FPCCI, high-potential startups got the opportunity to showcase their work; and, pitch their ideas to the potential investors & venture capitalists. He also highlighted the option of capital formation through PSX; while talking about Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) board; and, how growth enterprises & mature startups could use the option of raising funds through listing.

Mr. Imran Khalil, Chairman of Pak - UK Business Council (PUKBC) of FPCCI, apprised that the collaboration between PUKBC, Aspire Pakistan and Pak Angels emphasizes a shared commitment to fostering an angel investment culture in Pakistan on the lines of international best practices and cultivating partnerships between Pakistan & UK-based enterprises.

Mr. Hassan Syed, Chairman of ASPIRE Pakistan, maintained that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan should be engaged for the successful transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge economy and startup-friendly nation - as the resources, linkages and experience of the business community can provide all the required support Pakistani startup companies need to expand and export their services to the world.

Mr. Anwar Khan, President of Pak Angels & a renowned Silicon Valley entrepreneur, explained the process of investing into startups; and, more importantly, the attractive rates of return these companies offer - which make them strategically valuable investment decisions.

**Fly Jinnah increases flight frequency between Karachi and Islamabad**

**Commerce Report**

KARACHI : Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), today announced an increase in flight frequency between Karachi & Islamabad effective from June 1, 2023. The airline will now operate three daily flights per week, providing travelers with greater convenience and flexibility.

As the summer season approaches, the demand for affordable and reliable air travel options between the two major cities continues to grow. Fly Jinnah aims to enhance connectivity and meet the needs of both business and leisure travelers, ensuring a seamless travel experience.

Fly Jinnah remains committed to providing reliable and comfortable travel at competitive prices while prioritizing passenger experience by offering quality service, efficient operations, and more connectivity. At present, Fly Jinnah connects five major cities of Pakistan including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta.

The carrier currently operates a fleet of three modern Airbus A320 aircraft. Adding extra comfort to our passengers, providing the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices. On top of that, passengers can enjoy a wide varieties of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches and meals from the on-board "SkyCafe" menu at affordable prices.

**Anjum Nisar elected SAARC CCI VP**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigal has greeted Pattern-in-Chief of PIAF and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar for being elected Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said that Mian Anjum Nisar, who is also FPCCI former president, is entitled to this position in the true sense due to his long services for the cause of business community. In recognition of his 25 years of service to the business community, he has been honoured with the post of Vice President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce, he added.

It is to be noted that Mian Anjum Nisar was elected as the Vice President in the meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce, which consists of eight countries of South Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Afghanistan, held in Dhaka recently.

**Budget 2023-24 very important in the current economic situation: President ICCI**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD : President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the budget 2023-24 is very important in the current economic situation, the government should focus on the formulation of long-term and sustainable policies instead of short-term ones. Business community is the biggest stakeholder in Pakistan's economy. The proposals of the country's Chamber of Commerce and FPCCI should be given ample space in the budget. He expressed these views yesterday on the occasion of a meeting with President Lahore Chamber of Commerce Kashif Anwar, who visited the Islamabad Chamber along with his delegation.



business community in the budget. In difficult economic conditions, policies should be

formulated by taking the business community into confidence.

President ICCI said on this occasion that the business community is facing many difficulties in the current situation. Cities like Islamabad and Lahore should be given prominent place in the formulation of economic policies. He said that the government should clarify the situation regarding the IMF program because uncertainty is harmful for business.

Speaking on this occasion, President Lahore Chamber Kashif Anwar said that Islamabad Chamber has a prominent role in the country's business community. Lahore Chamber and Islamabad Chamber should take advantage of opportunities to cooperate on various issues. He said that in the current economic situation, the business community needs to move forward with greater unity and solidarity. On this occasion, President Lahore Chamber appreciated the activities of Islamabad Chamber and services for the business community of the capital.

**2nd International Solar Energy moot will kick off from 2nd June**

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: 2nd International Solar Energy Meet (ISEM) & IEEE IREM Expo (Pakistan's Premium Electronics and Electrical Exhibition) will start from Friday (June 02) here at Expo Center Lahore which will be attended by the local and international energy & power sector experts, primarily working in renewable power with focus on solar power generation.

According to the details, the expo will be held June 02-04 from the platform of White Paper Summits.

Besides the expo, WPS (White Paper Summits) in a strategic partnership with IEEE (The Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan) will also organize a conference with 11 expert speakers as one of the main events of the three days in which these speakers will share their Case Studies, Technical Presentation and Latest Insights on the

problems and solutions addressing the Power and Renewable Energy Sector of Pakistan.

The sessions will be attended by the IEEE members and Technical Dele-



gates. The conference will include active Q&A sessions, networking programs and B2B networking to facilitate much needed access to a wealth of industry leading knowledge, information exchange and actionable takeaways.

More than 150 stalls are booked includ-

ing over 30 by the international exhibitors after the government of Pakistan's favoring policies towards solar power generation which attracts the foreign investors to come to Pakistan. Besides, over 120 local exhibitors will also be displaying their products during the three days Solar show.

IEEE IREM Expo will focus on Power Transformers, Power Technology, Capacitors, Batteries, Heavy Duty Cables, Power Distribution Equipment, Wind Energy, Hydropower, Bioenergy, Bio Gas, BioFuel, Hydrogen, GeoThermal Energy, Solar Energy and more.

The Premium events are organized by White Paper Summits, one of the leading business Event Organizers (Summits, Exhibitions and Trainings) in the Middle East region with its headquarters based in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The regional office of White Paper Summits is established in Karachi, Pakistan.

**WB and SFERP will have multiple impacts on human lives and infrastructure: experts**



**Zainab Hyder**

KARACHI: Cash-for-work program under the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation of Sindh Government funded by The World Bank with active participation of local communities, among women and children at Manchhar lake and surrounding in the flood-hit far flung areas will be launched soon.

The World Bank Support Mission led by Task Team Leader Ahsan Tehsin here arrived in Sehwan after visiting the Manchhar parts, the main regula-

tor of the Aral Canal and Lake Manchhar, he also held a meeting with the civil society of the Sehwan area to discuss related to the Manchhar and flood-hit areas at Irrigation Rest House.

World Bank Support Mission members including Tiziana Smith, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Mishka Zaman, Sana Ahmed, Farha Yaminn Khan, Ms. Nihan Rafiq, Ms. Anna Memon, Shams ul Haq Jafrani, Aijaz Shaikh, Shahid Suhail, Nasser Memon and Mehrnisa also discussed the solution of their problems.

**Hard work**

FAISALABAD: A vendor is selling mobile accessories at Ghanta Gaher Chowk to earn daily wages as due to extreme high inflation the demands of such things are decreased across the country.



Photo: Online

**NKATI industrialists hold rally to show solidarity with Pak Army**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Faisal Moiz Khan, President North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI) led a rally to express solidarity with the Pakistani armed forces and institutions. NKATI's Senior Vice President Shabbir Ismail, Vice President Naem Haider, Deputy Chief CMC Syed Yasir Ali, Assistant Chief CMC Shahzad Elahi, Farooq Khatora, and a large number of industrialists participated in the rally.

The participants of the rally chanted slogans of "Long Live Pakistan Army" and expressed their determination to always play their role in upholding the dignity of the industrialists, Pakistan Armed Forces, Police Force, and government institutions.



Moiz Khan, while paying tribute to the martyrs of the security forces, said that the people of Pakistan, especially the industrialist community, will never forget the sacrifices of the

martyrs. "Our armed forces are considered the world's best and their professional skills are acknowledged globally. We will always uplift the spirits of

our forces and never allow any disrespect to their dignity. The industrialist community stands with the Pakistan Armed Forces, and whenever needed, we are ready to offer our services."

**SAI recommends strong measures for the Federal Budget 2023-24**

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The SITE Association of Industry (SAI) has recommended the Government to save industries from closure, prevent further unemployment and strengthen the role of the Industrial sector in import-substitution and export-promotion.

SAI urged in its Federal Budget Proposals 2023-24 that the government to remove unannounced and imprudent restrictions on imported raw material, machinery and spares since such reckless curbs have brought down the output of the Industrial sector which has further deepened the ongoing economic crisis thereby putting the collection of government's own tax targets into jeopardy.

Overall, the inflation and rising cost of doing business coupled with lending rates for industry, as high as 22-23% have broken the backbone of the economy. The government needs to take immediate measures to save the industrial sector from falling sick - a dire state, which, if allowed to go unabated, would never be reversible in the future.

The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) EPD Circular No 20 of 2022, has created more problems than it could have solved and some of its provisions are in contravention of the SBP Foreign Exchange Regulation/

Manual, it said.

The above mentioned circular needs elaboration, clarification and amendments to the extent of providing a complete framework of what SBP calls "self-funded imports", it demanded.

The industry representative body also pointed out the perennial issue of low tax-to-GDP ratio, narrow tax base and the counter-productive taxation policies which provide incentives to the non-taxpayers rather than incentivizing the honest taxpayers which is a critical factor for promoting a documented economy and a thriving formal sector.

SAI demanded reduction in the rates of turnover tax by at least 50 per cent from the current year thereby allowing the businesses to pay income tax according to their assessable income and pay or adjust sales tax according to their actual turnover and value addition.

Other proposals included reduction in the general sales tax (GST) rate from 18 to 15 per cent and abolishing 3% further sales tax on unregistered persons while making it mandatory for FBR to register every sizeable business for sales tax purpose.

SAI President Riaz Uddin addressing budget proposals to the Minister of Finance, Governor State Bank and Chairman FBR hoped that the recommendations would meet approval in the best interest of the country.



# WWE Superstar Sami Zayn performs Umrah, calls it biggest achievement

**A Sports**

MAKKAH: Renowned World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) superstar Sami Zayn performed Umrah in the holy city of Makkah, ahead of his important Tag Team Championship title defence against Roman Reigns and Solo Sikoa at Night of Champions.

Taking to Twitter, Sami Zayn shared pictures of himself in an ihram, the garments worn to perform Umrah by men, besides the Holy Kaaba with an emotional note regarding his experience.

"Being a pro wrestler and being with WWE has taken me to places I never dreamed I'd get to see and do things I never thought I'd get to do," wrote Zayn.

"It has provided me a life filled with incredible experiences that I will cherish forever. This one is at the top of the list," he added.

Besides Zayn, WWE also shared a Vlog of Zayn's entire journey of pilgrimage to Mecca.

Sami Zayn is a Canadian-born Muslim wrestler of Syrian descent, he has been linked with WWE for eight years.

Zayn was not allowed to visit Saudi Arabia until recently due to diplomatic



conflicts between Saudi Arabia and his county of origin Syria.

Saudi Arabia has now renewed its diplomatic relationship with Syria.

People from countries are allowed to travel across countries.

## Taimoor Khan: Pakistan's boxing champion aims for OPBF heavyweight glory

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani professional boxer Taimoor Khan, who is currently the World Boxing Council (WBC) Continental Champion, has set his sights on winning the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) heavyweight title this year for Pakistan.

In an interview with APP, Khan expressed his desire to defeat top-notch boxers and stated that the OPBF title is a crucial stepping stone towards the world heavyweight title. However, he mentioned that the main obstacle in accomplishing his goals is securing sponsorship.

Khan had a scheduled fight with Justis Huni, an Australian professional boxer ranked 54th in the world, in August. Unfortunately, due to visa issues, he was unable to seize that opportunity. Nevertheless, Khan remains determined to become the first Pakistani to win the



OPBF heavyweight title.

When discussing his boxing idols, Khan mentioned Ukrainian professional boxer Oleksandr Usyk and British professional boxer Anthony Joshua. He admired their exceptional skills, movements, stamina, and cardio.

Regarding his training regimen, Khan revealed that he undergoes two to three months of rigorous exercise,

and strength training, and adheres to a focused and healthy diet before stepping into the ring.

He emphasized the need for even more intense training for his upcoming challenging fights.

If he were not a boxer, Khan stated that he would have chosen to be a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter or a rugby player.

Recounting his favourite victory against Vedant Agarwal, where he won the Asian Heavyweight title for the first time, Khan praised his opponent's experience and toughness but expressed his satisfaction with knocking him out easily. He added that defeating an Indian boxer on Pakistan's Independence Day was a particularly joyous moment for him.

Khan believes that Pakistani sportsmen should be given opportunities similar to neighbouring countries such as Iran, India, and Thailand in order to uplift sports in the country.

Reflecting on his boxing career, he revealed that his initial dream was to obtain the World Boxing Council (WBC) belt, but now he aims even higher, aspiring to achieve success similar to Tyson Fury. Khan also expressed confidence in the extensive talent present in Pakistani boxers, stating that with the right support, they can bring Olympic medals to the country.

He advised young boxers to step out of their comfort zones and work harder to achieve their goals.

In April of this year, Taimoor Khan won the WBC Continental Championship title by knocking out Thai boxer Panya Chomphoophuang in the sixth round, bringing his overall fight record to eight wins, including seven knockouts.

Earlier in the year, he successfully defended his Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Championship title against Aekkaphob Auraiwan in a highly-anticipated bout in Bangkok.

## Emirates Red stun leaders Fujairah in D10 League

**A Sports**

ABU DHABI: A collective bowling and batting brilliance powered Emirates Red to a convincing four-wicket victory over the table-toppers Fujairah in the 20th match of the ongoing Emirates D10 League.

Put into bat first, leaders Fujairah could manage 87/7 in the allotted 10 overs with modest contributions from their batters.

Fujairah got off to a poor start to their innings as the side lost their first wicket for just six runs in the first over as opener Salman Khan perished for just four.

The leaders then lost wickets at regular intervals before Emirates Bowlers restricted them to a par total.

Hafiz Almas and Zeeshan Abid led the way for Fujairah as they remained the joint top-scorers for the side with 17 runs each to their names.



Muhammad Asif Jr, Muhammad Irfan and Ammar Badami led the bowling charge for Emirates Red with two

wickets each while Clinton Berkenshaw made one scalp. Set to chase a modest total, Emirates

Red comfortably amassed the target for the loss of six wickets with three balls to spare.

Skipper Muhammad Shahdad led his from the front in the pursuit and top-scored with a sensational 22 off just 10 deliveries, laced up with two boundaries and a six.

Besides Shadad, Muhammad Irfan remained the notable run-getter for Emirates Red in the run chase as he struck a vital 19 in 14 balls.

Umair Ali Khan was the pick of the bowlers for Fujairah with his 2/14 while Muhammad Rohid, Shahbaz Ali, Haider Ali and Hafiz Almas struck out a batter each.

Following an important victory, Emirates Blue remained in the third position in the D10 League standings with eight points while Fujairah retained their top spot with 10 points in six matches.

## Zimbabwe Select thrash Pakistan Shaheens to seal series win

**A Sports**

HARARE: Mubasir Khan's fighting century failed to trump Craig Ervine's marathon 195-run knock as Zimbabwe Select thrash Pakistan Shaheens by 32-run in the sixth one-day to seal the six-match series 4-2.

Set to chase a mammoth 386, Pakistan Shaheens' batters showcased a valiant effort in the pursuit but ended up 32 runs short as they were bundled out for 353 in the final over despite Mubasir Khan's century.

Pakistan Shaheens had a dismal start to the run chase as they were three down for just 50 runs in the 10th over.

Following the early setback, wicketkeeper batter Rohail Nazir and skipper Kamran Ghulam launched the recovery as the pair stitched a gritty 108-run partnership

for the fourth wicket.

They were looking in control until Luke Jongwe got rid of Kamran Ghulam briefly after the captain amassed his half-century. He struck 56 in 47 deliveries, hitting six boundaries and a six.

Rohail Nazir then received another strong firm at the other end as Mubasir Khan joined him in the middle after Ghulam's dismissal and they put on another vital partnership for Pakistan Shaheens.

The duo of Nazir and Khan added 98 runs to the team's total at a brisk rate but Sean Williams dented their expedition with a timely blow by removing the former, who fell just 13 runs short of his well-deserved century.

Nazir smashed six boundaries and three sixes on his way to a 91-ball 87.

Mubasir Khan stood his ground firm while Pakistan Shaheens' lower order batters failed to lend significant support to the young batter at the backend and thus the former fell short of propelling his side to glory despite a brilliant century knock, which ended in the final over.

Mubasir Khan top scored for Pakistan Shaheens with a quickfire 115 off just 77 balls, laced up with six boundaries and eight sixes.

Sikandar Raza led the bowling charge of Zimbabwe Select with 3/66, followed by Blessing Muzarabani, Tanaka Chivanga and Jongwe, who took two wickets each.

Zimbabwe Select thwarted Pakistan Shaheens' bowlers as they piled up a humongous total on the scoreboard at the back of an astonishing knock by Craig Ervine.

The home side had a contrast-

ing start to their innings after they were put into bat first as Zimbabwe Select lost an early wicket on the second delivery of the innings after Mohammad Ali dismissed Joylord Gumbie for a duck.

Following an early hiccup, Craig Ervine and Innocent Kaia launched the recovery as the pair built a strong partnership for the second wicket.

The duo of Craig Ervine and Innocent Kaia added 187 runs to the total before Mohammad Ali struck again in the 28th over and devalued Kaia of his well-deserved hundred.

Kaia fell just eight runs short of the landmark as he scored a brisk 92 off just 79 deliveries, laced up with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Meanwhile, Craig Ervine stood his ground firm after Kaia's dismissal and stitched brief part-



nerships with Sikandar Raza (15), Sean Williams (20), and Wesley Madhevere (8) before finally receiving significant support from Ryan Burl.

The sixth-wicket partnership between Craig Ervine and

## Gadani's sand artists' portrait of Vinicius Jr acknowledged by Real Madrid

**A Sports**

Renowned artists from Gadani, representing Rashidi Artists Group, lent support to Vinicius Junior amid the ongoing racism scandal by drawing his sand portrait which caught the attention of the Brazilian forward's club Real Madrid.



Spain's football league, La Liga, has been engulfed in a racism scandal after the 22-year-old forward was subjected to racist taunts during Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Valencia and later sent off.

The player has been taunted by opposition fans since he joined Real in 2018 but the latest incident has kicked up a storm over whether Spain is doing enough to stamp out racism in football.

The game was held up for several minutes and the referee wrote in his post-match report that shouts of "monkey" had been directed at Vinicius Junior.

Amid the ongoing racism scandal, famous artists from Gadani came out in support of Vinicius Junior by drawing a sand portrait of the footballer, which also featured a short supportive message.

"Always with you Vini Jr," the message read.

Vinicius Junior's sand portrait took the internet by storm and consequently caught the attention of Vinicius Junior's club Real Madrid, which also shared it on Instagram.

Earlier this week, Real Madrid filed a criminal complaint with Spanish prosecutors over the racist abuse its Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior received during a weekend La Liga match, calling it a "hate crime".

"Real Madrid strongly condemns the events that took place yesterday against our player Vinicius Junior," the Spanish giants said in a statement.

The club said it believes the abuse "constitutes a hate crime" and had filed a complaint with the prosecutors' office "in order for the facts to be investigated and for those responsible to be held accountable."

## Bowlers-led Dynamites thump Challengers in Women's Pakistan Cup

**A Sports**

KARACHI: Dynamites recorded their second win of the one-day phase with a thumping eight-wicket win over Challengers in the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament.



Challengers were bowled out for 119 in 40.3 overs and Dynamites chased the target in 28.1 overs at the State Bank Ground on Saturday.

Left-arm orthodox Nashra Sunthi took three wickets for 19 in seven overs and was named player of the match. She accounted for Javeria Rauf, who top-scored with 44, Noreen Yaqub (16) and Maham Tariq (0).

Waheeda Akhtar, Aliya Riaz and Ghulam Fatima took two wickets each, and Maham Manzoor got one wicket.

Dynamites' openers Khadija Chishty and Sidra Amin provided a solid start to the run chase with an 80-run stand. Khadija made 33 and Sidra, the captain, scored 42.

Bismah Maroof and Aliya Riaz were unbeaten on 16 and 14 when Dynamites chased down the total.

This was Challengers' second defeat in as many matches in the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament.

## Sabalenka ignores Ukrainian 'hate' with eyes on number one at Roland Garros

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Aryna Sabalenka's opening match in her quest for a second Grand Slam title has political undertones when she faces Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk at the French Open on Sunday, but the Belarusian has no time to delve on any negative feelings towards her.

Kostyuk has maintained she will not shake hands with tour rivals from Russia and Belarus, who she feels have not done enough to speak out against the invasion of her country.

Belarus is being used as a key staging ground for Russia's war in Ukraine, which Moscow terms a "special operation".

"I don't want to waste my energy on this kind of stuff. This is like, it's not about — it's none of my business. So if she hate me, okay. I can't do anything about that," Sabalenka told reporters ahead of the tournament.

"There is going to be people who loves me, there is going to be people who hates me. If she hates me, I don't feel anything like that to her."

For Sabalenka, her eyes are not just on the prize after winning the Australian Open in January but also the number one spot in the women's rankings that was once a distant dream at the start of the year.

Iga Swiatek was miles ahead at the top but the Belarusian has closed the gap in recent months, even beating the world number one in the Madrid clay to show she is ready to move into the second week at Roland Garros for the first time.