



## Kundi expresses grief over loss of lives during rains in KP

State Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed his grief and sorrow over the loss of lives and property during the rain-related incidents in different areas of KP. In a statement, the state minister said his heart was saddened by the loss of precious human lives due to rains in many areas of the province.



## A man to cry 'alone at home' after election to Mayor of Karachi: CM Murad

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while alluding to Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Sunday said that a man shall be crying 'alone at home' after June 15, the day when the elections to Mayor of Karachi will take place. He said the man claimed that they had mandate but on the other hand he denied the holding of the elections. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Urs Mubarak

NERIAN SHARIF: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of Nerian Sharif Urs Mubarak



Photo: PID

## Three soldiers embrace martyrdom amid killing three terrorists in North Waziristan fire exchange

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Three soldiers of Pakistan Army have embraced martyrdom while eliminating three terrorists including four injured during a fire exchange that took place on the night of June 09/10 between the Army troops and terrorists in general area Miran Shah of North Waziristan District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly three terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists were injured.

The security forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists.

The martyred soldiers were identified as Subedar Asghar



Ali (age 40 years, resident of Lakki Marwat District), Sepoy Naseem Khan (age 26 years, resident of Lakki Marwat District) and Sepoy Muhammad Zaman (age 22 years, resident of Abbottabad) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat during intense exchange of fire.

The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

"Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

# PM hopeful to reach agreement with IMF in June

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed hope that Pakistan will reach agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June to get the remaining loan as his government had met all the conditions with sincerity.

Speaking at a ceremony at Sabzazar Sports Complex here, he said he had a long conversation with chief of IMF recently and he assured that the government would meet conditions for the loan and provide the required information about budget.

He said Pakistani nation was vibrant and was capable of meeting all the coming economic challenges in case of any further delay in the IMF programme.

He said despite all the economic difficulties, the federal government raised the salaries of employees by 30 to 35 percent, increased pension by 17 percent and increased minimum wage from Rs 25000 to Rs 32000. The government was aware of the economic difficulties of the poor people, he added.

He said major funds were allocated for the sectors of agricul-



ture and information technology in the federal budget presented by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, adding the budget would provide relief to the common man and create jobs.

The prime minister said he assumed government in April 2022 amid very tough economic

conditions. Last year, the government of Imran Niazi broke the agreement with International Monetary Fund and the coalition government had to face the challenge of rising commodity and oil prices in the international market and then it spent huge funds for the relief and rehabilitation of

people affected by the devastating floods, he mentioned.

The government had to seek help from friendly countries to overcome economic challenges, he continued.

He said the government of Imran Niazi showed negligence and did not buy gas when its prices

were very low in the international market during the COVID pandemic.

Imran Niazi did nothing for the people but wasted all his time in waging vendetta against opposition leaders, he added.

He said Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz and other leaders of Pakistan Muslim League (N) were put in the jails and opposition was pushed against the wall.

Shehbaz said economic stability was not possible without political stability and vowed to put Pakistan on the path of greater progress and prosperity under the dynamic leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

He said the incidents of May 9 were acts of hostility against the nation, adding the military installations were attacked and Jinnah House was burned down on the instigation of Imran Niazi.

He asserted that law will take its course and all those responsible for the incident of May 9 would be punished so that these crimes could not be repeated again. However, he assured that innocent would be treated fairly and with justice.

## Cyclone Biparjoy moves closer to Karachi as authorities on high alert

News Desk

KARACHI: The concerned authorities were put on high alert after the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) alerted that cyclone 'Biparjoy' over the Arabian Sea was inching closer to Karachi and other parts of Sindh.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), in its alert, stated that cyclone Biparjoy over east-central Arabian Sea has moved further northward during last 12 hours and now lies at a distance of about 690km south of Karachi, 670km south of Thatta and 720km southeast of Ormara.

"Maximum sustained surface winds are 180-200 Km/hour gusts 220 Km/hour around the system center and sea conditions being phenomenal around the system center with maximum wave height 35-40 feet," the alert stated.

The system, the advisory says, supported by environmental conditions; favourable sea surface temperature of 30-32°C, low vertical wind shear and upper-level divergence.

"Under the existing upper-level steering winds, cyclone Biparjoy is most likely



to track further Northward until 14 June morning, then recurve Northeastward and cross between Keti Bandar (South-east Sindh) and Indian Gujarat coast on 15 June afternoon as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS)," it added.

Possible impacts About the possible impacts of the cyclone, the Met Office said with its probable approach to the southeast Sindh coast, widespread wind-dust/thunderstorm rain with some very heavy/extremely heavy falls accompanied with squally winds of 80-100Km/hour likely in Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tharparker and Umerkot districts during 13-17 June.

"Dust/thunderstorm-rain with few heavy falls and accompanied with squally winds of 60-80 Km/hour were likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas districts from 13/14 June -16 June," it warned.

## Report reveals 0.7 million Afghan refugees' registration not renewed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A report revealed that over 0.7 million Afghan refugees have not renewed their registration.

As per the details, the authorities have started the search for Afghan refugees who did not renew their registration, the police station will use the NADRA and FIA data to track them.

The Interior Ministry has directed the authorities to arrest the unregistered Afghan refugees under the foreign act. Sources revealed that the arrested refugees will be exited from the Pak-Afghan border. The NADRA record shows that from 2006 to 2023, 3.5 million Afghan refugees were registered, whereas 1.3 million have returned to Afghanistan.

# The mastermind of May 9 tragedy is Imran Khan: Marium Nawaz

Asim Tanveer

SHUJAABAD: Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif of Muslim League-N has said The mastermind of May 9 tragedy is Imran Khan.

Revenge actions were repeatedly taken against Nawaz Sharif, but Nawaz Sharif never once said to burn the country. Because Nawaz Sharif is the son of this soil. How can the one who builds the country break the country? Power was taken by the hand of Fitnah, he burnt the memorials of the martyrs. Those who insulted the martyrs people will not leave them now. The children of the mastermind of the project are luxuriating outside and the sons of the nation are in jails for sedition. We were given laptops not batons in the hands of the youth of Shujaabad

The story of the calamity of the country is over, now a new era of development will begin in the country. In difficult circumstances, Shahbaz Sharif presented a better budget. Now Shujaabad was made Lahore.



She expressed these views while addressing the youth convention in Shujaabad yesterday. On this occasion she was accompanied by former MNA Syed Javed Ali Shah, Rana Ijaz Noon, Syed Mujahid Ali Shah, Syed Zain Ali Shah, Maryam Aurangzeb, Talal Chaudhary, Malik Abdul Ghaffar Dogar, Sheikh Tariq Rasheed, Rana Iqbal Siraj, former governor. Malik Rafiq Rajwana, Asif Rafiq Rajwana, Usman Khan Babar, Sheikh Athar Muntaz and others were also present.

He brutally burned the country. Military martyrs are martyrs not only of the army but of the entire nation. He did not even spare the military martyrs. But remember that the nation will not forgive him now. The nation will not forgive those who target the memorials of military martyrs and will pursue them till the end. May 9 tragedy is regrettable. But it was good that the temptation was exposed.

She said that the one who destroyed Nawaz Sharif's party has formed his own party. Now his party can come in a Chinchhi rickshaw. The one who used to say that I will make them cry, today the whole nation is seeing his shouts and apologies. Today, he is the president of his party, he is also the secretary, and he is also a voter.

## Ahsan Iqbal says Pakistan's debt exceeds its earning

Faisal Khawar Butt

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan's debt has exceeded its earning.

Addressing a public gathering in Ahmed Nagar, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the PML-N government was dismissed through rigging and an inept expert was brought into power to who landed Pakistan in an economic crisis.

He said that the Jinnah house attack was an organized attempt to insult the martyr's memorials and that the suspect do not deserve any relief.

## Rana Sanaullah lambasts PTI chief for pursuing 'politics of hatred'

Mian Abdul Rashid

FAISALABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Sunday lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for pursuing 'politics of hatred' and 'inciting the people of Pakistan for attacking state institutions'.

Addressing an inauguration ceremony in Faisalabad, the federal minister said that the previous rulers - who according to him were imposed on the country - did nothing for the nation, but 'corruption and misleading the country's youth'. "During its three-and-a-half-year tenure, the previous government only committed corruption and did not launch any development project in the country", Rana Sanaullah said, adding that the previous rulers only created chaos - which damaged the country.

Referring to PTI chief, the



interior minister said that a 'religious fanatic' attacked the former premier in Wazirabad, but the "latter blamed the incumbent government". "The suspect had bought a pistol from Wazirabad three days before the attack", he claimed. "He [Khan] created hatred among the people and the country suffered loss", he said, adding that they have never seen "such hatred in the country before".

Sanaullah recalled that he was arrested on "spurious and mala fide" drugs case, saying that the previous government only motive was to put the entire opposition behind the bars.



## Address to people's

KARACHI: Pakistan Jamaat-i-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq addresses at Shahra-e-Qaideen in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## May-9 perpetrators should be brought to book: JavedLatif

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif stressed on Sunday that perpetrators of the May-9 sorrowful incidents should be brought to book so that people could differentiate between a political party and a terrorist group.

Addressing a press conference at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) secretariat at Model Town, he said the unfortunate incidents taking place in the guise of protests on May 9 by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were an attempt to weaken the state. He said there was ample evidence of foreign conspiracy behind the attacks on that fateful day.

He demanded that perpetrators of the May-9 incident

should be exposed before the nation to avoid such an incident in future. State properties including military installations were damaged by the protestors under a planning, he added.

The federal minister said that facts about the conspiracy under which elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted in 2017 should also be made public so that people could be made aware of facts. The fact had already been related by many retired people of state institutions, he said and demanded that people of the country should also be told the facts about the conspiracy, which resulted in halting process of speedy development in the country under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

He said that various



development projects were launched by the then PML-N government, whereas huge foreign investment under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was pouring in constantly to change the fate of the people; however, ousting of the prime minister under a conspiracy stopped the process

any political party or a political leader; however, there was a need to ascertain if any party was ever involved in terrorism acts like May-9 incidents.

He said the perpetrators of May 9 incidents deserved no leniency and should never be spared, as it was a matter of sanctity of the state and anyone who had violated the law and the Constitution should be dealt with as per law of the land to maintain the writ of the state.

To a question, he said the PML-N strongly believed in power of masses and the party would accept their verdict that who should rule the country. He made it clear that the PML-N would contest general election under its electoral symbol and from the party platform.

## Oil falls two per cent for second week on demand concerns

## TLTP

ISLAMABAD: Oil futures slid over 2 percent for the second week in a row due to build-up in US fuel stocks, weak economic data from China and a report that the US and Iran were close to reaching an interim nuclear deal.

Both major global benchmarks Brent and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) posted a second straight week of loss, with Brent dipping 1.76 percent and WTI going down by 2.19 percent. Brent, the international benchmark for two-thirds of the world's oil, went down to \$74.79 from \$76.13 a barrel, showing a decline of \$1.34 on a week-on-week (WoW) basis. The WTI, the main oil benchmark for

North America, went down to \$70.17 from \$71.74 a barrel on a weekly basis, registering a weekly loss of \$1.57.

However, the price of Russian Sokol increased by \$2.06 (+3.23 percent) to \$65.93 from \$63.87 on WoW basis. Similarly, Arab Light prices witnessed an increase of \$1.37 (+1.8 percent) to reach \$77.37 from \$76 a barrel on a weekly basis. Following suit, the price for Opec Basket increased from \$72.79 to \$76.55 on a week-on-week basis, showing an uptick of \$3.76 (+5.17 percent).

Oil futures started last week on a positive note as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, announced a unilateral output cut of a million barrels per day for July. The Opec+ alli-

ance of 23 oil-producing countries also pledged on June 4 to extend its current production cuts of 3.66 million bpd, or about 3.7 percent of global demand, until the end of 2024 as economic growth concerns weighed on the fuel demand outlook.

However, prices remained steady on Tuesday and Wednesday after reports came about rising US fuel stocks and weaker-than-expected Chinese export data. Fears over tighter supply and higher demand, as the United States enters driving season which could drive prices higher, were offset by worries over a slow pickup in China's fuel demand. China's exports slumped 7.5 percent annually in May, its biggest fall since

January, data from the Customs Bureau showed on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a rise of 2.7 million barrels in petroleum stocks of the United States and 5.1 million barrels in distillate fuel inventories raised concerns about fuel demand in the world's largest oil-consuming nation.

Both Brent and WTI lost more than \$3 on Thursday after reports claimed that the US and Iran were close to signing a temporary deal that would offer some sanctions relief in exchange for a reduction in Iran's uranium enrichment. However, prices pared losses after both Washington and Tehran denied the reports about a potential agreement.

Some analysts expect oil

prices to rise if the US Federal Reserve pauses hiking interest rates at its next meeting over June 13-14. The Fed's decision may also influence Saudi Arabia's next move, according to analysts. However, it appears that traders are still more concerned about oil demand than they are about the adequacy of supply.

With news like Germany's and the eurozone's recession and shrinking manufacturing activity in the US, demand worry is quite justified. Even the possibility that the Federal Reserve might not announce another rate hike at its next meeting on June 13-14 could do nothing to change the dominant sentiment on the oil market. TLTP

## Nawaz Sharif to return home before polls: Muqam



## Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political & Public Affairs, National Heritage and Provincial President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday said that general elections would be held in October and the party supremo Nawaz Sharif will return home before it.

He was talking to journalists here at the headquarters of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Sunday wherein he presided over a high-level meeting regarding the restoration of the power supply system on an emergency basis after the destruction of the power transmission system due to heavy rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He was given a detailed briefing by the management of both PESCO and Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) regarding losses inflicted on the power transmission system in the province.

The PM's aide said that the people

have now acknowledged that the panacea for all problems and Imran Khan lying with only Nawaz Sharif and PML-N.

Amir Muqam said that rehabilitation work on the restoration of rain affected power supply system was in full swing and all staff from Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to Lineman level of both power distribution companies is in the field.

He said that out of the total 364 damaged feeders, 300 have been rehabilitated, while rehabilitation work on two damaged grid stations of the TESCO was continued.

He told the media that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif himself is monitoring the rehabilitation operation.

He said that federal government has announced a compensation package of Rs.1 million for heirs of dead persons in rainstorm while critically and minor injured will get Rs.3,00,000/- and Rs.50,000/- respectively. He said a survey for conducting assessment of losses is also being underway.

## Ex-SCBA president wants JIT to probe Shar's murder



## Bureau Report

QUETTA: Former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association has demanded establishment of a JIT or a judicial commission to probe murder of senior apex court lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar.

Mr Shar had filed a petition in the court seeking action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman under Article 6 of the Constitution. He was murdered a day before hearing of this petition.

Former SCBA president Amanullah Kanrani, addressing a press-

er, said several questions had been raised over the murder of Mr Shar and a high court judge-led JIT or a judicial commission could find answers and motives behind Mr Shar's murder.

"The real culprits must be exposed and brought to justice," demanded Mr Kanrani.

He said Mr Shar fought for supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law like Allama Iqbal, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Hussain Shaheed Soharwardi, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and other lawyers.

## Hafiz Naeem says feudal lords want to control Karachi's mandate



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi's Jamaat Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said that feudal lords want to control Karachi's mandate.

Addressing a rally in Karachi, Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said that the people of Karachi have shown trust in JI. The local Government elections were held after JI's continuous struggle and sit-ins.

He said that when PPP was losing in the LG polls, forms 11 and 12 were stopped and the result was issued by returning officers of their choice.

The Karachi JI claimed that ECP issued a verdict in favour of the PPP but JI participated in the LG election

despite unfair delimitation.

Moreover, Hafiz Naeem said that a petition will be filed in the Supreme Court and JI will not back off from "We will fight", added.

Earlier, Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister Saeed Ghani said that Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman cannot become the mayor of Karachi.

Saeed Ghani said that Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman's palm has no lines of becoming a mayor.

He lambasted Jamaat-e-Islami leaders saying that they are liars, they accused PPP of declining the number of people in the recent Karachi census.

## A man to cry 'alone at home' after election to Mayor of Karachi: CM Murad

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while alluding to JI Karachi Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday said that a man shall be crying 'alone at home' after June 15, the day when the elections to Mayor of Karachi will take place.

He said the man claimed that they had mandate but on the other hand he denied the holding of the elections.

While addressing a Post-Budget press conference at Sindh Assembly auditorium, he said that it was the responsibility of the Sindh government to present the elected local bodies representatives, who were under arrest and facing criminal charges on the day of the election to Mayor of Karachi.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said this would be the first time in the history that their elected local bodies



representatives would be serving the people across the province.

He said, 'It will be our local government in Sindh for the first time.'

While speaking on the budget, he said that budgets were being present-

ed since 1937 and this was the 59th budget.

He said that the cause of the development in Sindh was only due to the stability in the province.

He said that the Pakistan People's

Party would bring stability in the country.

He said that the total outlay of the budget estimated for the next financial year 2023-24 was Rs2.25 trillion.

The Chief Minister said that the estimated development budget was over Rs700 billion.

He said that there were four major components of the budget, which included education, health, law and order and local bodies.

He also enumerated a number of schemes and projects for Karachi including K-IV and other projects.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that they had worked more and more over development side in the ongoing year compared to the previous years and hoped that the next financial year would be much better.

He said that budget for transport & mass transit system and local bodies could be increased as per the requirement.



# PIDE's 2nd regional 2-day Conference will be held on June 13-14

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Regional Conference on "Unleashing the Economic Potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" to Take Place in Malakand

The Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the University of Malakand (UoM), is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated second Regional Conference. The conference, centered around the theme "Unleashing the Economic Potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," will take place

on June 13-14, 2023, at the prestigious University of Malakand.

This remarkable two-day event will bring together over 400 participants from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including renowned national experts, policymakers, development practitioners, entrepreneurs, students, and scholars. The Conference aims to provide a platform for vibrant discussions and insightful debates on key economic and social issues, contributing to the development and progress of the region.

One of the highlights of this year's Conference is the inclusive and diverse

participation from universities across Pakistan. Vice-Chancellors, faculty members, and students from 20 provincial and federal universities will join hands with PSDE, PIDE, and UoM in a collective effort to foster a culture of nation-building and inclusive economic growth.

"We are excited to host this remarkable event that brings together the best minds in the field of development economics," said Spokesperson PIDE. "The Conference is not only an opportunity for robust discussions and knowledge-sharing, but it also serves as a catalyst for creating actionable solutions to

the economic challenges Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces. We are confident that the outcomes of this Conference will have a lasting impact on the region's economic development," he added.

The choice of Malakand as the venue for this year's Conference is a testament to the commitment of PSDE, PIDE, and UoM to promote inclusivity and equal representation across regions. By bringing such a prestigious event to Malakand, the organizers aim to empower the local community and highlight the immense potential for economic growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Historical Treasure is integral part of culture and history of nations: Zubair Rabbani



**Asim Tanveer**

BAHAWALPUR: Director Museum Muhammad Zubair Rabbani said that the documentary sources are the primary sources whose importance is unquestionable. This historical treasure is an integral part of the culture and history of nations, whose protection is indispensable. The use of technology to preserve the manuscripts, documents and historical sources of Bahawalpur Museum is being ensured so that these rare documents can be preserved for a long time. He expressed these views while inaugurating the exhibition organized in the museum on the occasion of International Archives Day. He said that the history of the document is centuries old, the import...

## PMLN Women Asset of party and the party leadership is proud of them: Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City President and former Member of Provincial Assembly Sultana Shaheen, General Secretary and former Member of National Assembly Shaheen Shafiq were led by the city president and former member of Provincial Assembly from Multan city in connection with the visit of the PMLN chief organizer of the party, Maryam Nawaz, to Shujaabad, organized by the PML-N Women's Department. A large convoy consisting of hundreds of women left on cars, buses, jeeps.

On this occasion, Sultana Shaheen and Shaheen Shafiq said that women are the asset of the party and the party leadership is proud of them.

PML-N is still the country's largest political democratic and people's party, the far-reaching results of Maryam Nawaz's visit to Shujaabad will be revealed.

## Koral police station and Khanna police station are failing to control crime and protect citizens

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Sarfraz Mughal, the businessman leader and the executive president of Mughalia Center, has appealed to IG Islamabad Police Nasir Akbar and DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari to stop the use of mobile phones, wallets and weapons in Islamabad city. Robbery incidents are happening on a daily basis, but due to increasing crime in the areas of Khanna and Koral police stations and the helplessness or negligence of the police, the criminals are out of control.

According to Shiraz Yusuf, the victim in Tiramari Chowk, Irfanabad area of Koral, two unidentified persons fired shots that broke the bone, but no officer examined the scene. Even a few days ago, there was a shooting incident and several theft threats, but no thief was caught. There were threats to steal mobile phones and money. Mirza Naveed, the leader of the organization, said that on the night of May 17, I was passing by the expressway near Khanna police station along with Ahmed Saleem, when three female passers-by snatched mobile money from both of us and tortured Ahmed Saleem.

Immediately reached police station Khanna where Inspector Kazim was present who did not listen to us and said to write the application and put it on the table and go. Neither was found nor a case was registered. The remarkable thing is that the robbers are sitting in the same place waiting for the victim.

Frustrated for not taking positive action, he became silent. Finally, Sarfraz Mughal has said that the crimes should be controlled on a priority basis and the criminals should be caught, reports should be taken from the SHO's of both police stations on a daily basis. A peaceful protest will be held in front of the Press Club to bring it to the notice of senior officers of the Islamabad Police.

## Fire

ISLAMABAD: Fire Fighters busy in extinguishing the fire at Margalla Hills near Shahdara Valley Picnic point, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Make our youth skilled that can earn respectable employment: Ehsan Bhutta

**Quaratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Secretary Industries and Commerce, Government of Punjab, Ehsan Bhatta visited Government College of Technology for Women Qasimpur Colony, Multan and reviewed the summer camp training program and building in the college. Two trainings are going on, on this occasion Secretary Industries and Commerce Ehsan Bhatta said that we have to make our youth skilled so that they can earn respectable employment.

And they showed their willingness to do this work in their homes and they also showed special interest in doing business on a small scale so that they could earn their livelihood



by doing small scale work. In order to earn money, the Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Ehsan Bhatta, directed the principal college to institute spoken English in the

summer camp. Highlighting the educational facilities and efforts, Secretary Industries added on this occasion that skills training programs have been started in the summer vacations by the Industries Department, Government of Punjab.

Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta also planted a sapling in the college premises. Regional Director Toyota Engineer Qazi Mohammad Asad Khan, Director South Toyota Multan Ayesha Rehman, Deputy Director Information and Public Relations Mian Naeem Asim, Principal Government College of Technology for Women Anjum Kulsom were also present on this occasion.

# 2nd International European Film Festival 2023 in Women University Multan

**Quaratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: The Oloompolo European Union Film Festival was a highly anticipated event that aimed to celebrate the art of filmmaking and promote cultural exchange. The Department of Mass Communication, under the umbrella of the Director Students Affairs WUM, actively participated in the 2nd International European Film Festival, 2023 Pakistan curated by Olomopolo Media.

The Oloompolo European Union commenced with a workshop on film-making. The objective of this workshop was to empower and encourage youngsters to explore the field of filmmaking, which is often underrepresented by women. The workshop provided a platform for these students to learn essential skills, gain hands-on experience, and interact with industry professionals.

The Film-making workshop was conducted by Kanwal Khoosat, renowned producer and director which



provided valuable insights and learning opportunities.

The workshop proved to be a remarkable experience for the women university students. They were able to participate in various activities, such as scriptwriting, cinematography, editing,

and directing. The hands-on approach allowed them to grasp the intricacies of the filmmaking process and sparked their creativity. By engaging in discussions with industry experts, the students gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities

in the film industry, inspiring them to pursue their passions fearlessly.

The students from the department of Mass Communication, Department of Islamic Studies, Department of Physics and Sociology The Women University, Multan. The Oloompolo European Union Film Festival, with its workshop on film-making for students and the subsequent film festival, proved to be an enriching experience. The workshop empowered young students to explore the world of filmmaking and provided them with essential skills and knowledge. The festival itself provided a platform for cultural exchange, creativity, and dialogue, with creative stalls offering new experiences and opportunities for growth.

Ms Sadia Talib, lecturer from Department of Mass Communication served as the focal person for this event. Dr. Deeba Shahwar and Lecturer Ms. Amna Fazail contributed as coordinators and volunteered their services during the festival.

# Hotels Industry and the Manufacturing sector were neglected in the federal budget: M. Akram Farid



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman (Central) Employers Federation of Pakistan Senior Vice Chairman Pakistan Hotel Association Mian Akram Farid while expressing his views on the federal budget said that the proposals of the business community were not included in the budget.

And the special hotel industry and the industrial sector have been neglected in the budget, he said that the manufacturing industry and hospitality sector, which employs millions of people, and is an important part of the country's revenue, has not been given any relief in this budget.

Gaya, he said that most of the focus has been on agriculture and IT sector, SMEs and civils. Which is a welcome

thing.

He said that the energy tariff for the industrial sector is very high, resulting in an increase in the cost of doing business, forcing the sector to use energy efficient equipment, but the increase in duties and taxes is disappointing.

He further said that no solution to control inflation has been mentioned in the budget. Considering the current economic situation, the federal government has not taken any significant steps in the budget to provide relief to the business community.

He said that there has been no reduction in the prices of food items, oil, gas and electricity, the rate of sales tax on basic essentials has been maintained, which will further increase inflation and increase the hardships of the people.



## Message on the occasion



**H.E. Mr. Danila Ganich**  
Russian ambassador to Pakistan

Today the Russian Federation celebrates its national holiday – Russia Day.

On June 12, 1990, Russia entered a new era of development marked by great challenges and opportunities alike. Since then, our country has managed to achieve major breakthroughs in economy, science, culture, education, diplomacy, etc.

We, the Russians, are inseparable from our homeland and its centuries-long history. We take pride in our glorious past, but at the same time we are optimistic about our common future. The Russian Federation is open to cooperation with all countries that are ready to engage in a mutually respectful dialogue. Russia-Pakistan partnership is a case in point. We remain committed to further developing multifaceted cooperation between our two countries in the interests of our peoples.

When we set our minds on a goal, we always achieve it. Happy Russia Day!

# Today the Russian Federation celebrates its national holiday – Russia Day

## Russian envoy hopes start of barter trade with Pakistan



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

The Russian ambassador to Pakistan, Danila Ganich, says both countries have reached an agreement on a free payment structure for barter trade, eliminating the need for the US dollars in bilateral transactions.

Ganich, while speaking to media emphasised that no third party would determine their efforts and that Russia and Pakistan would be allies and partners amidst geopolitical changes.

President Vladimir Putin, he announced, was set to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, further accelerating the process of regional cooperation. The ambassador also expressed hope that Russian oil would provide relief to Pakistan. He said that being a member of the Paris Club, they had rescheduled Pakistan's loans.

Pakistan is an independent sovereign state and in this regard, it is to take a political decision concerning the construction of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline and Russia's Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline.

The ambassador refrained from commenting on the internal politics of Pakistan, emphasising his commitment to upholding the best relations with the country regardless of which party rules.

Ganich urged Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir conflict at the negotiating table rather than involve any third party. He suggested that Russia could play a role in resolving the core issue if

both sides requested it. The ambassador added that there was no immediate solution to the war in Ukraine and that defeating Russia on the battlefield would be unrealistic and dangerous for the world.

The relationship between Pakistan and Russia, he said, was friendly and grounded in realism, with the former being viewed as a reliable partner and friend by the latter. Both nations had excellent political and diplomatic ties and had been working to improve their public and commercial interests, he said.

Their mutual influence in the world is significant, with Pakistan's role in Afghanistan being especially crucial.

He further said that during the 1990s the trade between the two countries was only \$100 million which reached one billion dollars recently. There was a five-fold increase in trade between Paki-

stan and Russia in recent years, he said.

The ambassador further noted that the shift from a unipolar world to a multipolar world had led to an increased closeness between Pakistan and Russia. The world at large was witnessing attempts at domination, which in turn was leading people to seek self-reliance strong, but it remains a nuclear superpower. He warned that countries should avoid escalating tensions on the military front. Moreover, it is notable that Pakistan has recommended to Shafqat Ali Khan, a skilled diplomat in Russia, to establish a payment infrastructure free from the dollar to minimise reliance on it.

or to become real allies. The geopolitical changes, he pleaded, were expected to accelerate the regional cooperation process and facilitate the formation of new alliances. Based on the shared values that Pakistanis and Russians hold precious, the two nations are expected to become rich allies and partners. The ambassador remarked that various regional integration projects such as China's One Belt One Road, Russia's Eurasian Economic Union, and Pakistan's connectivity project have different names but share the goal of promoting connectivity and infrastructure development in the region.

He said a strong defence relationship exists between Pakistan and Russia. He said cooperation in the military, anti-narcotics and educational sectors was there.

The ambassador added that Russia's economic strength may be not that



The Ambassador said that trade turnover between Russia and Pakistan, which was merely 90 million dollars in 1990s is now half billion dollars, which was five times higher at that time.

He said that they would not stop at this point and would continue to further strengthen bilateral ties.

The Russian envoy said that they were not against of anybody either Americans or Westerns, saying they were pro-Russian, pro-Pakistanis and pro-Chinese.

He further said that Pakistan as a friend was a reliable partner and they wanted to have political interaction with it at every level. He said that today, both Pakistan and Russia have agreed to build up direct links between their cities and were also mulling for establishing interaction between the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Moscow government.

To a question, he said that they want to change biased and imbalanced policies, adding that people should see it with their own eyes what was going on either in Pakistan or in Russia.

I want more Pakistanis in Russia, such as Pakistanis want more Russians in their country, he added.

# Russia Day in Russia

In the past few years, Russia Day became an occasion for national pride, when many people pay tribute to prominent Russians. But many others still see this holiday as an extra day off.

### Is Russia Day a Public Holiday?

Russia Day is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

### The Russian flag is often seen on Russia Day.

©iStockphoto.com/SERDAR YAGCI

### What Do People Do?

Russia Day is an occasion for many Russians to demonstrate national pride. Some people celebrate Russia's economic and social achievements and pay tribute to famous Russians on

June 12. People may attend concerts and fireworks that take place in many cities throughout the country. Prominent Russian writers, scientists and humanitarian workers receive a National Award from the Russian president on this day. Yet many other people see Russia Day as nothing more than a day off.

Many Russians refused to celebrate this holiday when it was introduced in 1994. For them it was the day when their leaders agreed to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The demise of the Soviet Union led to unemployment and poverty of many Russians. People who oppose celebrating June 12 spend time in their countryside houses (dachas) or do other outdoor activities.

### Public Life

Russia Day is a national holiday in the Russian Federation. Most banks,

public offices and schools are closed on June 12. If the day falls on a weekend, the public holiday shifts to the following Monday. Public transport schedules may vary depending on events taking place in each city on June 12. **Background**

### Background

On June 12, 1990 Soviet leaders signed a declaration of Russia's state sovereignty. That document symbolized the beginning of democratic reforms in Russia. It also marked one of the first steps to the official dissolution of the Soviet Union. June 12 became a public holiday in 1994, but many people either did not understand its meaning or refused to

celebrate it.

To promote June 12 as a patriotic holiday, Russia's first president Boris Yeltsin suggested renaming it to Russia Day in 1997 (the holiday's original name was the Day of Signing the Declaration of State Sovereignty). The renaming took place in 2002 when the Russian Parliament adopted a new version of Russia's Labor Code.

### Symbols

The Russian flag and a two-headed eagle, the state symbols of the Russian Federation, are the most common symbols of Russia Day.

Spokesman Photos by Raja Farid



# Russia is the largest country in the world

### Population

The population of Russia in 2014 was 146 million people. In terms of the population, the Russian Federation occupies the 8th place in the world. Two percent of the world's population live in Russia.

The majority of the population is concentrated in the European part of the country. Seventy four percent of the population lives in urban areas, 26.3% - in rural areas.

Russia is a multiethnic state. Over 160 nationalities live on its territory, the largest (80.9% of the population) being Russians. Russian is the official State language.

Orthodox Christianity is the predominant religion. Islamic, Catholic, Buddhist and other confessions are less widespread.

### State

Russia is a democratic federal state with a republican form of government. The legislative body of the Russian Federation is the bicameral Federal Assembly (the Council of Federation and the State Duma). The Council of Federation consists of representatives of each federal entity. The deputies of the State Duma are elected for a term of 5 years from party lists by proportion of the votes that each party receives nationwide.

The Head of State is the President of the Russian Federation, who is also the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The President is elected by citizens of Russia by direct secret ballot for a term of 6 years. Vladimir V. Putin was elected President on March 4, 2012.

The executive power is exercised by the Government of the Russian Federation. The



Chairman of the Government is appointed by the President with the consent of the State

Duma. The Russian Federation consists of 85 federal entities (republics, territories and

regions), including the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sevastopol. Moscow is the capi-

### Territory and climate

The total area of Russia is 6,592,848 sq. miles (17,075,400 sq. km). Over 45% of the country's area is covered by forests, 4% - by water, 13% - by arable land, 19% - deer grazing land, 19% - other.

A large part of the European territory of the country is occupied by the East European plain; in the south it is limited by the northern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains and has the Khibin Mountains to the Northwest. To the East of the Ural mountains lies the West Siberian plain surrounded by the mountains of South Siberia (Altay, Sayanas, Baikal mountains, etc.). Between the Yenisey and Lena rivers lies the Midsiberian plateau, between the Lena and the Pacific coast spread the mountains ridges and plateaus of North-East Asia.

Russia has about 2.5 million rivers and 2 million fresh and salt water lakes. The largest rivers are Volga, North Dvina, Don, Pechora, Ob, Yrtysh, Yenisey, Angara, Lena, Amur; the largest lakes are the Caspian (Sea), Baikal, Ladoga, Onega. Russia has 35 national parks and 84 natural reserves.

The climate changes from marine on the extreme Northwest to harsh continental on Siberia and monsoon in the Far East. Average temperatures in January are from 32 F to -58 F (0 C to -50 C), in July - from 33.8 F to 77 F (+1 C to +25 C); precipitation is from 5.9" to 78.8" (150 to 2000 mm) per year. Russia has the following climatic zones: arctic desert, tundra, forest tundra, forest, forest steppe, steppe, semi desert.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 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](mailto:spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com)  
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

# Pak-China Friendship, CPEC & Pak Army

The journey of Pak-China Friendship began in 1950 when Pakistan entered diplomatic relations with China. It served as the foundation of a long and fruitful friendship between the two countries. Pak-China relations became economically beneficial in the year 1979 and, soon enough, China became Pakistan's third largest trading partner. China also started serving as the largest supplier of arms for the Pakistani military force a few decades ago. In fact, as per a 2018 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China provides around 70 percent of weapons to its southern neighbor.

Being good strategic partners, Pakistan and China support each other in a lot of matters. For example, whenever Pakistan raises its voice over the human rights violations committed by Indian forces in the disputed territory of Kashmir, it is usually backed by China. Similarly, military cooperation between the two countries has also strengthened in recent years because of the collaboration on multiple projects related to the testing and launch of many assets and equipment used by the armed forces.

Pakistan and China have also decided to cooperate with each other for the improvement of the civil nuclear power sector in Pakistan. All these are fine examples of strengthening Pak-China relations. The two countries have also joined hands to further enhance the use of technology in the field of energy production in Pakistan. These measures have been taken with an advanced approach to make use of alternative resources that are natural, clean and available in abundance in Pakistan for the generation of energy. Pakistan and China are also working together on

improving the mechanism regarding the commercial use of nuclear power.

Many hydropower, solar power and wind energy projects account for a significant part of the CPEC project. According to Pakistan's Government official website for CPEC, some of these projects are planned and under construction, while others have already been completed and made operational. Keeping in view the requirements and concerted efforts of all stakeholders, 17 projects completed in the last 5 years, while 18 projects are in progress; significant projects include using the establishment of four SEZs, socio-economic development of Gwadar and the addition of over 5000 MW in power sector.

A big role in the regard of CPEC has been played by Pakistan Army as the security provided to CPEC and Chinese officials were ensured by the army. The army has also foiled all the nefarious designs of the enemies to sabotage the CPEC projects. Chinese Government and their officials had also acknowledged and appreciated the Pakistan Army's sincere efforts for regional peace and the provision of a secure environment for CPEC projects. Providing security to the Chamalang coal mines, raising the special security division for the protection of CPEC routes, developing road infrastructure for CPEC, and assisting the government in the development and construction of the much-needed dams at considerably low costs through the FWO has provided the much-desired economic leverage to the government. The efforts of the Special Communication Organization (SCO) in northern Pakistan are also commendable as it

has provided much-needed support to CPEC projects and has personnel listed as the soft prong of diplomacy and nation-building tasks.

Pak Army is ensuring the security of CPEC and had already deputed a division for its security. The 34th Light Infantry Division, also known as Special Security Division (SSD), is a 2-Star Pakistan Army formation, raised in September 2016 as a response to major concerns over how to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its workforce from serious internal and external threats. For this purpose, a Special Security Division (SSD) was raised for the protection and security of the flagship project. Military engineers and workforce have been building segments of this corridor, where the road does not exist and the Army had taken upon itself the entire responsibility for its security. The success of CPEC can be accredited to Pakistan Army as well.

Army Chief also visited China few weeks ago to discuss bilateral issues and military cooperation between the both countries. Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to China-Pakistan Strategic relationship while pledging full support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), according to the ISPR statement recently.

According to the ISPR, Army Chief General Asim Munir met Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister H. E. Qin Gang at his office recently.

Matters of mutual interests including regional security and defense cooperation came under discussion. During the meeting, the COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's

commitment to China-Pakistan Strategic relationship. He also pledged full support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which is a vital component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Army Chief appreciated China's unwavering support for Pakistan on regional and international issues. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang underscored the importance of the longstanding strategic relationship between the brotherly nations and expressed his satisfaction over the progress made on the CPEC while reiterating China's commitment to its timely completion. He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and stability, especially the support of Pakistan Armed Forces for provision of security to Chinese Nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The two leaders also discussed the evolving security situation in the region.

Gen Asim Munir acknowledged China's role in promoting peace and stability in the region, and both sides agreed to enhance their existing cooperation in defense and security domains to effectively counter common security challenges.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides reiterating their resolve to further strengthen the time-tested, all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China. Army is showing full commitment with CPEC and ensuring all arrangements to provide fool proof security for this game changing project.

Readers, CPEC is a best example of everlasting Pak-China friendship and its successful completion will further strengthen the ties between two friendly countries. Whole nation and Pak Army are on one page for safe continuation and timely completion of CPEC.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Govt increases salaries despite financial constraints

In a surprising and generous move, the government has announced a significant increment in the salaries of the employees, despite facing financial constraints.

The decision has been hailed by all sections of society, as it demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting the middle class and alleviating their financial burdens, said parliamentarians.

According to the official announcement, the government has increased salaries by 35 per cent for employees in Grade-1 to 16, and by 30 per cent for those in grade-17 and above. Additionally, the pension has been raised by 17.5 per cent, benefiting retired government personnel. Furthermore, employees with wages would receive Rs 32,000.

The decision to increase salaries and pensions comes at a time when many countries including Pakistan are grappling with economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

The parliamentarians said the increment in salaries and pensions is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of government employees and their families. With the rising cost of living, this move will provide much-needed relief and help mitigate the financial woes faced by the middle class and downtrodden segment of society, they added.

Minister of Water and Power, Khurram Dastgir said an attempt has been made to keep the budget people-friendly as possible.

He said the increased salaries will enable them to meet their daily needs more comfortably, invest in education and healthcare, and contribute to the overall growth of the economy.

Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the government, keeping in view the current inflation, has increased a handsome percentage in the government employees' salaries.

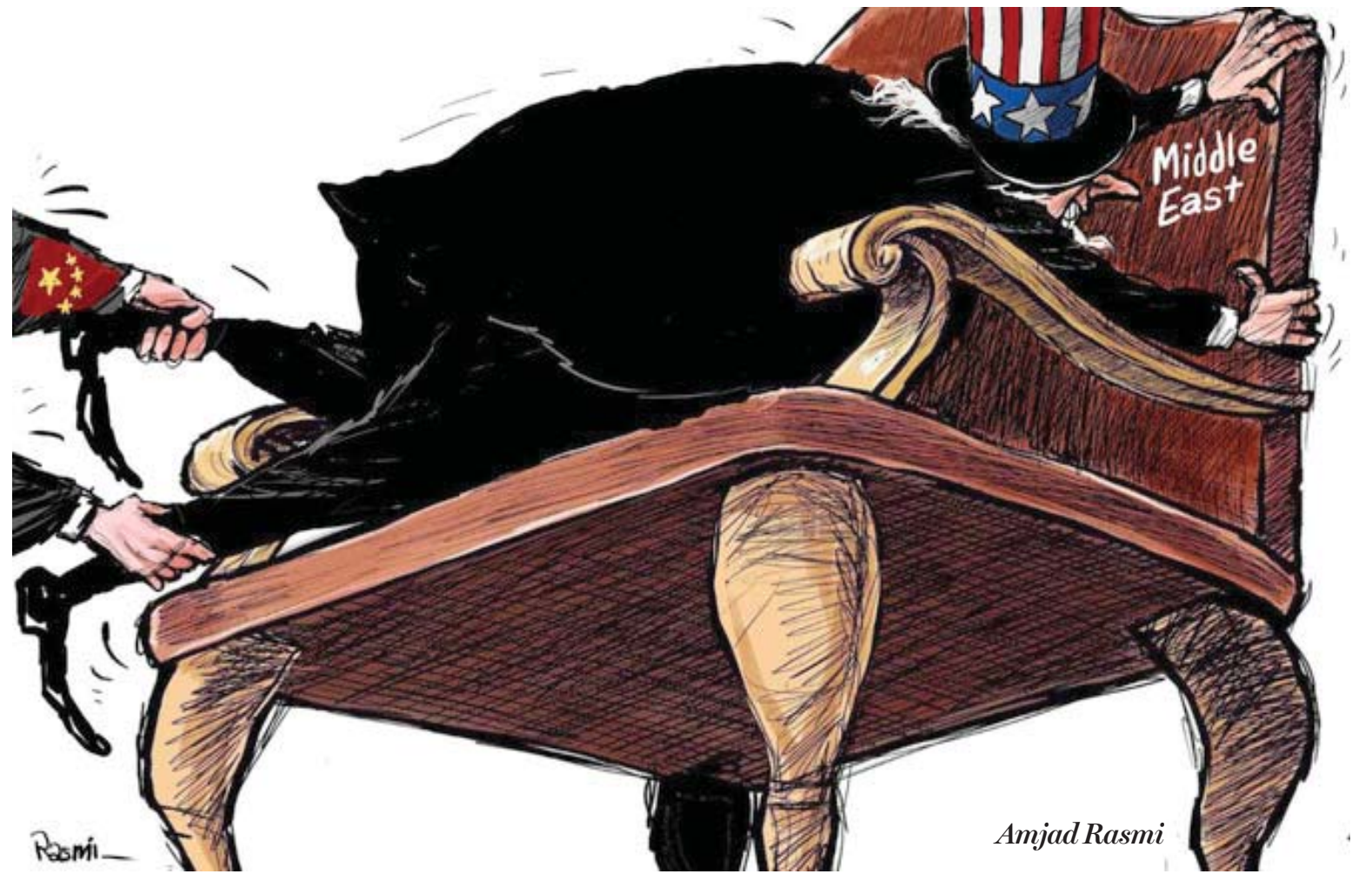
Pakistan Peoples Party's Naz Baloch said despite the economic crunch in the country, the incumbent government has increased the employees' salaries which was a constructive and praiseworthy step.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan said the government wanted to increase the employees' salaries up to fifty percent but due to ailing economic conditions, it has raised it to 35 percent which is a good initiative of the coalition government.

The announcement has received widespread appreciation from all sections of society. Trade unions, employee associations, and civil society organizations have lauded the government's decision, recognizing its efforts to prioritize the welfare of its workforce. The move is seen as a testament to the government's commitment to social justice and inclusive growth.

Members of the middle class, who form a significant portion of the country's population, have expressed their gratitude for the government's thoughtful decision. Many individuals and families have faced financial difficulties in recent times, and this salary increment is seen as a much-needed respite. The increase in pensions is also expected to benefit retired government employees, who have long awaited such support.

Economists and experts have commended the government's move, acknowledging that the increment in salaries and pensions will have a positive impact on the overall economy. The increased purchasing power of government employees is likely to stimulate consumer spending, leading to increased demand for goods and services. This, in turn, can provide a boost to various sectors and contribute to economic growth.



Amjad Rasmi

## 'Fortifying the Nation: The Imperative of Strong Security Institutions'

Security institutions, particularly the military, play a pivotal role in any state by ensuring the safety, well-being, and protection of its citizens, as well as safeguarding the nation's interests. Security institutions are responsible for countering both internal and external threats to maintain stability and preserve the sovereignty of the state. First and foremost, security institutions are tasked with the crucial mission of protecting the lives and property of citizens. They work tirelessly to maintain law and order, prevent crime, and ensure public safety. Through various measures such as patrolling, surveillance, and law enforcement, they create an environment that allows citizens to live their lives without fear or undue risk.

In addition to their role in internal security, security institutions are instrumental in defending a nation against external threats. The military, in particular, possesses the necessary capabilities, resources, and training to protect the country's borders, territorial integrity, and sovereignty. They serve as a deterrent to potential aggressors and stand ready to respond to any attacks, ensuring the nation's security in times of conflict. Security institutions also play a critical role in countering internal threats that can jeopardize a nation's stability. This includes addressing issues such as insurgency, terrorism, organized crime, and other forms of domestic unrest. By working in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, secu-

urity institutions contribute to identifying, neutralizing, and preventing threats to national security within the country. Their efforts involve intelligence gathering, counterterrorism operations, and maintaining internal stability.

Moreover, security institutions are often involved in disaster response and providing humanitarian aid during times of natural disasters or other emergencies. They deploy personnel, equipment, and resources to mitigate the effects of disasters, save lives, and provide essential support to affected communities. Their responsibilities encompass search and rescue operations, medical assistance, and logistical support to ensure a swift and effective response.

Beyond their domestic duties, security institutions also play a crucial role in protecting and advancing a nation's interests on the global stage. They contribute to diplomatic and international relations by participating in peace-keeping missions, alliances, and military partnerships. Through strategic planning and cooperation, they help safeguard the nation's economic, political, and geopolitical interests, ensuring a strong position in the international community.

In states like Pakistan, where diverse cultures and ethnicities coexist, the military and security insti-

tutions serve as symbols of national unity and integrity. The military acts as a unifying force that brings together people from various backgrounds and regions, fostering a sense of collective identity and shared purpose. One of the primary reasons behind the military's role in promoting national unity is its composition. The military often recruits personnel from different ethnic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds, creating a diverse and inclusive environment. Soldiers from various regions of the country serve side by side, forging bonds and developing a common sense of identity as they work together towards a common goal. The military also plays a crucial role in maintaining stability and cohesion within the country. In regions where there may be ethnic or cultural tensions, the presence of security institutions can help bridge divides and promote a sense of national integration. The military's commitment to upholding the nation's interests and protecting its citizens fosters a sense of patriotism and loyalty among diverse populations, reinforcing the idea of a unified nation.

Additionally, security institutions often engage in nation-building activities, such as infrastructure development, educational initiatives, and community engagement programs. These efforts aim

to uplift marginalized communities and promote social cohesion. By addressing the needs of various ethnic and cultural groups, the military and security institutions contribute to building a stronger and more inclusive nation. Furthermore, the military's involvement in disaster response and humanitarian aid efforts reinforces the idea of a united nation. During times of natural disasters or emergencies, the military swiftly mobilizes resources and personnel from across the country to provide assistance to affected areas. This collective response reinforces the sense of solidarity and shared responsibility among diverse communities.

In conclusion, in states like Pakistan with diverse cultures and ethnicities, the military and security institutions serve as symbols of national unity and integrity. Their diverse composition, commitment to national interests, and involvement in nation-building activities contribute to fostering a sense of collective identity and shared purpose. The military's role in maintaining stability, disaster response, and humanitarian aid further strengthens the idea of a united nation, where different communities come together under the common goal of safeguarding the country's interests and well-being.

The author is a student of *Peace and Conflict Studies at National Defence University Islamabad.* He can be reached at [abdullahsayyaf770@gmail.com](mailto:abdullahsayyaf770@gmail.com)



Analysis

Abdullah Sayyaf

## Complexities of Secularism: Misconceptions and Adaptations in Different Contexts - I

The South Asian Islamist scholar Abul Ala Maududi (d.1979) hated secularism. His thoughts went a long way in building what came to be known as 'Political Islam'. These thoughts too affected a number of Islamist ideologues exterior South Asia.

A blend started to rise when Maududi's thoughts locked in with Islamist ideologues in Arabia and Iran. At the center of the amalgamation was an enthusiastic castigation of secularism. It was upbraided as being a European concept that was intrinsically anti-religion.

But non-Islamist grant and ponders on secularism within the final three decades have illustrated that there are different sorts of secularism inside the Western world. The same grant too keeps up that secularism as an thought or its usage in non-Western districts has more profound roots in those districts possess histories and conditions.

The standard thought behind secularism is the state's lack of bias towards religion. In different European nations, this thought has evolved to cruel the proper to hone religion as long as this right isn't manhandled to challenge the summons of the state and disturb the equitable contract between the state and society.

The state is to stay religion-neutral, treating religion as a citizen's individual matter. The state can as it were intercede in the event that it sets up that the matter has gotten to be freely risky and is causing strife.

This strand of secularism is the product of 17th

and 18th century Illumination a period in Europe and within the US that underscored the significance of reason, science and fabric advance over superstition, monarchism, clericalism, traditionalism, etc. Most Illumination scholars supported the division of the Church and the state. Be that as it may, they did not call for the decimation of religion.

They wanted religious writings to be 'disenchanted' and/or disentangled and freed from superstition. The Illumination masterminds needed religion to function as a useful social current (rather than an obstruction) in an time of fast political, financial and social changes.

So why did most Islamist ideologues clarify Western secularism as antireligion? I think it was a case of cherrypicking. They chose to center more on the thought of secularism that developed in France amid the riotous 1789-99 transformation in that nation.

Progressive French secularism was the item of a solid anticlerical current in French society. Most common society and knowledge in France had denounced the nexus between the government and the Church as being totally exploitative and the most offender behind the country's financial troubles. Compared to other European nations and the US, the strand of republicanism in France was more seriously. Amid the progressive period, clerics and clerics were violently mistreated, until the entry of Napoleon Bonaparte, who reestablished order.

To be continued



Analysis

Sanaulah



# Government keen to promote tourism in Azad Kashmir, says PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government was keen to promote tourism in Azad Kashmir.

He said that steps were being taken on a priority basis regarding the promotion of tourism in Azad Kashmir.

"Millions of tourists visit the beautiful region annually", he said, adding that details of routes leading to the tourist destinations of Azad Kashmir would be put on Google so that tourists coming from outside could be able to find locations easily and get accurate information about the routes.

In an interview, Prime Minister

Chaudhry Anwar Haq said that the government provided full support for holding Tourism Festival in Haveli. He said that Government Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has been active in this regard.

He said that tourism festivals should be organized all across Azad Kashmir so that people can get access and see the beauty of Kashmir.

He said that the ongoing tourism related projects initiated in different areas of Azad Kashmir would be accomplished on a priority basis.

About the beautification of tourist places, the PM said, "Lights will be installed at various tourism spots of Azad Kashmir and essential facilities



will be provided to increase the interest of tourists". Referring to Azad Kashmir's unique

beauty, the PM said, "The way of life, customs and culture of this place has a unique recognition in the whole world".

He said that promotion of regional culture would also help to attract foreign tourists.

"Despite the financial crisis, the government will take all possible measures to promote tourism in the region", the PM said, adding that promotion of tourism would be instrumental in providing employment besides generating economic activities in the region.

To generate revenue on a bigger scale, the PM said that there was a need to adopt western tourism concepts and models to boost the tourism sector.

*Budget disappointing, not focused on the economy but on politics*

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Sunday that the focus of the budget is not the economy, but politics and fame.

"The populist budget will worsen the economy instead of improving it, and the masses will pay the price for it," he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that not taxing landlords and shopkeepers is unfortunate, and speaks about the priorities of the rulers.

Out of 2.2 million shopkeepers, only thirty thousand pay taxes, but they are not included in the tax net to get votes in the upcoming elections.

He said in a statement issued here today that the budget will hit production, exports, and the government's revenue while leading to further degradation of the shattered economy.

The business leader said that the government is trying to treat cancer with sweet pills instead of surgery, which will not save the economy.

He informed that it is impossible to collect a tax of 9200 billion rupees in the current financial year, and even if it happens, the interest of 7303 billion rupees will be paid, which means that the government will have only 1897 billion rupees left from the tax revenue.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the budget for fiscal year 2024 lacks important details like the source of borrowings, while the government is increasing expenditures despite not having the resources.

The finance minister has hinted that the government is considering restructuring the debt after the budget, which means that the government is unable to meet its financial obligations.

The creditors will not restructure the loans without the nod of the IMF, for which Pakistan and the international organisation must be on the same page, which is not an immediate possibility, he warned.

# Tehreek Haq Khudaaradit to intensify its fight for freedom of Kashmir in UK

Spokesman Report

MANCHESTER: Jammu Kashmir Tehreek Haq Khudaaradit (Right of self-determination) International Cheshire branch was established and prominent business woman Neena Rania Khan was appointed as the Chairperson. JKSDMI under the leadership of Founder Chairman Satarat Pakistan Raja Najabat Hussain will hold meetings in all cities across the UK and intensify its efforts for the release of freedom fighters imprisoned in the jails of Occupied Kashmir.

An All-Parties Kashmir Conference will be held in the British Parliament London on June 14 for the release of Kashmiri libertarian leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, in which Labor Friends of Kashmir, APPG on Kashmir and other members of Parliament have indicated to raise this issue. An important meeting of officials of the Jammu



Kashmir Self-Determination Movement North of England was held at the residence of Miss Neena Rania Khan, in which specially Andrew Gwynne MP Chairman Labor Friends of Kashmir UK, Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Darr, Councillor Alisin Gwynne, Pakistani Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, head of doctors' organization, former member of Punjab Assembly elected from Hafizabad, Dr. Muzaffar Khan, Dr. Muhammad Younis Parvez, Raja Muhammad Ishaq Khan,

Raja Javed Tariq of Oldham, Majid Dar, Parvez Khawaja, Shahzad Haq, Amjad Hussain Mughal, Huda Ahmed Zain Mumtaz, Naveed Dean, Kashmiri and Pakistani Women, Councilor Nayla Sharif, Yasmeen Alam, Samina Khan, Rubina Khan, Zara Dean, Noreen Shehzad, Makdissa Majeed, Shahida Khan, Dr. Sara Ali, Miss Shazia Amjad, Mehwish Khawaja and other departments.

A vigorous campaign will be launched for the release of Muhammad Yasin Malik

and other Kashmiri freedom fighters from Indian jails, in which political, social and religious differences will be kept aside and this campaign will be accelerated for the release of only the prisoners and Britain's In every district and city and in every house of Europe, their case will be presented and support will be given for their release. At the end of the meeting Miss Neena Rania Khan gave a sumptuous dinner and specially thanked all the participants.

# Pakistani students find China's development model inspirational

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Aamir Bizenjo, a 22-year-old student of Gwadar University in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, found China's development quite interesting and inspirational, Xinhua reported on Sunday.

He has been witnessing the development in the port city of Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and has now got a vision for the development of his province during his trip to Pakistan's capital Islamabad, in which he met Chinese officials and visited different platforms and consortiums with the collaboration of the two countries.

He was part of a delegation comprising several Gwadar University students and faculty members that visited Islamabad from Thursday to Saturday, which was jointly organized by the Chinese embassy in Pakistan and the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute.

"I am thankful to the Chinese for arranging this visit to give us exposure. We exchanged ideas with each other about economic growth and how the two countries can develop together, and seeing how China achieved prosperity gave me a new sense to work for the development of my province," Bizenjo said in an interview with Xinhua.

# Jahangir Tareen has stolen Sajida Ahmad Langah

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: We are facing criticism due to the newly born political party, the istahkam Pakistan Party, Sajida Ahmad Langah, Chairperson of istahkam Pakistan Ittehad said in her statement that we founded our organization Istahkam Pakistan Ittehad in 2015 and my organization is registered and has been using the same name and the same platform for these eight years. There is respect in our society. Now, under the leadership of Jahangir Tareen, our organization's name has been given a political color and it has been made into a party by collecting hateful political loot from all over Pakistan, due to which people have started abusing us on social media.



Because people know me because of the istahkam of Pakistan unity. First, when Pak Sar Zameen Party was formed in Karachi, Mustafa Kamal started reading the manifesto of my organization on the media, and now under the leadership of Jahangir Tareen, loots were collected from all over Pakistan, then the name of my organization was stolen. They don't have their own manifesto or their own name. They don't even have the mentality of a woman. They have defamed the name of istahkam Pakistan on the very first day.

They are requested to name their party according to their Nazria Zararat Party or Jahangir Farm House Alliance. The party has been formed, where will the voters come from?

# TLF of the Urdu Department FCC organized a workshop

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: TLF (Teaching and Learning Forum) of the Urdu Department FCC organized a comprehensive workshop on the topic of "Result-Oriented Methodologies" in the Sinclair Hall staff room of F. C. College, Lahore. This workshop consisted of three sessions and lasted for three hours.



At the beginning of the workshop, the coordinator of the Forum, Prof. Tahir Masood, introduced the Forum and proposed to make the Forum more active. The topic of the first session was "Urdu Writing Skills". Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Mr. Johnson Rahmat exchanged useful information on this topic. In the beginning, Mr. Johnson shed light on the aspects of teaching literature and at the same time introduced the syllabus of Urdu Elective. After that, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal mentioned the writing skills of Urdu and the mistakes made by the students and spoke about the common mistakes of students and their remedies by showing informative slides.

The theme of the second session of the workshop was "Interesting Urdu-ology". Ms. Misbah Kanwal and Shahzad Ansar gave a detailed talk on this topic in a unique way. After intensive research on languages spoken globally, the two facilitators introduced interesting teaching methods.

The title of the third session of the workshop was "Smart Scoring". The head of the Urdu Department Dr. Anel Samuel expressed his views on this topic, which focused on how students can improve their results by getting maximum marks in Urdu. All the members gave useful advice to each other in a questioning style.

# Islam spread in the subcontinent through the saints of Allah: Chaudhry Yasin

Abdul Majeed Tahir

NIRIAN SHARIF: President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir and Member Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that Islam spread in the subcontinent through the saints of Allah. Even today, grace and blessings continue through the saints. Teachings of Islam is the greatest source of our religion. In the Holy Quran, Allah described the virtues of saints and said, "There is an angel in the form of a human being who helps you to explain your religion. It is a sin to associate with the saints of Allah."

"Pir Alauddin Siddiqui was one of the saints of the time whose religious



and social services are eternal. Thanks to the Saints, the religion spread all over the world. The Saints taught endurance, tolerance, patience and tolerance. Saints played an exemplary and

fundamental role in the propagation and spread of religion, especially in the sub-continent of Pakistan and India, people got to know Islam through the great Sheikhs and abandoned false reli-

gions and accepted Islam. The land of Kashmir is the land of saints.

The role of saints is unforgettable for the fulfillment of the rights of the servants and the promotion of humanism. He said that through their teachings, the saints brought Islam to the hearts of the people in the region. Speaking at the anniversary ceremony of Pir Alauddin Siddiqui, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also paid tribute to the services of Pir Alauddin Siddiqui and highlighted the services of saints. He said that the teachings of the saints are the source of growth and guidance by following which we can achieve success in this world and the hereafter he added.



ISLAMABAD: CDA Member Inspection Dr. Roomana Gul Kakar and Devcom Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed are being briefed by the organizer of the environmental art competition about the exhibits displayed at the Women Welfare and Development Centre G-72, on Sunday.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speakers urge government bodies to im-

mmediately take strict measures and engage citizens for improving environmental conditions. Combatting plastic pollution,

solid waste management and water conservation shall be on the top priority. The incremental measures have failed

# Strict measures, citizens' engagement vital for environmental improvement

to deliver results while the law enforcing agencies seem toothless as the legislations refrain from strict penalties. There are many examples to learn from the best practices available globally.

A combo of activities including a seminar, planting of saplings, cleanup of the neighbourhood, art exhibition, speech and essay writing competitions was organized by the Women Welfare and Development Centre (WWDC G-7/2) of the Ministry of Human Rights, ICLC and Devcom-Pakistan on Sunday.

Parliamentary Secretary MNA Naz Baloch was the chief guest. Other guests of honour included Capital Development Authority (CDA) Member Inspection Dr. Roomana Gul Kakar, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Rural Development Foundation

President Brig (Retd) Muhammad Aslam Khan, CDA Director Environment Asif Majeed, CDA Awaz CDS Chief Executive Zia ur Rehman, WWDC Director Ismat Afridi, ICLC founding secretary Sibtain Raza Lodhi, development expert Jamil Bhatti, and Forum for Human Development and Prosperity (FHDP) Director Tahira Naimat.

Parliamentary Secretary MNA Naz Baloch students have displayed their passion for the environment in their art, essays and speeches. This is the essence of the zeal and zest for environmental improvement that the government departments and organizations are striving hard for.

CDA Member Inspection Dr. Roomana Gul Kakar emphasized on the individual contribution by the citizens using less, reusing and recycling the

resources. The effort to combat plastic pollution begins at home that mainly comes from the single-use plastics such as disposables and light-weight polythene bags used one-time.

Development strategist and environmentalist Munir Ahmed said mainly the burden of environmental degradation is on the lame policies for which the parliamentarians and bureaucracy shall work to improve the legislation including strict punitive measures. This is unfortunate that authorities remain blindfolded on the havoc being played by the mafias. In the absence of strict legislation and lack of implementation of existing laws have resulted in irreparable loss.

Brig. (retd) Muhammad Aslam said our women, children, marginalized and rural communities are more vulnerable. We lack resources to

outreach to them. The big corporations shall come up to fund the grassroot interventions and capacity building of the communities to take measures to protect themselves and the natural resources around them.

Director WWDC Ismat Afridi said their Women Welfare and Development Centre keeps on striving for their students' interaction with the experts to seek knowledge and best practices to adapt the environmental changes around themselves, and to be economically empowered to face the world. Some of the girls and women have launched their own startups after getting vocational training from the Centre.

CDA Director Environment Asif Majeed assured the citizens of full cooperation to make their areas clean and green. Any citizen can approach us for any environmental improvement in the capital city.



**Special Report on Gandhara**

# Thai & Indonesian diplomats visit Takht Bhai's archaeological site

*KP govt & Archeology Dept making efforts to promote tourism at sites of historic importance*



**Naveed Ahmed Khan**

A delegation of diplomats Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio along with other foreign guests from China and Nepalese visited the Takht Bhai archaeological site with their families. The minister of state and chairman of Prime Minister Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, led the delegation. The members of the delegation were also accompanied by relevant Pakistani officials.



Talking to media, Dr. Ramesh Kumar said that government taking measures to promote archaeological tourism as it would present a positive image of Pakistan around the world. He said Gandhara relies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

where 2,000-years old and most of the Buddhist sites were in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). He added that Gandhara civilization and Takht Bhai sites were included in the UNESCO heritage in 1980. During the 5th and 6th century, when the Huns of Central Asia were expanding their empire across modern day Pakistan and Afghanistan, Buddhist sites were destroyed by the hundreds. Some monasteries and temples escaped the brunt of the attack, thanks to their relatively inaccessible locations.

Takht Bhai located in KPK city Mardan, one of the last surviving ancient Buddhist sites in the region; it escaped the brunt of several Hun invasions due to its remote location. One of these was the Takht-i-Bahi monastery, an important Buddhist site even today. Takht, in Persian means throne, and bahi means spring, and this throne of springs is situated in the higher reaches of the Mardan city of KPK province in Pakistan. Though it sustained some damage, it is among the most well-preserved early Buddhist sites in the region. It was built as a small stone monastery in the 1st century, and one of the earliest inscriptions found refers to Gondophares, the Indo-Parthian king of the time. Under the patronage of the rulers of different dynasties who followed, more structures were added to the original premises. Over the next 800 years, it developed into a large Buddhist complex, one of the most influential in the region, and it was supported by the nearby fortified town of Sahr-i-Bahlol. The town's residents regularly carried offerings and food for the monks who lived at Takht-i-Bahi.

Despite surviving the invasions that wreaked



havoc around it, the monastery saw a slow decline in the 7th century, when influence of Buddhism was on the wane, and donations to the monastery were dwindling. The monastery was abandoned by the monks, and it was only rediscovered in the second half of the 19th century. Excavations were carried out from 1907 and hundreds of statues and sculptures were unearthed. The complex today comprises of the main court of stupas, cells where the monks meditated, meeting halls, and covered passages. Its artifacts and buildings helped shed more light on early Buddhist history as well as Pakistan's past. It, along with the nearby ruins of Sahr-i-Bahlol, was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, in 1980.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio said that Pakistan is a beautiful country, Takht Bhai was of great importance not only for Pakistan but for the whole world. He also appreciated the steps taken by the government to preserve archeological sites and promote tourism. The Indonesian Ambassador said that "I hope his visit will set in momentum visits by Buddhist

tourists from across the world to Pakistan and to these rare, historic sites". According to him Buddhists are 600 million in population and each year they visit various parts of the world to see Buddhist sites which are abundant in Pakistan. "We only need to provide these tourists with enabling environment so that they could come to Taxila, Peshawar, Takht Bhai, Swat Valley and other sites rich with Buddhist marks, said Ambassador.

Thai Ambassador termed the site as a masterpiece of historical architecture and expressed hope that they would facilitate their nationals to visit Pakistan's archeological sites in their respective countries and increase tourism links. According to the delegation, Pakistan is an important country for minorities. The Buddhist site at Takht-i-Bahi is one of the oldest monasteries in the world, with both Takht-i-Bahi and Swat being close to each other and both famous for their Buddhist sites, attracting the attention of local and foreign tourists alike. It was part of the Gandhara civilization, one of the earliest urban settlements in the history of the subcontinent.

## Buddhist ruins of Takht-i-Bahi & neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol

**Naveed Ahmed Khan**

The Buddhist monastic complex of Takht-i-Bahi (Throne of Origins) was founded in the early 1st century. Owing to its location on the crest of a high hill, it escaped successive invasions and is still exceptionally well preserved. Nearby are the ruins of Sahr-i-Bahlol, a small, fortified city dating back from the same period. The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol are one of the most imposing relics of Buddhism in the Gandhara region of Pakistan. The inscribed property is composed of two distinct components both dating from the same era. The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi (Throne of Origins) are a monastic complex, founded in the early 1st century A. D., is spectacularly positioned on various hill-tops ranging from 36.6 meters to 152.4 meters in height, typical for Buddhist sites. The complexes cover an area of around 33 hectares.



The Buddhist monastery was in continual use until the 7th century AD. It is composed of an assemblage of buildings and is the most complete Buddhist monastery in Pakistan. The buildings were constructed of stone in Gandhara patterns (diaper style) using locally dressed and semi-dressed stone blocks set in a lime and mud mortar. Today the ruins comprise a main stupa court, votive stupas court, a group of three stupas, the monastic quadrangle with meditation cells, conference hall, covered stepped passageways and other secular buildings.

The second component, the neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol, is located approximately 5 km away in a fertile plain. The Sahr-i-Bahlol ruins are the remnants of a small ancient, fortified town of the Kushan period. The town is set on an elongated mound up to 9 meters high and surrounded by portions of the defensive walls in "diaper" style characteristic of the first two or three centuries A. D. The area covered is 9.7 hectares.

Criterion (iv): The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol in their setting, architectural form, design, and construction

techniques are most characteristic examples of the development of monastic and urban communities in the Gandharan region between the 1st to 7th century AD.

Integrity: Due to the location of on the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi on high hills, it escaped successive invasions and is exceptionally well preserved. The boundaries of the ancient, fortified city of Sahr-i-Bahlol are well-defined with part of fortification walls still intact although in deteriorated condition. The site is increasingly threatened by encroachments, although the growth of settlements occurred prior to 1911, when they were declared protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. Houses have been built directly on top of the ancient ruins and only remnants of the perimeter wall survive. The present boundaries of the property are considered inadequate due to increasing urbanization. The inscribed property is also threatened by several other factors including uncontrolled vegetation resulting in one of the main causes of decay, inadequate drainage, and lack of security to prevent unauthorized animal and human encroachment and illegal digging. Pollution from local factories and vehicular traffic is also a serious threat adding to the deterioration of the site.

Authenticity: The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi has high authenticity of setting as it continues to occupy its original hilltop location. Authenticity

of form and design has been preserved and the layout of the monastic complex and buildings are visible. Authenticity of materials as well as traditions and techniques of construction is retained in the stone construction in Gandhara patterns (diaper style). The stone sculptures were removed to the Peshawar Museum and the stone inscription of the Gondophares is preserved in the Lahore Museum. The neighboring ancient city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol is endangered by urban expansion. The original sculptures from the site have been removed and are housed in the Peshawar Museum. The Management Plan notes the lack of documentation and the lack of a skilled workforce of artisans trained in the traditional techniques of diaper patterns.

Protection and management requirements: Both component parts of the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol were identified as protected monuments under the Ancient Preservation Act (1904) and subsequently under the Antiquities Act (1975) of the Federal Government of Pakistan. Proposals are under consideration to amend and strengthen the Antiquities Act. The Takht-i-Bahi ruins are owned by the federal Department of Archaeology, and the Sahr-i-Bahlol ruins are private property, owned by the local Khans. The government has established a Sub Regional Office with appropriate professional, technical and watch



ward staff and have allocated financial resources through an annual budget. As well a public sector development program is provided to maintain and preserve the site by regular and rigorous repair and conservation programs. Management responsibilities lie with the Provincial Department of Archaeology (Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) situated in Peshawar. A Master Plan for the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and neighboring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol was prepared in 2011. Intended as a working document for site custodians, it is also designed to provide a detailed holistic framework for the conservation of the inscribed property and sets out principles for management by means of a prioritized plan of action covering several areas of concern from site conservation to visitor management. The threat of urbanization identified above, indicates that the boundaries of the property are inadequate. As a result, a revision of the property bound-

aries is being seriously considered along with the intention to acquire the land around the site and to create a larger buffer zone. To control urbanization, the entire mountain area of 445 hectares was recently declared the "Archaeological Reserve" by the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There remains a need for more adequate documentation of the remains and for enhanced capacity building for craftsmen in traditional building techniques.

Talking to journalists on the occasion, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Chakkrid Krachaiwong said that he was excited to visit the Buddhist sites. He said that being a follower of Buddhism, it was a good experience for him to visit the religious sites. He urged the followers of Buddhism to visit the religious and archaeological sites. The members of the delegation visited different sites in Takht Bhai and several of them performed their religious rituals.

**Spokesman Photos by Raja Farid**





# Huzaifa hopeful to contend on Grand Slam court in 3-4 years

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's rising tennis star Huzaifa Abdul Rehman has underlined that his ultimate goal is to contend on a Grand Slam court, expressing hopes to reach that level in the next three to four years.

The promising tennis sensation has already started his journey to the higher echelons with his recent impressive outings at ITF Futures in Orange Park Florida, USA.

Early last month, he made to the semi-finals of the men's doubles along with his partner Timothy Phung (USA).

The twosome dispatched 4th seeds Elijah Srode and Tennyson Whiting (USA) in the 1st round.

In the quarterfinal, they defeated Alexander Del Corral and Jake Van Emburgh (USA). But in the semi-finals, they fell to 2nd seeds Vasil Kirkov (USA) and Roy Stepanov (Canada).

However, Huzaifa earned four coveted official ATP points to break into the doubles rankings, obtaining an 1853 ATP slot. Currently, he is the second Pakistani player, who is present in ATP doubles rankings.

The other Pakistan player on the prestigious list is veteran Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, whose current standing is 102.

In ITF Singles Futures Tour, Huzaifa overpowered Kaylan Bigun (USA), currently No. 23 in ITF Juniors in the 1st round.

However, he lost in the pre-quarter to Nanda Govind (USA), a top 400 ATP player. Currently, Huzaifa with three



points is the only Pakistan player, who is present in ATP Men's Singles Rankings, where he sits at 1397.

Huzaifa is ecstatic with his performance and believes he is well on course to move up on the ATP Tour.

"If everything goes according to the plan, I hope I will be playing in one of the Grand Slams in the next three to four years.

That is my target as well as dream and I hope it will come true," the 20-year-old, who is training at Next Generation Tennis Academy (NGTA) in Sarasota, Florida said while sharing his sentiments with APP on the phone.

"I know there are no shortcuts and I will have to move step by step to reach my ultimate ambition. Hence, I have set a target for myself. Initially, I am aiming to appear in the ATP Challenger Tour to move into the 1,000 rankings in a year.

Then I will be trying to join the list of the top 500 players in the next two years.

Finally, of course, I will be trying to break into the top 200 to be able to contest in Grand Slam tournaments," he added.

The burgeoning talent of Huzaifa is also evident from the fact that in the recently-held tennis event of the 34th National Games, he earned one gold and two silver medals. Unseeded Huzaifa advanced to Men's Singles final after topping the 5th seed Mohammad Abid in the quarterfinal and 2nd seed Mohammad Shoaib in the semifinal.

In the final, he made Pakistan No. 1 Aqeel Khan toil hard to win. After the epic battle that continued for two hours and 15 minutes, Aqeel admitted that he played the best tennis of his career to overcome the young gun.

However, Huzaifa feels that his upward journey in tennis will not be smooth sailing as where on the one hand he will have to beat the best of the best and on the other, he will have to search for ways to meet his expenses.

"Tennis is a very competitive as well expensive sport. I believe I can excel in the game provided I have the required financial resources.

"It is true the game's elite players earn millions each year but for players, who are at the outset of their professional career, the situation is quite different. We have to bear expenses on training equipment, apparel, travelling and accommodation.

"My parents have been backing me and investing in me. But it is not easier for them anymore now.

According to Huzaifa's father, Muhammad Faisal, BARD Foundation sponsored Huzaifa from March 2022 to March 2023 to help him pursue his dream. "It helped him a lot to gain his ATP points and progress as a professional tennis player.

"He has the potential to shine at the top level. But you know for reaching to the summit one requires all the necessary tools," he said while referring to the scarcity of sponsorships.

Travis Eckert, the head of Florida's NGTA where Huzaifa has been training for the last three years told APP that the youngster had the mentality and skills of a top tennis player.

"He is a fabulous talent but lacks experience, but I hope he will improve with more exposure.

"It was his first year on the professional circuit and he became the only Pakistani in ATP Singles Rankings. I believe it's a huge accomplishment in such a short span of time.

"He is on track to be among the top 500 in a year or so," he added.

# Pakistan Cycling Federation calls for support to enhance cycling development

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: In a recent statement, the Secretary General of Pakistan Cycling Federation, Moazzam Khan Klair, highlighted the urgent need for support to improve cycling in the nation. Recognizing the potential of cycling as a prominent sport, Klair emphasized the importance of essential infrastructure and adequate funding from both the government and private sectors.

Klair expressed his belief that the government should provide incentives to encourage private sector involvement in promoting sports, specifically focusing on



cycling. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, Pakistan can witness remarkable progress in cycling, both at the national

and international levels. "The mission of the Pakistan Cycling Federation is to cultivate a thriving cycling culture within the country,"

stated Klair. "To achieve this, we require robust infrastructure, increased funding, and favorable incentives from the government. We urge the private sector to step forward and contribute to the promotion and development of cycling in Pakistan."

By investing in cycling facilities, improving tracks, and organizing training programs, the Pakistan Cycling Federation aims to create a conducive environment for cyclists of all ages and skill levels. Furthermore, they seek to establish partnerships with corporate entities, encouraging them to support the growth of cycling through sponsorship and strategic collaborations.

teggic collaborations.

Klair concluded the statement by emphasizing the impact that a flourishing cycling community can have on the nation. "Cycling not only promotes physical fitness but also fosters unity, sportsmanship, and national pride. With the support of the government and the private sector, we can propel Pakistan to new heights in the world of cycling."

The Pakistan Cycling Federation remains dedicated to its mission and calls upon stakeholders, government bodies, and corporate entities to join forces in shaping a brighter future for cycling in Pakistan.

# Rodri strike gives Man City victory in Champions League final

**Sports Desk**

ISTANBUL: Manchester City tasted Champions League glory at last on Saturday as a second-half Rodri strike gave the favourites a 1-0 victory over Inter Milan in a tense final, allowing Pep Guardiola's side to complete a remarkable treble.

Rodri fired in from a Bernardo Silva cutback midway through the second half at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium to decide a game in which City were knocked out of their usual rhythm and lost Kevin De Bruyne to injury.

Erling Haaland, scorer of 52 goals this season, went a fifth straight match without finding the net, but City had enough to edge out opponents who had never been expected to get this far.

"It wasn't easy. What a team we faced,



unbelievable," Rodri told British broadcaster BT Sport.

Having already claimed a fifth Premier League title in six seasons, and added the

FA Cup, City are the first English club to win such a treble since Manchester United in 1999.

That same month 24 years ago, City won the English third-tier play-off final on penalties against Gillingham.

Now they have established themselves as England's dominant side and have finally added the biggest prize in European club football, two years after losing to Chelsea in their first final.

"I think we made history. The good thing is that we want more. This project is to want more, more ambition," Rodri added. The match was watched by owner Sheikh Mansour, who made a very rare appearance at a City game as his team capped their rise from also-rans to superpower in the years since he bought the club in 2008.

# Asia Cup set to be played as per PCB proposed hybrid model

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) proposed hybrid model for the Asia Cup 2023 is likely to be approved by the Asian Cricket Council, with Sri Lanka opted as the neutral venue.

According to the sources, all member boards of the ACC gave approval to the hybrid model suggested by the PCB, in which the first four matches will be played in Pakistan while the rest of the tournament will be held at a neutral venue.

The tournament will take place between September 1 and 17 and the final will only be played at a neutral venue if India is involved.

An official announcement in this regard will be made in the next few days.

The likely assent is a major breakthrough in a standstill which had engulfed the Asia Cup 2023 for a while due to a deadlock between the PCB and



the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over the hosting of the tournament.

This year's Asia Cup is originally sched-

uled to be hosted by Pakistan. However, the BCCI refused to send their team to Pakistan for the continental event on political grounds.

The BCCI since then made several efforts to take the hosting rights from Pakistan and to hold Asia Cup at a neutral venue.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was determined not to give away the hosting rights of the tournament and thus the chairman of the PCB management committee Najam Sethi came up with a hybrid model.

As per the PCB-proposed model, Pakistan will host the four to six group matches which will feature Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

However, the BCCI has refused the hybrid proposal for both events and once again demanded to shift the Asia Cup entirely from Pakistan.

Following BCCI's reported refusal, the final decision regarding the venue of the Asia Cup was likely to be taken on the sidelines of the Indian Premier League (IPL) final. However, no development was reported on the deadlock.



Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) basketball team pose with Director Sports LCWU Sumaira Sattar, coach Asif Iqbal and manager Wajiha after winning the Pink Games basketball title. LCWU beat UOL by 70-40 in the final match at NPSC Gymnasium Hall.

# Australia beat India to win World Test Championship final



**Sports Desk**

LONDON: Scott Boland sparked a dramatic collapse as a dominant Australia hammered India by 209 runs to win the World Test Championship final at The Oval on Sunday.

India, set a record 444 to win, resumed on 164-3. But they slumped to 234 all out before lunch on the fifth day, losing their last five wickets for a mere 22 runs.

Boland did the initial damage with two wickets in Sunday's seventh over, including the prize scalp of Virat Kohli, on his way to figures of 3-46 in 16 overs.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon (4-41) then polished off the tail. Victory meant Australia had now captured the one major men's cricket title that had previously eluded them.

Boland might not have been in the side but for an injury to Josh Hazlewood.

The 34-year-old seamer now looks to have assured himself of a place in Australia's XI for the first Ashes Test against England at Edgbaston starting on Friday.

"I felt pretty good to get Kohli out," said Boland, who has now taken 33 wickets in eight Tests at the remarkably low average of 14.57.

"I have been playing state cricket for Victoria for 12 years," he added. "I have done some hard work and it is nice to play international cricket and get some wickets."

Defeat left India, beaten by New Zealand in the inaugural 2021 WTC final in Southampton, still searching for their first piece of global silverware in a decade.

Had India reached a target of 444, it would have surpassed the West Indies' 418-7 against Australia at St John's in 2003 as the highest winning fourth-innings chase in Test history.

India were also attempting to top the corresponding Oval record of 263 posted by England in a one-wicket win over Australia way back in 1902.

Yet even though the odds were heavily against their side, scores of India fans, the key component in a cumulative crowd in excess of 100,000 across the five days, still streamed into the ground.

Australia, who had lost their last four Test series against India, were in charge from early on in this match after being sent into bat.

Both player-of-the-match Travis Head (163) and star batsman Steve Smith (121) made hundreds in a first-innings total of 469.



Asian Cricket Council gave the reception to all the participants teams Emerging T-20 Women Asia Cup to all the Women's cricket team A group picture of All the participants teams cricket Captain Pakistan women cricket team captain Fatima Sana is also seen.

# History-making Novak Djokovic claims record 23rd Grand Slam triumph



PARIS: Novak Djokovic created history on Sunday when he captured a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title with a third French Open triumph, reinforcing his case to be crowned the greatest player of all time.

The 36-year-old Serb brushed off an early wobble to defeat Casper Ruud of Norway 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-5 and snap the tie of 22 Slams he shared with career-long rival Rafael Nadal.

"It's an incredible feeling to win 23. I'm beyond grateful and blessed to be standing here with so many incredible achievements," said Djokovic as Nadal immediately described his rival's victory as "an incredible achievement".

Victory for the third time in Paris, after 2016 and 2021, adds to Djokovic's 10 Australian Open titles, seven at Wimbledon and three at the US Open.

"It's no coincidence that my 23rd Grand Slam title has come here because it has been the hardest one for me to win in my career. I am very emotional right now and I am very, very proud," added Djokovic who fired 11 aces and 52 winners in total past Ruud.

Djokovic is the first man to win all four majors at least three times and is once again halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969.

"Your skill and unwavering mental fortitude on all surfaces is astonishing," tweeted Laver.