



**Pakistan to continue extending political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: FO**

Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council's resolutions. (Details on Page 8)



**President Ilham's vision transformed professional competence of Azerbaijan Army: Ambassador Khazar**

The Embassy of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 105th Armed Forces Day of Azerbaijan in a local hotel in Islamabad where ambassadors & High Commissioners of different countries, bureaucrats, high-ranking military personnel, media groups and people from other walks of life participated. (Details on Page 5)

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**Conference**

PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the International Conference on Health Research organized by Rehman Medical Institute on Thursday.



Photo: PID

**PM Sharif meets Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman**



**Spokesman Report**

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif on Thursday met Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammad bin Salman here on the side-

lines of Summit for New Global Financing Pact. Besides discussing the matters relating to mutual interests, the two leaders agreed to further expand the shared actions to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

**PM asks int'l community to devise policy for economic justice**

**Spokesman Report**

Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has asked the international community to devise a policy for economic justice and fairness.

He was addressing the New Global Financial Pact Summit in Paris, France tonight.

PM Shabbaz Sharif has urged the world countries to come forward in generous terms to formulate and provide an opportunity, a system and a mechanism to satisfy the most vulnerable at a minimum and create harmony in terms of economic justice and fairness to save the world from trouble, quoted Radio Pakistan.

The prime minister said that unless we come out with a fair, comfortable and judicious formula for the distribution of financial resources, the world will never be in peace.

Giving details about destruc-



tions caused by climate-induced devastating floods in Pakistan, the Prime Minister said last year we had the most devastating floods in Pakistan, which completely changed our lifestyle.

He said 33 million people were affected; millions of acres of standing crops were washed away.

He said seventeen hundred people died in general, half a

million animals were drowned and two million houses either completely demolished or partially damaged.

PM Shabbaz Sharif said now we have to cope up hundreds of millions of dollars from our pockets with our scarce resources and provide money to the flood-affected people of the country.

He also expressed gratitude to

friendly countries for their valuable and timely response and contribution. The Prime Minister said there are tensions around the globe, but saving humanity from suffering is also essential.

He also lauded the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for visiting Pakistan to personally witness the on-ground realities and visiting the relief camps in different

areas far-flung areas of Pakistan.

The premier also hailed French President Emmanuel Macron for holding the summit to highlight the sufferings of the developing countries due to the impacts of climate change and poverty.

PM Sharif on Thursday joined the world leaders at the inaugural session of the Summit for New Global Financing Pact.

French President Emmanuel Macron is chairing the Summit which is being attended by over 50 heads of states.

As a leading stakeholder in G-77 plus China grouping and also as a country adversely hit by climate change threat, Pakistan is better positioned for this role.

The two-day Summit will conclude on June 23 (Friday).

The premier arrived on Wednesday on an official visit to attend the Summit, at the invitation of the French President.

**Shazia Marri vows to keep fighting for democracy**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Shazia Marri on Thursday vowed to keep fighting for democracy in the country.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, Marri said the coalition government was unified in its commitment to preserving the nation's political stability.

"This was the first time in the history of the nation that a premier was removed by a motion of no confidence," Marri maintained.

Marri complained, referring to the past, "The environment was not being made ideal for politics."

She underscored the significance of the constitution and stated that it was up to the constitution to determine the bounds of all the state institutions.

"Everyone is aware that throughout the past four years, the country has been in that predicament. Due to the economic problems the nation is experiencing, we are very concerned," she rued.

**SC bench adjourns hearing in military courts' case after dramatic turn of events**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday heard petitions against trial of civilians in military courts and deferred the hearing till Friday (tomorrow).

A seven-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, conducted hearing of the petitions challenging trial of civilians in military courts.

As the hearing resumed at 1:30pm, Latif Khosa advanced his argument on behalf of petitioner Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan. Latif Khosa said the formation commanders during their meeting had decided to try the perpetrators of May 9 attacks in military courts. A declaration to the effect was also issued which was posted on ISPR website too.

He maintained that the declaration was against Article 10-A of the Constitution of Pakistan. Mr Khosa also read out the declaration in court. Mr Khosa said as per formation commanders they had irrefutable evidence against May 9 perpetrators.

The ATCs were requested to transfer cases of civilians to army courts. Mr Khosa added that he was not against punishing the May 9 culprits but he did not want the civilians to be tried in military courts. He continued that a colonel or a brigadier had to hear cases in military courts against civilians and it was likely that he would not go against the decisions



made in the corps commanders or formation commanders' meetings.

When asked whether the army act was challenged by any bench, Mr Khosa said he did not know in which court the Act could be challenged.

The Supreme Court sought the record of all those arrested in the country post-May 9, when violent protests broke out in the country following the arrest of the PTI chairman.

The SC bench also refused to grant a stay order on the decision to conduct trials of civilians in the military courts. CJP Bandial said that the apex court would first hear arguments from the attorney general on this matter.

Bench reconstituted after two judges recuse

Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial had reconstituted a seven-member bench hearing appeals against trial of civilians in military courts after senior judges Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Tariq Masood recused themselves from hearing the case.

The new seven-member bench, headed by Bandial, comprises Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar.

Earlier, when the Supreme Court started hearing of petitions filed by Aitzaz Ahsan, the bench was dissolved as senior justices including Qazi Faez Isa refused to hear the pleas taking stance that the Practice and Procedure Bill case should be decided first. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood also recused himself from hearing the case, saying he agreed with the viewpoint of Justice Isa.

Justice Faez Isa's observations

Justice Qazi Faez Isa, at the outset of the hearing, said he wanted to give some observations when senior lawyer Latif Khosa requested to start hearing of the case and said he was pleased over hearing of the case. Justice Isa asked Khosa to express his pleasure outside court as it was not a political forum.

Justice Isa then remarked that his order was set aside through a circular passed by the registrar. Justice Isa further remarked that he was not detaching himself from the bench but he did not consider the larger bench hearing pleas against military courts a proper one. He was also of the view that all benches hearing cases had no legal backing without a final ruling on the Practice and Procedure Bill.

**Khawaja Asif says 25 civilians convicted by military courts in PTI govt**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that 24 or 25 civilians were convicted by the military courts in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government.

Addressing the National Assembly, Khawaja Asif said that those who moved the Supreme Court against the trial of civilians in military courts have political motives.

He said it is not the first time that the trials of civilians will take place in military courts. He said there are precedents of these trials and the judiciary has also endorsed them on various occasions in the past.

The Defence Minister asked the petitioners not to challenge the country's dignity and honor for the sake of their political motives. He said our security personnel continue to render sacrifices in the war on terrorism and that they are our benefactors.

**Ishaq Dar says additional Rs 12b approved for flood victims**



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that an additional Rs 12 billion has been approved for the flood victims.

Addressing the National Assembly session, the Federal Finance Minister said that a total of Rs 100 billion were needed for the flood affectees and the government has spent Rs 80 billion whereas Rs 12 billion more has been approved. Rs 80 billion were distributed among the flood-affected people through Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), he added.

He said that \$16.3 billion are needed for the complete rehabilitation of flood affectees where \$11 billion will be spent on the projects in flood-affected areas as the loss in the country is estimated more than \$30 billion.

Ishaq Dar told the National Assembly that a master plan has been prepared for the Sindh flood victims. The Sindh government has made a hous-

ing project for flood affectees which costs Rs 50 billion, where the federal government will give Rs 25 billion and the rest of Rs Rs 25 billion will be allocated by the provincial government.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif assured Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah of allocating Rs25 billion funds for the flood victims in the budget 2023-24.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah held a one-on-one meeting with PM Shabbaz Sharif in Islamabad today. Sources told ARY News that the chief minister raised the matter of special allocations for the flood affectees in the federal budget 2023-24.

He apprised PM Sharif that the Sindh government allocated Rs25 billion funds for the flood victims and the federal government should also allocate Rs25 billion for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees. CM Shah also demanded the premier for special allocations for the flood victims from global aid.

**FM thanks UN members for endorsing Pakistan for UNSC term 2025-26**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday thanked the members of Asia Pacific Group at the United Nations for

their support and confidence in unanimously endorsing Pakistan's candidature to the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026.

In a tweet the foreign minister said, "I thank the members of Asia Pacific Group at UN in NY for their support & confidence in unanimously endorsing Pakistan's candidature to the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026." Pakistan was determined to make its contributions while upholding the



## 10 Years of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador for Pakistan H.E. Ms. Pang Chunxue pressed the button to perform the Curtain-Raiser Event Celebrating 10 Years of CPEC at Auditorium Ministry PD&SI.



Photo: APP

# Shehbaz Sharif, IMF MD discuss ongoing programme, bilateral cooperation

## Spokesman Report

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Managing Director International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva met Thursday on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit here and exchanged views on the ongoing programme and cooperation between Pakistan and the IMF.

Recalling their recent telephone conversation on May 27, Shehbaz Sharif apprised Georgieva of Pakistan's economic outlook.

The prime minister



outlined the steps taken by the government for economic growth and stability. He underscored that all prior

actions for 9th review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) had been completed and the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to fulfilling its obligations as agreed with the IMF.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the funds allocated under the IMF's EFF would be released as soon as possible. This would help strengthen Pakistan's ongoing efforts towards economic stabilisation, and bring relief to its people.

The IMF managing director shared her institution's perspective on the ongoing

review process. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to take stock of the progress in that context.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman; Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad attended the meeting.

# Pakistan to continue extending political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: FO

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council's resolutions.

Speaking at a weekly press conference here Thursday, the spokesperson Foreign Office said that the International Day for Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, observed on June 4, reminded the plight of the Kashmiri children who are constantly suffering from the continued siege and brutal oppression by the Indian forces.

"The entire generation of Kashmiri children has grown



up in a climate of fear, violence and repression. Kashmiri orphans suffer in economic hardship, isolation and psychological trauma. Scores of school children have been injured by pellets, bullets and teargas shells fired by the Indian forces. Many of them have lost their eyesight, fully or partially."

She said the United Nations called on India to take preventive measures to protect children and ending the use of pellets against children. "We urge India to heed to this call and protect the chil-

dren of Kashmir from violence, displacement and trauma."

"Pakistan has had a consistent policy for the last 70 years on Kashmir which affirms it as a disputed territory, that states that India is illegally occupying the land of the Kashmiri people. The solution of the Kashmir dispute lies in the UN Security Council resolutions and steps must be taken to resolve this dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the UN Security Council resolutions," she added. To a question about the incidents of May 9, the spokesperson said that Pakistan was a country of laws and it was a country which had constitutionally guaranteed human rights and fundamental freedoms and "we are a democratic setup with

free and independent judiciary. The Government of Pakistan will continue to follow its obligations under the law, under the Constitution".

"On both your questions, I would like to underline that Pakistan will follow its laws and its international obligations in bringing to justice individuals responsible for the events of 9th May. We have received the requests that you have mentioned, and those requests have been sent from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Interior, which takes final decision in such cases."

To a question regarding the United Arab Emirates' nomination of Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as the President of this year's UN climate conference, COP-28, the

Spokesperson stated that Pakistan believed that the United Arab Emirates' Presidency of COP-28 was an opportunity for meaningful progress and effective global action on key areas to mitigate and reverse the negative impacts of climate change.

Over the years, the United Arab Emirates had demonstrated a strong commitment to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. Through initiatives like the Masdar City project, the Abu Dhabi Clean Energy Strategy, the UAE net zero by 2050, and clean fossil fuels, the UAE made substantial investments in leading global efforts for achieving the goal and targets of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, she added.

# President appoints Shahid Hussain as Rector LUMS



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi

approved the appointment of Shahid Hussain as Rector Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) for another five years.

The President approved the appointment under section 11(1) of LUMS charter 1985.

He also sanctioned the appointment of Saima Amin Khawaja as Trustee Board of Trustees LUMS under section 13(1) of LUMS charter 1985.

# Ishaq Dar vents anger on journalist over IMF-related questions

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has once again vented anger on a journalist for questioning the progress on Pakistan-International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks for the revival of the loan programme.

Ishaq Dar, when questioned by the journalist about the status of the Pakistan-IMF talks, got annoyed and ordered the security staff to throw away the journalist's mobile phone.

The video of the incident has surfaced which showed the finance minister walking on the stairs along with his security staff. A journalist started filming him and asking a question, "When will negotiations with IMF be successful? Why talks with the IMF are not being successful?"

The questions apparently irked Dar a lot as he ordered his security staff to throw away the journalist's mobile phone. The security staff tried to snatch the journalist's mobile phone following the senator's order.

The journalist namely Shahid Qureshi is a private news channel, Ausaf Broadcasting Network (ABN) reporter. In a video statement, Shahid Qureshi said that Ishaq Dar slapped him for an IMF-related question and ordered his security staff to teach him



a lesson.

In May, Dar lost his cool over 'tough' questions from journalists about the revival of the country's economy. Dar was responding to questions from the media men after addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference on Islamic Capital Market in Islamabad.

Ishaq Dar sahab! Have you failed? Staff-level agreement with IMF still not signed, the journalist asked.

The PML-N leader got furious and asked a question to journo in reply, has Pakistan defaulted? "We have paid all international loan payments."

The finance minister while responding to another question on the economy said "Whatever decision you want to give, go ahead, I will see it, later."

Ishaq Dar avoided responding to queries regarding the upcoming budget of FY2023-24 and the revival of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme.

# Minister Talha stresses quality food services; warns consequences



## News Desk

MAKKAH MUKARMA: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Talha Mehmoond Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Talha Mehmoond has cautioned catering companies about the severe repercussions they might encounter as a result of dissatisfaction from prospective Hajj pilgrims, while simultaneously declaring incentives for top performers within the sector.

During a meeting with representatives from 13 catering companies that supply three meals a day to intending Hajj pilgrims under the government Hajj scheme, in Makkah, he mentioned that he stays connected

with the intending pilgrims.

He stated that his portal consistently forwards complaints to him about the food quality provided to the intending pilgrims.

The minister requested the caterers to ensure both the quality and quantity of food for the pilgrims.

He informed them that he and his team would conduct surprise inspections by sampling the food in separate buildings to assess its quality.

He stated that the quota allocation for catering companies providing poor-quality food would be reduced if there is no improvement.

He praised the food quality of certain caterers and cautioned others about their poor quality food.

# AD Ports Group signs 50-year concession agreement with Karachi Port Trust for container terminal

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: AD Ports Group announced today the signing of a concession agreement with Karachi Port Trust (KPT), the Pakistani federal government agency that oversees the operations of the Port of Karachi.

Under the terms of the 50-year concession agreement, a Joint Venture between AD Ports Group, as a majority shareholder, and Kheel Terminals, a UAE-based company has been formed to manage, operate and develop the Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited (KGT), berths 6-9 at Karachi Port's East Wharf.

The JV will undertake significant investments in infrastructure and superstructure over the next 10 years, with the bulk of it planned for 2026. The development works will include deepening of berths, extension of quay walls, and an increase in container storage area. As a result, the termi-

nal will be able to handle Post Panamax class vessels of up to 8,500 TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) and container capacity will increase from 750,000 to 1 million TEUs per annum. This expansion and enhancement will further cement the Terminal and Karachi's position as a key player in the maritime industry.

The Terminal's operations are all dollarised with no foreign exchange exposure to the Pakistani Rupee. Historically, the terminal has been generating revenue of around \$55 million and EBIDTA of around \$30 million annually.

This strategic agreement follows the signing in May this year of a Memorandum of Understanding, which inked both entities shared vision to drive growth, promote trade diversification, and strengthen bilateral ties between the UAE and Pakistan.

Under this MoU, the parties have agreed to collaborate under a bilateral

framework of mutual cooperation to develop and upgrade the connectivity of Karachi Port to the railway systems.

This MoU establishes a cooperative relationship between AD Ports and Port Qasim Authority for the development, operation, and management of industrial and/or free zone facilities in the Port Qasim area.

Under this MoU, AD Ports Group and the Government of Pakistan will cooperate to develop digital trade and logistics solutions including customs digitalisation.

Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said, "We are pleased to witness the signing of this concession agreement, which signifies the UAE's continued commitment to strengthening our ties with Pakistan."

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said, "This milestone agreement will bolster the terminal's capacity, further



enhancing its attractiveness to international trade partners to contribute to the growth of Karachi's position as a key player in the global trade industry.

Faisal Subzwari, Pakistan Minister for Maritime Affairs, said, "The

UAE and Pakistan have a strong and long-standing relationship, which is experiencing continuous growth in the areas of trade and investment due to our leadership's commitment to further strengthen ties.

Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO of AD Ports Group, said, "AD Ports Group is delighted to embark on this landmark partnership with the Government of Pakistan."

Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, said, "This landmark agreement between AD Ports Group and KPT marks a significant milestone and holds big potential for the growth and development of Karachi Port."

The UAE was Pakistan's number one regional trading partner in 2021, accounting for over 40% of Pakistan's trade with Arab countries, with non-oil exports from the UAE to Pakistan valued at nearly AED 4.8 billion (\$1.3 billion) in 2022 according to Pakistan's Ministry of State for Foreign Trade. Additionally, re-exports from the UAE to Pakistan amounted to AED 10.6 billion (US\$ 2.9 billion), reflecting a 7.7% growth compared to 2021.



# Government pay the railway employees, pensioners dues immediately: Amir-ul-Azeem

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Secretary General Jamaat-e-Islami Amir-ul-Azeem has said that government employees are not getting their salaries on time, tyrants and corrupt capitalists sitting in the Senators and Member National Assembly are increasing their privileges. The rulers do not care about the people, the dues should be paid to the railway employees and pensioners immediately. Jamaat-e-Islami is



supporting railway employees, bail-out package should be given to railways, temporary employees and daily wagers should be made permanent. He expressed these views while addressing a protest rally against non-payment of salaries to railway employees at Lahore Railway Station. The rally was organized by Railway Premier Union. President Prem Union Sheikh Muhammad Anwar also addressed the demonstration. Amir-ul-Azeem warned the railway

administration that if the behavior did not change in favor of the employees, Jamaat-e-Islami would take them and march towards Islamabad. The prime minister should downsize his cabinet not the employees. Sheikh Muhammad Anwar said that if the railway employees do not get their salaries, they will protest in such a way that there will be a commotion in the Houses, He said that abuse of Railways and its employees should be stopped.

## Beat the Heat

RAWALPINDI: A youngster bathing in tube well to get relief from scorching hot weather in outskirts of the city.

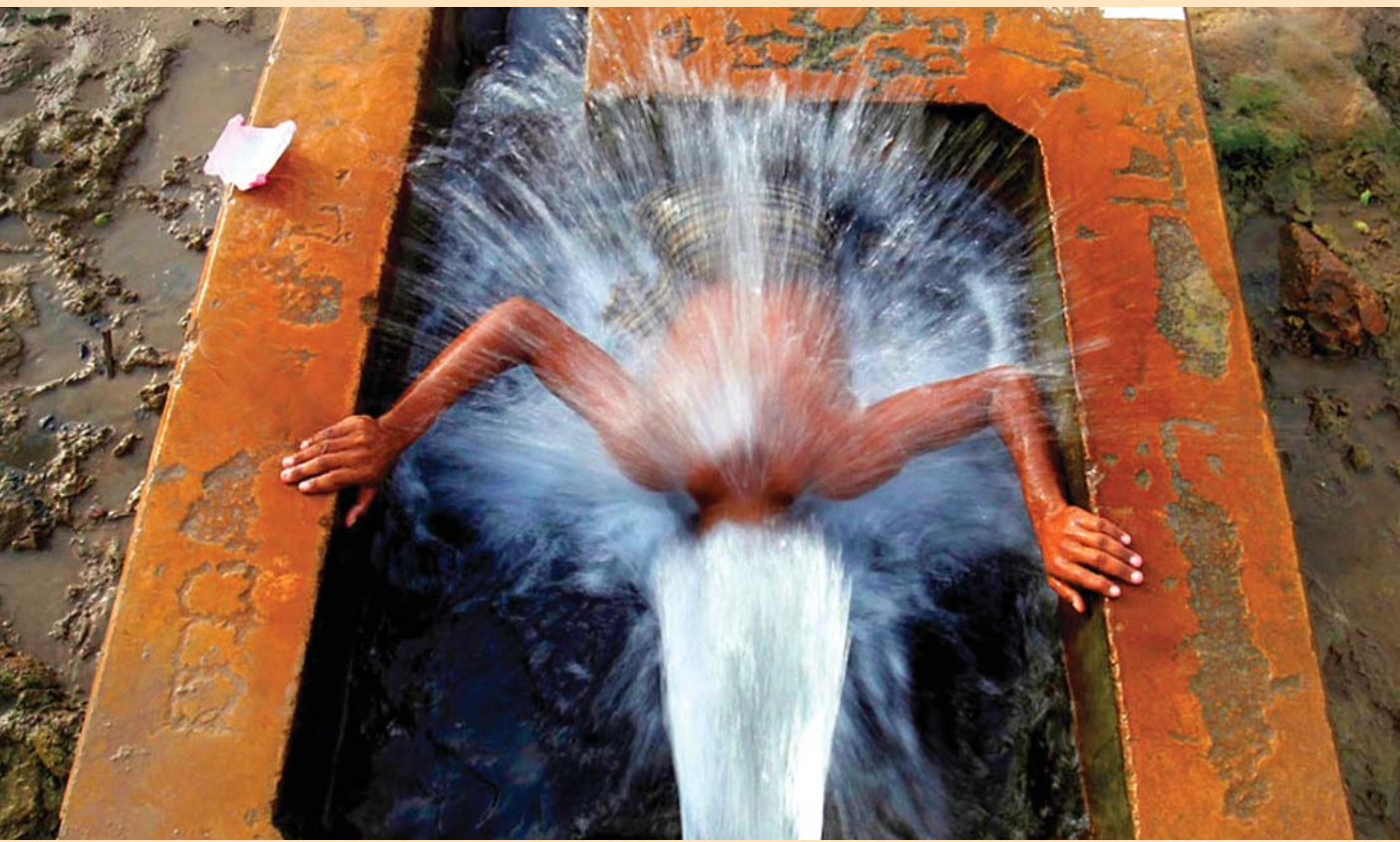


Photo: Online

# 105th Azerbaijan Independence Day Observed at NUML

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: 105th independence anniversary of the Republic of Azerbaijan was observed at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Thursday. The event was organized by the Azerbaijan Language & Culture Center, NUML. Ambassador of Azerbaijan H. E. Mr. KhazarFarhadov, ambassador Republic of Türkiye H. E. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali, Pro-Rectors, Registrar, Deans, faculty members and large number of students attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, ambassador of Azerbaijan said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are two brotherly countries and relations



between the two are historic. He said that people of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye have mutual respect, love, and care for one another, and hence, there is a need to expand people to people contact among these countries. He further mentioned that Pakistan & Türkiye supported Azerbaijan in hard times and government and the people of Azerbaijan are thankful to

their friends like Pakistan & Türkiye.

Ambassador of Türkiye briefed the audience about Türkiye relations with Pakistan & Azerbaijan and also extended his good wishes to his Azerbaijani counterpart on 105th Independence Day of Azerbaijan.

At the end, Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali highlighted the importance of time-tested

bondage between Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye. He said that Pakistan Language and Culture center has been established in Azerbaijan University of language and NUML will provide all possible support to strengthen the center. He thanked honorable guests and extended his best wishes to the Azerbaijan Ambassador on the 105th Independence Day.

## District admin crackdown on overcharged transporters in Wana

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan Mohammad Nasir Khan, Tehsildar Wana Javed Khan took action against the transporters charging excessive fare and imposed heavy fines on them.

On this occasion, he directed the transporters to avoid excessive fare collection and ensure implementation of government orders, otherwise strict action will be taken.

Tehsildar Wana sternly warned the drivers that strict legal action will be taken against the violating transporters and that action will be taken against the drivers who charge excessive fares. The DC said that the action has been taken due to the continuous complaints received from the common people regarding the collection of excess rent from the last two days and actions will continue as per the law.

# UNFPA 2023 State of World Population Report launched in Sindh

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan on Thursday launched the UNFPA's global flagship report, the 2023 State of World Population (SWOP), in Karachi, Sindh Province. The report, titled '8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: The Case for Rights and Choices', was launched globally in April 2023, presenting the latest trends about population growth or decline, fertility rates, reproductive health, family planning, and migration around the globe.

The SWOP cautions against controlling bodies to address demographic concerns. Family planning must not be used as a means for achieving fertility targets but as a tool for empowering individuals, and women should be able to choose if, when, and how many children they want to have. With an average annual growth rate of 2.41 percent in Sindh, the total current population is 56.3 million (2022), estimated to grow to 95.7 million by 2050. According to the SWOP report, Pakistan will be among the eight countries to account



for half of the projected global population growth by 2050, along with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, the Philippines and the USA. Pakistan's population is currently estimated at 240.5 million and is projected to reach 403 million by 2050.

The launch in Sindh was held at SZABIST, with Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sindh Minister for Population and Health as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by senior officials of the Government of Sindh, Consul Generals of different countries, the President for SZABIST Shahnaz

Wazir Ali, heads of national and international organizations, development experts, researchers, SZABIST faculties and students.

Minister of Health and Population Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho shared her reflections on the report, mentioning that the gender element is crucial for balanced population development and progress for a nation together with education for women and employment.

Stakeholders contended that population growth could be tackled more effectively by engaging all cross-cutting sectors directly, focusing on

addressing inequalities in education, income, employment, regional connectivity, gender, and digitalization. The issue is beyond just contraceptive prevalence.

Echoing the key messages from the SWOP, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Representative in Pakistan, said there is population anxiety in the country and a genuine linkage between population dynamics, poverty, nutrition, and other socioeconomic dimensions recommending that these should be made clear in the public policies and programmes in the country.

Population experts in Sindh province contend that given the province's two percent annual population growth rate, 25 million jobs will be required by 2040, which would be a difficult task given the local and global economic conditions. Sindh alone would need 25,000 more primary schools by 2040. Currently, more than half of the girls at, 51 percent (age 5-16), are out of school in the province, together with 39 percent of boys. Sindh will also require 5 million more houses by 2040 to accommodate the growing population.

## Diner Group launched a new outlet Prime Point for women's wear in Peshawar



**Tariq Khattak**

PESHAWAR: Diner Group has opened an outlet Prime Point for women's clothing on Peshawar University Road. CEO of Diner Group, Anees Moten, inaugurated the outlet that has dresses for all occasions including formal, office wear, and wedding dresses for women.

CEO of Diners Group, Anees Moten, said that we are working for the economic prosperity of Pakistan. The chain of our stores will increase employment opportunities for the youth in the country. After Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, we are in Peshawar and now quality clothes will be available at affordable prices for the people of Peshawar.

At present, although the political and economic situation is not favorable and everyone in Pakistan is worried over the worst situation, since the inflation has affected the people severely including the business circles. However, despite all hurdles, we are opening our outlets in different cities of the country and working to alleviate unemployment in the country. Diner Group has been providing quality and affordable clothes to the people of Pakistan for the past two decades. And thanks to its unique and exquisite styles, it holds a prominent position in the garment industry of the country. Diner Group is a symbol of superior quality.

The ceremony was attended by socio-political figures, especially women, and renowned businessmen from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

## LLP Established School For Transgenders and Girls in Multan and Bahawalpur

**Kiran Asim**



MULTAN: Social organization Lodhran Pilot Project, UNESCO and School Education Department jointly organized a workshop in which a detailed discussion was held about the achievements and experiences of the projects that highlight the education and professional skills of transgenders and girls. LPP Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdul Saboor speaking at the event said that for the first time in South Punjab, schools for transgenders were established in Multan and Bahawalpur.

Along with their admission, facilities such as free education, travel allowance and stipend, uniform, shoes, etc. are being provided. 88 transgender students have enrolled in institutions established in Multan and Bahawalpur districts. In addition, three technical colleges in each district. Labs, Information Technology, Vocational, Beauty Parlors have been established which is proof of the joint efforts of UNESCO, Department of Education and Lodhran Pilot Project. Dr. Abdul Saboor announced 3 million fund on behalf of LPP.

Appreciating the services of LPP, Section Officer Miss Hina said that the success of the project to be launched regarding transgenders involves the hard work of the entire team. The Department of Education would be keen to collaborate with LPP on similar projects in the future.

## Most wanted criminal Hakeem Harwani killed

**Asim Tanveer**



RAJANPUR: Harwani a dangerous criminal leader involved in murder, kidnapping for ransom and other serious crimes including arms smuggling in Rajanpur was killed by his associates. Hakeem Harwani, a resident of Umar Kot, was the deputy of the dangerous gang Fayyaz Dalani group and was included in the list of wanted criminals. Hakim Harwani was arrested by the Punjab Police during an intelligence-based operation from Rakhani area of Balochistan.

According to police records, the notorious bandit Hakim Harwani was involved in 21 incidents of serious crimes including murder, robbery, kidnapping for ransom. Accused Hakim Harwani along with Fayyaz Dalani and Abu Bakr Dalani killed 02 people on resistance during the kidnapping attempt from a shop in Rojhan. The case of this incident was registered in Rojhan Police Station Hakim Harwani bandit Khuda Bakhsh was also involved in the firing on the police party during the police raid on Khuda Bukhsh Lund, said the spokesman of Punjab Police.

## RPO Dera inaugurated the newly constructed Daraban Police Check Post



**Adam Khan Wazir**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Abdul Ghafoor Afridi inaugurated the newly constructed Daraban Police Check Post on Inter-Provincial Highway Dera Zhob Road in Daraban limits.

District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, DSP Headquarter, DSP Darzanda and other police officers were also present on this occasion.

District Police Chief Dera gave a complete briefing to RPO Dera about the police presence, security, building and security cameras at the check post.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, RPO Dera said that, God willing, this police check post will be an important milestone in establishing peace and order in the area and providing convenience to the local people.

Appreciating the sacrifices of the Dera police against terrorism, he hoped that the Dera police would fight to the last drop of their blood to defend the nation.





Islamabad

15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr .....3:14 am  
Zohr .....12:10 pm  
Asr .....5:10 pm  
Maghrib .....7:22 pm  
Isha .....9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH .....561111  
MH .....561116  
MH .....561116  
Cantt Hospital .....9270907-11  
DHQ .....5556311-4  
RGH .....9290301-7  
Holy Family .....9290322-7  
PIMS .....9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International .....4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

Raise awareness on birth registration and birth certificate distribution ceremony

Azad Baloch

DADU: Raise Awareness on Birth Registration and Birth Certificate Distribution Ceremony to Empower Communities. In an effort to empower communities and promote the fundamental rights of every child, International Rescue Committee is delighted to announce the upcoming Birth Registration and Birth Certificate Distribution Ceremony. This event aims to raise awareness about the importance of birth registration and provide birth certificates to children who have been previously unregistered.

Birth registration is an essential process that ensures the recognition and protection of a child's legal identity. It provides the foundation for accessing basic human rights, including healthcare, education, and social services. Unfortunately, millions of children around the world remain unregistered, denying them their rights and limiting their opportunities for a better future. The International Registration Committee (IRC) is delighted to announce a significant milestone in its Birth Registration Initiative, having successfully processed 10,000 birth registrations across five districts of Sindh. This achievement marks a momentous step towards ensuring every child's right to a legal identity and access to essential services.

# Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq called the budget historic

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq while terming the budget as historic, has said that traditions of the past seven decades have been broken in the current budget. While addressing the Legislative Assembly after approving the budget for the next financial year, the PM thanked the federal government for providing sufficient funds. He also appreciated the national security institutions' pivotal role in the economic revival of the country. Terming the current budget as the biggest ever budget in the history of Azad Kashmir, the PM while highlighting the effective use of the budget said that the liberated territory could be transformed into a well-developed region provided the money allocated in the budget was spent and utilized in a proficient manner.

He said that providing good govern-

ance in the liberated territory (AJK) would rekindle the candle of hope on the other side of the Line of Control. Referring to Kashmiris' commitment to the noble cause, the PM said that no amount of oppression and oppression can snatch away the dream of hope and freedom from the Kashmiri people. Expressing his profound grief over the Greece boat disaster that claimed hundreds of innocent lives, the PM said that he was deeply saddened by the tragic incident. "Those involved in this illicit trade (human traffic) will be strictly dealt with as per the law of the land", he said.

The PM said that he was also grateful to the allies as well as opposition parties for their full cooperation and participating in the budget session. "Disagreement is the beauty of democracy, the honourable members of the house sitting on both sides of the aisle deserve praise for their role in ensuring political harmony", the



PM said adding as the leader of the house he would try his level best to serve the state and its people.

He said that the government would fulfill its obligations regarding the establishment of Rehmatul lilalameen (SAW) authority. He said the government would implement the recommendations of the

Public Accounts Committee. Stressing the need for across board accountability, he said, "A society is bound to perish where corruption and corrupt practices are given constitutional protection", he said. Terming the Thirteenth Amendment as a great achievement, he said that we must learn to give credit where it is

due. The PM also appreciated the senior minister Waqar Noor and Faisal Mumtaz Rathore for their valuable contribution to the budget preparation. The PM said that he fully takes ownership of increasing privileges of the former prime ministers in the budget. He said the reforms will be brought in the next few days.

"If any action is in the interest of the state, it must be appreciated", he said, adding that the government was responsible for every penny being collected from the taxes. The Accountability process, he said, will start with the Prime Minister. "After that members of the cabinet and bureaucrats have to present themselves for accountability", he added.

"Access to information is the right of every citizen, any journalist or civil society member can get records from any office", the PM said adding that the Prime Minister's Office was open in case there was any problem

## High temperature

ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying at Fatime Jinnah Park to feel the cool breeze of evening after the high temperature of 41 degree in Federal Capital on Thursday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Kashmiri will observe Burhan Wani martyrdom on 8th July as Resistance Day

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir has announced to celebrate the 7th martyrdom day of the well-known Kashmiri freedom fighter Burhan Muzaffar Wani as "Resistance Day".

According to details, Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmed Ghazali said that Kashmiri martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the state are truly our national heroes.

He expressed these views while addressing a press

conference alongwith Usman Ali Hashim, Muhammad Fayyaz Khan, Liaquat Ali Rana, Muhammad Kamran, Dr. Safer Ahmed Sheikh and Qasid Farooq.

He said that the famous commander Burhan Wani added a new chapter in the resistance movement against Indian state oppression.

Ghazali said that Burhan Wani Shaheed had declared "resistance" as the only solution for the freedom of the state from Indian military occupation.

Speakers on the occasion said that the killing of young

people like Burhan Wani are the results of insufficient efforts by the international community to resolve the Kashmir issue.

They said that because of the non-implementation of the 18 resolutions passed by the United Nations, Kashmiri youngsters are compelled to adopt armed resistance as they find no other way for their freedom.

Speakers also paid tribute to martyrs Dr. Sabzar, Dr. Manan Wani, Prof. Rafee Butt, Dr. Saif Ullah, Dr. Bilal Ahmed, Engr. Abdul Basit, Zakir Musa, Abu Hunzala, Riaz Ahmed Naiko, Dr. Waseem, Junaid Ahmed

Schrai, Engr. Hilal Ahmed Wani, Zeenat ul Islam, Zia Mustafa and others.

Adding that these martyrs are the true heroes of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speakers said that July 8 will be observed as a day of resistance across the state to pay homage to the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir and to reiterate the determination of freedom.

Rallies will be held across Azad Jammu and Kashmir to pay homage to the martyrs who fought for the freedom of the state from Indian military occupation.

## The telefilm 'Meri Dil Meri Marzi' will be shown on AAN TV on Eidul Adha



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The famous producer Merajuddin and the cast of the project Nadia Afgan, Neelam Munir, Afian Waheed and the stars of director Danish Nawaz's also Showbiz, Raheena Irshad AAN tv programming head, Tahawar Hussain, Head of operations also attended the event, including many big names of the industry, like Imran Abbas and Asim Yar Towana.

On TV's upcoming project Mera Dil Meri Marzi is a romantic comedy telefilm that deals with a social issue and revolves around Shahnaz and her daughter Mishi, a women activist. She works for women rights. After separating from her husband, men are not trustworthy for Shahnaz. There Mishi accidentally meets Sameer, who falls in love at first sight. Sameer has to go through a lot to get Mishi. The housework has to be done from cooking to washing and the clothes. Now it is to be seen whether Sameer will find his love by meeting the challenges given by Mishi and Shahnaz or not.

## PNCA refused to send traditional dancers to the function organized in honor of Chinese guests

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani cultural troupe could not gather its color in the important CPEC-related event held at the Ministry of Planning. The PNCA administration allegedly refused to send the traditional dancers organized in honor of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and the Chinese guests.

According to sources, an important ceremony was held for CPEC, an important project to make the Pakistani economy more stable. In which dances based on the culture of Pak China were to be presented. But when the administration of the Pakistan National Council of Arts allegedly stopped the dancers of their organization from performing in the program of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, it became a problem. This event was organized in the Ministry of Planning with the efforts of Project Director of CPEC and Chief Economist of Pakistan Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Javed. The chief guest was Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. Chinese guests were also invited. But suddenly the situation changed. At the same time, information was received that the dancers performing in the opening ceremony of the CPEC project could not come. Due to which the order of the program was affected. Sources said that DGPNCA Ayub Jamali was prevented from giving the performance.

## Malicious campaign targeting UAJK condemned by Staff Associations

MUZAFFARABAD: The Academic and Administrative Staff Associations of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) have strongly condemned a malicious campaign aimed at defaming the state's largest and most prestigious institution of higher education.

On Thursday, a delegation led by Dr. Nazanin Habib, President of the UAJK's Academic Staff Association, and Israr Saeed Qadri, President of the Administrative Staff Association, held a meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi to address the ongoing campaign against the university.

The delegation assured Vice Chancellor Abbasi of their complete awareness of this attempt to tarnish the reputation of UAJK and pledged to vigorously counter the efforts made by this particular group. They emphasized that the university's current standing, achieved through perseverance and dedication, would not be compromised by personal ego or the interests of vested parties.

Expressing unwavering trust in the leadership of Vice Chancellor Abbasi, the delegations acknowledged his role in the university's achievements in educational development, research advancement, and the establishment of modern infrastructure. They expressed their belief in the university's continued progress in the months and years ahead.

The delegation highlighted several notable initiatives, including the appointment of highly qualified faculty based on merit, the introduction of new educational programs to equip youth with modern technological skills, and the construction of the King Abdullah campus to address long-standing housing issues. They also commended the University for equipping its campus with state-of-the-art science and computer laboratories, made possible through support from the Saudi Fund for Development. The delegations acknowledged and praised effective linkages development at both the national and international levels.

## Amir Mir presides over a meeting of Punjab Writers Welfare Fund at Alhamra

City Desk

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Amir Mir presided over a meeting of Punjab Writers Welfare Fund being held at Alhamra Lahore. Secretary Information & Culture Ali Nawaz Malik, Members of the Board of Governors Punjab

Writers Welfare Fund including Ata Ullah Qasmi, Dr. Khawaja Muhammad Zikriya, Neelam Ahmed Bashir, Khalid Qayyum, Ambreen Fatima and others participated.

It was decided during the meeting to compile a list of writers, litterateurs and poets aspiring for financial aid so that

they can be provided financial assistance forthwith. Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Amir Mir apprised that the annual fund of Punjab Writers Welfare Fund has been enhanced from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.90 lakh. It has been decided on the proposal of Secretary Information & Culture that a sub-committee will also be

constituted so as to make the mode of disbursement of the welfare fund transparent. The sub-committee will scrutinize the aspirants for the financial assistance through the Lahore Arts Council, Punjab Arts Council and Majlis-e-Taraqi-e-Adab so that amount can be disbursed to the deserving writers, litterateurs and poets.

## Directors Guild of Pakistan unveil new initiatives to foster growth and excellence in Pakistani Cinema

City Desk

KARACHI:--The Directors Guild of Pakistan (DGP) is pleased to announce a series of ground breaking initiatives aimed at promoting the growth and excellence of Pakistani cinema. With a steadfast commitment to empowering and supporting the creative vision of talented filmmakers, the DGP aims to shape the future of the Pakistani film industry.

Under the visionary leadership of its esteemed board members and renowned directors, the DGP is spearheading several key programs designed to nurture artistic talent, foster innovation, and facilitate collaboration within the filmmaking community. These



initiatives seek to create a vibrant ecosystem that encourages the production of high-quality, thought-provoking films that resonate with audiences

both at home and abroad.

Speaking about the new initiatives, The Membership body, of the Directors Guild of Pakistan, said, "We are thrilled

to introduce these transformative initiatives that will shape the future of Pakistani cinema. The Directors Guild of Pakistan is dedicated to empowering filmmakers, fostering innovation, and elevating the standards of our industry. Through collaboration and support, we aim to nurture a thriving filmmaking community and create a lasting impact on the global stage."

The Directors Guild of Pakistan invites all Pakistani directors, filmmakers, and industry professionals to join hands in this exciting journey towards excellence and growth in the realm of cinema. Together, we can create a vibrant and sustainable film industry that reflects the rich cultural heritage and diverse stories of Pakistan.



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# Western Aid Strategies: Power Politics and the Consequences for Global South

**Haris Ali Tarar**

Despite the fact that the purpose of foreign assistance is to assist economically disadvantaged nations in increasing their prosperity, it is frequently provided in conjunction with securing imperatives of foreign policy as well as based solely on need. Focusing on how strong nations utilize monetary guide to accomplish their own essential objectives figures out the dull effect of unfamiliar help inside beneficiary nations.

Although China is a new donor, it has emerged as a significant source of much-needed financial assistance for numerous cash-strapped nations. Other powerful nations, particularly the United States, which is attempting to contain China's growing influence, are now concerned about the increased reliance on Chinese aid in poorer regions of Africa and Asia.

China's use of "debt diplomacy" to influence poorer countries is criticized by American policymakers. However, the political use of aid has been around for a long time and is frequently utilized by the United States as a tool for its own

foreign policy. Even though the United States of America would rather give loans to poorer nations than grants, it readily uses grants to advance its own national interests. The World Bank and IMF, which provide conditional loans to implement market-based reforms that enable western nations to continue extracting labor and raw materials from debt-ridden postcolonial states, are supported by the United States.

China itself received aid in the past. China, on the other hand, has become a significant creditor nation in the last decade or so. China lends money primarily to cash-strapped nations in the global south at a rate that can now match aid from western donors. AidData, a US-based research institute, found that by 2021, China had given poorer nations well over \$800 billion. China is suspected of providing "hidden debts," which do not appear on official balance sheets, in addition to official loans.

There has been a lot of speculation and concern about the opacity of Chinese lending practices as a result of China's sudden rise to prominence as a major source of development finance. There is a lack of public information regarding China's loan negotiation process and the specific terms of its loans.

Western academics contend that the Chinese model of development views

China is now using development aid for political purposes, just like western nations do.

social stability as essential to progress. As a result, it is believed that China is willing to tolerate repressive measures in order to promote general prosperity. China is said to have adopted this model at home, and it appears that it is now exporting it to other countries.

While China may not hesitate to assist authoritarian regimes, it is important to remember that numerous western nations have utilized strategies similar to this one to protect their own vested interests. Since the end of the Cold War, American funding has allowed many despotic rulers and military regimes to remain in power. In addition, while western development models emphasize participation and respect for human rights, many market-driven growth strategies promot-

ed by western-dominated international development agencies are easily manipulated by elites and frequently encourage growth at the expense of increasing inequality.

China is now using development aid for political purposes, just like western nations do. There is an apparent relationship between's more unfortunate nations reliance on Chinese guide and their help for China on petulant issues, for example, the Taiwan debate or on the way things are managing fretfulness in Xinjiang. Chinese-subsidized advancement projects likewise give deficient open doors to nearby networks. Even militant and insurgent groups have branded China as an imperialist power as a result of this top-down approach to aid distribution, and they are increasingly targeting China's economic investments abroad, including in Pakistan.

Therefore, despite the fact that China may have provided the global south with an alternative source of development financing, the Chinese development aid model has not yet proven to be superior to western models.

*The writer is a student in the School of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. He can be reached at haristarar381@gmail.com*

## China's traditional Dragon Boat Festival expected to see 100 million tourist trips

As the traditional Dragon Boat Festival kicked off, China's consumption has been firing on all cylinders on the first day of the three-day break.

It is expected that the number of tourists during this year's holidays will top over that of pre-virus level in 2019 to hit 100 million passenger trips, generating a tourism income of 37 billion yuan (\$5.15 billion), making it "the hottest" holidays in five years in terms of consumption.

It is expected that a total of 16.2 million passenger trips will be made on Thursday, with 10,868 trains in operation, according to data released by the China Railway.

On Wednesday, a total of 13.86 million passenger trips were made, up 11.8 percent compared with that of 2019.

It is also estimated that from Wednesday to Sunday, considered the Dragon Boat Festival 'travel rush,' a total of 71 million passenger trips will be made by rail, averaging a volume of 14.20 million per day.

According to data released by China's Ministry of Transportation, the national highway is estimated to carry 30.95 million passenger trips on Thursday, up 66.3 percent year-on-year from the same period in 2022.

Data from online shopping platforms Meituan and Dianping showed that as of June 14, tourism reservations for the three-day holidays have jumped by 600 percent year-on-year. And relevant searches for "round trip" have risen by 650 percent year-on-year in this week.

Meanwhile, outbound trips have increased 12 times during the festival, data from trip.com showed.

About 65 percent of the outbound tourists choose to fly to Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore, according to a report by travel platform Tongcheng Travel.

Domestic spending during the festival will likely ramp up, as the festival closely follows the May Day holidays and the "618" online shopping festival, while a continued shopping spree for traditional products and services will fire up a consumption recovery, Zhang Yi, CEO of Media Research Institute told the Global Times.

It is expected that consumption will be a mainstay of China's economic drive, with the contribution of final consumption accounting for above 60 percent to economic growth, the observers claimed.

Dai Bin, head of the China Tourism Academy, estimated that a total of 100 million people will make trips during this year's Dragon Boat Festival, up 30 percent compared with last year. The travel consumption will also expand 43 percent year-on-year to 37 billion yuan, according to a report by the state broadcaster the China Central Television.

During the Dragon Boat Festival in 2022, a total of 79.61 million tourist trips were made, generating total revenue of 25.82 billion yuan, data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism revealed. Chinese policymakers have been stepping up efforts to propel the recovery of domestic consumption, said the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planner.



Amjad Rasmi

## Why Divided Nations

**Dur-e-Najaf**

While the application of reason to the mastery of the material world produced undeniable benefits, in the realm of human affairs its results were mixed. True, the exercise of reason could improve on traditional social and political arrangements. But the pursuit of rationalist policies, ideologies and theories created new differences and new tensions within and between existing communities. The observation that some communities fared worse than others, that some took to enlightenment while others resisted it, suggested to thinkers, who believed themselves to be rational, that humanity was divided into races with unequal capacities. Social Darwinists believed that races were to humans what species were to animals.

Rationalists created new names of the old divisions. They reinforced old division when they subdivided races into nations. The success of European peoples, united domestically and distinguished from their neighbours by language and history, and consequently thinking of themselves as distinct nations, led to the belief that nations were the natural units of political organization. While one can follow the concatenation of ideas which led from universal human rights, posited by reason, to the ideology of nationalism and the consequent belief that it was best for state and nation to coincide, it remains nevertheless true that nationalism and the brotherhood of man were not obviously compatible, even in theory. The ideology of nationalism, which flowed out of the French Revolution, split up existing states and communities.

Liberty, equality and fraternity are not logically incompatible with the existence of global state. A state based on collective humanity rather than on divided humanity can foster a more egalitarian society. Nationalism disrupts the general human affiliations for minor groups affiliation. It added a new animus to old communal, religious, sectarian and tribal differences, endowing them with a rational explanation. Racial, regional, ethnic and national stereotypes have always been part of human discourse. Rationalism did not reduce the use of racial or national stereotypes, but it explained them in new ways.

Nations must be understood as imagined communities because they are simply too large for all of their members to actually know one another.

Nationalism is a creation of the modern world. It is bound up with the fact that the modern capitalist state required a socially unifying force, and to integrate the working class into the state regime it needed the active allegiance of the population. The invention of patriotism filled this need. Both modernity and capitalism envisioned a centralised state with control over resources and power.

As opposed to other forms of commonalities, there are no observable rules to clearly define what makes a nation. The usual prerequisite are a shared language and culture. But this shared culture is difficult to define and we often find as

much cultural variation across populations within nations as between them. Nationalism, then, is a strange thing that is everywhere, intuitively 'common sense' but impossible to precisely describe.

Benedict Anderson had argued that nations are not ancient communities united by history, blood, language, culture or territory, as nationalists often claim, but the distinctly modern imagination of a given state's population as constituting such an ordinary community produced by nationalism. Nations must be understood as imagined communities because they are simply too large for all of their members to actually know one another. To create a sense of belonging apparatus of education, propaganda, and waving flags, as well as systems of security, health and welfare are created.

This division has posed danger to humanity as it devalues anyone who doesn't live in your country. It retards effort to alleviate poverty throughout the world as only the people of are counted. Devastating conflicts like the world wars, Russian's invasion of Ukraine, and China's threats to Taiwan, all emerge from extreme nationalism.

Given that the whole of humankind now constitutes a single civilisation, with all people sharing common challenges and opportunities, why do Britain's, Americans, Russians and numerous other groups turn towards nationalist isolation? The loyalty is constructed towards an imagined nation but why not be loyal to the global community? This would not only diminish the created hostilities among humans but will also help to create a more progressive and equal society.

*Writer is student of Political Science*

## Road Accidents and Traffic Issues in Pakistan - II

In Pakistan, heavy vehicles that help transport goods are often involved in accidents especially due to overloading. To save money, drivers often overload goods on one vehicle, due to which most of the vehicles are found overloaded. Furthermore, overloaded vehicles on public highways within the city badly contribute towards increasing road wear and accidents.

Traffic rules are made for the safety of the drivers that need to be obeyed by every citizen and every road user. These rules are made after many tests in which the necessary instructions are kept under consideration for the safety of both the driver and the vehicle. Before a driver is issued a license, traffic laws are taught and explained in classes. Unfortunately, in many countries, including Pakistan, driver's licenses are issued without classes and driving tests which makes the person himself/herself cause the death of others.

Inadequate traffic management is another issue that contributes to road accidents in Pakistan. Many intersections and roundabouts in the country lack proper traffic signals, which leads to confusion and chaos on the roads. There is also a lack of proper traffic police on the roads, which means that drivers can get away with breaking traffic rules without any consequences. To address this issue, there is a need for better traffic management and more traffic police on the roads.

While the mobile phone is a source of ease of communication with people, its misuse also causes death. According to a report, about 16 lakh accidents occur every year due to the use of mobile phones while driving. It is incumbent upon every driver to not use a mobile phone or call while driving, if there is an urgent need, he must make a call by parking his vehicle, which can save his life and other people's life.

In developed countries, motorcycles, cars, heavy vehicles or light vehicles, even cyclists are aware of the safety measures that they can take to protect their life,

but like many developing countries, safety in Pakistan is also lacking. Measures are not taken into account, such as avoiding the use of helmets for cyclists and motorcyclists, not using seat belts, not installing an Anti-Lock Braking System and Air Bags in the vehicle, not using vehicle signals while taking hours, parking the vehicle wrongly, avoiding using proper speed, not keeping an eye on the speedometer, indiscriminate use of AC and heater in the vehicle. These are the mistakes that drivers often commit and these can be prevented and reduced by safety measures.

Keeping in mind the growing population, there is a need to continuously improve the road infrastructure—rickshaw driving license should be declared essential—different simulators should be used for driver training and during this time also informed about different strategies to avoid accidents. Such vehicles should be imported which have Air Bags and Anti-Lock Braking Systems with installation facilities. An automatic camera system should be installed at signals and a heavy fine should be imposed for violating it. Public travel on public transport should be encouraged and it should be made safe and travel permits should be given only to those vehicles that are in good condition. In addition, an emergency call centre should be created for vehicles racing on public transport where people can inform about travel precautions and get immediate help. Action should be taken. Moreover, there is a need to renew the fog line on highways every year to reduce traffic accidents due to fog.

In conclusion, road accidents and traffic issues continue to be a significant problem in Pakistan. To address this issue, it is essential to implement strict traffic laws and regulations, improve road infrastructure, and invest in better traffic management. By taking these measures, we can reduce the number of accidents on our roads and ensure that our roads are safe for all drivers and pedestrians.

*(Writer is Media Student and researcher)*



Bilal Shafi



105th anniversary of Azerbaijan Armed Forces Day celebrated

# President Ilham's vision transformed professional competence of Azerbaijan Army: Ambassador Khazar

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 105th Armed Forces Day of Azerbaijan in a local hotel in Islamabad where ambassadors & High Commissioners of different countries, bureaucrats, high-ranking military personnel, media groups and people from other walks of life participated.

The orchestra band of Pakistan Army took special part in this event, which received great applause from the audience by playing the national anthems of both the countries.

Air Marshal Pakistan Air Force Irfan Ahmed was the chief guest of this prestigious event who cut the cake along with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Military Attaché, Chief of Diplomatic Mission, Ambassador of Türkiye and others.

Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan during his opening remarks said, today we celebrate the 105th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. Undoubtedly, the peak of the warpath of our National Army during this period is the glorious Victory gained in the Patriotic War – Karabakh Victory. There has been no similar Victory in the centuries-old history of our nation.

On June 26, 1918, by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first regular military unit – the Combined Azerbaijan Corps – was created. The task of creating an army of 25 thousand people was set by the Government. On August 1, 1918, the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan was established.

The creation of the modern National Army started in 1991 after the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, those who led our country in the first years of independence could not cope with the important and responsible task of army building at that time when Armenia occupied our lands. The encroachment of the enemy on our lands was expanding more and more. Azerbaijan faced the threat of losing its independence. At such a difficult time, the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who returned to power at the request of the people, eliminated chaos and anarchy, economic and political difficulties in the country and started the process of building a regular army.

After the National Leader's



return to power, our army and people had a firm belief in Victory. At the call of Heydar Aliyev, a large-scale mobilization was held, and military units were fully equipped in the country.

The process of army building in Azerbaijan entered a qualitatively new stage under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. Thanks to his great attention, who successfully continued the army-building policy, continuous steps were taken in the direction of increasing the professionalism of the military, increasing the fighting spirit and moral-psychological training of the personnel, and supplying

our Armed Forces with the most modern weapons and equipment. The 44 days of the Patriotic War of 2020 which resulted in the liberation of our territories from Armenian occupation by the brave Azerbaijani Army under the leadership of Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev was written in golden letters in our history. It is no coincidence that the military operations of the Azerbaijani Army, especially the Shusha operation are studied in the leading military schools of the world today.

Moreover, Farhadov said, we can see that Azerbaijan and Pakistan's bilateral relations are at a

high level in all fields, including military and defense cooperation. I want to especially highlight the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Azerbaijan which will be always remembered as a very successful visit. A broad range of issues of bilateral agenda, including trade and investment, energy cooperation, defense industry, increasing direct flights, and other important issues were discussed. All those projects which will further deepen our ties will be implemented very soon.

I would also like to mention that over the past 30 years, mutual visits have been carried out in

the military and military-technical fields. I am confident that these ties will be further strengthened and deepened.

Col Mehman Novruzlu, Defence Attaché of the Embassy of Azerbaijan during his opening remarks said, the people of Azerbaijan have for centuries fought for liberty and statehood along its ancient history. Because of rich natural resources and strategic location, our motherland has always undergone pressures and military aggressions by strong states.

After the collapse of the czarist Russia, the first democratic republic in the East – the People's Republic of Azerbaijan was created in 1918. During its 23 months of existence, the Republic founded all attributes of an independent state, including the national army. Fighting the occupant policy of Armenians and Bolsheviks, the government of Azerbaijan made a decision on creation of the military corps with the status of division on 26th June 1918, and thus the cornerstone of the national army was laid.



mination and professionalism of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan enjoy strategic partnership relations which also cover the cooperation in the defense and security fields.

The Azerbaijan-Pakistan military cooperation has been built on the foundations of brotherhood, shared values, and common objectives. The exchange of high-level military visits, participation in training programs, conducting joint exercises, as well as growing military technical cooperation have further deepened the military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

This collaboration has served to enhance the capabilities and professionalism of both our armed forces, enabling us to face emerging security challenges effectively.

In 2021, Azerbaijan hosted a joint special forces exercise under the code name "Three Brothers", which included participation of special forces of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Türkiye. The aim of such exercises is to enhance joint operational readiness of our armies, improve their level of interoperability and enable our countries to jointly address all kinds of regional security challenges. We are planning to continue conducting more combined joint military exercises in multilateral formats.

The photo exhibition of mosques, cultural sites and important monuments of Azerbaijan was also a part of this reception. The event ended with an informal discussion with the participants and a delicious dinner.

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces carried out the war of the 21st century and destroyed Armenian fascism on the battlefield, thus demonstrating the strength, deter-

Photo by Raja Farid

## Festivals of Pakistan and China are a sign of their cultural values: Aasma Butt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt said that the festivals of any country represent their culture; the festivals of Pakistan and China are a sign of their cultural values. The platform of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation is active in highlighting the culture of both countries.

President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt said this on the occasion of "Dragon Boat Festival" held at a local hotel. Calvin Hsiung was the host on this occasion. In the festival Li Yue Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Cai Dafu Member China's Embassy in Pakistan, La Jielian President Overseas Chinese Association of

Pakistan, Shujaat Ali, Chairman of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Muhammad Nasir Khan President X Chinese Association Rawalpindi Pakistan, President Abdul Qayyum Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit-Baltistan including Pakistan and China a large number of community participated as guests.

Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Li Yue said that the support of cultural values helps to win the hearts of people. There are similarities in the culture of Pakistan and China. Which will further strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt congratulated the organizers of the Chinese Embassy for the excel-

lent organization of the "Dragon Boat Festival".

Aasma Ismail Butt said that the Dragon Boat Festival is one of the four top traditional Chinese festivals.

The Dragon Boat Festival commemorates Yuan, a famous Chinese poet. She said that Those who protested the fall of their beloved country and sacrificed their lives. The nations that remember their heroes prosper.

Aasma Ismail Butt said that everyone knows that Pakistan-China friendship spans years. China supported us in every era. We are also trying to highlight the culture of both countries through the platform of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation. So that our relations can be strengthened. A group photo was taken at the end of the ceremony.



## ICRC and SZABIST Collaborate to Foster Understanding of Legal Framework Protecting Healthcare Workers

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) University joined forces to organize a three-day engaging session for media capacity building aimed at fostering a better understanding of the legal framework surrounding offenses against healthcare workers. The event, titled "Sindh Health Service Providers and Facilities (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2021 and the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2018 – Legal Framework for Journalists Understanding Offences Against Healthcare Workers," took place



today at a local hotel in Karachi.

The engagement session brought together esteemed guests, including healthcare professionals, legal experts, media practitioners, and representatives from various organizations, to shed light on the legal provisions safeguarding healthcare workers and their facilities. The event aimed to enhance awareness, promote

ethical reporting, and encourage collaborative solutions to address the alarming rise in violence against healthcare professionals.

Dr. Syeda Mehwish Zara Zaidi, Head of the Department of Media Sciences at the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) shared her views and said, "This partnership between SZABIST and ICRC is

very important for us.

Dr. Muhammad Bilal Siddiqui, a leading public health specialist and faculty member of SZABIST, delivered a talk on the Health Care in Danger Initiative (HeID) and the significance of its dissemination campaign. The initiative aims to protect healthcare workers and preserve healthcare facilities in conflict zones and other volatile

environments.

Renowned legal expert and law faculty of SZABIST, Barrister Ruffur Chaudhary provided an overview of the Sindh Health Service Providers and Facilities (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2021, along with insights into the relevant provisions of the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Barrister Chaudhary, during the engagement session, provided an overview of the legal framework pertaining to offenses against healthcare workers. The Sindh Health Service Providers and Facilities (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2021, along with the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment)

Act, 2018, were highlighted for their significance in safeguarding healthcare professionals and their facilities.

The panel discussion on ethical reporting and public awareness featured prominent media personalities, including Amir Zia, President and Editor in Chief of BOL Media Group, Taban Zafar, a Thought Leader and Senior Executive Producer at ARY News, and Amir Jahangir, a distinguished member of the Experts Thought Leader Network at the World Economic Forum and Purush Chaudhary, Founder and President of AGAHI. The panelists emphasized the vital role of responsible journalism in cases involving offenses against healthcare workers and the significance

of media in creating public awareness while making the stakeholders accountable for the legal framework that protects healthcare professionals.

During the group activity session, participants collaborated to devise practical solutions and strategies to combat violence and offenses against healthcare workers. The diverse range of perspectives contributed to constructive discussions and the sharing of valuable experiences.

This collaborative initiative between ICRC and SZABIST University represents a joint effort to strengthen understanding, promote dialogue, and create a safer environment for healthcare professionals in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,152.05	40,220.79
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,378.59	40,091.38
Index Value	Change
2,256,260,048	-68.74
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	22 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,502.03	-57.15
Percentage	Time
-0.76%	22 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,871.94	-79.58
Percentage	Time
-0.23%	22 Jun, 1:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,264.88	-310.26
Percentage	Time
-0.92%	22 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	764.02	772.02
Canadian Dollar	224	226
China Yuan	40.01	40.41
Danish Krone	42.24	42.64
Euro	317.5	320.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.7	37.05
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	934.83	943.83
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	177.74	179.74
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	746.55	754.55
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	76.3	77
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	320.87	323.37
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	80.2	81
UK Pound Sterling	369	372
US Dollar	289.5	292

# Murtaza assures ICCI for establishment of industrial park

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Industry and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood has said that despite the resources, the reason for Pakistan's problems is the lack of continuity in policies. We need to correct our direction, the government has taken many steps for industrial development to bring economic stability through increase in exports. The government has presented a budget in difficult circumstances, which includes measures to facilitate the business environment and speed up the industry. The sustainable solution to Pakistan's economic problems is only in increasing exports, unless there is an increase in manufacturing at the local level, the dream of a large increase in exports cannot be fulfilled.

He expressed these views yesterday while addressing the reception ceremony organized in his honor by the Islamabad Chamber. He said that the situation we are facing today is the result of the wrong policies of the last 75 years. Countries develop by making their own policies, unfortunately we adopted import policies and discouraged manufacturing. Our SME sector has not been able to develop as it should have. As a minister, I am trying my best to adopt policies that will benefit the economy. Our exports



are 30 billion dollars while imports are 80 billion dollars annually, there is no shortage of anything in this country. Only vision is needed, the government and the opposition should leave their personal egos behind and come on the same page for the country. Economic policies should be formulated not for five years, but for 25 years. If we use our resources properly, Pakistan can be included in the 25 largest economies. I will fully support Islamabad Chamber for projects like Expo Center, Industrial State.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said in his address that the federal government presented a balanced budget. Good measures have been taken in the budget for the industry, for which I thank Federal Minister Murtaza Mahmood. The federal minister wants to solve the problems of the business community, the economy can be brought out of the crisis only by solving the problems of businessmen and industry. The federal minister should play his role in

this regard. The ministry wants to link CPEC Facilitation Desk established in Islamabad Chamber with Industry and Production. The Islamabad Chamber is organizing the International Tourism Summit next month for the promotion of tourism in the northern regions.

Vice President Engineer Azhar ul Islam said that Murtaza Mahmood has always supported the business community, I hope Islamabad Chamber will continue to get his full support in big projects like Industrial Park.

Speaking at the event, United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari said that countries that have developed have promoted their brands. Unfortunately this has not been addressed in Pakistan yet, we need to embrace brands at our local level. The people of South Punjab are very dear and patriotic people who have achieved significant achievements at the national level despite the difficulties. Addressing the event, President Anjuman Tajran Ajmal Baloch said that it is not possible to close shops at 8 pm in summer.

People's Party is the main party of the ruling coalition, we appeal to it to play its role in this issue. We are already buying the most expensive electricity, Unless the businessmen and farmers of the country are prosperous, the country cannot be prosperous.

## Exhibition

LAHORE: Women are taking interest in handicrafts on stalls during exhibition at Model Town in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Mega City will fulfill all promises made to sales partners, Country Head Jawad Amin

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: With the completion of the housing project in Gujjar Khan, the dream of the people of Potohar region to have a house equipped with modern facilities will come true very soon. The best opportunities are being provided, the mega city housing project will be completed in the next few years with all the basic amenities apart from state of the art Taj Mahal, Mega Mosque, Natural Lakes, Disney Parks, Modern Hospitals, Public Parks, security arrangements, mobile patrolling, check posts, fire control installations, schools, colleges and shopping malls. These views were expressed by Country Head Mega City Gujjar Khan Jawad Amin yesterday addressing the event in honor of sales partners.

A large number of citizens including property dealers, developers, and political and social figures participated on this occasion. Jawad Amin said that we are moving forward by trusting our sales partners. That the town plan-



ning of the mega city is being done according to the international level, five thousand kanals of land has been allocated for phase-one, which is approved by the Rawalpindi Development Authority RDA, in which twelve districts have been planned. Mega City Boulevard is 250 feet wide, which makes this society unique from other societies. He said that the site office will be operational from July 10, 2023.

Congratulating the sales partners, he said that dealers enclave is also being built within the society, which will remove all their concerns. He said that due to the cooperation of the local people of Potohar region, a new city is going to be settled in Gujjar Khan, in which the people here will get residence and employment.

## Japan provides ¥315mln for Human Resource Development Scholarship

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan today announced grant aid worth 315 million Japanese Yen (around 2.25 million USD) for the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Mr. ITO Takeshi, Charge'd Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Mr. Muhammad Humair Karim, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) on this program at the ceremony on Thursday. The Grant Agreement (G/A) for the aforementioned program was also signed between Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office.

JDS is designed to support the social and economic development of the country by providing government officials with the opportunity to obtain Master's or Doctoral degree in Japan with aims to enhance their knowledge in public administration and to strengthen relationship between Japan and Pakistan. The participants of JDS program



engaging in the formulation and implementation of such policies will be enrolled at the partner universities in Japan and are expected to acquire further knowledge in their field while learning about the Japanese culture and traditions.

Since 2018 when JDS was launched in Pakistan, 31 government officials have successfully completed their degrees while 35 are currently pursuing their academic goals in Japan. Further, 18 officials will be dispatched to Japan in the middle of the year 2023.

This occasion celebrates the signing of

the sixth batch of this program in Pakistan. For this batch, the maximum number of the slots for JDS participants in Pakistan is 17 seats for the Master's degree and one seat for the Doctoral degree.

Mr. KINOSHITA while speaking at the event said "Through the wide varieties of courses, JDS nurtures talent, encourages intellectual growth, and enabling minds of young government officials to reach their full potential. We desire that the obtained skills and knowledge brought by JDS in Japan eventually contribute to powerful assistance for the Government of Pakistan."

## Hashoo School of Hospitality Management

Offers job opportunities abroad to students with key partnerships.

**Spokesman Report**

Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM), the leading institute in the hospitality and tourism education industry, is proud to announce its recent accomplishments in expanding opportunities for its students. As the first batch of HSHM students prepares to graduate in September 2023, the school has secured key partnerships and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance job prospects abroad and increase outreach.

Recognising the growing demand for skilled professionals in the global hospitality industry, HSHM has attracted the attention of recruitment agencies seeking talented individuals for overseas career opportunities. As

a result, two MoUs were successfully established between HSHM and prominent recruitment agencies, Juniper Human Resources and Aruj Enterprises (Pvt) Limited. These partnerships will provide HSHM students with valuable job placements abroad and expose them to international work environments. Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, COO of Hashoo Group's Hospitality and Education Division, represented HSHM and signed the MoUs. On the other hand, Mr. Umar Ajmal, CEO of Juniper Human Resources (JHR), signed the MoUs on behalf of Mr. Maqsood Ahmad Butt, CEO of Aruj Enterprises (Pvt) Limited as well as JHR, solidifying their commitment to the partnership. "We are thrilled to collaborate



with Juniper Human Resources and Aruj Enterprises to open up exciting prospects for our students," said Mr. Gardezi on occasion. "These partnerships will serve as a solid platform for our graduates to embark on successful careers abroad, gaining invaluable experience and contributing to the global hospitality industry. We believe in offering students a global

curriculum taught by seasoned faculty members from around the world," he further added. "By expanding our presence to other cities across Pakistan, we aim to connect with the country's talented youth and provide them with unparalleled education and career opportunities in the dynamic hospitality industry." HSHM's mission is to provide

world-class education in hospitality, tourism, and hotel management, focusing on practical training, internships, and guaranteed job placements at Hashoo Hotels. In line with this vision, HSHM has previously partnered with IMSciences in Peshawar and recently established a collaboration with Iqra University in Karachi, a prestigious institution with over two decades of experience.

Additionally, HSHM has forged a third MoU with Hashoo Hunar Association (HHA), a subsidiary of the Hashoo Foundation, to support HSHM. With its presence across all regions of Pakistan, HHA will actively promote HSHM's programme across the country, ensuring that potential students are aware of the education-

## S. M. Tanveer announces citrus action plan to address industry's decline

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industry, and Trade, S. M. Tanveer, has emphasized that sustainable agricultural development is the government's foremost priority. Pakistan's citrus earnings have drastically decreased from \$100 million to less than \$210 million. To address this issue, a citrus action plan committee, led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan of Faisalabad Agricultural University, has been formed. The committee will present its recommendations within twenty days to effectively tackle this challenge.

Presiding over a citrus-industry revival and stress production enhancement meeting at Faisalabad Agricultural University, Provincial Minister S. M. Tanveer expressed these views. The meeting saw the presence of Secretary Agriculture Ifkhar Ali Sahu, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, the Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Professor Dr. Muhammad Asif Ali, officials from the agriculture department, as well as deans and directors of the university.

Provincial Minister S. M. Tanveer highlighted that an action plan will also be devised for other commodities such as edible oil, soybean, wheat, rice, and more. Recognizing Pakistan as an agricultural country, he emphasized that the progress of the nation relies on the agricultural sector. To achieve food security, collaborative efforts will be made, involving agricultural academies, industries, and policy institutions. The minister stressed the need for practical solutions from agricultural scientists to generate significant revenue from edible oil, considering Pakistan's agricultural background.

Provincial Minister S. M. Tanveer mentioned that agricultural institutions are vigorously striving to meet the dietary requirements of the growing population. He also highlighted the research and recommendations made by Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan in 1992 regarding the decline in citrus production, which were unfortunately not taken seriously by policymakers. However, the government remains resolute in strengthening agriculture on scientific grounds.



# Election Commissioner Constitutes PCB BOG as per IPC Notification

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board is in receipt of letter and notification dated 20 June from the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ministry that states On completion of the tenure, the Management Committee of PCB stands dissolved, ceases to operate.

Accordingly, the Election Commissioner, Mr Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana, who is also the Acting Chair of the PCB, has constituted the PCB Board of Governors in accordance with Para 10 of the PCB Constitution 2014 and in line with and pursuant to the above referred letter and notification.

The formation of the PCB BOG now stands as follows:



Mr Muhammad Zaka Ashraf (PCB Patron's nominee)

Mr Mustafa Ramday (PCB Patron's nominee)

National Bank of Pakistan State Bank of Pakistan

Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL)

Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) President Larkana Region  
President Dera Murad Jamali Region

President Bahawalpur Region  
President Hyderabad Region

The election of the PCB Chairman will be held on Wednesday, 28 June, at the PCB headquarters in Lahore. Election schedule will be issued after receiving nominations from the departments/service organisations. The Election Commission office has written to the departments/service organisations to nominate their representatives.

Mr Shehzad Rana: "The election of the PCB Chair will be held in a fair and transparent manner whilst adopting due process and ensuring completion of all legal formalities."

## Pakistan's only S&C Specialist Kh Ruhail joins Qatar Cricket

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Khawaja Ruhail Ali, the only licensed Strength & Conditioning (S&C) Specialist and Mentor of Pakistan, joined Qatar Cricket some weeks ago. He has been appointed as Lead: Strength, Conditioning and Rehabilitation Coach for Qatar's National Men and Women teams and all Age Groups. He has also been given responsibilities as member of National Selection Committee and Cricket Development Committee. He is also a focal person for Aspetar for player physiological and medical engagements.



alternatively.

Khawaja Ruhail Ali, affectionately known as KRA, is the world's only S&C specialist from Pakistan who has worked with cricket boards of five countries including Qatar, Pakistan, Austria, Norway, and Afghanistan.

During Khawaja Ruhail's tenure, Afghanistan became first associate team to beat a full member ICC team. Afghan U-19 team reached semi-final of U-19 World Cup for the first time. They also won T20 Desert Cup and found off spinner Mujeeb Zadran due to Khawaja's exceptional efforts.

During Khawaja's stint with Norway and Austria, both the countries became ICC European Champi-

KRA also worked with Pakistan wrestling team that brought five Commonwealth medals. He also worked with the Pakistan field hockey team and Pakistan Federation Baseball to help them upgrade their international ranking from 22 to 17.

KRA, who is an international Korfball player and had the honour of representing the country in 8th Asian Oceania Championship 2010, has a vast elite level national and international clientele in soccer, golf, tennis, swimming and badminton.

Khawaja Ruhail, who has two Master's Degrees—one in Health and

Physical Education and the other in Business Administration, is a certified Pro-Level 2 S&C Specialist from Australian Strength & Conditioning Association and Australian Government license holder coach, mentor and assessor.

KRA, who has Mental and Physical Performance Enhancement Specialisation from National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) USA, also holds Cardio for Performances and Speed, Agility and Quickness (SAQ) Specialization from NASM USA.

KRA has also established a sound reputation of Medical Exercise Physiologist and done FIFA Diploma in Sports Medicine. He is also certified Orthopedic Exercise Physiologist from American Council on Exercise. KRA is also certified (Oncology) Cancer Exercise Physiologist from American College of Sports Medicine.

KRA is also certified Specialist Tactical Strength and Conditioning Coach for all tactical operators including Military, Police, Fire Fighters, First/Emergency Responders and other Law Enforcement Personnel.

Khawaja Ruhail is also Level 3 High Performance Cricket Coach and has many national and international assignments as Head Coach under his name.

## PSOA to hold exhibition matches on Olympic Day

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Students Olympics Association (PSOA) on Thursday announced to hold exhibition matches in various cities to celebrate Olympic Day.

Friday, 23 June, will mark 129 years since the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Olympic Day – which marks the formation of the IOC on this day in 1894 – aims to celebrate the joy of sport and remember the creation of the modern Olympic Movement by founder Pierre de Coubertin.

The theme for the Olympic Day 2023 is called "#LetsMove" which is inspired by the research conducted by WHO in 2022, which shows the significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds from just 30 minutes of movement a day.

President, Pakistan Students Olympics Association, Maqbool Arain said that the Association would organize various sports competitions across the country to mark Olympic Day.

"We have issued instructions to all our affiliated units to organize sports exhibition competitions in their respective areas," he said in a statement.

## Wahab Riaz visited Okara and Sahiwal cattle markets

Spots Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz visited Okara and Sahiwal on Thursday to assess administrative arrangements and other measures taken in cattle markets for Eid-ul-Azha.

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and other officials were also present during Wahab Riaz's inspection visits.

In Okara, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz presided over a meeting in Deputy Commissioner office where Deputy Commissioner Okara Zeeshan Hanif briefed him about seven cattle markets established in District Okara, overall administrative measures and law and order situation in the district.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz directed the relevant officials to make all



necessary arrangements for the convenience of public and traders of sacrificial animals in cattle markets.

Deputy Commissioner Okara Zeeshan Hanif also briefed about sports facilities

in the district and measures taken by District administration for development of sports infrastructure.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz

also visited E-Library, Cricket Stadium and Indoor Gymnasium in Okara. He directed the District Sports Officer Okara to start summer sports camps for young boys and girls without wasting further time.

After Okara, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz also visited District Sahiwal where Commissioner Shoab Iqbal briefed him about the overall administrative, law and order situation of the district.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz directed to make all possible and necessary arrangements for public facilitation at cattle markets.

Commissioner Sahiwal also briefed about sports facilities in the division and measures taken by Divisional and District Administration for uplift of sports infrastructure.

## FIH asks hockey community to join in 30 minutes of movement on Olympic Day

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Thursday announced to support the International Olympics Committee's (IOC) theme for the Olympic Day 2023, called "#LetsMove".

Friday, 23 June, will mark 129 years since the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Olympic Day – which marks the formation of the IOC on this day in 1894 – aims to celebrate the joy of sport and remember the creation of the modern Olympic Movement by founder Pierre de Coubertin.

The theme for the Olympic Day 2023 is called "#LetsMove" which is inspired by the research conducted by WHO in 2022, that shows the significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds from just 30 minutes of movement a day.

So on this Olympic Day Olympians

all across the world belonging to various sporting disciplines, are hosting 30 minute movement and workout sessions digitally, that people from all around the world can join and be inspired to adapt into their daily life beyond the Olympic Day.

"The FIH is proud to support this initiative by the IOC and we invite the global hockey community to join in and commit to 30 minutes of movement and activity on this Olympic Day and beyond," the FIH said in a statement.

Hockey athletes PR Sreejesh from India and Agustina Albertario from Argentina will be contributing towards the #LetsMove campaign by hosting a 30-minute session with fans worldwide. Fans can get their Olympic Invite and workout alongside Sreejesh, Agustina and many other renowned athletes on June 23rd, wherever they are, whatever their fitness level may be.

The principles of sport and activity

traverse all boundaries and differences, and should be accessible by all. There is no finer example of this than the ongoing Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, where hockey is making its first appearance as a demonstration sport. Over 130 athletes representing 12 nations and 4 continents are currently competing for medals in HockeyID, at the games.

In Toronto, FIH Academy is working with Field Hockey Canada to deliver two face to face courses – Hockey Educator course and FIH Level 3 Coaching course. The Hockey Educator course will start on June 21 and will be led by FIH Trainers Michel Kinnen and Mike Joyce. On the occasion of Olympic Day on 23 June, they will be joined by local young players for a series of sessions where players will have the chance to learn how to develop their hockey skills. This group will also join the FIH Level 3 Coaching, assisting Michel in the delivery of the course, which is scheduled to continue to the 25.

The FIH is grateful for the support provided by PAHF and the Coaches Association of Ontario, who made these courses possible.

Speaking on this Olympic Day, FIH president Tayyab Ikram said: "Every year, the global hockey community is proud to make its contribution to this wonderful IOC initiative that Olympic Day is. After research has found that one in four adults and over 80 per cent of young people do not meet the recommended minimum activity levels needed for optimum health, the International Olympic Committee and the World Health Organisation have launched the #LetsMove campaign. I herewith appeal to all hockey players, fans and any member of our community to show their support by being physically active and encourage their families and friends to do the same. Together, #LetsMove to inspire and enable the world to move for better health!"

## Athletics competitions have started in Upper South Waziristan



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District South Waziristan Upper, athletic competitions were organized to promote healthy recreational activities, in which more than 300 local people participated.

The most unique competition of the event was organized for special children to give importance to them as an integral part of our society and to highlight the negative effects of polio.

In this event of athletics competitions, races, long jump, discus throw and botching games for special children were organized and the local people added to the fun of the event by performing a traditional dance (Attan).

The players participated in the event with full enthusiasm and displayed excellent sportsmanship.

The organization of this event in South Waziristan Upper has been very helpful in promoting healthy activities and reducing negative trends, providing opportunities for young talent to advance and projecting the region's positive image and peaceful conditions to the world.

After the successful organization of athletics competitions, the administration is very interested in organizing more such events, thanks to which peace and prosperity will be further promoted in the area.

## Usman, Zainab win gold medals in the cycling event of the World Games

Sports Desk

BERLIN, (GERMANY): Pakistan's Usman Qamar and Zainab Ali Raza won gold medals in the cycling event of the 16th Special Olympic World Games. Usman Qamar completed the time trial 2km race in 5 minutes and 2.12 seconds. So far, Usman Qamar has won 2 gold medals in the Special Olympic World Games.

Pakistan's Muhammad Safer Abid Rizvi completed the 25 km race distance in 53 minutes 34.85 seconds and won the silver medal.

In the 89kg weight class category of the powerlifting event, Pakistan's Haider Ahmed won silver in the squat of 83 weight class category of powerlifting event, bronze in the bench press, bronze in the deadlift and silver medal in combined weight with overall weight lifting of 250 kg.

Pakistan's Maria Manzoor won silver in the bench press of the 69 weight class category and a bronze medal in combined weight.

Sana of Pakistan came fourth with 1 minute 26.82 in the quarter-finals of the athletics 400 meters race.

In badminton, Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 21-18 and 21-15 while Macao defeated China by 21-17 and 21-15.

In the field hockey mixed event, Pakistan defeated Paraguay 5-0.

In the second match, Pakistan defeated Bulgaria 5-4 and qualified for the semi-finals. In the women's basketball event, Bulgaria won by 21 points against Pakistan's 11 points. In the unified men's table tennis event, Imtisham Danish and Adeel Khan of Pakistan won the bronze medal by winning 3-2 against France.

In the women's event, Faiza Qamar and Iman Amir of Pakistan won the bronze medal with a 3-0 victory over Saudi Arabia. While swimmer Fatima Khan finished fifth in the 25m freestyle, all three Pakistani swimmers bettered their records at the World Games.

## Islamabad tiger qualify for semi finals after beating Nighter Hockey club

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shuhad e Pakistan hockey tournament Rawalpindi 2023 Islamabad tiger qualify for semi finals after beating Nighter Hockey club by 3-0 and top the Pool A with 6 points...

Shuhad e Pakistan hockey tournament Rawalpindi 2023 is going in shehnaz sheikh hockey stadium where a pool match was played between Nighter hockey club and Islamabad tiger hockey club where Islamabad tiger hockey club who is playing under the captaincy of Najeeb Khattak top the pool A with won all leagues matches and qualify for semi finals. Islamabad tigers players Haji Faheem dost Ali Nawaz Sajid raza Azhar and Goalkeeper Usman and all young players played very well. Secretary Islamabad Tiger hockey club Syed ghufuran Shah appreciate the perform.



## PSB gives Rs 13 million cheque to PHF for Aikman's outstanding salary

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Thursday handed over a cheque of over 13 million rupees to Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for the payment of outstanding salary of former coach of national men's hockey team, Siegfried Aikman.

"The board has initially given a cheque of Rs 13,013,432 for the foreign coach's five months' outstanding salary," A PHF press release said.

The Dutch coach, who was appointed as the Pakistan head coach until 2026 in November 2021, resigned last month due to unpaid salaries for the past year.

Secretary General PHF Haider Hussain received the cheque from Director General PSB Shoab Khoso. Member Selection Committee Olympian Shakeel Abbasi was also present on the occasion.

Haider said that he was thankful to Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Mazari and DG PSB for their efforts for the payment of foreign coach's salary.

He said that the development of the national sport was not possible without the support of the Government of Pakistan, IPC Ministry and PSB.

"The PHF has ensured participation in international events despite the scarcity of funds. The national team's ranking is improving.