



**'Only through high quality education we can fulfil the true potential of our nation'**

Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad has announced the results of the 2023 Class 9th and 10th annual exams. The passing percentage of class 10 was 89.61% While the passing percentage in Class IX has been 65.28. (Details on Page 3)



**Muharram moon not sighted, Ashura to fall on July 29**

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee on Tuesday announced that the Muharram moon has not been sighted in Pakistan and Youm-e-Ashur — Muharram 10 — will be observed on July 29 (Saturday). Muharram is the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar also called the Hijri year.

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## Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the groundbreaking of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# PM reiterates call for Charter of Economy to ensure consistent economic policies

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated his call for the nation to unite on Charter of Economy to ensure the consistency of economic policies and put country on the course towards progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone, said with the signing of IMF agreement, the risks for default had ebbed away and the country would have to focus on boosting exports to compete with the neighboring states particularly the eastern neighbor.

He said the Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone was launched with a delay of five years as nine SEZs were planned to be built under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said despite the land and designs finalised for the SEZs in Punjab, the previous government not only impeded the projects but also made conscious effort to undermine the Pak-China ties.

The prime minister, who earlier broke ground for the project and penned a testimonial, said that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, \$30 billion Chinese investment came to the country in form of CPEC featuring power and road projects.

He told the gathering that

after the Chinese industry gone hitech, Pakistan had the golden opportunity to learn from the Chinese textile expertise, go for joint ventures and bring Chinese second hand machinery to Pakistan to boost its exports.

He said during last 14 months, the incumbent government remained in the "fire-fighting" as it had to cope with the unprecedented floods and record inflation begotten by the Ukraine war.

The prime minister said after the IMF agreement, the government would mainly focus on boosting industrial and agriculture sectors.

He told the gathering that a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been established with a mandate to attract investment to the agriculture, mining, information technology and exports sectors.

He said the government would abide by the IMF agreement which had laid a basis for the economic reforms.

Citing the Bangladesh's \$40 billion export of imported cotton, the prime minister said the successful nations always learned lessons from the past mistakes strived to cope with the challenge.

In his address, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said after 2020, the establishment of nine industrial zones was agreed under CPEC but the previous government put all the projects

to the backburner. The officers were implicated in the false cases which begot a crisis of decision making, he added.

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza said with the establishment of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone, a longstanding demand of Islamabad's industrial community would be addressed.

Secretary Board of Investment Asad Rehman Gillani said that PM's vision of "investors are my masters" gave the government machinery a strength to execute the projects.

He told the gathering that SEZs would help develop the people-to-people and business-to-business contacts.

## No decision yet on NA dissolution date: Marriyum

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday asserted that no decision had been taken yet regarding the dissolution date of the National Assembly (NA) amid reports claiming that PML-N and PPP had agreed to dissolve the lower house on August 8.

Reacting to media reports about the NA's early dissolution on August 8, days before its term completes on August 12, the information minister — in a Tweet — said that the date of dissolution of the National Assembly (NA) has not been decided yet.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the final date to dissolve the Lower House will be taken in consultation with the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and other coalition parties.

"There will be an official announcement about the date of the NA's dissolution," Aurangzeb added.

Earlier in the day, the two major parties in ruling coalition —



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) — had agreed to dissolve the lower National Assembly (NA) on August 8.

The summary of dissolution of the lower house of the Parliament will be delivered to the President, sources said. "If the President kept the summary in pending, the assembly will stand dissolved in 48 hours as per the law," sources added.

People's Party, the ruling party in Sindh, has also agreed with the federal government to dissolve the provincial legislature along with the NA, sources said.

It is to be mentioned here that the lower house of the Parliament will complete its five-year tenure on August 12. The last session of the existing National Assembly is expected to be summoned soon.

## Current account stays surplus for 4th consecutive month: Dar



### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Tuesday that the country witnessed Current Account Surplus (CAS) of \$334 million during the month of June 2023 against the deficit of \$2,321 million during the same month of last year.

Talking to media, the finance minister said that this was for the fourth consecutive month that Pakistan has been witnessing surplus in current account owing to the proper management of economy.

He said, the total Current Account Deficit (CAD) declined to \$2.56 billion during the fiscal year 2022-23, which is 14.65 percent of the deficit of US\$17.48 billion recorded during the fiscal

year 2021-22.

He said it was due to good management by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Shahbaz Sharif that the country did not default, adding the incumbent government not only fulfilled all its sovereign commitments but also left no chance for country's default.

He congratulated Prime Minister, economic team and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for successful management of country's economy.

He said, this was the reason and answer to those pundits who wondered why Pakistan was not defaulting. He said, those pundits had left around \$17 billion CAD last year and even \$19 billion in past.

"Pakistan was in safe zone," he remarked adding when Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif assumed power of Prime Minister, the country's total reserves were between \$14 and \$15 billion. Despite making all due sovereign payments would leave the country's reserves at the same level when it completes its constitutional term.

## Bilawal calls for unlocking potential of cooperation with world countries

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday called for unlocking the potential of cooperation with world countries.

The foreign minister, addressing the dinner reception hosted by him for the diplomatic corps in the Federal Capital, said that during his tenure, he tried to restore the engagement with the countries.

He said that during the last 15 months of the incumbent government, Pakistan's engagement with the countries had improved, though the true potential of relations could not be unlocked. Bilawal Bhutto said that he was shocked to see the immense potential for Pakistan in the countries he had been visiting during the last 15 months.

Calling it an honour to serve as the foreign minister, he spoke high for Pakistan's diplomats and officers for their efforts to contribute to the working of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

## Military courts: SC rejects govt's plea for full court

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has turned down the plea of the federal government to form a full court for hearing pleas challenging trials of civilians in the military courts.

A six-member bench headed by CJP Justice Umar Ata Bandial comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik is hearing the pleas against military courts.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Abid Zuberi in his arguments before the court that the judgment in Liaquat Hussain's case in 1999 set the standards that a civilian cannot be tried in the military courts.

"I have submitted my answer to the SC and will assistant the bench on five points," he added.

Zuberi further said that the judgments of the court are already available according to which the trial of the accused can only be held in the military courts over 'direct' involvement.



Liaquat Hussain cases were also discussed before the court. To this, Justice Munib Akhtar asked how a civilian can be tried in the military courts.

Justice Ayesha Malik remarked the federal government objected to a member of the SC bench itself now, how can the government plead for the formation of the full court?

The government pleaded to make the full court of the available judges. AGP Awan replied. The CJP in his remarks said that he respects the opinion of every judge of the apex court. Justice Yahya Afridi spoke about the trust in the court.

There are holidays, and judges are not available in Islamabad but asked the available judges to join the hearing of this important case, the CJP remarked.

CJP Justice Bandial said that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah recused himself from the bench after the reservations raised by the government, which were a 'surprise' for the court.

Later, the court rejected the government's plea of forming a full court for hearing the pleas against military courts.

## Rs 77.8 bln projects for remote areas connectivity to be completed by year end under USF: Amin Malik

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Tuesday said that 83 projects worth Rs 77.8 billion would be completed by December 2023 under the Universal Service Fund (USF) to provide connectivity to remote and unserved areas across the country.

Addressing a press conference, he said the primary objective of the USF was to connect all citizens of the country, as digitalization had become a crucial priority for both businesses and communities.

Under the Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services programme, he said, the USF had made significant strides, contracting over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC), which was expected to benefit approximately 31.5 million people nationwide.

To achieve the milestone, the USF had diligently laid fiber optic cables and installed 4G and 3G towers in remote and previously unserved areas, he added.

## Eight injured in Peshawar 'suicide' blast

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: At least eight people sustained injuries in a powerful blast targeting a convoy of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) in Peshawar's Hayatabad area on Tuesday.

Talking to journalists near the site of the blast, Cantt Superintendent of Police (SP) Waqas Rafi confirmed the suicide blast saying that it was an attack on an FC convoy that was moving through Hayatabad's phase 6.

The target of the terrorists were officials of the security forces, the police officer added. "We are looking into the matter and collecting further details," he said, vowing that the culprits involved in the incident will be exposed.

Upon receiving the information, rescue teams and law enforcement agencies reached the spot and cordoned off the area. The injured people of the blast were shifted to Combined



Military Hospital (CMH).

Meanwhile, a bomb disposal squad was collecting evidence from the scene to ascertain the nature of the incident. However, no one has taken responsibility for the suicide blast yet.

Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (ITP) ended its ceasefire with the govt in November last year.

A report released this month by think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies said the terror activities in the country have soared by 79 percent during the first half of 2023, claiming the lives of 389 people across the country.

## Women's Manifesto 2023

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus Dr. Shahid Rehmani addressing the Opening Plenary Session of Roundtable of Political Parties on Women's Manifesto 2023 organized by WPD on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# Women's Parliamentary Caucus's first-ever initiative in Pakistan's 75-year history

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: "Women's Parliamentary Caucus's first-ever initiative in Pakistan's 75-year history taken to invite the political parties and experts from all fields to critically outline their vision and framework to improve the lives of women in Pakistan"

"Inclusion of women in the electoral system should not only be limited to voting but should be backed by the political parties to contest general elections on the basis of their merit." Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus Honorable Dr. Shahida Rehmani.

Sultana Siddiqui stated "Culture and media are complementary to each other. She said women's representation must be ensured in all the institutions of Pakistan."

Islamabad, Pakistan:

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) organized the Roundtable of Political Parties on Women Manifestos two-day event, titled "All Party Women Manifesto", which is facilitated by UN Women. The event will mark the first-ever initiative in Pakistan's 75-year history taken by political parties to critically outline their vision and framework to improve the lives of women in Pakistan. The inaugural session was chaired by Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani followed by a series of breakout sessions in the presence of respective experts to discuss the themes of enhancing women's role in Politics, Law, Commerce, Education, IT, Climate Change and Health.

Hon. Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani stated that the women of Pakistan

have played a key role in the political struggle of Pakistan. Women have carved their own paths in every field by proving their mettle. Further, she added that the role of women politicians is not limited only to reserved seats, but women like Fatima Jinnah, Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, and others have led the democratic struggle against dictatorships.

In recognition of the problems plaguing underrepresented women of Pakistan today, this Women Manifesto is centered around essential thematic areas that seek to address key obstacles to female development and pave the way for a future course of action.

In addition to this Secretary WPC, stressed that the inclusion of women in the electoral system should not only be limited to voting but

should be backed by the political parties to contest general elections on the basis of their merit.

To carve out a strategic plan to promote women's political participation and ensure that the voices of women across Pakistan are heard and represented. Panelist Sultana Siddiqui in her remarks said that culture and media are complementary to each other. She said women's representation must be ensured in all the institutions of Pakistan.

Panelist Hina Jillani during the session remarked that creating a safe and supportive environment is crucial for women's economic participation. #GenderEquality is essential for overall development and progress of every society.

Furthermore, it was stated that the Government, poli-

cy makers, legal experts and civil society need to collectively devise effective strategies to protect and promote women rights.

This two-day Women Manifestos event, titled "All Party Women Manifesto" seminar aims to serve as a forum for women to discuss the challenges faced after the pandemic and formulate a strategic roadmap and way forward regarding inclusive policies that are pivotal to empowering women and garnering gender equality. With a renewed commitment and focus, the WPC is aiming to provide a platform to political parties to facilitate discourse amongst political leaders with an aim to engender inclusivity in their political parties' manifestos ahead of the General Elections of Pakistan.

## Rupees over 70 billion disbursed among 7.8 million beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme is disbursing 4th quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 and so far, more than rupees 70 billion has been disbursed among over 7.8 million beneficiary women.

Under Benazir Kafaalat, 90 lakh registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly instalment of Rs 9,000 per family. Benazir Income Support Programme has already released over rupees 81 billion to its partner banks, that is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution network.

Along with Benazir Kafaalat, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif are also being



given out to the children of registered families, however, 70% attendance in the school is mandatory to receive Taleemi Wazaif, said the spokesman of the programme.

In case of any complaint, beneficiaries can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil Offices or call on toll-free helpline number 080026477 of Benazir Income Support Programme. The BISP spokesman reiterated that any messages from Benazir Income Support Program is sent only from 8171 and message from any other number should not be trusted.

## Relief Commissioner visits PDMA to review flood preparedness & monitoring

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Senior Member Board of Revenue/Relief Commissioner Punjab Nabil Javed visited the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to assess the preparedness and monitoring systems in place for the flood situation and the new monsoon spell. During his visit, he inspected the provincial control room and emphasized the need for the provincial control room to continue effectively monitoring the flood situation. He stressed the importance of round-the-clock monitoring of water flow in rivers, dams, and bridges, as well as the timely dissemination of awareness through an early warning system to line departments and citizens.

Later, a review meeting was held in the PDMA committee room under the SMBR/Relief Commissioner. Present at the meeting were Director PDMA, Nazia Jabeen; Director of Operations, Nisar Ahmad Sani; Director (South) Hameedullah Malik and others. The Director-General of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority Imran Qureshi provided a detailed briefing to



the SMBR/Relief Commissioner on the progress of the rescue and relief operations. He reported that the rescue operation had been completed in the flooded areas connected to the Sutlej, Ravi and Chenab rivers. Between July 10 and 16, more than 82,200 individuals were evacuated, 17,590 people were rescued, and 103 people received first aid in the flood-affected areas. Additionally, over 1,700 animals were relocated to safe areas and the water flow in all rivers of Punjab has returned to normal.

The Director-General also informed that relief camps had been established in Jhang and other districts along the Sutlej River. These camps provide three meals a day, clean drinking water, medicines, and other facilities to the flood victims. The process of relocating the flood victims to their homes has also commenced.

## Black Sea Initiative

# Russian Foreign Ministry statement on the Istanbul agreements

**News Desk**

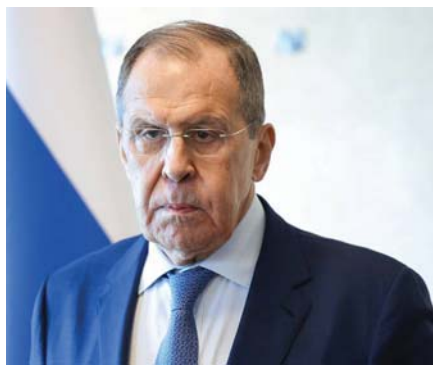
ISLAMABAD: Almost a year ago, on July 22, 2022, two interrelated agreements were signed in Istanbul, namely, the Black Sea Initiative on Ukrainian food and Russian ammonia exports and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilisers to the world markets. This package was concluded at the suggestion and with the participation of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with the purported humanitarian goals of ensuring global food security, reducing the threat of hunger and helping Asian, African and Latin American countries in need.

A year later now, progress on implementing these agreements has been disappointing.

The Black Sea Initiative was launched just a week after it was signed. A maritime humanitarian corridor was outlined quickly, and a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) was created in Istanbul for registering and inspecting participating vessels. On August 1, 2022, the first Razoni dry cargo ship left Odessa, which clearly confirmed Russia's good-faith and responsible approach to fulfilling its duties as a party to the agreement.

However, contrary to the purported humanitarian objectives, the Ukrainian food exports were almost immediately transacted on a purely commercial basis and, until the last moment, were used to serve Kiev and its Western curators' self-serving interests. The facts and figures speak for themselves. During the time the Black Sea Initiative was in force, a total of 32.8 million tonnes of cargo were exported, of which more than 70 percent (26.3 million tonnes) was shipped to countries with high and higher than average income, including the EU. The low-income countries, notably Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen and Somalia, received less than 3 percent, or 922,092 tonnes.

These destinations and the commercialisation of an originally humanitarian initiative will become clear once we factor in the following circumstance: a significant portion of Ukrainian arable land (over 17 million hectares) is owned by Western corporations such as Cargill, DuPont and Monsanto. They bought up Ukrainian land after Kiev lifted a 20-year moratorium on land sales at the request of the IMF and became the main beneficiaries of the Ukrainian grain exports. On the other hand, there are the Europeans who buy Ukrainian food at below market prices and then process it at their own factories for further resale as



finished products with high added value. In fact, the Westerners make money twice selling and processing grain. In addition, the United States and the EU engage in price gouging, as they create artificial shortages and push Russian agricultural products out of global markets by imposing illegitimate unilateral sanctions.

Notably, during the year the Black Sea Initiative was in force, the Kiev regime did not hesitate to commit provocations and attacks on Russian civilian and military sites under the cover of the humanitarian sea corridor and shipping. In fact, the ports under Kiev's control and the safe corridor opened by Russia for the Ukrainian grain exports have been used for perpetrating terrorist attacks in violation of the spirit and letter of the Black Sea Initiative.

The Russia-UN Memorandum has never really worked. With their hypocritical talk about the Global South's needs and the fact that the sanctions allegedly do not apply to food and fertiliser exports, Washington, Brussels and London continued to turn out restrictions. The EU alone has imposed five new sanctions packages since July 2022. The Americans and the British are keeping pace as they impose extra-territorial restrictions. As a result, Russian bank payments, insurance and transport logistics, as well as spare parts supplies and foreign assets have been completely blocked.

Shipping, under the auspices of the UN, free Russian mineral fertilisers to the countries that are most in need is an indicative example. Since the time this initiative was announced in September 2022, only two shipments - 20,000 tonnes to Malawi and 34,000 tonnes to Kenya - have been made out of the total of 262,000 tonnes blocked in Latvia, Estonia, Belgium and the Netherlands despite the fact that this is a purely humanitarian effort that should not be subject to any sanctions, in principle. At the same time, the Russian owner of the products also paid for shipping and transport. The UN and the Latvians were paid separately, after



which the Latvian Foreign Minister did not hesitate to declare, from the UNGA pulpit, their readiness to "donate" our fertilisers to the countries in need, at a time where the UN first failed to mention Russia in its press releases, and then didn't even attend the ceremony of handing the cargo over.

We are forced to state that none of the five systematic objectives stipulated in the Russia-UN Memorandum has been accomplished. Roselkhozbank has not been reconnected to the SWIFT system. The UN Secretary-General's spur-of-the-moment and last-minute proposal regarding some options concerning access to SWIFT for a "subsidiary" or an entity affiliated with our bank is basically infeasible and unviable. According to our data, this fact is recognised by the EU. In fact, once again they tried to sell us an empty promise under the guise of extending the Black Sea Initiative.

Spare part and equipment imports for the production of farm products and fertilisers in Russia are banned as imports of "dual-purpose" goods. Our country's entire territory has been declared a military risk zone with outlandish, to the point of being prohibitive, insurance rates, and foreign ports have been closed to our ships

and cargo. Foreign accounts of domestic agricultural companies have been frozen despite the fact that Western sanctions allegedly do not apply to food and fertilisers. Partially unblocked funds have migrated into Western pockets as repayment of loans and payment for free deliveries of our fertilisers.

Finally, the developments surrounding the resumption of the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline, which is laid out in both Istanbul agreements, shows better than any rhetoric Kiev and the UN's approach to their commitments. At first, they tried to use this to bargain for additional benefits in order to expand the Black Sea Initiative and to include new ports in it, to diversify cargo nomenclature and to increase the number of inspections, and to extend it as part of Antonio Guterres' special proposal of April 24. Having failed to achieve these goals, Kiev blasted the ammonia pipeline on June 5 following the "no pipe-no problem" approach to the eloquent silence of the UN Secretariat.

The blatant sabotage of the Istanbul agreements defeats the purpose of continuing the Black Sea Initiative which did not live up to its humanitarian rationale.

In accordance with paragraph H of the agree-

ment, Russia objects to an extension, of which the Turkish and Ukrainian sides, as well as the UN Secretariat, were officially informed today. This means revoking safe navigation guarantees, curtailing the maritime humanitarian corridor, resuming the status of a temporarily dangerous area in the northwestern Black Sea and disbanding the JCC in Istanbul. Without Russia, the Black Sea Initiative will cease to operate as of July 18.

We believe it's time for Kiev's European allies, who can export Ukrainian food through land corridors, to show their purported solidarity. However, in this case, unchecked cheap and low-grade grain could flood European markets and cause (and is already causing) local farmers' protests. If Brussels really cares about this, the EU should buy it up and start sending it to countries in need instead of talking about fighting hunger.

If the Western capitals genuinely value the Black Sea Initiative, let them seriously consider the fulfillment of their commitments to lift the sanctions on Russian fertilisers and food. Once concrete results rather than promises and assurances are in place, Russia will be ready to consider resuming the deal.

# Railway employees to launch nationwide protest movement from August 8

## Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Railway employees have made a final announcement to launch a nationwide protest movement in favor of their legitimate demands. According to the details, the Pakistan Railway RREM Union has announced to launch a nationwide protest movement in favor of its demands from August 8 and this decision was taken in the meeting of the central council under the chairmanship of the central chairman Ziauddin Ansari. Central President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, General Secretary Khair Mohammad Tonio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice Presidents Abdul Qayyum Awan, Ghous Bakhsh Lashari, Daudul Rahman, Deputy Secretary Tariq Niaz, Divisional Presidents Fayyaz Ahmed Shehzad, Rana Muhammad Sharif, Mohammad Zahid, Nasir Khan, Arshad Yusufzai, Mehr Ali Hoti and others were present in the meeting. Officials Khur-

ram Manzoor, slaveThe members of the central council from all over the country including Qadir, Muhammad Nadeem, Ikram Kundi participated. In the meeting, the current situation of the Railways and the anxiety among the employees were considered. The central president Sheikh Muhammad Anwar issued a declaration with the unanimous approval of the executive board and said that the government's continuous delay in the salaries of the Railway employees, retired Railway employees and the period of gratuity of widows is being ignored more than three years Payment & also non-permanence of TLA and in-weld employees, leave encashment, ACR, gratuity and other employment measures, abolition of five percent deduction, non-payment of TA for three years, upgradation, time scale promotion despite Prime Minister's approval. There is intense anxiety over the non-implementation of the decision. The Central Chairman Ziauddin Ansa-

ri said that a nationwide protest movement has been announced from August 8 regarding inflation, sharp increase in electricity, gas bills, recruitment of the railway chairman on contract rather than permanent basis, management and employee-killing policies and other issues. During protest rallies, demonstrations, seminars, Through posters, handbills, banners and other means, they will organize, unite and mobilize the movement by becoming the voice of the problems of the Railway employees and common Pakistanis, which will culminate in the siege of the Railway headquarters for an indefinite period. On this occasion, the Central Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tonio said that the policies of the Railway chairman are hostile to the country and the Pakistan Railways is suffering from serious financial and other problems due to, the main reason for the problems that Railways are facing today is the Ministry of Railways itself. Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry said



that in the future, in the elections, fifteen lac current and retarded employees of the Railways and their families will defeat the elites who have occupied the country for 75 years by defeating the elites who have occupied the country for 75 years, a calm full environment

would generate. He said that the cruel landlords and capital sitting in the government chambers & owners neither realize the problems of the country's employees nor do they want to solve these problems, if the people living in the huts are deprived

of their rights, they will not allow the people living in the bungalows to leave China. Railway employees have organized and united and mobilized under the banner of PREM Union, they further elaborated.

## Protest Rally

LAHORE: Workers of Pakistan Muslim Women League hold protest rally from Al-Hamra Chowk to Punjab Assembly against the desecration of Quran Pak in Sweden.



Photo: Online

## GOC Seven Divi formally inaugurated Golden Arrow Public School Shakimar for Girls

### Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: According to details, GOC Seven Division Major General Naem along with Commandant Shawal Rifles Brigadier Noman Munir, area elders and other civil and military officials inaugurated Golden Arrow Public School for female students Shakimar.

Local dignitaries, notbale, youth, school staff and students participated in the opening ceremony in large numbers.

Speaking on the occasion,



GOC Seven Division Major General Naem Akhtar said that the Pakistan Army is using all available resources for the development and prosperity of North Waziristan in addition to the promotion of education and significant improvement

in the health sector.

He further said that there are many educational institutions organized by the Pakistan Army across North Waziristan where hundreds of male and female students are studying.

He also said that with the

support of Pakistan Army, the deserving and capable students of different areas of the district in Miran Shah and other parts of the country are benefiting from free education in the best educational institutions and hostels and for the construction and inauguration of Golden Arrow Public School for Girls Shakimar, the local elders, youth, Shakimar Welfare Society and students thanked the Pakistan Army and especially the GOC Seven Division, Commandant Shoal Rifles and 192 Wing.

## Crackdown against illegal transport stands: Umar Jahangir

### Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has imposed Section 144 against illegal bus stands and parking stands at Vehari Chowk on public complaints. Under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq, a grand operation was conducted at Vehari Chowk and Vehari Road and illegal parking sheds and encroachments were demolished.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that infrastructure and traffic problems will not be allowed to arise from illegal bases and parking. In the next phase, police stationing of commercial vehicles and heavy fines will be started. Umar Jahangir said that transport at the General Bus Stand.

## Government should follow the decision of the Shariat Court: Dr Hashmi

### Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Every government has claimed the abolition of usury, but even today the system of usury is prevalent. On July 21, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sirajul Haq will address the Harmat Sood Conference in Multan. These views were expressed by Dr. Safdar Hashmi, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Multan. The rulers have always promoted the usurious system, even now the interest rate is the highest in Pakistan.



He said that on July 21, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sirajul Haq will attend and address. He said that the government should follow the decision of the Shariat Court to end the usury system.

## Crackdown against illegal housing schemes: Dr Zahid

### Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the instructions of Director General MDA Dr. Muhammad Zahid Ikram, MDA has stepped up operations against unapproved housing schemes. To continue operations against illegal housing schemes and also to speed up public awareness campaign about illegal housing schemes. Orders. MDA Enforcement and Urban Planning Directorate, while taking action against illegal housing schemes, broke the office cell and road network and sewerage of a total of 5 illegal housing schemes. 4 offices on the occasion of executive housing scheme were sold

Malik Tahir's illegal constructions were demolished and occupied for illegal occupation of a public welfare plot in Karim Town, adjacent to MA Jinnah Road, Bodla Town. Ejaz Joya and Baqir Khan's Benami Colony located on MA Jinnah Road. The road network and sewage system have been disabled. The entrance gate of Mujahid Green Valley Housing Scheme on Northern Bypass Road, the on-site office and the office used for buying and selling at Kalma Chowk were also sealed.

The road network and sewerage system of the unnamed housing scheme of Daniyal and Latifur Rehman adjacent to Shalimar Colony were made inoperable. Apart from this, the MDA enforcement team seized the encroachment clearing equipment around Model Town T Chowk and Northern Bypass Road Model Town Chowk.

## Pak Army has handed over the keys of Raghzai PS

### Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah (PPM) Wana office held a solemn ceremony regarding the handing over of Raghzai police station and checkpoint Angoor Adda to regular police and A part from the DPO, other police officers were also present in the ceremony. Captain Ahmed of Pak Army handed over the keys of the police station and checkpoint to DPO.



The DPO thanked the Pakistan Army for the construction of the police station and police post and hoped that the Pakistan Army would help the police in various phases in the future.

After the handover ceremony of the building, on the orders of the DPO, the police force under the leadership of SHO Raghzai Usman Khan shifted to the police station.

## 8 Lakh 58 Thousand 7 Bales of Cotton Arrived in the Ginning Factories: PCGA

### Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released the data of arrival in cotton factories, according to which 8 lakh 58 thousand 7 bales of cotton have arrived in the ginning factories of the country till July 15, 2023. 1 lakh 98 thousand 873 bales of cotton have arrived in the factories of Punjab province. In the factories of Sindh province, 6 lakh 59 thousand 134 bales of cotton have arrived in the factories. Till July 15, 2023, 7 lakh 20 thousand 260 bales of cotton were produced from the cotton coming to the factories. 298 ginning factories are



operational in the country. Exporters have bought 1 thousand bales of cotton this season While the textile sector has purchased 6 lakh 91 thousand 731 bales of cotton. The

Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not purchased cotton for the 2023-24 season. 134 ginning factories are operational in Punjab province and 1 lakh 60 thousand 286 bales

of cotton have been produced. 2 thousand bales of cotton in Multan district, 4 thousand 915 bales of cotton in Lodhran district, 46 thousand 958 bales of cotton in Khanewal district, 1 thousand 300 bales of cotton in Muzaffargarh district, 2 thousand 652 bales of cotton in Dera Ghazi Khan district, 1 thousand 500 bales of cotton in Rajanpur district, 11 thousand 8 bales of cotton in Layyah district. 03 bales of cotton.

38 thousand 881 bales of cotton in Wahari district, 28 thousand 950 bales of cotton in Sahiwal district, 7 thousand 300 bales of cotton in Rahim Yar Khan district, 14 thousand

158 bales of cotton in Bahawalpur district, 12 thousand 800 bales of cotton in Bahawalnagar district. 4 lakh 88 thousand 234 bales of cotton in Sanghar district, 35 thousand 550 bales of cotton in Mirpur Khas district, 27 thousand 450 bales of cotton in Nawab Shah district, 10 thousand 400 bales of cotton in Nau Shahro Feroze district, 2 thousand 500 bales of cotton in Khairpur district, 21 thousand 800 bales of cotton in Jamshoro district and 46 thousand 700 bales of cotton in Hyderabad district and 23 thousand 50 bales of cotton in Balochistan province. Unsold stock is 165 thousand 276 bales of cotton and cotton.

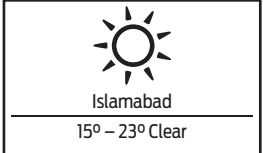
## Al Khidmat Foundation Continue Free Medical Camp For Railway Employees: Hamad Mirza



### Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the direction of DS Railway Hamad Hasan Mirza, a free medical camp for railway employees organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation continued in the railway hospital last day. Along with free examination of patients, free tests of Hepatitis B and C, eye examination were also conducted. Did a detailed inspection and asked questions to the employees regarding the efficiency of the camp

On this occasion, MS Railway Hospital Dr. Mah Munir, DMO Dr. Syed Abdul Sami were also present along with DS. On the request of DS Railway Multan, the medical camp has now been extended to three days instead of two, which will continue today. In the free medical camp, tests are being done on the railway employees as well as the employees' families.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:30 am  
Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
Asr ..... 5:11 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:18 pm  
Isha ..... 8:57 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
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

**Jazz Summer Internship 2023**

ISLAMABAD: Jazz Summer Internship 2023, announced in June 2023, received a massive response with about 10,000 candidates applying for the opportunity to work with the industry leader. Having gone through a rigorous screening and hiring process, 80 shortlisted interns have joined their respective teams at Jazz, geared to gain valuable hands-on experience and contribute their best to the organization's success.

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Jazz Summer Internship Program 2023 and extend a warm welcome to all our interns as they embark on a journey to #JoinTheDigitalRevolution and contribute their best at Jazz," stated Tazeen Shahid, Chief People Officer at Jazz, during the inspiring launch event. "This program presents a fantastic opportunity for young and talented individuals to apply their academic knowledge and acquire invaluable on-the-job experience from industry experts."

Selected after a thorough process that involves gamified talent assessments, project-based evaluations, and in-person interviews, these interns form a vibrant talent pool, showcasing their exceptional abilities and unlocking their true potential. The program also reflects Jazz's commitment as a digital front-runner to creating future leaders who possess the right skills and understanding to progress in a tech-driven age.

# 'Only through high quality education we can fulfil the true potential of our nation'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad has announced the results of the 2023 Class 9th and 10th annual exams. The passing percentage of class 10 was 89.61% While the passing percentage in Class IX has been 65.28.

Addressing the ceremony on this occasion, Federal Minister of Education Rana Tanveer Hussain said that I am happy that after assuming the responsibility as a federal minister, the duties I assigned to my team were duly completed with positive results. It is our success that Pakistani talented children have made their place in the world today.

Today, other countries of the world are taking help from our

education boards. I congratulate our brilliant children who have succeeded. It is a good decision that the passing percentage of metric is being increased to 40% from next year. Chairman Federal Education Board Qaiser Alam said in his address that today we are announcing the annual results for the year 2023 together for the first time.

Chairman Education Board said that in the last one and a half years an unstoppable series of reforms and improvements began. The federal minister gave us the target and after that he kept taking regular reviews on the given target. It is the commitment of the federal minister that the number of out-of-school children is decreasing today. For the

first time in the country's history, an endowment fund has been established for education.

The Federal Minister has many favors on the Federal Board. As long as there is no quality in our education, we will not be able to compete with the world. With the efforts of the Federal Minister of Education, the Federal Board will reach an agreement with Cambridge today. The Federal Board will set the Urdu paper for Hong Kong children from next year. This time we have prepared the result in twenty to twenty five days. This time also we made our results through e-marking. Chairman Federal Education Board Qaiser Alam congratulated the children who got position in matriculation.



## Oath taking

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Muhammad Talha Mahmood addressing during the oath taking ceremony of Hazara Journalists Association in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Sardar Attique says Kashmir's accession to Pakistan is milestone in freedom movement

**Bureau Report**

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that the resolution of accession to Pakistan is a milestone in the freedom movement of Kashmir. The resolution of the Muslim Conference turned the direction of the Kashmir freedom movement in the right direction forever. Pakistan's accession resolution was passed under the leadership of Quaid e Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas and chairmanship of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. The resolution of accession to Pakistan was passed at a time when the Muslim Conference held the position of Sवाद-e-Azam. At that time, 21 seats were reserved for Muslim members in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, all the members were present in the decision to join Pakistan. The same resolution gave the right direction to the Kashmir



Freedom Movement and Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan made it Kashmir Banega Pakistan. Turned to the side The Muslim Conference has given timely and correct guidance to the people of the state and the freedom movement in every era, a clear proof of which is the decision of accession to Pakistan. On the one hand, the idea of joining the state with Pakistan is the continuation of the history and the sacrifices of Kashmir martyrs, on the other hand, it is the way of stability in the region and the safe future of our generations.

On the occasion of Kashmir Accession Resolution Day, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said in a special message that the state of Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford ideological chaos. The resolution of the Muslim Conference to annex Kashmir and the Stand Still Agreement

of August 12, 1947 of Maharaja Hari Singh are two such historical documents in the presence of which there is no other evidence for the moral, political and legal right of Pakistan over the state of Jammu and Kashmir. No need.

President Muslim Conference said that on this day, the Kashmiri people residing in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and all over the world are requested to celebrate the day of Pakistan's Accession Resolution in full measure. In this time of turmoil, the accession of Pakistan and Kashmir will become Pakistan. Pakistan is the only way to guard the complete independence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and its accession to Pakistan in a dignified and dignified manner. Today is the day of renewing the ideological pledge for the young generation. On this historic occasion, the entire nation pays homage to Quaid Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Chaudhry Hameedullah Khan and Ghazi Millat Sardar Ibrahim Khan and their colleagues he added.

## Kashmir declared Pakistan as center of Kashmiris' hopes on Pakistan Day



**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming Pakistan as the center of Kashmiris' hopes, has said that observance of accession to Pakistan Day on both sides of the line of control (LoC) was a vivid manifestation of Kashmiris' unconditional love and their faith in the state of Pakistan. In his message issued on the occasion of accession to Pakistan day, today, the PM said the 19th July resolution bears testimony to the fact that Kashmiris had decided to link their future with yet to be born state of Pakistan months before it emerged as a sovereign state on the world map. He said that Kashmiris have rendered matchless sacrifices to materialize the dream that was envisioned by their ancestors much before the creation of Pakistan. He expressed the optimism that the day was not far away when the Kashmiris' struggle would reach fruition. "Those who laid down their lives in love of Pakistan are our real heroes", he said, adding that love for Pakistan runs in the blood of every Kashmiri. The PM said that the Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan was the biggest shock and challenge for India. He said that the people living inside the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir have made immense sacrifices for the completion of this journey. Referring to the Jammu massacre, the PM said, "Soon after the partition, 2, 50,000 people were massacred in and around Jammu city and others were forced to migrate to Pakistan". "Despite all these tactics and brutal massacres, India has miserably failed to eliminate Pakistan's love from the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people", he said. He said that Accession to Pakistan Day being celebrated on both sides of the ceasefire line was a reflection of our unbreakable relationship with Pakistan.

## Kashmir resolution a historic document on Pakistan Day

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**



ISLAMABAD: Terming the 19th July resolution as a historic document, the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that it was on this day in 1947 when the Kashmiri leadership decided to link their fate with Pakistan months before its creation. In his message issued on the occasion of accession to Pakistan Day, today, the president said that July 19, 1947 was an important chapter in the history of Kashmir. "On this day, the resolution of accession to Pakistan was adopted during an extraordinary meeting held in Srinagar", he said. "It is indeed a matter of great honour and privilege for me that my father Ch. Noor Hussain was one of the youngest political representatives who attended this historical meeting, which was held at Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan's residence at Abiguzar in Srinagar", the president said, adding that on this day we reaffirm our pledge to continue the struggle till the Kashmir dispute was resolved in line with the UNSC resolutions. Referring to Kashmir's geographical, ideological, religious and cultural ties with Pakistan, the president said that India has no relationship with Kashmir. "For decades, India deprived Kashmiris of their universally recognized right, the right to self-determination, by the dint of force", he said, adding that the Kashmiri people would never allow India to succeed in its nefarious designs." Referring to the partition plan, he said that it was quite unfortunate that the Kashmiri people were not allowed to exercise their right to determine their political future.

**HIV is a disease, not a stigma**

## Five awareness sessions were organized across the country with the support of UNDP and UNAIDS

**Spokesman Report**

QUETTA: The fifth and last consultative session in this regard was held in Quetta Balochistan.

The main objective of the ongoing nationwide consultative session is to finalize a strategy for law enforcement agencies to effectively respond to the growing challenge of discrimination. Balochistan Police, Quetta Traffic Police, CTD, ANF, National Highways and Motorway Police, FIA and other civil societies and NGOs participated in the ongoing consultative session in Quetta.

Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam hosted the session with his professional expertise and gave a thorough overview of the current situation in Pakistan. He said that individual and collective efforts are needed to end the increasing trend of HIV in the society. He said that we should not be afraid of HIV but we have to take such steps to remedy it so that no one gets hurt. AIDS is spread not only by one reason but by several reasons in which HIV positive people have no fault, but by neglecting their duties in the society, such a person is affected which not only needs to be understood but also need to adopt strategy for behavior changes in the society. A plan of action must be set to bring about changes.

Additional Inspector General of Police Admin Jawad Ahmed Dogar was the chief guest of the opening session. Jawad Ahmed Dogar thanked all the participants of the session. He said that we all have to play a role individually and collectively to spread the awareness.

Additional Inspector General of Police CTC, Kashif Alam said that UNDP has provided useful information about HIV. He appreciated the efforts to prevent its spread and create awareness among the law enforcement agencies.

Dr. K. D. Usmani presented a comprehensive presentation regarding HIV. He explored the contours of the issue and highlighted the significant progress made in combating the spread of HIV. He further highlighted preventive measures.

On behalf of UNDP Balochistan, Ms. Batul informed about the efforts being made regarding HIV.

DIG Quetta Ghulam Azfar Mehsar while expressing his gratitude for holding the session in Quetta reiterated that a circular will be issued to Quetta police officers and jawans to take advantage of the useful information gained from today's useful session.

Mr. Shahzada Zulfikar, a senior journalist, said that people who collect remains from hospitals are also a major cause of HIV spread.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Chairperson Women Parliamentarian Forum Balochistan said that there is a very strange concept in this regard in our society.



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# Twists and Turns of Politics - I

The political chessboard in Pakistan is currently in a state of flux, with many high-impact twists and turns taking place in the country's political game, which has never had a boring moment in its history. The PTI, which appeared to be invincible a few months ago on the back of unprecedented public support, particularly among the young and educated lot of both men and women, particularly in the urban class all over the country, is now completely shattered, battered, and appears to have lost everything it had gained perhaps over the last 30 years, and it now has to wait for some miracle to happen to save its chairman from obvious arrest and impending disqualification to contest elections. We all remember that the establishment, which has returned as the biggest political broker with a vengeance after the 9th May mayhem, declared him as a number one enemy soon after the ousting of his government in April 2022, and when it does so, it means the end of any political figure or party as long as it remains on its bad books, until any future turn or twist brings him and, or his party back into action, as has been the case in the cases of both PML(N) and PPP. However, given the age of the PTI chairman, who may have another five years of active political life ahead of him and no legacy to follow, if he misses the bus, which appears to be writing on the wall at this point in time, there may not be much meat left in him to resurrect himself or his party in the future. He should be grateful, though, to the PPP, which never endorsed the concept of banning the PTI and disqualifying politicians; otherwise, it may have happened

much sooner. The planning of making a new party out of PTI and breaking up PTI must have begun much earlier than the unfortunate incident of 9th May when 200 army installations around the country were attacked in a premeditated planning most likely conceived and put into action by the retired Army General sympathizers of PTI who have been thoroughly interrogated and along with civilian supporters of PTI who choose violence to achieve their political objectives forgetting rule of law. However, the May 9 incident was an excellent reason to drive the PTI stalwarts away from the PTI and into the arms of the newly founded Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, which was proclaimed on June 9 with an unprecedented electric speed by the same shepherd who had brought them into the PTI.

Today (17th July), perhaps the last nail was struck toward total annihilation of PTI when its most ardent supporters and members of PK and national assembly led by his close associates Pervez Khattak and Mehmood Khan announced formation of yet another splinter of PTI, PTI-Patriot, following the same pattern in which PPP and PML were broken down time and again since their formation. PPP was divided into PPP (Shaheed Bhutto) in 1979, PPP (Sherpao) in 1988, PPP (Patriots) in 1997, and PPP (Parliamentarians) in 2016, whereas Pakistan Muslim League (PML) was divided into PML (Q) in 2002, PML (N) in 1999, PML (F) in the 1980s, and PML (J) in 1970.

This also means that the makers and breakers of Pakistani politics are still capable of reapplying the same old and time tested strategy with the same effectiveness and fine finish achieving all of their objectives, proving that politicians have never learned from history and have fallen prey to the same hunter time and time again with the same snare and trap and same results.

Considering the current political chessboard arrangement, the PTI appears to have few power pieces, just the timid, horrified, and depressed pawns, who, if played smartly and in the face of opponents' erroneous movements, may even vanquish the king. The far-fetched theory, though highly implausible, purported is that all the splinter groups were formed with the tacit support of the PTI chairman to

hoodwink the establishment and buy time to cool down its wrath, and these groups, at the time of election, may agree on seat adjustment formula, particularly in KP and Punjab, with full support of the Chairman PTI, and together, they may be able to save some face. Instead of rejoining PTI and contesting elections on the platform of IPP, PTI breakaway stalwarts with the tacit support of PTI chairman may contest elections as independent candidates and after winning the election may lend their support to PTI. Both strategies are unlikely to succeed, and the establishment's hawkish approach may frustrate them even if they are launched.

In comparison to the PTI, the PML(N) possesses numerous power pieces but few repeated and critical confrontations with the Establishment, his return may be marred with uncertainty, as the establishment, which is back in the driving seat with vengeance in all sectors of national discourse, may not be willing to take the risk of putting Nawaz Sharif back in the saddle and entering into most imminent confrontation mode soon after he is installed as Prime Minister. As a result, while the PML(N) has demonstrated its complete commitment to re-electing Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister, it may lose the Queen as well as many other power pieces, which will be distributed to either the PPP or the IPP.

PPP has a large number of power pieces and quite a few pawns on its side. It is backing the caretaker governments in KP and Punjab, and will ensure that it has its own proportional stooges in the caretaker government in the center, as does the PML(N). It has a hereditary fiefdom in Sindh and is likely to retain power there regardless of the election results in Punjab, KP, or elsewhere. During its reign from 2008 to 2013, it has shown an ability to work well with the establishment.

*To be continued*

## Artificial intelligence projects ...



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

# Passionate Pakistan- forging a national emblem

**Malaika Sarwar**

Pakistan is a nation brimming with passionate individuals who embrace their vibrant culture. Renowned for their warm hospitality and unwavering commitment to aiding fellow citizens, Pakistanis have established a global reputation for their benevolence.

Pakistan fervor is vividly demonstrated through the remarkable achievements of its people on various international platforms. The country has exhibited exceptional dominance in the realm of hockey, clinching the World Cup title a record-breaking four times, surpassing all other nations.

Jahangir Khan unbeaten streak of five years in squash remains unparalleled even to this day, showcasing Pakistan unparalleled talent in the sport. The Pakistani cricket team, celebrated as World Cup champions, is renowned for its flamboyance, while its passionate supporters are known for their unwavering dedication, known as junoon. Music and arts have also provided a platform for Pakistanis to showcase their passion, with luminaries such as Sadequain, Gulgee, and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan attaining legendary status in their respective fields worldwide.

Pakistan magnificent peaks, among the tallest in the world, continue to attract the bravest mountaineers from across the globe, further highlighting the nation's indomitable spirit. The presence of Sufi shrines throughout Pakistan serves as a living testament to the country enduring mystical traditions, which thrive to this day. This region has been the cradle of ancient civilizations, such as Mohenjo-Daro and Gandhara, boasting a history

spanning thousands of years. Pakistan is also home to sacred Sikh shrines and magnificent Mughal architecture, adding to its cultural and architectural richness. Each of the four provinces in Pakistan possesses a vibrant and diverse culture, deeply rooted in a tradition of hospitality. The nation continues to produce courageous and dedicated individuals who have made significant contributions in fields ranging from literature, film, music, arts, sciences, and humanitarian work, showcasing Pakistan diverse talent and impact on a global scale. Similarly, the international community applauded the nation remarkable relief endeavors during significant natural disasters such as the 2005 earthquake and the floods of 2010-11. Furthermore, Pakistan stands among the top 10 countries in terms of worker remittances, with an impressive \$14 billion (about \$43 per person in the US) contribution.

Pakistan remarkable journey of development since its inception in 1947, despite numerous challenges, stands as a testament to the unwavering determination, resilience, faith, and dedication of its people towards their nation. Today, Pakistan stands among the eight nations with nuclear capabilities, boasting the 6th largest military force and the 9th largest workforce worldwide. The country national airline has played a significant role in the establishment of industry giants such as Emirates and Etihad Airways. With a population of 184 million people, Pakistan offers one of the world's largest single markets and is recognized as a top 10 emerging economy. The approximately 7 million-strong Pakistani Diasporas, spread across the globe, serves as a

valuable resource for the nation progress and development.

However, Pakistan's potential to achieve world-class growth is hampered by an adverse image within the country and overseas. This unfavorable perception acts as a significant barrier to economic progress and development. The resultant negative brand has a direct impact on the nature and scalability of available development channels. Within the country, negative stereotypes, deep-rooted mistrust, and pessimism dampen the spirit of entrepreneurship and hinder innovation. A prevailing perception of corruption, political instability, and weak governance undermines confidence in the government and discourages domestic and foreign investment. This, in turn, limits job opportunities and economic growth.

Internationally, Pakistan's image has suffered post 9/11, which has adversely affected foreign direct investment. Despite the deteriorating image, not much has been done to rebuild its image and convince the world of the endless opportunities that exist in terms of investment and trade.

Pakistan faces challenges in attracting foreign investment, establishing trade partnerships, and promoting tourism. An adverse image characterized by concerns over security and safety issues affects the willingness of international businesses to invest in the country. Moreover, negative media coverage reinforces stereotypes and further contributes to a distorted perception of Pakistan. The adverse image also impacts the tourism industry. Potential visitors may be deterred by concerns about safety, terrorism, and political

instability, missing out on the opportunity to explore Pakistan rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and historical sites. This has a direct impact on the country economy, as tourism has the potential to create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and generate foreign exchange.

To overcome these challenges, Pakistan needs to implement effective governance measures to combat corruption, ensure political stability, and improve security conditions. Building transparent and accountable institutions, promoting cultural diplomacy, and engaging with international media to showcase the positive aspects of Pakistan can help reshape its image.

Additionally, investing in education and skills development programs can empower the population and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. By nurturing a favorable business environment, promoting investment opportunities, and providing support to startups and small businesses, Pakistan can attract both domestic and foreign investment, stimulating economic growth. Furthermore, proactive marketing campaigns highlighting Pakistan cultural diversity, natural landscapes, and tourist attractions can help dispel misconceptions and attract visitors. By focusing on responsible tourism practices and ensuring the safety and comfort of travelers, Pakistan can gradually rebuild its image as a desirable tourist destination. Thus, addressing the root causes of this negative perception, implementing effective governance measures, promoting economic opportunities, and showcasing the country positive aspects are crucial steps towards unlocking Pakistan's true potential for growth and development.

*The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam*

# Sleepless people

**Arisha Irshad Ali**

Never-ending inflation blesses us with sleepless nights. Rates are very high with the low wages. This is the worst combination ever we have seen. Currency has shown some downturns which impact our overall economic situation. This is the factor which contributes a lot to making health worst.

People are seen as fit by their physical health but the reality is contradictory. Mental health is suffering and there is a steep rise in psychological disorders. People love to hide their mental health issues as they love to hide their financial ones. To bring bread to the table people now opt for doing work for more than 12 hours a day. At the start, humans love working for this long but with time, this thing drains people's energy because our brain needs rest to function optimally the whole day.

Sleep is very necessary for human life because it is the rest of the body and a natural phenomenon where the body repairs its damaged tissue. Sleep-deprived people became the prey of many infections because it affects the immune system holistically.

Youth think it is great to suffer sleep and work harder whereas they must think that how they adjust their sleep and work smartly. Disturb sleeping schedule will bless you with depression, anxiety and irritability. The brain needs to rest and sleep is the best solution for it. Our organs are working 24/7 and with sleep, they get little rest. Rest is a very underrated medicine in human science because it naturally cures many things if schedule perfectly.

Working hard sounds heroic but this is a foolish thing to suffer your sleep and which indirectly affects overall health. Things will be fine if you have sound health and are productive all day long. Waking up and doing nothing will not make you progress in any kind of life parameter. Don't be sleepless just maintain your level best.

*Writer is Karachi based analyst and can be reached at arishamohbbani786@gmail.com*



Analysis

**Malaika Sarwar**

# The UK renews a strong commitment to its development partnership with Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) published its new Pakistan Country Development Partnership Summary (CDPS) which sets out a refreshed approach to the UK-Pakistan development partnership.

The strategy underlines UK's transition from a traditional aid relationship to a UK-Pakistan partnership for mutual benefit. It aims to unlock progress against Pakistan's constraints to growth including population dynamics, climate vulnerability, gender equality and the structure of the economy.



The CDPS is published alongside FCDO's Annual Report, which sets out the FY23/24 UK-Pakistan bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocation as £41.5m. The Annual Report also indicates likely significant growth in UK-Pakistan ODA in FY24/25, based on an expected

increase in FCDO's overall ODA budget next year. The UK has provisionally allocated a greater share of next year's ODA to Pakistan, reflecting the aim of boosting efforts to strengthen climate resilience and reduce humanitarian risks following last year's devastating floods.

The UK will use its full relationship with Pakistan—development, diplomatic, defence and people-to-people links—to help deliver these objectives. In programme terms, work will be delivered, through existing, scaled-up programmes as well as new programmes which will be announced in due course.

Jo Moir, Development Director at the British High Commission, said "I am delighted to share our renewed strategy for the UK-Pakistan development partnership. This new strategy aims to transition our approach from a traditional aid relationship to a partnership based on shared security and prosperity. We will work with Pakistan to unlock progress against critical challenges: population dynamics, climate vulnerability and the economy. And we want to use all areas of UK-Pak Dosti—our diplomatic efforts, trade relationship, people-to-people links, development programmes and defence engagement—to achieve these goals".

## Workers Welfare Fund achieves stellar performance under PPP government



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) has delivered a stellar performance, significantly improving the welfare of workers in Pakistan. Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi, Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, along with Mr. Zulfiqar Haider, Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, Secretary of WWF, have played key roles in this success.

During the present government's tenure, the WWF has experienced substantial growth in its receipts, indicating a strong commitment to workers' well-being. In the financial year 2021-2022, the WWF recorded receipts of Rs. 14 billion, which witnessed an impressive surge in the subsequent financial year, reaching Rs. 50 billion. This remarkable increase in funding showcases the government's dedication to uplifting workers and their families throughout the country.

One of the noteworthy accomplishments of the WWF under the PPP government has been the successful clearance of all backlogs related to Marriage Grants, Death Grants, and Educational Scholarships across the country and sending of 67 workers to perform Hajj after the lapse of two years as Hajj remained suspended due to Covid. Marriage Grant increased from Rs. 200,000/- to Rs. 400,000/-, Death Grant increased from Rs. 400,000/- to 800,000/-, Transport amount of Rs. 1500/- paid to workers and their children have been increased to Rs. 6000/-.

Uniform amount of Rs. 4500/- paid to workers and their children have been increased to Rs. 9000/-. Books/Stationery amount of Rs. 7000/- paid to workers and their children have been increased to Rs. 14000/-. Disbursed 3738 educational scholarships amounting to Rs. 147,394,591/.

Facilitation Center at WWF to facilitate workers was inaugurated. This achievement has provided much-needed support to workers and their families during important life events, ensuring their financial stability and overall well-being.

As the PPP government continues to prioritize workers' well-being, it is expected that the positive trajectory of the WWF's performance will continue. The unwavering commitment to workers' welfare exemplifies the government's dedication to building an inclusive and prosperous society for all Pakistani citizens.

## Google Play introduces a new screening policy for digital lending Apps in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Google has introduced a new policy for personal loan applications with the commitment of protecting consumers across Pakistan from fake and unregistered loan apps.

The new requirements, effective May 31, 2023, allow the Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) lender to publish only a single Digital Lending App (DLA). Those who attempt to publish more than one DLA will be terminated from their developer account and any other associated accounts.

Developers with personal loan apps targeting users in Pakistan must complete the Personal Loan App Declaration form and submit the necessary documentation before publishing their app. They must submit proof of approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to offer or facilitate digital lending services in Pakistan.

Google Play will also request additional information or documents relating to loan app compliance with the applicable regulatory and licensing requirements.

Personal loan apps operating in Pakistan without proper declaration and license attribution will be removed from the Play Store. The developers must remove the app from the Google Play Store immediately if the submitted license, registration, or declaration is no longer valid under the applicable laws.

Farhan S. Qureshi, Google's Director for Pakistan, said, "Google is taking preventative measures by setting stringent requirements for Digital Lending Apps in order to reduce financial risk and ensure data privacy. We strongly believe that the new requirements imposed on developers of personal loan apps will provide an extra layer of protection for the users."

Under the new set of rules, a DLA is prohibited from accessing sensitive data, such as external storage, media images, contacts, and fine location. Whereas, Apps offering short-term personal loans, requiring repayment in full within 60 days from the loan issue date, are not allowed.

Pakistan is one of a small group of countries where Google has implemented additional requirements for DLAs. The new policy update is a significant step towards safeguarding consumers from harmful financial practices and ensuring data privacy.

## Dream Home Expo held



Tahir Amin Makil

Dream Home Expo was held at Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad. Huge number of Real Estate and property stall were displayed.

The prominent Builder and developers participated in exhibition some of which are J-7, Capital Smart City, Park View City, Mid City, and Al-Raee Property and Developers.

The Special Delegation from Al-Raee Properties, Lahore also attended the event which include, Ch. Shahbaz Hussain, CEO, Al Raee Properties and Developers, Mr Asghar Haris, Director International Sales, Mahyar Riaz, Javed Iqbal Gondal, Shareen Khan and Fahad Chaudhary and they all took keen interest in Property Exhibition they shared number of suggestions to uplift the real estate industry specially during this recession time. Mr. Asghar Haris Highlighted the importance and benefit of investing in Real Estate in Trabzone, Turkey.

## Farewell meeting

Islamabad: The outgoing High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, Ms Farzana Zahir, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



## Qaim Adab Group organized a gathering for promote the art of Qawwal



Arif Chaudhry

BURY: Adaab Group, established to highlight Pakistani culture across the UK, organized a Mahfil Sama at a local hall in Bury to promote Qawwali. After Nusrat Fateh Ali Sabri brothers and his father Aziz Mian, Imran Aziz, who is popular among the youth for giving a new direction to Qawwali, whose show houses were full all over the UK, today also performed his art in Bury and enthralled the Qawwali fans. Well received. The leading personalities of Greater Manchester are former Mayor Badi Councilor Shahina Haroon, prominent social and political figure Razia Chaudhry, Alia Hashmi—Councilor Raja Shehbaz—Chaudhry Musrat—Filmstar Zarqa Ahmed Deputy Leader Badi Councilor Taimur Tariq—Aysha Mubasher—Promoter Sohail—and beautiful evenings. The special participation of soulful Atif Riaz Chaudhry. Qawwal Imran Aziz Mian said that all the people who participated in the gathering were lovers of the heart and the art of Qawwali. Heartfelt thanks to the community living in Bury. Ex-Mayor Buri Councilor Shahina Haroon and Councilor Taimur Tariq, Deputy Leader of Buri Council, said about the program that it was very organized. He said that the program was fantastic. Alia Hashmi said that the original spirit of Qawwali was being lost thanks to Aadab who gave this opportunity to all of us except the new generation. The spirit of the program Atif Riaz Chaudhry said that the program was successful, we would like Imran Aziz Mian Qawwal to come again next year. The participants of the program said that they were greatly humbled by listening to the original spirit of Qawwali. The community participated along with their families.

# Across China: China's cold region sees rising demand for NEVs

Xinhua

HARBIN: Even in the northeastern Chinese region, where the winter temperature poses challenges for battery-powered cars, the demand for new energy vehicles (NEVs) is growing.

This is largely due to advancements in technology and charging facilities amid China's green initiative.

"I've been driving a gas car all my life and never thought I would switch to an electric one," said Song Jun in Harbin, capital city of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The 56-year-old spent 460,000 yuan (about 63,990 U.S. dollars) on his new hybrid electric vehicle.

Harbin is the coldest provincial capital city in China and the lowest



temperature in winter can fall to minus 30 degrees Celsius, yet the passion for NEVs has been growing in recent years.

"I think driving NEVs is the future trend as they're more cost-effective than cars that run on traditional fuel," said Song.

Song was attracted by the intelligent driving assistance system, interior space and

configuration of the electric automobiles.

The new hybrid electric SUV Song bought has a maximum pure electric battery life of 170 km and takes about 6 hours to fully recharge, costing no more than 20 yuan per charge.

"Basically I don't run on gas in the urban area. The overall cost is much lower than driving a fuel-powered

vehicle," Song said.

Tian Jiwei, an NEV salesperson, said that the EV carmaker would install a charging station for the buyer, and the annual maintenance cost is less than 1,000 yuan.

"A garage is needed in Harbin in winter as the temperature is quite low, but it is not necessary in the southern region," said Song, who has no "driving range anxiety" and believes NEVs will become more attractive to consumers with the evolution of cells and the expansion of a vast network of charging facilities across the country.

The NEV boom is powered by decades of painstaking efforts that China has made to embrace a greener and more sustainable development pattern.

# Pakistan-UK conference on promoting trade in Manchester highlights positive outcome

Arif Chaudhry

MANCHESTER: On behalf of the Pakistani Consulate in Manchester, the fifth Pakistan-UK Conference on promoting trade was organized in the local hall, in which the British Member of Parliament Afzal Khan, Chaudhry Saeed, the international business personality Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, the Commercial Trade Secretary appointed in the Pakistani Consulate in Manchester Chaudhry Akhtar, Special participation of business delegation from Pakistan apart from British businessmen. Afzal Khan, a member of the British Parliament, said that after the Hajj, he met with the top officials at the government level and the mutual strategic initiatives of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are very strong.

He further said that there is a dire need to improve the economy of Pakistan in the current situation. Commer-



cial Trade Secretary Chaudhry Akhtar said that the purpose of holding the conference is to make British commercial companies aware that there are golden opportunities for investment in Pakistan and the investment of British companies in Pakistan will improve

the economy. International business personality Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry termed the holding of the conference as very useful and positive and said that British business and business personalities must participate in such conferences.

Chaudhry Saeed said that Pakistan is our country and we should invest there. Government of Pakistan should provide facilities to investors. President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Saqib Rafiq and the participants of the business delegation from

Pakistan said that by organizing such conferences, we should make western countries aware of the investment in Pakistan that we are doing amazing work in technology. Countries should invest in Pakistan, which will promote mutual cooperation.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
45,009.33	45,042.61
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,240.21	44,848.39
Index Value	Change
5,826,916,747	-33.28
Percentage	Time
-0.07%	18 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,453.69	+47.27
Percentage	Time
+0.64%	18 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,892.09	+306.74
Percentage	Time
+0.89%	18 Jul, 1:22 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,493.89	+102.63
Percentage	Time
+0.32%	18 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193	196
Bahrain Dinar	737.51	745.51
Canadian Dollar	211	213
China Yuan	38.7	39.1
Danish Krone	41.14	41.54
Euro	310	314.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.49	35.84
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.68	913.68
Malaysian Ringgit	61.07	61.67
New Zealand \$	175.48	177.48
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	720.2	728.2
Qatari Riyal	76.81	77.51
Saudi Riyal	73.8	74.5
Singapore Dollar	208	210
Swedish Korona	25.91	26.21
Swiss Franc	322.34	324.84
Thai Bhat	7.96	8.11
U.A.E Dirham	76.7	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	366	371.25
US Dollar	281	284.2

# Azerbaijan delegation discusses road trade, enhancing connectivity with Iran, Russia

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood hosted a meeting of Azerbaijan's seven-member delegation led by Minister for Digital Development and Transport Mr. Rashad Nabiyev to discuss road trade agreement and move towards a legal framework for trade. The Federal Minister for Communications praised the delegation of Azerbaijan for coming to Pakistan and holding meetings with various ministries and officials to strengthen bilateral ties. Both Azerbaijan and Pakistan share the same agenda in terms of trade and commerce. He said that both countries could further strengthen the business and trade, as well as, public and cultural relations through land links and national highways.

Mr. Rashad Nabiyev apprised the Minister for Communications that



Azerbaijan has paved new roads for the promotion of trade and public transportation by laying its network of highways connecting up to Bandar Abbas, Iran.

In response, Mr. Asad Mahmood expressed Pakistan's desire to expand land connection to Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia and Eastern Europe to boost the economy of regional countries

and raise the living standards of the people. Government of Pakistan stands ready for all kinds of assistance regarding road transport and trade. During the meeting, a task force was formed to develop a legal framework for road trade agreement, and the Federal Secretary Communications & Chairman NHA Captain (Rtd.) Muhammad Khur-

ram Agha will be the focal person on behalf of Pakistan.

The Federal Minister of Communications appreciated the fact that Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's position regarding Kashmir. Similarly, our position in some other matters is a mirror of mutual harmony. A road trade agreement will help in furthering bilateral ties to new heights.

The Federal Minister of Communications also told the delegation that the Government of Pakistan is expanding its land routes to nearby countries by laying a vast network of important national highways in Balochistan.

Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Mr. Rashad Nabiyev, emphasized that coordination between the two countries in terms of roads and transport is a guarantee of economic development throughout the region. Azerbaijan has heavily invested in road infrastructure, railways, and airports in some of its newly developed land areas, and the minister encouraged that Pakistan may benefit by using Azerbaijan as a transit route to the West. The minister concluded that the process of laying land links and highways between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, through Iran, will promote trade, industry, tourism and culture between the two countries.

## Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Syed Naveed Qamar Federal Minister for Commerce and Azerbaijan Minister of Digital Development & Transport, H.E. Mr. Rasxhid Nabiyev, exchanging souvenir on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## SECP, FPCCI Women Entrepreneurs Committee agree on mutual cooperation for registration

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Women Entrepreneur Committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) have agreed to provide awareness and all possible support to women entrepreneurs regarding registration with SECP. During the meeting, it was emphasized that women entrepreneurs should register their businesses with SECP and promote their ventures through digital marketing.

In the 8th Meeting of FPCCI Central Standing Committee



on Women Entrepreneurs convened by Nazli Abid Nisar, Convener of the Committee, and Founder President

of KWCCI Malir at FPCCI Head Office Karachi, which was graced by Shabbir Hasan Mansha and Riffat Malik Vice

Presidents FPCCI.

The Additional Registrar of the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Incharge CRO Karachi, Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi, Afzala Shaheen, SVP, Yasmin Arif, VP KWCCI Malir, Convener Law Committee Lubna Aman Advocate, Dr. Javed Aziz Masudi, Chairman Dept. of Law & Director OricSZABUL/Advocate High Court, Dr. Tehreem Farrukh, Associate Prof. of Law/Co-Chairman Dept. of Law & Director ORIC SZABUL Karachi, Mehwish Kayani, Afzala Yasmeen, Maimoona, Saira Khan, Afshan, Dr. Tuba, Sonia Bisma, Azra, and others also participated.

## PSX manages to retain 45,000pts level in choppy trade

**TLTP**

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained in a consolidation mood for the fourth straight session on Tuesday, with the KSE-100 Index managing to retain the 45,000 points level after losing 33.28 points (-0.07 percent) to close at 45,009.33 points.

The market opened on a positive note and remained in the green during the first half of the session. However, the investors preferred to cash in gains, bringing down the indices. The rupee's depreciation against the US dollar caused the benchmark index to lose around 200 points during the intraday trading. However, buying was witnessed in the last hour trading, which caused the KSE-100 Index to retain the 45,000 points threshold. The

benchmark index has shed 505.61 points in the last four sessions.

The benchmark index traded in a range of 391.82 points showing an intraday high of 45,240.21 points and an intraday low of 44,848.39 points. Among other indices, the KSE All Share Index gained 16.56 points (+0.05 percent) to close at 30,450.62 points, while KMI All Share Islamic Index gained 3.73 points (+0.02 percent) to close at 22,363.09 points.

Total volumes traded for the KSE-100 Index decreased by 22.98 million shares to 125.42 million shares against 148.4 million shares traded a session earlier. The overall market volumes decreased by 59.66 million shares to 254.96 million shares against 314.62 million shares traded a session earlier.

## Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi reunite for Danube Properties

**News Desk**

KARACHI: Danube Properties (a part of the Danube Group), the fastest-growing private real estate developer in the UAE, has announced its new campaign with the Bollywood's popular Jodi of Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi, who are back together to share the space after 15 years. The campaign, "Dubai mei ghar bole to Danube ka ghar," provides an exciting glimpse of Danube Properties for Indian investors who want to invest and purchase properties of their choice from Danube Properties in Dubai.

Rizwan Sajjan, Founder and Chairman of Danube Group, said, "After a successful run of ads with Sanjay Dutt as our ambassador,



we were looking to take the story-telling a notch higher. Roping in Arshad Warsi along with Sanjay Dutt felt like an instinctive choice. The effortless chemistry that Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi share, on and off the camera, made for the perfect canvas to convey the sentiment of "feeling at home" when you live at Danube Properties. The core idea was to show the actors playing themselves as "Sanju" and "Arshad" and create a sequel of episodes that showcase what life at Danube Properties is truly all about."

## AlHuda CIBE and FDO signed an agreement to set up Islamic Microfinance Window Operation

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) and Farmers Development Organization (FDO) have signed an agreement to establish an Islamic microfinance window operation. The agreement was signed by Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of AlHuda CIBE and Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, CEO of FDO. The Islamic microfinance window will provide financial services to low-income and marginalized communities in Pakistan.

In his statement, Mr. Muhammad Zubair, the CEO of AlHuda CIBE, highlights the significant role played by the Islamic microfinance industry in promoting financial inclusion and

poverty alleviation. Firstly, he emphasizes that Islamic microfinance serves as a crucial tool for providing financial services to low-income and marginalized communities. These communities often face challenges in accessing traditional banking systems due to various reasons such as lack of collateral, limited documentation, or exclusion based on socio-economic factors. Islamic microfinance steps in to bridge this gap and ensure that these underserved populations have access to financial services that can help improve their livelihoods.

Furthermore, Mr. Zubair believes that Islamic microfinance has the potential to transform the lives of individuals and entire communities. By providing financial services tailored to Islamic

principles, such as profit-sharing and asset-backed financing, Islamic microfinance offers an inclusive and ethical alternative for those who prefer or are restricted by religious considerations. This approach enables individuals to participate in economic activities, start or expand their businesses, and ultimately uplift themselves from poverty.

Moreover, Mr. Zubair suggests that establishing an Islamic microfinance window operation can have dual benefits. Firstly, it would boost the Islamic microfinance industry by expanding its reach and impact. This would encourage the growth and sustainability of Islamic microfinance institutions and enable them to cater to a larger segment of the population. Secondly, setting up

an Islamic microfinance window operation can provide a solution for individuals who refrain from using conventional microfinance services due to religious perspectives. These individuals may have reservations about engaging with interest-based financial systems, which are not in line with Islamic principles. By offering Islamic microfinance options, these individuals can access financial services that align with their religious beliefs, promoting greater financial inclusion and participation.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, the CEO of FDO (Farmers Development Organization), highlights the organization's purpose and approach in improving the lives of farmers and rural communities in Pakistan. FDO focus on uplifting

the lives of farmers and rural communities, which suggests that they work towards improving agricultural practices, providing resources, and enhancing overall living conditions for these populations. FDO recognizes the specific challenges faced by individuals and families with limited financial resources. By understanding these needs, FDO can tailor its programs and initiatives to effectively address the issues and provide meaningful support.

The statement also emphasizes the importance of Islamic microfinancing in enhancing growth and development. Islamic microfinancing adheres to Islamic principles and does not involve interest (usury), which is prohibited in Islamic finance. Instead, it operates



on profit-sharing, trade-based and/or asset-backed financing models. This approach can empower individuals to start or expand their businesses, invest in agricultural improvements, and ultimately contribute to the economic growth and development of their communities.

