



**Fitch upgrades Pakistan to 'CCC', Dar congratulates Nation**

The Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from 'CCC', indicating a positive development towards betterment of country's economy. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a tweet said it was another positive development towards current economic revival journey. (Details on Page 8)



**Xi sends congratulatory letter to first high-level conference of Forum on Global Action for Shared Development**

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory letter to the first high-level conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development. In his letter, Xi said transformation of the world unseen in a century is unfolding at a faster pace, the world economy is struggling to recover.... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Inauguration of Green Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Green Pakistan Initiative on Monday. COAS General Syed Asim Munir hands over the inaugural scroll to the Prime Minister.



Photo: PID

**Army chief assures full support for Green Pakistan Initiative**



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir said that we are all gathered here to make Pakistan green. He addressed the participants as chief guest. He assured the people of Pakistan and the government, army's full support for all the initiatives being initiated under the ambit of Special Facilitation Investment Council (SFIC) including Green Pakistan Initiative. The seminar was attended by federal ministers, chief ministers of Punjab and Sindh province, chief secretaries of provincial governments, agricultural experts and farmers from all the provinces. Foreign dignitaries and potential investors and experts from United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, China, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and various other countries also attended the seminar.

General Asim said Allah has blessed Pakistan with many blessings. He said we are a talented nation, the only requirement is that we contribute to its development together. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has assured Pakistan Army's full support for all the initiatives being initiated under the ambit of Special Investment Facilitation Council, including Green Pakistan Initiative launched today. Addressing the National Seminar on Agriculture and Food Security at Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad on Monday, he said Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with many resources. He said we are a capable nation, which has the potential to rise to the top. He emphasized the need that everybody should contribute to its development. General Asim Munir expressed the confidence that Pakistan will achieve progress and development and no power on the earth can stop this from happening. He said we have gathered to make Pakistan green once again. Agriculture experts and farmers highly appreciated the government's landmark initiative and Pakistan Army's special focus on revolutionizing the agriculture sector by promoting modern contemporary technology, collaboration of public and private sectors and trickling down dividends to the local farmers to alleviate poverty.

**Green Pakistan Initiative to usher in agri revolution: PM**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said Green Pakistan Initiative would bring about second agriculture revolution in the country and would create four million jobs. Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security here, he said agriculture was backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide food to millions of Pakistani people. Farmers would be remembered in history as builders of Pakistan, he remarked. He said incentives for the agriculture sector were the right of farmers and it was

responsibility of the government to provide all possible assistance to them. "Farmers work hard but it is common knowledge that they are facing lack of resources." The prime minister said growth in the agriculture sector would bring Pakistan at par with the developed countries. He said progress of Pakistan was inherent in hard work, adding green revolution in the 1960s was due to introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and canals and modern agriculture practices. He said farmers should get more profits than the cost of production of their crops including wheat. The government increased the support price of wheat which

led to record production of the commodity, he mentioned. He was hopeful that due to the incentives given by the government, production of cotton would also rise. He said it was responsibility of the government to provide better seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers and equip them with latest technology. Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the new agriculture initiative for giving real time information about attacks of pests. He showed concern over the adulterated drugs given to the farmers and warned of action against the culprits. Shehbaz said state owned enterprises

were losing Rs 600 billion every year and bleeding the economy. Pakistan imported \$ 4.5 billion of palm oil which was a burden on the national economy, he noted. Pakistan could attract investment of \$ 40 to 50 billion in the coming years and it could make food exports to the gulf countries which were presently importing food products worth \$ 40 billion. He was of the view that Pakistan had to compete with the world and increase its exports and the economy of Pakistan would get revived in the coming two years. "It is demand of our national security that the country's food security and economic security should be strengthened," he added.

**Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President**

**Sokesman Report**

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has secured a landslide victory in the presidential election held on July 9, being re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan with an overwhelming 87.1% of the vote. The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan announced the preliminary results, revealing the extent of the president's popular support. A significant number of voters participated in the election, with 15.6 million citizens, accounting for 79.8% of registered voters, casting their votes. Among them 87.05% voted in the favour of Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The preliminary results also indicate the performance of the other candidates in the election, with Ulugbek Inoyatov from the People's Democratic Party securing 4.2% of the vote, Robakhon Mahmudova from the "Adolat" Social Democratic Party receiving 4.43%, and Abdushukur Hamzaev from the Eco Party gaining 3.74%.



**Anti-social elements involve in social media propaganda: SAPM**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Ahmed Khan Monday said that the whole nation stood with the army chief and that anti-social elements involved in the social media propaganda drive would be brought to justice soon as the investigation of this matter reached its final stages. "Elements behind the social media propaganda campaign need to be exposed," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

**Digital economy vital for sustainable development: Ahsan Iqbal**

**Spokesman Report**

BELJING: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday shed light on the importance of growing the digital economy, termed digital economy is vital to ensure sustainable development of the country. The minister made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here. It is noted that the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 (tomorrow) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan



Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity. While highlighting the importance of "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," the planning minister said that industrialization and digital-era connectivity have

transformed the world as both have brought unprecedented opportunities for progress, economic growth, and global connectivity. However, he emphasized the harmonization in digital policies and standards by stronger collaboration through multilateral forums. Ahsan Iqbal said that digital connectivity has revolutionized communication and collaboration in industrial sectors. The E-commerce platforms and online marketplaces enable businesses to reach customers worldwide, expanding their customer base and opportunities for growth, explained the minister, while highlighting E-Pakistan, an important E of the 5Es framework which was launched recently by the Planning Ministry.

**Chaudhry Shujaat meets Pervaiz Elahi in jail again**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday paid a visit to his estranged cousin, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Pervaiz Elahi at Lahore Camp Jail again. Sources told that the PML-Q chief held a meeting with former Punjab chief minister - which lasted for almost an hour - before the latter's appearance in Lahore High Court (LHC).

**Pakistan has vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT: Amin**

**Commerce Desk**

Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is committed to extending comprehensive support and facilities to businesses and investors in various domains, including Incubation Centers, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing, and the Telecom sector. The minister's remarks highlight the government's recognition of the potential for growth and development in Pakistan's IT industry. With a skilled workforce, a growing digital infrastructure, and a conducive environment for technological innovation, Pakistan has become an attractive destination for investment in IT-related ventures.

**ECP seeks amendments for i-voting, EVMs**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to write a letter to the provincial government for bringing amendments related to the i-voting and electronic voting machines (EVMs). The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) held an important session of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding the local government (LG) polls in Islamabad and Punjab. According to the declaration, the commission will write a letter to the interior ministry to issue a notification regarding the number of reserved seats in Islamabad. The commission instructed the interior ministry to issue notification for Islamabad reserved seats by July 12. The ECP also directed the concerned authorities to provide finalised rules for election expenditures. The ECP officials briefed the CEC that

the registration process of the electoral groups in Punjab will be concluded by July 17. It has also been decided to write a letter to the provincial government for bringing amendments related to i-voting and EVMs. On Saturday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued the schedule of by-election of local bodies in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). According to a notification, the polling will be held on August 27 across KP,

while the candidates will be able to submit their nomination papers for the LG polls till July 19. The election tribunal will publish final list of candidates on August 2 while the results of LG polls would be announced on August 30. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had won the second phase of local government (LG) elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held in April this year.

while the candidates will be able to submit their nomination papers for the LG polls till July 19. The election tribunal will publish final list of candidates on August 2 while the results of LG polls would be announced on August 30. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had won the second phase of local government (LG) elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held in April this year.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President JUI-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



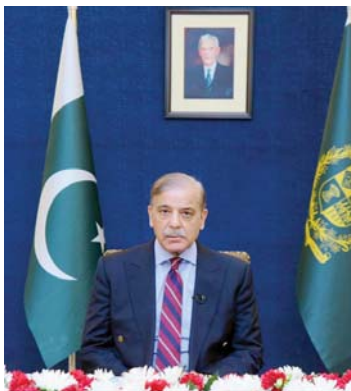
Photo: PID

## PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to meet UN SDGs with enhanced cooperation

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was keen to expand its cooperation with partner countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030.

The prime minister virtually participated in the First High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI). Held under the theme of Global Development Initiative: "Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action", the forum was organized by the China International Development



ment Cooperation Agency (CIDCA),

the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Shehbaz, in his remarks, stressed the salience of international development cooperation to present a unified global response for socio-economic development, mitigation of climate change threats, and galvanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's enduring progress and prosperity.

He also appreciated China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared goals of inclusive and sustainable global development.

Extending Pakistan's firm support to

the GDI, the prime minister said that Pakistan would continue its multifaceted cooperation with China for swift implementation of the GDI projects in Pakistan.

The event was attended by Wang Yi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Director of the General Office of CPC Foreign Affairs Commission, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Chairman CIDCA, LuoZhaohui.

Leading experts and executives from several countries and international organizations also participated in the forum.

## Fitch upgrades Pakistan to 'CCC', Dar congratulates Nation

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from 'CCC', indicating a positive development towards betterment of country's economy

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a tweet said it was another positive development towards current economic revival journey.

He congratulated Prime Minister, nation, government allies and economic team for this achievement.

"Global Rating Agency 'Fitch' upgrades Pakistan's Long Term Foreign-Currency rating to CCC from IDR (Issuer Default Rating)... Another positive news towards current economic revival journey, AlhamdoLilah... Congratulations to PM @CMShehbaz, the Nation, Govt Allies & Econom-



ic Team," the minister tweeted.

The rating agency has identified key indicators that contributed in the positive development rating for the country which include improvement in easing external financing risks.

Its says, the upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved external liquidity and funding conditions following its Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in June.

"We expect the SLA to be approved by the IMF board in

July, catalysing other funding and anchoring policies around parliamentary elections due by October," it adds.

According to the report, Pakistan has recently taken measures to address shortfalls in government revenue collection, energy subsidies and policies inconsistent with a market-determined exchange rate, including import financing restrictions. These issues held up the last three reviews of Pakistan's previous IMF programme, before its expiry in June.

It says, IMF board approval of the SBA will unlock an immediate disbursement

of USD1.2 billion, with the remaining USD1.8 billion scheduled after reviews in November and February 2024.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have committed another USD3 billion in deposits, and the authorities expect USD3-5 billion in other new multilateral funding after the IMF agreement. The SBA should also facilitate disbursement of some of the USD10 billion in aid pledges made at the January 2023 flood relief conference, mostly in the form of project loans (USD2 billion in the budget).

It says, Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) has narrowed sharply and forecasted it at about USD4 billion (1% of GDP) in FY24, after USD3 billion in FY23 and over USD17 billion in FY22.

The report also identified that country's reserves were still low and fiscal deficit was wide.

## Tourism promotion to help in making country's development roadmap: Dr Ramesh

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Monday said the promotion of religious tourism would play a key role in making a roadmap of prosperity and development of the country.

Addressing a press conference, flanked by a delegation of Buddhist monks from Vietnam here, the minister said the incumbent government was serious about promoting and projecting the country's tourism to highlight the soft image of the country.

He said that Pakistan was fully safe for tourists, and offered the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Gandhara Civilization. He said the promotion of religious tourism would lead to enhance commercial activities and attract foreign exchange.



Dr. Ramesh Kumar said the symposium would also help to promote the soft image of the country and provide connectivity with the world.

A three-day international Gandhara symposium will commence in Islamabad on July 11 to showcase the treasure trove Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Buddhist Monks from Vietnam lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his government for facilitating Buddhist people and followers of other faiths to explore Gandhara Civilization and sites of Buddhism in Pakistan.

They said there will be more travelers in the future to visit the cultural heritage of Pakistan. They urged the media to play its due role in promot-

ing Gandhara civilization and Pakistan's potential for religious tourism.

The delegation also took a round of the Islamabad Museum and showed keen interest in Pakistan's Buddhist heritage.

It is pertinent to mention that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the inaugural session of the symposium.

The sole objective of the symposium was to raise global awareness about the historical and cultural significance of the Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist heritage in the country.

A number of Buddhist Monks from Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Nepal, South Korea and Sri Lanka would attend the symposium. The title of the event is "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan".

## Privatization Commission allowed to precede SIH transaction

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) Monday allowed Privatization Commission to proceed towards a successful conclusion of Services International Hotel (SIH) transaction with the completion of transfer/mutation process in the name of the purchaser.

The CCoP met here with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in chair. Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Privatization and Chairman Privatization Commission Abid Hussain Bhayo, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRMCC Ashfaq Yousuf Tola, federal secretaries and senior officials attended the meeting.

The Privatization Commission submitted a summary regarding the privatization of SIH and updated the committee on its privatization process.

The CCoP after a detailed discussion allowed Privatization Commission to proceed towards a successful conclusion of SIH transaction with

the completion of transfer/mutation process in the name of the purchaser.

The Privatization Commission also presented a summary on the privatization of House Building Finance Company Ltd (HBFCL) with one single (pre-qualified) bidder.

The CCoP after detailed deliberation approved the summary. The Privatization Commission also presented summaries on privatisation of Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO) and privatization of Sindh engineering Limited (SEL) and briefed the meeting on their status.

The CCoP after discussion deferred both the summaries with directions that Secretary Privatization Commission, Secretary Law and Justice and Secretary Industries & Production may hold mutual consultations and come up with future course of action in both cases.

The Privatization Commission also updated the CCoP on the status of privatization process of Roosevelt Hotel.

The CCoP after discussion deferred the summary with direction to submit an update on the privation of Roosevelt Hotel after consultation with Aviation Ministry.

## Supreme Court office returns plea seeking ban on PTI

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The registrar office of the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan has returned with objections a petition filed by Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Awn Chaudhry, seeking ban on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

According to details, the registrar office of Supreme Court raised various objections to the plea filed by Chaudhry, once a close aide of PTI chief Imran Khan.

In its objections, the registrar's office stated that the petitioner, who is also the adviser to the prime minister on sports and tourism, did not approach the relevant forum ahead of filling the petition.

In addition, the SC office stated the prime minister and the defence minister cannot be made a party in the case under Article 248 of the Constitution.

The registrar's office further said that the plea does not explain how is banning the PTI a matter of public interest. It is not clear in the plea how is banning the PTI a matter of public interest, the office added.

Earlier in May, it was reported that the federal cabinet failed to reach a consensus as several federal minis-



ters have recommended imposing ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including measures such as a ban on public gatherings and a freeze on party activities.

The recommendations were made in response to the growing concerns over the party's alleged involvement in incidents of violence and harassment.

However, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) have reportedly opposed the proposed restrictions on the PTI, citing concerns over freedom of expression and the right to protest.

In response to these developments, the federal minister for information has made it clear that the government's policy is to condemn extremism and that they are against any restrictions that may impinge upon civil liberties.

## Suleman Shahbaz acquittal exposes opposition's fabricated cases: Murtaza Abbasi

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, stated on Monday that the acquittal of Suleman Shahbaz, the son of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's, in a money laundering case proved that all the cases fabricated by the opposition were nothing but a political vendetta.

Some sections tried to dismantle the leadership and the party of Paki-

stan Muslim League-N in the past, but all efforts went in vain as all the baseless cases designed to oust Nawaz Sharif from the political sphere of the country stood on lies, the minister said in a message issued by his office.

"Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the three-time prime minister of the country, has been subjected to an injustice. It is imperative for the institutions of justice to step forward and fulfil their role in ensuring justice for him," the minister added.

## FIA to bring back 'Pakistanis imprisoned in Asif Sanyara's safe houses'

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Deputy Director Tariq Masood said Monday that all Pakistanis will be brought back who are imprisoned in safe houses of Asif Sanyara - an alleged human trafficker and a key suspect in the Greece boat tragedy case.

The federal authorities have launched countrywide crackdowns on human traffickers after the deaths of several Pakistanis in the Greece boat tragedy who were trying to illegally enter Italy through human traffickers.

Yesterday, the agency claimed to arrest the 'ringleader' of a human trafficking gang from Gujrat who was identified as Muhammad Saleem

Sanyara.

In a media briefing, FIA Deputy Director Tariq Masood said that three brothers of the 'ringleader' Muhammad Saleem Sanyara are residing in Libya. Saleem used to receive hefty amount of money from youths via sub-agents for providing illegal travel facilities to foreign countries, he added. "We are bringing back Pakistanis imprisoned in safe houses of Asif Sanyara [the brother of Saleem Sanyara]. FIA had lodged 102 cases related to the Greece boat tragedy and arrested 32 suspects."

"We have also blocked national identified cards, passports, bank accounts and properties of the accused. Four among the arrested suspects have criminal records."

# People of Sindh strongly support the province of Saraikistan: Dharija

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The people of Sindh strongly support the province of Saraikistan. With the establishment of the province, the feeling of deprivation of small provinces will end and fair distribution of resources will be possible. These views were expressed by a delegation of Sindh scholars and teachers during their meeting with the Chairman of the Sarkisian National Council, Zahoor Ahmed Dharija. The delegation was led by Mir Nazir Talpur while the delegation included Mukhtiar Khas Khaali, Ali Muhammad Junejo, Jameel Khas Khaali, Ram Das Maharaj, Rashid Khas Khaali, Gulzar Haider Sarai and others.

Zahoor Ahmed Dharija said that the cultural and geographical ties of Sindh-Saraikistan cannot be eliminated, there is a need for a thesis on the problems of both regions. He said that while the establishment of Saraiki province is necessary, it is also



necessary to solve the water problems between Sindh and Saraikistan through dialogue. He said that the ancient heritage of Saraiki literature should be preserved in Sindh, Saraiki children living in Sindh should get the right to education in their mother tongue and the universities of Sindh should conduct research on Sindh as well as Saraiki language and literature. Research should be done. Mir Nazir Talpur said that Saraiki is a nation, it has its own homeland, its own land and its own region.

We fully support Saraiki prov-

ince. Mukhtar Khas Khaali said that Multan is Madinah Awaliya, coming to Multan we get spiritual satisfaction and think that we have come to our own home. He said that the residence of Maulana Ubaidullah Sindhi is Saraiki Wasib, but he called himself Sindhi out of love for his mentor and Sindh, Shah Inayat Shaheed, the great freedom fighter of Sindh and Hazrat Shahbaz Qalandar belonged to Multan. Ali Muhammad Junejo said that the problems of Sindh and Saraikistan are similar, some facilities are visible in the urban areas, but the

rural areas are completely neglected, the provincial governments have to pay immediate attention to solve the problems. Gulzar Khas Khaali said that the punishments of floods are in their place, Badin and Thatta are being swallowed by the sea.

Saraiki is the ancient language of Sindh and it is a sign of the love of Saraikis for the land of Sindh that they write themselves Sindhi in the census. Muhammad Juman Bharani said that there should be inter-provincial visits so that all the people of Pakistan can come closer to each other. On this occasion, Saraiki leader Mush-taq Gul, while hosting the people of Multan, said that we will strengthen the Sindh Saraiki alliance and very soon a Saraiki delegation will visit Sindh. On this occasion, the participants of the delegation were dressed in Saraiki clothes and gifts of Saraiki books were presented, while singer Shobia Malik of Radio Pakistan Multan presented Saraiki anthems.

## Punjab govt by its bureaucracy to create problems: Umar Bhatti

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Pakistan Muslim League-N District Secretary Information and Broadcasting Member Monitoring Committee and Complaints Cell Prime Minister of Pakistan Umar Farooq Bhatti has said that every motorcycle rider without a helmet will not get petrol from the petrol pump. It will be given, it is nothing but enmity with the people of Punjab in the name of the accidents of the Punjab government in this era of inflation. People are being forced to commit suicide and a great injustice is being done by banning helmets on the poor people from above.



Umar Farooq Bhatti has said that I request the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif, the top leader of my party, to cancel the anti-people orders of the Punjab government to end the ban on helmets. In the next election, Pakistan is going to be hostile to the Muslim League-N, which we are already paying the political price by taking a coalition government with the PDM in the federal government. The killing mafia has become active, people are getting a helmet worth Rs 1000 for Rs 3000.

## Generalization of education is essential to control the population: Mian Rashid



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Mian Rashid Iqbal president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan has said that without controlling the growing population the dream of economic development cannot be fulfilled and education should be made public to control the population. If the society is not educated, the dream of population control will be like playing a bean in front of a buffalo. Addressing the session held together with District Officer Population Welfare Department Fayyaz Ahmed Chaudhry, Director Public Relations Sajjad Jahania.

Former President of the House Mian Fazal Elhi Sheikh, Convener of Women Wing Multan House, Mrs Romana Tanveer Sheikh, Dr Ifat Bucha, Muhammad Shafiq also spoke, Senior Vice President of the House Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed and members of the House, journalists, scholars and women. Mian Rashid Iqbal, while speaking, said that our country is poor and resources are limited, in such a way, we cannot bear the spread of the population. In the limited resources, children should be born at least and they should be educated and trained so that they become part of the society. To become a useful citizen.

## Who desecrated the Holy Quran should be punished by public hanging: Arif Faseehullah

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Under the auspices of Central Anjuman Tajran Gol Bagh, Akbar Tower and Mobile Market Gilgasht, All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran South Punjab and Multan City President Arif Faseehullah, Saad Farooqui, Mujeeb Rehman, organized a protest against the desecration of the Holy Quran by the Swedish government. A protest demonstration was held under the leadership Arif Faseehullah. Mazhar Syal, Sheikh Numan, Khawaja Wajid, the protesters were carrying placards and chanting anti-Swedish government slogans. On this occasion, Arif Faseehullah, Saad Farooqui, Mujeeb Rahman, Mazhar Sial, Sheikh Nauman, Khawaja Wajid addressed the protestors and said that those who desecrated the Holy Quran should be punished by public hanging.

And the government of Pakistan should terminate all commercial and diplomatic relations with Sweden immediately, the ambassador of Sweden should be expelled and Muslim countries should boycott Swedish products. The protest movement of traders will continue, Ali Raza, Chaudhry Abdul Jabbar, Farhan Ali Shah, Rana Naeem, Sajid and other business leaders participated in the protest

## Ex federal minister for state Malk Amir Dogar condemn May 9 incident

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Former Federal Minister of State Malik Amir Dogar said that neither my ancestors nor I have ever done politics against the state. It has been months in jail. When I came to the jail on May 10, there were 200 workers in the jail and I promised them that I will not be released until a single party worker is released from jail.



Alhamdulillah everyone has been released and I am alone serving the painful prison of summer and Allah has kept me steadfast. This is the effect of the prayers of my late parents and friends. Malik Amir dogar once again said that I strongly condemn the incident of May 9.

## Newly appointed DPO SWL Farman Ullah surprise visit city PS Wana & checkpoints

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: Yesterday, newly appointed District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah made a surprise visit to the adjacent outposts/ Checkpoints including Wana City police station (PD). DPO reviewed the law and order and security arrangements in detail.



SHO Wana City Police Station gave a detailed briefing about the security arrangements and law and order, on which the DPO expressed satisfaction.

While speaking, the DPO said that the police officers are responsible for the lives and property of the people and it is our duty to fulfill the responsibility properly. People's lives and property will be protected only then, with a positive change in the attitudes of the citizens towards the police, it will lead to more respect for the department.

## Protest

KARACHI: Workers of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan hold protest rally to condemn the Parachinaar incident, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Women University Multan signed an MoU with Govt College University Lahore

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Women University Multan and the Govt College Lahore University for cooperation and collaboration in research activities and faculty exchange. The MoU was signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi and Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Ali Zaidi. On this occasion, VC Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi said this Memorandum of understanding would lead to exchange of students and faculty and collaboration in joint projects.

She further said that we need to utilize each other's experience and educational potential to meet the challenges of the day. VC Prof Dr.



Uzma Quraishi also briefed the participants about the 2030 mission vision of the university. She stressed that

WUM is keenly striving to promote quality of education to meet-up the international standards.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said under this MoU we will establish strong collaboration and linkages between WUM and GCU Lahore to enhance quality of education and research.

Both institutions will arrange joint conferences, workshops, seminars and similar activities on a regular basis and they also will share teaching materials, lecture notes, case studies, research reports, working papers, audio-visual materials and software among the faculty of both universities. Both parties will explore feasibility of working together in curriculum development and other projects to be mutually beneficial and viable for both Institutions etc. At the end of the ceremony VC Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi and VC Prof. Dr Asghar Ali Zaidi presented souvenirs to each other. VC Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi presented a gift box of managoes from botanical garden of WUM to Prof. Dr Asghar Ali Zaidi. The ceremony was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha, Prof. Dr Shaukat Ali (Registrar GCU), Prof. Dr Qammar Rubab (Registrar), Dr. Hafiz Haider Ali, Director Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC, GCU) Dr. Atia Iqbal (Director QEC), Dr. Kanwal Rehman ( Director ORIC), Ms. Sadia Talib (Dep. Director Press & Publication) and teaching heads of all departments.

# SW Upper Police arrested a gang involved in robbing tourists

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: South Waziristan Upper, Police claimed to have arrested a gang involved in robbing tourists in South Waziristan Upper during Eid-ul-Adha holidays.

DPO Upper Niaz Muhammad Khan said that more persons involved in the case will be arrested soon.

DPO said, there is still no hotel facility in South Waziristan Upper, the said tourists from Karak stayed for the night in a Mosque in the Medan area.

Taking advantage, the accused escaped by robbing the tourists and took five mobile phones, 66,000 rupees, service cards and ATM cards

with them. On the special instructions of Inspector General Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur and Regional Police Officer Dera Ghafoor Afridi, police taking immediate action, conducted raids for the arrests of the gang involved in the robbery.

On this occasion DPO said that the accused were successfully arrested under the supervision of DSP Circle Sher Ullah, SHO Ladha Nazir Ullah and Investigation Officer Manzoor Khan.

A raiding team was formed for the arrest of the accused, used very strategic and scientific methods and arrested three suspects, Bin Yamin, Shahid

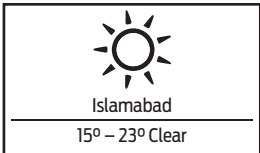


Rehman and Sifat Ullah.

Police also recovered a pistol, cartridges, money, 5 stolen cellphones, fifty thousand rupees, ATM card and

service card from their possessions.

The DPO further said that the investigation in the case is going on and more arrests are likely.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:23 am  
Zohr ..... 12:13 pm  
Asr ..... 5:12 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:21 pm  
Isha ..... 9:02 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

**Islamabad Science Camp 2.0 kicks off at AIOU**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 5-day Islamabad Hands-on Science Camp 2.0 started at the main campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. Around 120 children aged 8 to 14 years from Islamabad and neighbouring areas are participating in the camp, they will be trained to make 5 different robotic projects during this training camp. This camp is being organized in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Science Club and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). On the special instructions of Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, projects based on basic principles of science will be taught to children to inculcate the interest and tendency of science in them.

The training material of this camp was designed under the supervision of Dean Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad and Dean Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel. Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Afzal, Dr. Aftab and Arshad Mahmood Qamar on behalf of Open University, Ghulam Abbas on behalf of ECOSF and Abdul Rauf are representing the 5-member team of Pakistan Science Club. The camp will continue till July 14 at the main campus of AIOU Islamabad.

**May 9 incidents benefit Pakistan's 'enemy', nation triumphed with foiling of conspiracy: Marriyum**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday said the May 9 incidents had only benefitted the "enemy", but it was the nation who ultimately emerged victorious with the foiling of conspiracy against Pakistan.

Ironically, she said, the "foreign agent", who masterminded the May 9 tragedy made a tweet the other day asking who benefitted from the May 9 tragedy.

"Only the enemies of the country benefitted from the acts of vandalism and arson, but the people of Pakistan are the ultimate winners as the conspiracy against the country's integrity has been foiled," she said while addressing a press conference.

The minister was responding to a question posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 incidents of vandalising public and private properties, desecrating memorials of martyrs, and burning of ambulances, schools and mosques by the PTI workers.

Marriyum said the PTI chairman claimed that his party was the biggest one in the country, but

it exited only on Twitter as it had no credible spokesperson. In fact nobody wanted to come forward to defend the persistent lies churned out by its chairman.

"She was a 'habitual liar' and 'mentally deranged person' and there was apparently no hope of his recovery," she added.

Referring to the recent statement of Shahzad Akbar regarding Nawaz Sharif, she said those who had previously hurled accusations of thievery at others at the behest of PTI chief, were now testifying the innocence and integrity of Nawaz Sharif.

She pointed out that a group of individuals, operating from abroad, was actively orchestrating a malicious campaign against the state institutions through social media platforms.

The "group of troublemakers" were not even hesitant to launch unwarranted attacks against several prominent figures and institutions, she added.

They were the same people who were involved in the targeted campaigns against the martyrs of the Lasbella helicopter crash and the incumbent army chief, the minister remarked.

"All these people are proxies of



this foreign agent, liar and fraudster," she said while referring to the PTI chief.

Marriyum said the ongoing campaign against national institutions was being spearheaded by the PTI chairman who made systematic efforts to discredit and destabilize the state institutions through the misuse of social media platforms.

She expressed surprise over the PTI chief's contradictory claims, ranging from fears of assassination to potential murderous attacks on him.

She questioned the efficacy of using a mere bucket as a protective measure, emphasizing that such makeshift shields offered a little defence against such threats.

Furthermore, she highlighted that the Federal Investigation Agency had substantial evidence against those who were involved in social media campaigns against national institutions, which was currently undergoing further scrutiny and investigation.

The minister declared that individuals who were engaged in dangerous games under the guise of freedom of speech had been effectively tracked and traced, and made it unequivocally clear that the PTI chief would be responsible if any harm or damage was caused by such actions.

She recalled that at first place, the PTI chairman had stated if he were arrested then there would be

consequences, and at the time of his arrest he said there would be reaction. It all showed that he had planned the May 9 incidents and now strangely, he was asking who was the beneficiary.

The minister also drew a comparison between the PTI and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaderships, saying the latter faced severe victimization during the PTI regime without making any hue and cry.

She accused the PTI chief of fabricating false cases against his political opponents, including Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz, Khawaja Asif, Rama Sanaulah, Faryal Talpur, and others, who endured the hardships of being confined to jail cells.

Recalling a specific incident, the minister recounted how Imran Khan, upon receiving a warrant in a dignified manner at Zaman Park (Lahore), incited his supporters to engage in violent acts, hurling petrol bombs and pelting stones at personnel of law enforcement agencies, including Rangers.

She alleged that Imran Khan used women and children as human shields while hiding inside his residence.

Regarding Imran Khan's allegations of corruption and money laundering against the PML-N leaders and other political opponents, she argued that despite wielding significant state power, the PTI chief failed to substantiate those claims with concrete evidence.

She highlighted the fact that during the PTI's tenure, his opponents consistently obtained bail on merit, further questioning why he did not produce evidence when he had unrestrained authority for four years.

In Maryam Nawaz's case, the judge said no evidence presented before the court during the entire proceedings which could prove the crime, she added.

The minister called the PTI chief a "mad man" saying he could not mislead the whole nation which fully knew that he was a liar and foreign agent.

She minister also recalled tweets made by his proxies when the PTI chief was arrested. One of those proxies tweeted that Imran Khan was subjected to a blow on the head while in custody while another proxy claimed that the government had intent to assassinate Imran Khan.

**Raabta**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed addressing during the event for "Ensuring access to Higher Education" as organized Raabta at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

**PM AJK has paid eulogizing tributes to Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan on his 8th death anniversary**

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has paid eulogizing tributes to former President and Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan (SAQK) on the occasion of his 8th death anniversary. Highlighting the life-long political struggle of the deceased leader, the PM said that Mujahid was a visionary and seasoned politician par excellence. The PM said that raising a banner of revolt against the Dogra rule was his (SAQK's) major achievement that set a stage for a massive uprising against the Dogra Raj and culminated in the shape of liberated territory (Azad Kashmir). He said that towering personalities like Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan were great assets of the Kashmiri nation. He said that along with SAQK prominent leaders like KH Khurshid, Sardar Ibrahim Khan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, Chaudhry Sahabat Ali, Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, Raja Hyder Khan played a vital role in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in the liberated territory. Mujahid eAwal, he said, was an institution in himself. "He introduced decency and promoted politics of tolerance in Azad Kashmir", the PM said, adding that he would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history for his selfless political and social service. The Prime Minister said that SAQK's political, religious and spiritual journey has been awe-inspiring. Khan, he said, had also played a key role in national politics.



**Justice Khawaja Naseem sworn in as acting AJK Chief Justice**

Abdul Majeed Tahir



ISLAMABAD: Justice Khawaja Muhammad Naseem, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, was sworn in as the Acting Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir here today. The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath of office to Acting Chief Justice to Justice Khawaja Muhammad Naseem. The oath taking ceremony held at Kashmir House Islamabad was attended by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Government Ministers, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court including Justice Raza Ali Khan, Chief Justice High Court Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja, High Court Judges Justice Mohammad Ejaz Khan, Justice Chaudhry Khalid Rasheed, Justice Mian Arif Hussain, Chief Election Commissioner Justice (Retd) Abdul Rasheed Salharia, and several others. Meanwhile, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry expressed his heartfelt condolences to former Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal over his mother's demise and prayed for the departed soul.

**Al-Shifa joins World Association of Eye Hospitals as full member**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has become a member of the prestigious World Association of Eye Hospitals (WAEH), a worldwide network of eye hospitals.

Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital takes great pride in announcing its extraordinary achievement as the only eye hospital from Pakistan to become a member of the WAEH, the hospital announced on Tuesday.

The credit for this breakthrough goes to the leadership and dedicated team of doctors committed to serving the community, said Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust.

The remarkable recognition is evidence of our dedication and expertise to serve humanity, he said while sharing the information with journalists.

He said that we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, partners, and patients who have believed in our mission and contributed to our success.

Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and witness the positive influ-



ence we will have on the world of eye care, he added.

Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan informed that Al-Shifa Trust was established in 1985. It is a non-governmental, non-political, charitable organisation. The board of trustees comprises retired servicemen, businessmen, bureaucrats, and professionals.

The aims and objectives of the trust are to prevent and control blindness by providing standard and sustainable eye

care services that are accessible and affordable.

It also focuses on human resource development through the training of doctors, nurses, and paramedics; creating awareness about eye diseases; and establishing facilities for research in ophthalmology.

He informed that WAEH strives to continuously improve the experience, care, and outcomes of patients with eye disorders. It facilitates and promotes the exchange of knowledge between eye hospitals worldwide and our facility will be benefiting for their guidance which will help us provide better service to the masses.

The association is also exchanging best practices in the planning, organisation, and delivery of eye care services throughout the world, he said.

The global umbrella body for regional associations of eye hospitals is focused on delivering the highest quality and safest ophthalmic care. It shares all kinds of information and knowledge in a very open and transparent way, via teleconferences, personal meetings, and exchanges.

**Shahdat-e-Hazrat Imam Hussain & Baqa-e-Pakistan Conference held at PAC**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council in collaboration Panjatan Pak International Movement organized 16th Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.) & Baqa-e-Pakistan Conference. The Conference was presided over by Pir Azmatullah Sarwari Qadri while Assistant Director of Arts Council Muhammad Suleman performed the duties of host.

Iranian cultural consul Ehsan Khazaei attended the conference as a special

guest. The Iranian cultural consul said in his address to the conference that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) is not the Imam of any one school but the Imam of humanity. There is no example of sacrifice like Imam Hussain in the history of humanity. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was not worried about the government; he did not tolerate rebellion against the religion of Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W).

The mention of Imam Hussain will continue till the end of the world. Addressing the conference, Pir Azmatullah Sultan said that the unparalleled

sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.) teaches us that in order to obtain the pleasure of Allah Almighty, we should sacrifice our lives, wealth, honor and dignity, family and children in the right way.

The martyrdom of Sayyid ul Shuhda Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is the bright chapter in the history of Islam, which is unique and unparalleled in terms of its status. His greatness is still the same today as it was centuries ago. In Muharram al-Haram, the holy life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon

him) should be narrated, which will improve the atmosphere of love, peace and brotherhood in different areas.

In Muharram al-Haram, the teaching of Quran and Hadith should also be made public. In order to rise to the top of Islam, one must pledge to follow Allah and His Messenger. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Pakistan belongs to all of us. Today, we all the minorities in Pakistan are free and are living according to their own religion.

The statement of inter-faith harmony from today's conference has gone to

the whole world, where the scholars of different religions are gathered under one roof. Assistant director Muhammad Sulaiman said that Srinagar is today's Karbala, our Kashmiri brother is playing the role like of Imam Hussain.

The way the Palestinian brothers have stood against Israel, this is Hussainait. Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi, Pasteur Sohai Ishtiaq, Pastor Salim Sarvia, Gulzada, Qari Faiz Abbasi and other speakers addressed the conference and said that there is a nationwide protest from Karachi to Khyber against the desecration of

the Holy Quran in Sweden.

The desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden is deeply regrettable not only for the Islamic world but for all humanity. The Holy Quran is the book of Allah's blessing, light and guidance for Muslims. His desecration is a great insult to Islamic beliefs. We condemn this horrible incident. At the end of the conference, Pir Azmatullah Sultan offered a special prayer for the security of the country of Pakistan, especially occupied Kashmir, and the Palestinian people.

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# Civil-Military collaboration for agri revolution and food security-I

**A**griculture plays a crucial role in human civilization as it is the backbone of our food system and a significant driver of economic growth. From providing employment opportunities to ensuring food security, agriculture has a far-reaching impact on our lives, making it an essential industry to prioritize and nurture. Food security is a pressing global issue, as the population continues to grow exponentially. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world's population is estimated to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. This population boom necessitates a significant increase in food production to meet the rising demand. Agriculture is instrumental in achieving this target.

Through its various branches such as crop cultivation, animal husbandry, and fisheries, agriculture ensures a continuous supply of food to feed the ever-growing population. It contributes to food security by producing staple crops like rice, wheat, and maize, as well as diverse vegetables, fruits, and proteins. Adequate access and availability of nutritious food are vital to combat malnutrition and ensure healthy development in both urban and rural areas.

Moreover, agriculture holds immense potential for economic development in nations around the world. It remains a major source of employment, particularly in developing countries where a significant proportion of the population depends on farming and related industries for their livelihoods. Rural communities thrive when agriculture flourishes, creating job opportunities and sustaining local economies. Besides its direct contributions, the agriculture sector also fuels other industries. For instance, in the food processing sector, agricultural products serve as raw materials. Additionally, the textile industry heavily relies on natural fibers such as cotton and jute. The development of these industries, in turn, boosts the national economy through increased exports and income generation. Furthermore, agriculture has environmental benefits and is closely tied to sustainable development. Sustainable agricultural methods conserve natural resources, minimize the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and aim to preserve the biodiversity of ecosystems. By adopting sustainable practices, farmers can mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on the environment, such as soil degradation, water pollution, and deforestation.

Agriculture also plays a vital role in climate change mitigation. Sustainable farming practices, including agroforestry and conservation agriculture, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote carbon sequestration, and reduce soil erosion. Moreover, agriculture can contribute to renewable energy production through the use of biofuels derived from agricultural waste products. The importance of agriculture is further amplified when we consider the link between food security and political stability. Societies that cannot ensure a stable food supply are susceptible to political and social unrest.

Agriculture can reduce dependency on imports and enhance national self-sufficiency, reducing vulnerability to price fluctuations and geopolitical conflicts related to food trade. The significance of agriculture in our lives cannot be undermined. It plays a critical role in ensuring food security, promoting economic development, preserving the environment, and fostering sustainable development. As the world's population continues to grow, it becomes increasingly paramount to prioritize and invest in the agriculture sector to confront the challenges of the future effectively.

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the economy of Pakistan as well as it is the largest sector of employment and a major contributor to GDP. The significance of this sector cannot be undermined, as it not only provides food security but also acts as a source of livelihood for millions of people in the country. Agriculture in Pakistan holds immense potential for growth and development, making it

crucial to recognize its importance and invest in its sustainability. First and foremost, the agriculture sector is the largest employer in Pakistan, employing around 40% of the total labor force. This is especially vital in a developing country like Pakistan, where the population is growing at a rapid pace, and job opportunities are limited. The sector offers employment opportunities to rural communities and has the potential to alleviate poverty and reduce income disparities. By investing in agriculture and ensuring its growth, the government can create more jobs, improve standards of living, and boost economic growth.

Moreover, the agriculture sector contributes significantly to the country's GDP. Approximately 20% of Pakistan's GDP is derived from agriculture, making it a crucial driver of economic growth. When the agriculture sector thrives, it leads to increased income for farmers, improved purchasing power, and greater consumption, which ultimately stimulate economic activities in other sectors of the economy. A robust agriculture sector also serves as a buffer against inflation and food shortages, ensuring stability in prices and availability of essential commodities. Additionally, the agriculture sector plays a crucial role in ensuring food security for the country. Pakistan is home to a large population, and meeting their dietary needs is of paramount importance.

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*To be Continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Promotion of Eco-friendly tourism

**W**ith an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promote Eco-friendly tourism, the Bagh Alpine Club, in collaboration with MTBC successfully organized the Eco Hike 2023, with an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promoting Eco-friendly tourism.

The event which was held under the supervision of Alpine Club of Pakistan witnessed the participation of approximately 70 individuals from all four provinces of Pakistan and various districts of Azad Kashmir, said a press release.

The breathtaking Eco Hike took place along a challenging 40-kilometre trail in the Pir Panjal Range of Bagh District. Participants embarked on an exhilarating journey from Ganga Choti to Noor Gala, traversing through picturesque villages and rugged terrain.

Overnight camping amidst the enchanting surroundings of Mastan Dhok added a unique cultural experience to the adventure.

Eco Hike 2023 organized to promote Eco-friendly tourism

The primary objective of Eco Hike 2023 was to discover the verdant meadows and majestic mountains of Kashmir, which remain largely unexplored, while simultaneously promoting clean tourism and combating environmental pollution.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources and fostering a sustainable tourism industry.

To further strengthen the cause of Eco-friendly tourism, Bagh Alpine Club continues to organize such engaging activities that connect individuals with nature and raise environmental consciousness. The event was made possible through the sponsorship of MTBC, Pakistan's leading IT company.

Eco Hike 2023 witnessed the participation of both international and local athletes who enthusiastically embraced the challenge of the hike.

Abu Zafar Sadique, President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, joined the event, along with prominent social influencers, further amplifying the message of sustainable tourism.

Bagh Alpine Club and MTBC remain committed to promoting healthy and environmentally conscious activities, ensuring the preservation of natural landscapes while fostering sustainable tourism practices. Together, they strive to create a positive impact on both local communities and the environment.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

## Dormant & Bewildered Norms make Valueless Schema - I

**H**ave you concentrated about the teachings of Islam which focus & invite the people around the globe to live a peaceful life based on theism, justice and purity? Therefore, peace in Islam is an eternal constitution. Even the nature of war in Islam is a defensive one, not an offensive one, because the principle of Islam is peace and coexistence, not conflict, violence and war.

Peace undoubtedly is one of the major things in Islam and in other religions too, everything is done in the name of God/Allah to reach peace. In Islam, praying and fasting for example is for inner peace, helping others is also for peace. Everything is done for peace and as mentioned, it's one of God's/Allah's names.

As much as anyone disagrees with Islam and no matter how you see it. What every Muslim out there is trying to say but why no one in Sweden is listening to the realities mentioned in the Quran?

Quranic Surah, Al-An'am verse -6;  
 "And do not insult those they invoke other than Allah, lest they insult Allah in enmity without knowledge. Thus We have made pleasing to every community their deeds. Then to their Lord is their return, and He will inform them about what they used to do."

What kind of expectations from the United Nations and European Union, someone may have! Can

Someone be secured & someone to be spared under the hands of powers?

Leaving now your "building castles in the air" means entertaining daydreams that will never come to pass. Building castles in the air usually involves grandiose plans that are nearly impossible for the dreamer to achieve. UN achieved from its time of establishment?

EU how much succeeded to control inhumanity violating the peace?

The Poet of East Iqbal says;  
 The mosque was built by those who had faith throughout the night,

Man Apna Purana Papi Hai has not been able to pray for years. Did Sanusi send a message to Amir Faisal?

So he is a Hijazi of name and descent, but he could not become a Hijazi of the heart.

But the eyes are closed, but what is the pleasure in this crying?

When the mixture of blood and liver could not make tears.

Iqbal is a great upadishak, he gets mesmerized in things,

This Gazi of speech could not become a Gazi of character.

Quran's Prestige is undoubtedly immortal whereas your own doings are mortal & at last EU + Sweden will be held responsible.

Due to Quranic education you always achieved respect and admiration given to someone or some-

thing. Usually because of a reputation for high quality, success, or social influence Quran makes sense & ways of real sensibility.

Those who adopted the Qur'an, They gained international prestige & governed for years.

The Quran attracts all living organisms by their prestigious values. Sweden's mode of norms and values don't match with natural phenomena.

You can never deny the Quality and standard, because Hazrat Umer ( RA) once a foe became

a true Muslims and demonstrated as a model in the history & that change took place after listening to some Quranic verses. A multi-levelled upscaling Book

Quranic Surah Baqra's the few verses enlightens!  
 "This is the Book! There is no doubt about it — a guide for those mindful" of Allah."

"Who believe in the unseen, I establish prayer, and donate from what We have provided for them, and who believe in what has been revealed to you 'O Prophet (SAW) and what was revealed before you, and have sure faith in the Hereafter."

"It is they who are 'truly' guided by their Lord, (Allah Almighty) and it is they who will be successful."

"As for those who persist in disbelief, it is the same whether you warn them or not—they will never believe."

"Allah has sealed their hearts and their hearing, and their sight is covered. They will suffer tremendous punishment."

"And there are some who say, 'We believe in Allah and the Last Day,' yet they are not 'true' believers."

"They seek to deceive Allah and the believers, yet they only deceive themselves, but they fail to perceive it."

"There is sickness in their hearts, and Allah 'only' lets their sickness increase. They will suffer a painful punishment for their lies."

Quranic Surah Ibrahim;  
 "This is a Book which We have revealed to you 'O Prophet' so that you may lead people out of darkness and into light, by the Will of their Lord, to the Path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy—

"Allah, to Whom belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And woe to the disbelievers because of a severe torment."

Now come to the point?  
 From 1 July to 31 December 2023, Spain will hold the presidency of the Council of the EU for the fifth time in its history. It is thereby responsible for organizing Council meetings and representing the Council vis-à-vis other EU institutions.

Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the EU In the first half of 2023, Sweden held the Presi-

## Decade of BRI's China Pakistan Economic Corridor-I

*Transforming the Landscape of Bilateral Cooperation*

**T**he initiative has not only bolstered economic cooperation but has also enhanced people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and strategic collaboration between the two nations.

Looking ahead, the next phase of CPEC holds tremendous potential. The completion of ongoing projects and the launch of new initiatives will further strengthen the economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan. The focus will shift towards enhancing connectivity, promoting regional trade, and harnessing the potential of emerging sectors such as digital economy and e-commerce.

The transformative journey of CPEC serves as an inspiration for other nations seeking to forge strategic partnerships for sustainable development. It underscores the significance of mutual trust, shared vision, and long-term commitment in realizing ambitious projects of this nature.

To usher the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a new dimension and phase, the Chinese President is anticipated to make a significant visit to Pakistan. Firstly, the inauguration of the Gwadar International Airport will serve as a major milestone in the development of the strategic port city, bolstering its position as a key regional trade hub. Secondly, the Chinese President will oversee the inauguration of the 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, which not only signifies a remarkable achievement in energy cooperation between the two nations but has also generated approximately 4250 jobs during its construction phase. Situated on the scenic River Kunhar, a tributary of the mighty River Jhelum, this hydropower project exemplifies the shared commitment towards sustainable development and economic growth. The Chinese President's visit is poised to

strengthen the bond between China and Pakistan and propel the CPEC initiative towards a brighter future, marked by enhanced cooperation and prosperity.

CPEC is a living example of the fact that we can achieve what we set out to do if we work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect."

Looking ahead, the next phase of CPEC holds tremendous potential. The completion of ongoing projects and the launch of new initiatives will further strengthen the economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan. The focus will shift towards enhancing connectivity, promoting regional trade, and harnessing the potential of emerging sectors such as the digital economy and e-commerce.

The transformative journey of CPEC serves as an inspiration for other nations seeking to forge strategic partnerships for sustainable development. It underscores the significance of mutual trust, shared vision, and long-term commitment in realizing ambitious projects of this nature.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past decade, let us acknowledge the remarkable progress made and look forward to a future of continued cooperation, prosperity, and progress.

*Concluded*

*(Renowned as a foreign-affairs analyst hailing from the vibrant city of Peshawar, Pakistan, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani has emerged as a prominent voice in the realm of international relations. As the Secretary General of the esteemed Pakistan-China Friendship Association, Gilani has played a pivotal role in strengthening the ties between the two nations. For inquiries or engagement, he can be contacted at [syed.gilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.gilani@gmail.com).)*



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

# Xi sends congratulatory letter to first high-level conference of Forum on Global Action for Shared Development

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory letter to the first high-level conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development.

In his letter, Xi said transformation of the world unseen in a century is unfolding at a faster pace, the world economy is struggling to recover and the global development agenda is facing challenges.

"To build consensus on cooperation and promote common development, I have put forward the Global Development Initiative in order to help accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and I am pleased to see that with the joint participation of all parties, cooperation on the Global Development Initiative has yielded



important early results and benefited many developing countries," Xi said.

He emphasized that development is the eternal theme of human society, and shared development is an

important path to building a better world. As the largest developing country, China has always placed its own development within the larger context of human development and created

new opportunities for the development of the world through its own development, Xi said.

China will further increase its resource input for global development cooperation, work with the international community to further advance the Global Development Initiative, and make new contributions to the realization of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the Chinese president said.

The first high-level conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, hosted by the China International Development Cooperation Agency, kicked off in Beijing on Monday with the theme "Global Development Initiative: Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action."

## China congratulates Uzbek President Mirziyoyev on reelection



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Monday congratulated Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his reelection and said that China was ready to work with Uzbekistan for high quality and all round mutually beneficial cooperation and jointly build a China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future.

"China congratulates Uzbekistan on a successful presidential election and President Mirziyoyev, on his, reelection," Mao Ning said during her regular briefing. Uzbekistan had a successful early presidential election on July 9 and preliminary results show that President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been reelected.

The spokesperson said that Chinese President Xi Jinping had sent a congratulatory message to President Mirziyoyev upon learning the news.

He said, "We believe that under the leadership of President Mirziyoyev, the country will achieve even greater success towards building a New Uzbekistan." Mao Ning said that China and Uzbekistan were friendly neighbours with a shared future and added, the bilateral relations have remained strong and enjoyed robust growth over the past 31 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

"China deeply values this bilateral relationship and stands ready to work with Uzbekistan for high-quality and all-round mutually-beneficial cooperation and jointly build a China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future," she added.

## Strategic sales partners organizes grand realtor's convention and qawwali night for Etihad Town

News Desk

LAHORE: Strategic Sales Partners (SSPs) of Etihad town Etihad Marketing, Lion Group, Summit Estate & Builders, Taqmeel, Royal Estate, Ghanzha Group, Ghumman Estate and Property Miles successfully hosted a remarkable Realtor's Convention in Lahore. The event gathered influential sales partners of SSPs, along with potential individuals who could become the arm of Etihad Town and Strategic Sales Partners to effectively sell inventory.

The convention was graced by the presence of Raheel Munir and Sohail Munir, Directors of the Etihad Group. They expressed their gratitude and congratulated the SSPs for successfully pulling off the event, which not only showcased the growth opportunities but also provided a platform to strengthen relationships and foster collaboration.

Sheikh Shuja Ullah Khan, the Chief Operating Officer of Etihad Real Estate, made significant announcements during the event, unveiling exclusive discounts, offers, and easy payment plans. He highlighted that the structure road known as Chenab Road has been approved by the LDA, and development has already begun. This road will connect Etihad Town Phase II with the city's main Ferozepur Road, providing fast and easy access to the project.

The SSPs expressed their appreciation for the support from their valued sales partners and dealers. The convention also recognized the outstanding contributions of key individuals, with deserving participants and organizations receiving shields of appreciation, symbolizing their dedication and commitment towards the success of Etihad Town.

## NUST Hosts Training Program For Department Chairs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The University of Utah organized a 3-day training workshop for department chairs of public universities on strategic planning, as part of the USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA). Hosted by the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Islamabad, the workshop was attended by 30 dept. chairs representing 16 partner universities of HESSA. These universities have partnered with USAID's HESSA to strengthen their capacity of developing and delivering market-driven education and research to enhance graduate employability.

Facilitated by Dr. Mike Barber, University of Utah and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, University of Nevada Las Vegas, the department leadership prepared strategic plans for their respective sections, developed mission and vision statements and core values, and developed goals and performance indicators to measure success of their departments. Building on from the earlier batch, this training focused on the required skills to be a successful leader with a visionary approach to sustainable improvement in faculty and student success.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mike Barber welcomed the faculty from HESSA's 16 partner universities and elaborated the objectives and impact of the project. Dr. Osman Hasan, Pro Rector Academics NUST welcomed all the participants on campus and appreciated USAID for the continuous support to advance higher education in the country and for engaging international experts in all its trainings.

# Jazz launches Garaj Partner League to Transform the Local IT & Technology Landscape

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Garaj, Pakistan's fastest-growing local cloud service provider, recently launched the Garaj Partner League, which is the country's first-ever partnership program focused on building a vertical forward partner ecosystem. The event garnered the presence of Garaj's new and prospective cloud partners, officials from the IT ministry, as well as professionals from the broader tech industry.

The Garaj cloud platform is built to provide true cloud experience across industries and is hosted in Pakistan's largest rated 3 Datacenter where customer security and accessibility are prioritized, and solutions are tailored for customers' On-Demand and PAYG model. With its own self-service portal, Garaj enables customers to easily subscribe, auto-provision, and modify their subscriptions without the need for human interaction.



The company currently operates two compliant and certified data centers in Lahore and Islamabad, and they are set to inaugurate another data center in Karachi by the end of this year.

Speaking at the occasion, Asif Aziz, Chief Business Officer at Jazz, said, "Cloud computing has the potential to unlock significant economic growth and pave the way for Pakistan's entry

into the digital economy. Garaj's cloud services not only allow local data to remain within the country, boosting businesses and the economy, but also contribute to transforming Pakistan's cloud computing landscape in line with the national cloud policy."

The Garaj Partner League serves as a platform to embark on this exciting journey, engaging partners in

three primary categories: resellers, managed service providers, and co-innovators of cloud services. By participating in the program, partners have the opportunity to scale their businesses, leverage their skill sets, build competencies, and gain access to various partner benefits such as promotional trips, discounts, trainings, and more.

# JS Bank recognized as the Most Innovative Digital Banking Service Provider

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: JS Bank, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan, has been recognized as the Most Innovative Digital Banking Service Provider in 2023 by the International Finance Awards. The award is a recognition of the Bank's vision to provide its customers with safe and hassle-free digital banking solutions.

JS Bank's digital offerings encompass a wide range of secure and convenient services ranging from mobile and internet banking services, to bill payment, investment, loans, and e-commerce solutions. JS Bank is creating end-to-end paperless banking products such as the JS Mobile App, JS Bot, and JS Internet Banking, which has amplified the bank's digital presence throughout the country. Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, is another



notable initiative that represents the Bank's commitment to leapfrog the digital banking landscape by providing a first-of-its-kind customizable mobile app that provides seamless payment solutions to its customers.

Waqas Anis, Chief Digital Officer, JS Bank, commented, "We are honored to be recognized as the most innovative digital service provider, which is a

testament to our commitment to providing innovative solutions to our customers. Our teams are continuously striving to provide services that ensure our customers can manage their finances in a manner that aligns with their preferences and lifestyles."

Furthermore, JS Bank's commitment to innovation extends further with the introduction of the JS Metaverse, a virtual world where customers can explore a 3-D representation of JS Bank for a truly immersive digital banking experience.

JS Bank continues to pioneer groundbreaking initiatives that leverage emerging technologies, setting new industry benchmarks and reinforcing its commitment to continuing its journey of impact by providing innovative conventional and digital financial solutions for customers in the years to come

# Three-day symposium on Gandhara civilization, Buddhist heritage in Pakistan to commence on Tuesday

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Gandhara Symposium 2023 titled "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan", will commence here on Tuesday.

The Symposium was being organized by the PM Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), and the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Over the next three days, besides the inaugural and concluding sessions, the Gandhara Symposium will have four sessions focused on Gandhara

Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan; a Round Table; visits to Taxila and Peshawar Museums; and a cultural evening.

President Dr. Arif Alvi will address the Inaugural Session as chief guest, while Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, the Minister of State, Chairman of the PM Task Force on Gandhara Tourism will be the guest of honour.

The Concluding Session will be addressed by Senator Talha Mahmood, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, a press release issued by ISSI here on Monday said.

The speakers at the Gandhara Symposium will be from Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, and Pakistan. Faith leaders, archaeologists,

curators, experts, religious scholars, and academicians will reflect on the richness of Gandhara civilization and the Buddhist Heritage. Prominent stakeholders from Pakistan's tourism industry will also participate in the Symposium.

The Gandhara civilization flourished in the region which is mostly modern-day Pakistan. Situated at the crossroads of ancient trade routes, Gandhara served as a melting pot of diverse cultures and civilizations.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Gandhara civilization was its artistic creativity. The re-discovered cities of the Gandhara civilization exhibited many elements of their well-structured and modern lives through paintings, sculptures, coins, pottery and their relation with Buddhism.



Preserving and further promoting the Buddhist Gandhara heritage is of paramount importance for Pakistan. Besides other modes,

the digital and social media offer new powerful means for projecting the Buddhist Gandhara heritage in Pakistan to the world.

The sacred sites, sculptures, and artifacts of Gandhara are

not just relics from the past; they are also a source of inspiration for the faithful and tourists from different parts of the world.

One of the key objectives of the Gandhara Symposium will be to

create awareness about Gandhara and foster a sense of appreciation for Pakistan's rich and diverse cultural heritage, both domestically and abroad.

Another important objective of the Gandhara Symposium will also be to consider new initiatives that reinforce Pakistan's cultural diplomacy efforts and help promote tourism, particularly faith tourism, in Pakistan.

Against this backdrop, the ISSI is proud to partner with the PM Task Force on Gandhara Tourism; the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and all other relevant departments and institutions in the convening of the Gandhara Symposium 2023, the press release concluded.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
44,585.12	44,207.31
Day's High	Day's Low:
44,601.78	44,260.10
Index Value	Change
9,064,556,537	+377.81
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	10 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,273.79	+16.85
Percentage	Time
+0.23%	10 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,909.51	+174.63
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	10 Jul, 1:40 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,189.73	-198.69
Percentage	Time
-0.61%	10 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	195	198
Bahrain Dinar	738.8	746.8
Canadian Dollar	216	218
China Yuan	38.47	38.87
Danish Krone	40.89	41.29
Euro	304	307
Hong Kong Dollar	36.53	36.88
Indian Rupee	3.38	3.49
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.32	910.32
Malaysian Ringgit	59.42	60.02
New Zealand \$	172.55	174.55
Norwegians Krone	26.08	26.38
Omani Riyal	721.79	729.79
Qatari Riyal	76.38	77.08
Saudi Riyal	74	74.9
Singapore Dollar	205	207
Swedish Korona	25.52	25.82
Swiss Franc	312.55	315.05
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.1
U.A.E Dirham	77.1	78
UK Pound Sterling	359	365
US Dollar	281	284

# IMF will freeze funds if promises breached: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has increased his stature and value by saving Pakistan from default.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar have also played their roles in a very admirable way, he said.

Mian Army Chief General Asim Munir has also played a great role in securing funding commitments from friendly countries.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the country defaults, its effects will be felt for at least ten years, which are generally more destructive than war.

However, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his team have done what the leadership of Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Ghana, Argentina, and other countries could not do, and their countries went bankrupt, he added.

The business leader said that Pakistan has come close to default dozens of times before, but this time the situation is very difficult and can only be controlled by extraordinary measures.

In the event of default, the public and every sector of the economy are affected. Mobile service, banking, medical services, fuel, pharmaceuticals, and production capacity are disrupted, resulting in unrest, looting, violence, and political upheaval, he informed.

He said that it takes at least a decade to recover from these losses, but investor confidence in defaulting countries is sometimes never restored.

Pakistan is among the top borrowers from



the IMF, and its history is full of breaches of promises, but strict action was never taken against it because, at that time the global powers needed Pakistan. Now the situation is

different and patience will not be demonstrated.

Therefore, our policymakers should know that the series of breaches of promises and postponements of reforms is not going to last long, and if promises are broken as in the past, the IMF may once again freeze funds, which will result in dire consequences.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that the US is the largest shareholder of the IMF and Pakistan has been indispensable to the US administration's national security priorities for most of its history, but now the priorities of both the US and Pakistan are changing, therefore we must be very careful.

This time, the White House took time to signal the IMF to help Pakistan; therefore, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif himself had to go to Paris and hold long talks with the Managing Director of the IMF and agree to the strictest measures for which must be taken as a wakeup call.

## Study tour

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh speaking to BPS-18 civil officers who were on a study tour to Hattar Economic Zone on Monday.



## Barter trade with Russia, Iran and Afghanistan has borne fruits: Irfan Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI (PR): Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound satisfaction that FPCCI's years of relentless policy advocacy initiatives for the barter trade with Russia, Iran and Afghanistan has borne fruits. We have pitched barter trade, border markets and currency swap mechanisms very diligently in tens of top-level meetings with the concerned ministries and relevant governmental institutions over the past three-and-a-half years, he added.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, reiterated apex body's longstanding stance that there should be a currency swap mechanism with Russia to stabilize Pak

Rupee and opening-up of new avenues of import for many crucial commodities in large quantities; including crude oil.

Additionally, he added, under the SRO. 642 (I) / 2023, the export would be allowed to the ceiling of value of imported goods; on the basis of the acceptable mechanism provided in the SRO for the concerned exporters.

Nonetheless, a Pakistani trader, capitalizing on the SRO, will be responsible to equate or net-off value of goods in every quarter; i.e. within 90 days after authorization is granted - and, 90 days is too short a period for the netting off import & export. Therefore, it should be enhanced to 180 days or 6 months at the minimum.

## Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani Join Forces to Empower Pakistan through Digital Health

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications operator, is pleased to announce a new chapter in its partnership with Sehat Kahani, a pioneering telemedicine platform. The new collaboration was launched during a contract signing ceremony on the 7th of June in Islamabad.

The contract signing between Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani marks an important milestone in their partnership. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram, CEO of Sehat Kahani, and representatives from Zong 4G.

Through this collaboration, Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani aim to extend the reach of telemedicine services across Pakistan. Telemedicine has emerged as a game-changer in healthcare, allowing patients to consult healthcare professionals remotely, thereby reducing the barriers of distance and time. By harnessing Zong 4G's robust network infrastructure and Sehat Kahani's innovative telemedicine platform, individuals in even the most remote regions will have access to quality healthcare. This year, Sehat Kahani and Zong 4G plan to increase awareness on a diverse selection of topics in the area of health and mental well-being.



Their focus will be on Oncology, water & air borne diseases, mental well-being, and lastly, mother and child health.

Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram expressed her enthusiasm by speaking about the partnership, saying, "We are thrilled to part-

ner with Zong 4G to further strengthen our mission of providing accessible healthcare to all Pakistanis. This collaboration will enable us to expand our telemedicine services and significantly impact the lives of millions."

## Pakistan is a source of concern for the IMF: Saifuddin Sheikh

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Monday that the IMF still has concerns about Pakistan, due to which its team met with the leaders of Pakistan People's Party and PTI to get commitment from them to abide by the agreement.

The IMF wants that whichever government comes to power in Pakistan should not violate the agreement but should implement it in letter and spirit, he said.

Due to this concern, the IMF team met with the leaders of two parties and the team was assured of full cooperation, he added.

In a statement issued here today, Saifuddin Shaikh said that the IMF, like foreign



institutions and investors, is also apprehensive about Pakistan's habit of breach of promises.

He said that the leadership of PPP and PTI have assured cooperation to the IMF team after which the loan tranche is expected to be released soon.

Pakistan is famous for violation of agreements in which the Reko Diq, IPPS, recent budget, and agreement with the IMF by the previous government are noteworthy, he remarked.

## ICCI Summit will help to promote tourism and business, Ambassadors

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of Turkey Malaysia and Syria in Pakistan have termed the first ICCI International Tourism Summit a great effort by the Islamabad Chamber for the promotion of tourism. According to the ambassadors, the beauty of the northern regions of Pakistan can attract tourists from all over the world. Attending the conference held in Skardu, one of the top tourist destinations in the world, is a very pleasant experience. The highest peaks of the northern regions of Pakistan can become the center of adventure tourism.

Turkey's Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pachi said that like Turkey, Pakistan has great potential for tourism. Unfortunately, in the past, the security situation in Pakistan has been a hindrance to the development of tourism, but now things have improved. He said that the Islamabad Chamber has done its best by organizing the summit to present the northern regions to the

world. I hope that its positive effects will come out soon. He said that Turkey is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world where millions of tourists visit every year. Turkey is ready to fully cooperate with its brother country Pakistan in this regard. He said that Skardu is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Turkey is working to equip the airport here with modern facilities. We are trying to start Turkish Airlines direct flight to Skardu soon. Discussions are ongoing in this regard as well. He said that adventure tourism is developing in the world. There are many world highest peaks in the northern regions of Pakistan which can become a favorite place especially for European tourists.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the Islamabad Chamber has organized this first event of its kind in the northern regions, which will continue. He said that tourism is not only a means of earning dollars or improving

the economy, but its promotion will highlight the positive image of Pakistan around the world. He said that the large number of foreign ambassadors participating in the conference is our success. The government should learn from the experiences of brother countries like Turkey and Malaysia to frame the policy. He said that the federal government, provincial government and related institutions need to work together for the promotion of tourism in the northern regions.

Regarding the conference, Azhar bin Mazlan, the ambassador of Malaysia posted in Pakistan, said that tourism is the most important part of Malaysia's economy. Pakistan has many places that can attract not only Malaysian tourists but also large number of tourists from other countries of the world. Malaysia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in this regard. ICCI Tourism Summit is the best step for branding the most beautiful northern regions of Pakistan. Such initiatives should continue. He said that



the beauty of the northern regions surprised me. With very pleasant weather, high mountains and clean atmosphere, this region can prove to be a paradise for tourists. He said that Malaysia is starting direct flights with Pakistan. I would suggest that work should be done to bring Malaysian airlines to other tourist destinations including Skardu.

Regarding the conference, Ambassador of Syria Dr. Ramez Alraee said that I am grateful to the Islamabad Chamber for giving me the opportunity to participate in the conference. The northern regions of Pakistan can be called the Switzerland of the East. Such a conference can lead not only to tourism but also to business development.

## NTDC secures land for construction of 500 kV grid station in Sialkot

**News Desk**

LAHORE: The National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) successfully acquired 736 Kanal 13 Marla land for construction of a 500 kV Grid Station located in Tehsil Daska, District Sialkot. The award of land, under Section-11 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894, was issued today by the Land Acquisition Collector NTDC. The acquisition of land was completed at a total cost of PKR 337.4 million.

This significant project will comprise 2x750 MVA 500/220 kV auto-transformers and 3x250 MVA 220/132 kV transformers, which will be connected to the National Grid through 01 No. 500 kV and 02 No. 220 kV transmission lines. With a total estimated cost of PKR 31.820 billion, the PC-1 of the project has already been approved. The funding for this project will be provided through AFD financing from the French Development Agency.

The successful completion of this milestone is a testament to the leadership of Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, Managing Director NTDC and the hard work of the concerned project team, including General Manager (Project Delivery) North, Chief Engineer (EHV-I) North Islamabad, Project Director (EHV-I) North Islamabad and Director General (Land).

The construction of the 500 kV grid station in Sialkot is of vital importance for the strengthening of the power system in the region. The project is aimed at to improve the voltage profile, eradicate load shedding and facilitate the evacuation of power from cost-effective hydel power plants in the north to the load centers of Punjab in the future. Moreover, the project will contribute to reduce loading in the 220 kV & 132 kV system and improve the power supply position of the Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO). NTDC's aim through this project is to meet the increasing demand for electricity and ensure a reliable operation and smooth power supply to industries, businesses and domestic consumers across Pakistan.

Managing Director NTDC expressed his appreciation to the entire team for their remarkable achievement in reaching this significant milestone.

## Raja Exclusive

# Waseem Hassan Raja Legend of Pakistan Cricket Team

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: King of cricket Wasim Hasan Raja was born on July 3, 1957 in Multan (Profile of Waseem Hasan Raja) Wasim Hasan Raja (Born: July 3, 1952 Multan) | (Died: August 23, 2006, Marlow, Buckinghamshire) He is a player of the Pakistan cricket team. He represented Pakistan in 57 Test matches and also played 54 One Day Internationals. He was the brother of Rameez Raja, a famous national cricketer and Ex chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), and was a Left Hand Stylish Batsman and right-handed leg-spin bowler.

Who dismissed 51 players in Test cricket. He also bowled the googly and was an aggressive left-handed middle-order batsman. He also opened the innings for Pakistan on several occasions. Wasim Hasan Raja played cricket for Pakistan as well as for Combine Universities, Durham County, Lahore, National Bank of Pakistan and Pakistan International Airlines, Punjab, Punjab University and Sargodha. His father, Raja Saleem. Who retired from the post of commissioner. Interestingly, he also participated in first-class cricket.

## Personal Information

Full Name Waseem Hasan Raja  
Birth 3 July 1952 Multan,  
Death 23 August 2006 (age 54)  
Marlow, Buckinghamshire, England  
Batting Left handed batsman

## Bowling

A leg-spin bowler  
Relations Rameez Raja (brother)  
Zaeem Raja (brother) Raja Saleem Akhtar (Father) Atif Rauf (Cousin)  
International cricket National team Pakistan (1973-1985)  
First Test (Cap 67) 2 February 1973 vs England The final test 25 January

1985 vs New Zealand First ODI (Cap 11) 11 February 1973 vs New Zealand Last one day 10 March 1985 vs India Career data One day competition test Match 57 54 Runs scored 2821 782 Batting average 36.16 22.34 100s/50s 4/18 -/2 Top score 125 60 Get Balls 4082 1036 Wicket 51 21 Bowling average 35.80 32.71 5 wickets in the innings -- 10 wickets in the match - n/a Best Bowling 4/50 4/25 Catch/Stump 20/- 24/-

## Early period

Wasim Raja was a brilliant left-arm strokemaker who excelled in adversity, a useful leg-spinner who also opened the bowling for Pakistan on important occasions, and played more than 100 international matches for Pakistan. He represented, briefly coached the national team and was in charge of the final Ashes series in Australia as well as serving as an ICC match referee. The style and passion with which he played the game will always be remembered, yet for such a gentle and charming man, he lost much of his time in clashes with the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Hailing from a privileged background, he became conspicuous by refusing to hang a senior player's socks out to dry, and with his traditional expediency he avoided being part of the hierarchy within the team. He refused but more importantly he was always frustrated as he was not sure if he would be fed or not because there was a group of senior players in the team who would do their bidding but he was always denied. It was feared that he could have captained Pakistan before Javed Miandad or Zaheer Abbas.

However, as a batsman he excelled at the age of 18 and captained the Under-19 team. After that he often didn't bother to wear pads when prac-



ticing with his contemporary Imran Khan, who admitted that Wasim was "in a completely different class and already batting with maturity beyond his years." had lived". He was the eldest of three boys, all of whom played first-class cricket. His brother Ramiz Raja followed him into the Test team and later captained Pakistan, while another of his brothers, Zaeem Hasan Raja, played for the National Bank. His father Raja Salim Akhtar also played first-class cricket while captaining Sargodha.

Arrival in first class cricket Wasim made his first-class debut for Lahore at the age of just 15, when he was in Government College, after which he went to Punjab University, where he excelled in cricket and academics, earning a master's degree in politics.

Start of Test Cricket In 1972-73, he was called as a substitute in the tour of New Zealand. He began to establish himself in England in 1974, where he topped the tour average. "Exciting" Wasim played two innings at Lord's that Wisden described as "masterful", responding to Derek Underwood with a selective attack on a drying wicket. In the domestic season that winter, he

scored his maiden Test century against the West Indies in Karachi.

In total, he played 11 Tests against the West Indies, against bowlers such as Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner and Colin Croft, scoring 919 runs at an average of 57.43. Even better than Greg Chappell's average during this period, he also had an excellent record against India, scoring 90 twice on the 1978-79 tour when many others The frontline batsmen were under pressure but Wasim Raja ended the series with 450 runs at 56.25.

Against India he made his highest Test score of 125 not out at Jalandhar and in that match he bowled his best with short leg spin, 4 for 50. For several years he played minor county cricket for Darham, where he met his future wife, Ann, also a prolific cricketer. He studied for his teaching degree at the university. A serious car accident there almost ended his life.

But after getting back on his feet he returned to the game and helped Darham win the UAU Championship in 1990, winning the match by 50 runs in the final. He taught geography and PE at Caterham School for 15 years. Keep teaching.

ODI Career He also played 54 ODIs. His last Test was against New Zealand in 1985 in Auckland. He also coached the Pakistan cricket team and served as an ICC referee.

A mention for a great performance He achieved the greatest feat in the world of cricket in 1976-77 on the tour of West Indies. He scored 517 runs at an average of 57.4 against the destructive fast bowling attack in the history of cricket in this series. In this series, the Pakistan team faced the best fast bowlers of the West Indies, Garner, Roberts and Croft. Apart from Sunil Gavaskar, no batsman on the tour of

the West Indies had beaten the West Indies bowlers so much. As much as Waseem Hasan Raja did on this tour. When Imran Khan was captaining the Pakistan team on the tour of Australia in 1983, Waseem Raja was also included in this team.

## Statistics

Wasim Hasan Raja scored 2821 runs in 92 innings of 57 Test matches with 14 night outs. This collection, at an average of 36.16, featured 4 centuries and 18 half-centuries, while 125 runs was his highest individual score in a single innings. 20 catches were also included in his strong hands. Wasim Hasan Raja scored 782 runs in 45 innings of 54 ODIs with 10 not outs and an individual best score of 60 at an average of 22.34. 2 fifties and 24 catches are also included in his record.

Wasim Raja scored 11434 runs on the scoreboard without getting out 54 times in 379 innings of 250 first-class matches. His highest score was 165 at an average of 35.18 with 17 centuries. 156 catches also tells us how dynamic a cricketer he was while fielding. Wasim Hasan Raja bowled 69 innings of 57 Test matches and gave 1826 runs and ended the innings of 51 players. 50/4 was the best performance in a single innings and 86/6 was the best bowling performance in a single match

Wasim Hasan Raja, who took wickets at an average of 35.80, scored 686 runs against 21 players in ODIs. 25/4 was his best performance in a single match and he took 7 wickets at an average of 32.71. In this way, he ended the innings of players in 558 first-class matches by giving 16211 runs. He averaged 29.05 with a best of 65/8. 31 times he took 5 or more wickets and 7 times 10 or more wickets. Wasim Raja achieved the best bowling figures against Australia in Perth in 1981

He bowled an over which, despite being a maiden, he targeted a player. Similarly, in 1982, he took one wicket in 2 maiden overs in 2.3 overs against England. Similarly, in 1982 Wasim Raja took 2 wickets by giving away 1 run with 2 maidens in 3 overs against Sri Lanka in the Karachi Test. Wasim Raja took 2 wickets for 2 runs with a maiden in a spell of 3.3 overs against England in Karachi Test in 1984.

Wasim Hassan Raja also has the honor of providing a brilliant partnership of 133 runs with Wasim Bari for the tenth wicket against the West Indies at Bridgetown in 1977. In this way, he improved the record which was set in 1952 by Pakistan's Zulfikar Ahmed and Amir Elahi by scoring 104 runs against India at Chennai. Sarfaraz Ahmed and Rahat Ali also had a record of 81 runs for the tenth wicket by Pakistan against New Zealand in 2014. Waseem Hassan Raja also has this unique honor. That he opened the innings in 1985 against New Zealand in the One Day International match held at Hamilton and later bowled the first ball as well.

## Book

A book on cricket Along with Adam Likudy, he wrote a book in 1997 called Cornered Tigers: A History of Pakistan's Test Cricket from Abdul Hafeez Kardar to Wasim Hassan Raja, a 300-page memoir.

## Death

On 23 August 2006, during a county match, he told fellow fielders standing in the slip that he felt dizzy and wanted to leave the field. He died on the boundary line while being taken off the field at the age of 54 years and 51 days. He is survived by his wife Annie and two sons Ali and Ahmed.

Asim Tanveer is a Ex International Test Scorer Of Pakistan Cricket Team

## Tanveer Ahmed to represent Pakistan at World Archery Para Championships

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's visually impaired archer Tanveer Ahmed will feature in the World Archery Para Championships 2023, scheduled to be held in Pilsen, Czech Republic from July 17-23.

The 39-year-old Tanveer claimed the first-ever silver medal for the country in the last edition of the Championships that was held in Dubai, last year.

"That was my first appearance in the event and I returned home with a silver medal. Now I'm targeting another medal; hopefully, gold this time," added Tanveer, who has low vision and shoots blindfolded.

Tanveer has won several medals in national and international competitions since taking on archery in 2017. Prior to that, he was a blind cricketer and he showcased his talent for 16 years. "I've



been a cricketer. But it is archery that gave me real recognition."

The 2022 has been a year of success for him as he earned five international medals, including the first-ever mix team

gold medal in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, a silver medal in the 30-metre individual event of VI Archery and a bronze medal in 18-metre individual event of VI Archery in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, a bronze medal in World Ranking Event & European Cup and a silver medal in World Archery Para Championships. "I'm the only archer from Pakistan, who has won five medals in a calendar year," he added.

Tanveer said he had been training hard for the World Archery Para Championships and believed he was fully fit to take on the challenge and emerge victorious.

"My coach Muhammad Ijaz is a seasoned trainer. I wanted him to accompany me to the event but unfortunately, we were not able to find a sponsor for him. Now I will be competing in the

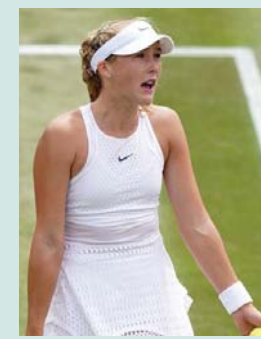
event without my coach," said Tanveer, who himself is being sponsored by the BARD Foundation for the event.

"The BARD Foundation is also sponsoring me for World Blind Games where I will be again the only archer to represent my country."

The 2023 World Games is the largest high-level international event for athletes with visual impairment, with more than 1250 competitors from 70 nations. The games staged every four years are the pinnacle of the international sporting calendar outside the Paralympic Games. The sports taking place during the 2023 World Games include archery, chess, cricket, blind football, partially sighted football, women's football, goalball, judo, powerlifting, showdown, tepin bowling and tennis.

Pakistan men's blind cricket team is also scheduled to feature in the Games.

## Russian Tennis star Andreeva refuses to shake umpire's hand



ing her racket.

During the match, Andreeva expressed her frustration to the umpire, Louise Engzell, disputing the decision to penalise her for throwing her racket after slipping and falling. Andreeva insisted that it was unintentional and disagreed with the umpire's judgment. Furthermore, she chose not to shake hands with the umpire, as she believed the decision made by Engzell was incorrect.

Andreeva, who only made her WTA debut in May, has shown immense promise in her recent performances. She reached the third round at the French Open and continued her strong run at Wimbledon, which is expected to elevate her ranking to approximately No. 64. This achievement will grant her direct entry into prestigious tournaments.

Dealing with emotions on the court is a challenge for many athletes, including tennis legends like Roger Federer. Andreeva acknowledged that she must help herself in managing her temperament and has developed her own method of self-reflection. Before going to sleep, she engages in internal dialogue, speaking to herself as she would to her mother or coach, offering guidance and analysis of her game.

Despite the disappointment of her loss, Andreeva displayed remarkable maturity during interviews, handling questions thoughtfully and with confidence. Former doubles star Todd Woodbridge compared her game and court smarts to Tracy Austin and praised her fiery spirit. However, he also emphasised the importance of gradual progress in managing expectations.

Having gained valuable experience at Wimbledon, Andreeva now looks forward to the upcoming hard-court season in the US. She expressed her admiration for Andy Murray and hopes to meet him in the future. Keys, her conqueror in the match, advised Andreeva to ignore external opinions unless they truly matter to her.

Andreeva's journey in tennis is still in its early stages, but her talent, determination, and developing maturity suggest a bright future ahead. As she continues to refine her game and emotional control, she is poised to make further strides in the sport.

## Pakistan among China, Spain to host FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed Pakistan, China and Spain as hosts for the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers to take place from January 13 to 21, 2024.

Women Qualifiers would be held at Changzhou, China (one tournament) and Valencia, Spain (one tournament) while Men will take place at Lahore, Pakistan (one tournament) and Valencia, Spain

(one tournament), said a press release.

Each tournament would consist of 8 teams (16 teams per gender in total). The continental quotas include- Women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers: Africa: 0, Asia: 4, Europe: 8, Oceania: 1, Pan America: 3.

The Men's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers- Africa: 1, Asia: 5, Europe: 7, Oceania: 1, Pan America: 2.

The teams filling each quota, and therefore invited to participate, would be based on their



performance at the Continental Championships taking place

in 2023. The top 3 teams in each of

these FIH Hockey Olympic Qualification Tournaments would qualify for Paris 2024. They would join hosts France as well as the winners of each Continental Championship (African Hockey Road to Paris, Pan American Games, Asian Games, EuroHockey Championship and Oceania Cup).

As has been the case since Beijing 2008, 12 teams per gender would play at the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments, with each squad consisting of 16 athletes.

## 1st President PGA Open Golf Championship 2023

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The 1st President PGA Open Golf Championship 2023 went into a golfing combat and engaged in high toned golf action were the top 100 golf professionals of Pakistan at the immaculate PAF Skyview Golf Arena in Lahore. At the end of the first round in this three rounds Golf Championship involving only the golf professionals, Muhammed Shahzad of Lahore Garrison and Waheed Baloch of Karachi Golf Club appeared as the distinguished ones by virtue of a brilliant first round similar score of four under par 68. Shahzad scored a 68 as did

Waheed. The field includes the nationally acclaimed Muhammad Shabbir, and the celebrated ones like M. Matloob, Muhammed Munir and Shahid Javed Khan, so the first round deeds of Shahzad and Waheed need to be admired and endorsed as it enabled them to radiate as top performers while the super ones languish behind the leaders.

In the past few open golf championships, whenever Shabbir competes, he creates an awe thereby curbing the chances of many strong combatants, but yesterday, after a long time Shabbir was not able to embrace the top of the leader board.

Right from the start,

Muhammed Shahzad looked unperturbed and as the holes were completed he thrived by playing stunning golf. Along the way he birdied the 3rd hole, the 6th hole and then the 8th and on the back nine lost a stroke on the 12th hole. Shahzad birdied the 17th and 18th holes and encountered a bogey on the 12th hole. Hardly bothered by this set back, Shahzad remained sufficiently calm to regain his rhythm and birdied closing 17th and 18th holes. His card of 68, four under par can be graded as appreciative. "The golf course was just fascinating," he said and "I enjoyed playing crisp and accurate shots from the fairways". "Indeed PAF

Team have prepared the golf course amply well".

As for his leaderboard mate Waheed Baloch, the first round has been an illustrious one. Helped by six birdies, ten regulation pars and two unwanted bogies, Waheed remained a paramount one of the first day and hopes to remain a formidable one in the remaining days.

Two strokes in arrears is a matured golf professional of our national golf circuit, Muhammed Nazir of Rawalpindi Golf Club. During the first round his rhythm was good but failed to cause ripples of stunning golf a feature that is expected of him.

Other performers in the



professional section are Mudassar Iqbal (Karachi), Kamran Shafiq (Gymkhana), Muhammed Alam and Usman Ali (Lahore Garrison), Umair Saleem (Garrison

Greens) and the herculean one Muhammed Shabbir (Islamabad). They are all together at a score of gross 71, one under par. At a score of par-72 are Kashif

Masih, Muhammed Saqib and M. Matloob (all from Lahore Garrison) and Muhammed Asif from Defence Raya. Six competitors are bunched together at a score of gross 73. They are Shahid Javed Khan, Abdul Zahoor, Muhammed Azam, Muhammed Zubair, Jafal Hussain and Muhammed Sajjad.

The contest is wide open and the second round promises exciting competitive flow.

Senior professionals and junior professionals will tee off today and compete over two rounds. In the professional section a cut will be placed at the conclusion of the second round on Tuesday at the PAF Skyview Golf Course.