



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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عروبہن ابی عروبہ بیان کیا، تمہوں نے کہا  
کہ میں نے اس دن مالک سے سنا، کہا کہ نبی  
کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جس نے «الہم اللہ فی آسمانک  
من اہم اللہ من اولیٰ الامرین» اور «اللہ من اولیٰ الامرین»  
کا مطلب اللہ ہی ہے، اللہ ہی ہے جو اس کی  
تیری بنانا لگتا ہے، تمہوں نے کہا، اللہ ہی ہے،  
سستی سے بڑی ہے، اللہ ہی ہے، اللہ ہی ہے،  
اور لوگوں کے لیے ہے۔  
(مکتبہ اہل سنت، صفحہ نمبر 6369)  
Barkat Rice Mills  
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## President pays homage to Lt. Gen. Sarfraz, other martyrs of helicopter crash

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid homage to Lt. General Sarfraz Ali and other five officials of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in a helicopter crash during flood relief operations in Lasbela a year ago. He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant Lt. General Sarfraz Ali and others who were martyred in the cause of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan the highest place in paradise.



## APTPMA calls for urgent action on electricity, gas prices

The Chairman APTPMA Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri while interviewing has expressed interest in generating a volatile change for electricity and gas productivity taking immediate action because it is part & parcel for industrial growth. He asserted to focus on building more dams & searching other energy resources to save the country from all big threats to the people and the economy in future economic safety. (Details on Page 3)

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## New Era Begins

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with COAS General Syed Asim Munir and foreign dignitaries attended Pakistan Mineral Summit as Chief Guest on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## COAS Munir invites foreign investors to 'discover hidden treasures of Pakistan'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has said the government along with state institutions ensured the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council to bring the stakeholders at one platform.

Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Summit on Tuesday, he said it had laid down new rules for 'ease of doing business' for domestic and foreign investors in the country.

"It is our social responsibility to play our collective role in the country's economy. We must never lose hope. Our land is endowed with many minerals and to fully utilise this potential, we invite foreign investors to play their role in discovering the hidden treasures of Pakistan," he stated.

"We will ensure an investor-friendly system that avoids unnecessary delays and provides easy terms and conditions for business. There are vast mining opportunities in our country which will be realised through joint efforts," he added.

The Army Chief thanked the foreign delegates and investors



for participating in the moot, which was the first such event in the country.

He also thanked Barrick Gold Corporation CEO and President Mark Bristow and Saudi Mining Minister Engineer Khalid bin Saleh Al Madifar and other investors.

COAS Munir stressed persistence for staying on the path of peace and prosperity and said the mineral-related projects were the stepping stone, which would eventually lead towards the development of the masses.

Referring to natural resources of the country, he said: "Just look at your country, from the snow-capped mountains to the vastness of the deserts, from the coastline to the plains. What else is not there in this land?"

The army chief noted: "If the nation has profound commitment, then the sky is the limit and its vastness awaits us."

# PM underlines need to learn from past, explore precious natural resources properly

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the need to learn from the bitter experiences of past 75 years and move ahead with strenuous efforts, collaboration and dedication by exploring the untapped resources including the vast natural minerals and reserves and developing the agriculture, information technology and industrial sectors.

The PM regretted that the coun-

try's journey of 75 years was dotted with bitter factors as they could not fully exploit the precious natural deposits estimated at worth \$6 trillion.

"The day gives an opportunity to self-contemplation over a journey of last 75 years and the reasons due to which Pakistan landed into this situation with a begging bowl," he added.

Elaborating his viewpoint, he said with Russian support, Pakistan Steel Mills was established during the 70s while in Rekodiq a hefty penalty of \$10 billion was imposed on Pakistan and if it was enforced, the entire country's foreign reserves would have been depleted.

The prime minister referred to the 'Thar' coal mines reserves and said these were being converted for the development of Pakistan.

Due to the working of certain

cartels, he said the natural resources were not explored in the past and cited that financial and political reasons were also involved in the delay which required deep introspection.

The prime minister said the Chinot iron ores field belonged to the poor people of Pakistan, but it also showed another worst example of corruption.

He said without any bidding, it was handed over to an overseas Pakistani who had no business history, but when the matter was taken up by the subsequent government and landed in a court of law, it termed the entire matter as a manifestation of loot and plunder.

But later, he said, nothing happened as NAB could not arrest those who had been accused of plunder, adding that it was a heart-wrenching story.

The summit was attended by federal ministers, foreign delegates, ambassadors, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, experts, relevant authorities, and investors.

The prime minister further regretted that the previous governments should have dedicated themselves to the welfare of the poor people of Pakistan.

He also praised the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial support worth 2 billion dollars which also helped in reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia always stood together through thick and thin and supported each other at every forum.

The prime minister said that NAB, unfortunately, created fears and harassed the business commu-

nity and bureaucrats in the past as it was used as a tool for witch-hunting of political opponents.

The society had been bitterly divided, he said, adding unless they show unity and discipline, they could not succeed in their efforts, he added.

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was set up for the first time in the country including all the stakeholders that would collaborate and facilitate the execution of the development projects.

On the occasions, different speakers including foreign delegates also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the need for exploration of the natural resources of Pakistan by utilizing the latest technologies and offered different suggestions and proposals for facilitation to lure foreign investments.

## Diplomacy on track with extensive global engagements: FM

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that through extensive

engagement with the international community, Pakistan achieved substantially on the diplomatic front during the past fifteen months.

Addressing a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after launching 'Digitised system under Foreign Minister's Change Management Reforms', the foreign minister said that through intensive engagements with the international community, they could now claim "diplomacy is back".

It was also an appropriate response to those who were touting about Pakistan being isolated at the global level, he added.

The foreign minister said that due to consistent global engage-

ments under his stewardship, and with the countries in the Middle East, the United States, China, and other members of the United Nations, they had increased Pakistan's outreach and viewpoint on different issues, leading to success at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after the country was removed from the grey list and climate change issue.

He said during the floods last year and afterward, in the post-flood scenario, the international community came to support Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The UN General Assembly members focused on Pakistan during the relief efforts and subsequently, they successfully arranged the Climate Resilient Pakistan summit in Geneva receiving 'a substantive and qualitative response'.

Foreign Minister Bilawal, to a media query, reiterated that Pakistan was not keen to join the 'blocs policy' and would take decisions in the larger national interests.

## Those who involved in Bajaur blast should be ashamed: Fazl

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Jami-At-Ulma-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Tuesday that those involved in the Bajaur blast should be ashamed of their actions.

Speaking to media, Fazl lamented: "The attack on the JUIF workers' convention is condemnable. It is the darkest chapter in the country's history."

Fazl said: "The time of trial comes upon the nations. Despite the Bajaur blast, the morale of the JUI-F workers did not drop."

The PDM chief said, "Even the United Nations (UN) has condemned the Bajaur blast. Those involved in the blast have accepted the responsibility."

## Military courts case: SC reserves verdict on plea seeking formation of full bench

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the verdict on a plea seeking the formation of a full court in military courts trial case.

A six-member Supreme Court (SC) bench reserved the verdict on a fresh petition seeking the formation of a full court to hear pleas challenging the trials of civilians in military courts.

The bench comprises Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik.

Earlier, the apex court had rejected the federal government's plea to constitute a full court.

During the hearing today, CJP Bandial discussed the petition with other petitioners and then reserved the verdict on senior counsel Faisal Siddiqi's plea. The

apex court would announce the decision tomorrow.

Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan presented a list comprising the names of 102 suspects in the military's custody before the court.

According to the list, seven people were under custody for breaking General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, four suspects attacked the army institute, 28 suspects attacked the Lahore corps commander's residence, 15 people were involved in attacks on army garrisons in Multan and Gujranwala, eight suspects attacked an ISI office in Faisalabad while five were involved in the attack on the PAF Air Base in Mianwali.

To this, the CJP said that there should be an independent body to review if the arrests were made on the basis of solid evidence or not.

He then directed the AGP to seek directives from the government before presenting arguments on his appeals.

## Digital Medium Wave Transmitter to revolutionize Radio Pakistan: Marriyum

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said 1,000 KW DRM Digital Medium Wave Transmitter project would transform Radio Pakistan by upgrading its capabilities to international standards.

The minister launched the 1,000 KW DRM Digital Medium Wave Transmitter in Rawat on Sunday to increase its reach across the globe.

"This project is a major milestone in our mission to revolutionize Radio Pakistan, upgrade its capabilities to international standards, and improve the quality and reach of Radio Pakistan," the minister said in a tweet.

Once installed and commissioned, she said, the new transmitter would increase the range of Radio Pakistan's broadcasts to several other countries.



She said the DRM technology would enable transmission of up to 4 different signals, increasing energy efficiency and reducing electricity consumption by 33 per cent resulting in cost-efficiencies for Radio Pakistan.

Radio Pakistan, she said, would be heard in 52 countries across the world after completion of the project.

"I am also happy to announce that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has begun the work to also establish Pakistan's first media city in Rawat," she added.

The minister extended gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his leadership, guidance and support which made the project possible.



## Visit

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir visiting those injured in Khaar (Bajaur) suicide blast in CMH on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

# RekoDiq project to prove a game changer; usher a new era of progress: PM

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that RekoDiq project would prove to be a game changer for the development of Balochistan and region besides ushering a new era of progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, talking to a delegation of Barrick Gold led by CEO Mark Bristow which called on him, said Pakistan was rich with immense resources of minerals. The government was taking measures on priority to take maximum advantage of the said resources, he added.

According to a PM Office statement, the Barrick Gold agreed to make the payment of Pakistan's share of investment in Pakistani rupees.

The prime minister said the participation of Barrick Gold and other international firms in



Pakistan Mineral Summit held earlier on the day manifested the revival of investors' confidence in Pakistan.

This revival of the investors' confidence including that of

Barrick Gold in Pakistan was made possible consequent to the formation of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

In the meeting, Mark Bristow apprised the prime minister

of progress in the ongoing development works in RekoDiq.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the RekoDiq project agreement would prove to be beneficial for both the parties.

He instructed all the relevant institutions to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the execution of RekoDiq project.

The meeting was told that a Community Development Committee had been formed in the RekoDiq which identified actions for uplift of Balochistan and its people.

It was told that the local elders in the committee identified the projects aimed at the prosperity of the people of Balochistan.

Under the project, the skilled local people were being provided employment opportunities and a huge amount would be spent on development of the area. Minister of State for Petroleum Musaddik Malik and special assistants to PM Jahanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa, and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

# MOITT to establish health incubation center, science technology park in KU: Amin

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque said on Tuesday that US \$7.1 billion investment had been made in the telecommunication sector in the country with earning of billions of rupees.

He was addressing the ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the International Centre



for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of Karachi University (KU).

The MoU was signed by

Syed Junaid Imam, Member Ministry of IT & Telecom and Prof. Dr Iqbal Choudhary, Director ICCBS.

The IT minister, on the request of KU Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, said the Examination Centre of the Karachi University would be digitalized, and directed the Member IT and Chief Executive Officer of National Information Technology Board to coordinate with the university management in that regard.

He said that under the MoU, the Pakistan Software Export Board would establish the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the ICCBS.

"Our effort is to integrate

information and communication technology and academia. The establishment of a health incubator in the university will greatly help medical startups, and that of a science and technology park will connect students to the digital world," he added.

The minister said the revolutionary steps taken by the incumbent government should have been done many decades ago.

He said the Pakistani youths had a unique position in the world in terms of their ability and competence.

# Sovereign fund established to promote investment in mining, agriculture, IT sectors: Dar



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Terming mining sector as one of the key drivers of economy, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here Tuesday the government had established Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund to exploit potential of mining, agriculture and information technology.

"These are the future drivers of growth. Mines and minerals and IT would be mainly focused in years to come for the country, no matter who is in governance," the minister said while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Summit titled "Dust to Development: Investment Opportunities in Pakistan."

He said the government was taking serious measures to facilitate investors and exploit potential of the resources the country was having

He said the draft legislation for establishing the fund, which was more acceptable globally, had been tabled in the national assembly and would be moved to the Senate on Wednesday. He said Egypt and Indonesia, who were facing turbulent situation like Pakistan, had established the fund and were doing well.

The finance minister asserted that Pakistan was an asset-solvent country and only thing that needed was the financial management, adding even

only in mineral sector, it was having potential of around \$6 trillion.

He said the goal of government initiatives was to attract investors to exploit the potential of these assets.

He said sub-funds would be created under the main fund which could include agriculture, green revolution, minerals and mining. He said the investors would have choice whether they were interested in sovereign wealth fund, or any sub-fund for specific sector or even corporate structure special vehicle. No matter in whatever mode of investment they are interested, the government would facilitate the friendly countries and investors.

He said the government had also set up special investment facilitation committee to help investors through one-window facilitation, adding that World Bank had bettered Pakistan's ranking in ease of doing business.

Ishaq Dar said he had given idea of Charter of Economy which could not be materialize, however it was still not late to make it a reality and take Pakistan forward towards development.

The minister said the turbulence time for Pakistan was over and the country was in the stability phase adding that the targets achieved in FY2016 would be regained and Pakistan would go back on path to become member of G20 as it had huge resources and potential.

# Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi's Proactive Prison Reforms

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, visited Camp Jail today, spending two hours there. During his visit, he personally engaged with the prisoners, attentively listening to their concerns and meticulously assessing the provided amenities.

In a groundbreaking announcement, Chief Minister revealed the formation of a special committee dedicated to examining claims of innocence from prisoners. Each prisoner will be individually assessed, and based on the committee's recommendations, legal action will be taken to release those proven innocent, ensuring that no innocent person remains unjustly detained.

Expressing his discontent over the lack of Air Cooler Facility, Chief Minister Naqvi promptly ordered the installation of air coolers in all the barracks within three days, while also directing the immediate installment of new fans. He further instructed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct an inspection after three days to verify

the implementation and submit a report.

During his visit, some prisoners raised concerns about alleged mistreatment by the staff. Responding promptly, Chief Minister directed the Additional Chief Secretary Interior to investigate these complaints thoroughly.

Showing his concern for the well-being of inmates, Chief Minister personally inspected the prison kitchen, tasted the food and checked its quality. He also visited the PCO and observed the conversation of the prisoners with their relatives.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed his displeasure for not allowing prisoners to talk to their loved ones as per the scheduled time and directed the staff to let the prisoners to talk to their loved ones twice a week.

Seeing 11, 11 prisoners in the small barracks, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his displeasure and said that it is not right to keep the prisoners in this way in the heat and confinement. He ordered to keep the prisoners according to the capacity of the barracks.

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# PM, Naval Chief discuss Pakistan Navy's professional affairs

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed the professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy.

The Chief of Naval Staff informed the prime minister about the strategy of the local production of weapons and warships for the Pakistan Navy.

He also apprised of the ongoing steps to make Pakistan self-sufficient in terms of defence and acquisition of modern technology under the strategy.

# NA passes three govt, other private members' bills

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday took up legislative business and passed three government bills as well as other legislative proposals sponsored by a private member.

The House transacted the government business on private members' day after passage of the motion while private members' agenda was also taken up in routine.

Moved by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi, the House passed a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The

House passed the bill after the Chair directed to circulate the copies of the bill among the lawmakers.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill, it is imperative to amend the official Secrets Act 1923 and make it more effective in view of the changing social milieu to ensure safety and security of official documents.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi moved the Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Airports Authority Bill, 2023. Both bills were passed by the House as the Senate has already approved both legislative proposals.

The Toshakhana Management and Regulation Bill 2023 passed by the house today envisaged that the existing and future gifts to be received in Toshakhana shall be disposed of through an open auction.

The proceeds of such an auction shall be kept in a separate account and will be utilized for promoting female primary education in the most backward areas of the country.

Three private members' bills passed by the House included the Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023; the Margalla International University Bill, 2023 and the Thar International Institute Bill, 2023. All these bills were sponsored by MNA

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani.

The Chair deferred the Kings University Islamabad Bill, 2023 while another private member's bill – the Babrak Institute of Science, Art and Technology Bill, 2023 – was opposed by the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain who suggested to refer the bill to the committee.

The Chair directed for voting on a motion for consideration of the Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023 which was sponsored by MNA Tahira Aurangzeb. However, it was not concluded and the House was adjourned to meet again on August 2, 2023 (Wednesday) at 11 am.



# APTPMA calls for urgent action on electricity, gas prices

Interview with Hafiz Sheikh M. Asghar Chairman APTPMA

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

The Chairman All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association (APTPMA) Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri while interviewing has expressed interest in generating a volatile change for electricity and gas productivity taking immediate action because it is part & parcel for industrial growth. He asserted to focus on building more dams & searching other energy resources to save the country from all big threats to the people and the economy in future economic safety. In a response he said that thousands of businesses and industries will ultimately shut down soon due to scaling up rates.

Falling exports will further fall and millions of people will be unemployed due to policy cracking. He expressed that electricity and gas should be supplied regularly to the industrialists and the rising prices should be curbed immediately by the government otherwise we will not be able to export compared to other countries. He explained adding that, due to continuous increase in electricity and gas prices, the industries and the people are suffering but these problems are not being addressed & Lac of people have become unemployed due to the closure of industries, while the industries are facing destruction due to the increase in electricity and gas prices.

He pointed out. He confirmed that, an ordinary person who earns Rs. 30,000 is being sent a bill of Rs.20-thousand & People may dye due to continuous inflation & if situation is not controlled, surly there will be a storm of unemployment in the country which will not only be difficult but impossible to handle, so the government should play its effective role to provide relief to



the industries so that the wheels of the industries continue to run and people get employment easily. Sh. Asghar pointed out that Pakistan's textile sector is facing a significant setback as its exports for the fiscal year 2022-23 are set to decline on unexpected scales indicating a declining level of confidence among international buyers. The confidence deficit is expected to persist during the current financial year, given the country's fragile economic situation. With general elections on the horizon, local and foreign investors are adopting a cautious "wait and see" policy before reassessing their strategies for this important sector.

He further pointed out, for the Pakistan Textile sector, Hosiery Manufacturers & other related industries last year proved to be a tumultuous journey, with inflation and recession affecting economies around the world, resulting in Imports of textile products decreased. "In this fiscal year we have lost 40 percent of our exports to the US, while Bangladesh has been able to increase its exports to the US by 20 percent during the same period," Chairman Hafiz Asghar highlighted that, in contrast, Bangladesh and India are taking aggressive steps to further increase their textile exports to the US and Europe. Additionally, they are actively promoting their products in new

markets. Pakistan, on the other hand, has an export potential of \$4 billion to African and Central Asian countries, but inadequate infrastructure, including payment systems, banking facilities, and trade routes, hinders the realization of this potential.

He hinted that Pakistan's textile exports lost \$1.814 billion in FY 2022-23, showing a negative growth rate of 9.84 percent. Textile exports stood at \$16.63 billion for FY23, down from \$18.44 billion for FY22, according to State Bank data. Disappointingly he expressed none of the textile sub-sectors showed positive growth in the last financial year. All kinds of textile & products which normally show positive growth were all subdued. Industry stakeholders have expressed fears that the situation could worsen if Pakistan fails to retain its GSP Plus status. He warned that if we lose the GSP Plus status, the condition of textile exports may become more alarming. He cited political and economic unrest in the country and negative impact of import bans as contributing factors to the challenges faced by the sector during the past year.

He said that foreign buyers are now favoring Bangladesh due to the availability of cheaper products. Moreover, shortage of a key raw material, cotton, aggravates the situation. Khokhar lamented the lack of stability in the prices of this important raw material and criticized the lack of 100 percent implementation of the textile policy. Without policy review and effective implementation, this sector, which earns substantial foreign exchange for the country, suffers. He called for resolving all expansion plans for the textile sector at a standstill, resulting in the loss of the market's reputation that was built up painstakingly over time. "We are currently losing on both sides—the established markets and the commit-



ment to explore new markets," On the contrary, neighboring countries are active in exploring and exploiting new markets, while the relevant departments of Pakistan are lagging behind in this regard.

Mr. Asghar demanded, there is a dire need that Pakistan must exploit its own natural resources available in Pakistan to get rid offshore dependence, and to provide maximum relief to masses through a self reliant economy, Chairman Asghar required to focus on the instability & ill-conceived financial policies that have triggered inflation and generated problems not only for the country

but also for the people belonging to all & sundry. He said that political uncertainty & anarchy remained rife & steer the country out of the crises. He said, Let's frame fully cognizant policies of providing relief to the people in addition to making sincere efforts to revive the economy and provide maximum facilities to the industrialists and exporters. He pointed out openly that we shall focus on the preferences & objectives to facilitate the people enabling them to earn wealth and then pay taxes to generate revenues.

He clarified that Pakistan is the rich in natural resources &

we should explore these minerals to meet our financial needs and make Pakistan self-reliant instead of depending on the IMF etc; "We must depend upon our own resources instead of begging for foreign loans", because it's not a permanent solution of our problems today & tomorrow. He explored chalking out a well-conceived plan to increase the size of the national economy up to 100 billion dollars and exports to 300 billion dollars, but these plans could not be materialized due to the opposition from the different segments.

He picturized that this city (FAISALABAD) was contrib-

uting 60 % towards the total textile exports of Pakistan while 40% workers are getting jobs in the textile sector alone. He said that the problems are still hunting the business community and we must focus on exports, foreign remittances and foreign direct investment to stabilize the national economy. Chairman calculated that 50 percent of the industry is closed despite the fact that Pakistan is blessed with unlimited natural resources. He also termed inconsistency and lack of uniformity in policies as major problems which discourages the foreign investors to invest in Pakistan.

## Accident

QUETTA: Paramedical staff stands in front of body of a policeman who was killed on security duty of a polio vaccination team, at a hospital.



Photo: Online

## Writer Colony-Samanabad-Gulberg residents to protest if WASA not opens sewerage line

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: People of Writer Colony-Samanabad-Gulberg colony has warned WASA if these sewerage line which has been Blockage for the last three months is not opened within 48 hours, then Masoom Shah Road Bihar Chowk will be closed for all type of traffic and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab. The effigies of Punjab and MD Wasa Multan will be hanged and Fatiha will be recited at their graves and hundreds of men, women, and children will protest. A day was held in which deep sorrow was expressed over the indifference and carelessness of the WASA authorities. For the last three months, the black water of the sewerage has entered people's houses



due to the shutdown of the school main sewerage line near Writers Colony Multan, diseases have broken out, people have migrated, and the authorities

have been seeing king false consolation for the last three months. MD Wasa Exxon and SDO are not ready to come to the spot sitting in cold rooms. People

are tired of going around the office. Residents of the area requested the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. But she also went to the rubbish bin. Today, the residents of the three colonies came together and the president of the reform committee, Sheikh Nadeem, Haji Sharaft, Haji Nazakat, Sheikh Mubeen, Mahmood Shah, Ejaz Ahmed, Salman Qureshi, Ata Ahmad Qari Noor, Dr. Tahir Zia-ul-Rahman Butt and a large number of other people participated and after 48 hours of warning to WASA authorities, if our supply line is not opened, then on Wednesday at 11 am at Bihar Chowk, the effigies of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief Minister of Punjab and MDWASA will be hanged symbolically and their graves will be made..

## PDM government have increased the problems of the Pakistani nation: Dr Safdar Hashmi

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: After electricity the increase in the prices of petroleum products is an injustice to the people. The PDM government has failed to provide relief. We reject this increase. Jamaat-e-Islami believes that development of Pakistan is impossible without changing this system of oppression. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said that the current Government (PDM) has increased the problems of the nation. Be it the PDM government or the Tehreek-e-Insaf both accepted the slavery of the IMF. The nation is tired of their atrocities. The increase in electricity and petrol prices is due to the slavery of the IMF. The IMF has destroyed many countries, our rulers have destroyed Pakistan at the behest of foreign masters. Now this policy and government is absolutely not acceptable. He further said that this increase will cause further inflationary storms. Jamaat-e-Islami demands that the government withdraw the hike and fix the price of petrol at least Rs 100 per litre.



## FPCCI condemns massive hike in petroleum prices

**Commerce Desk**

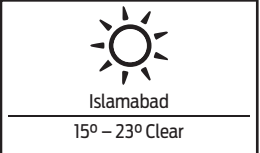
KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has strongly condemned the massive hike in petroleum products, i.e. petrol by PKR. 19.95 per liter to make it 272.95 & high speed diesel by PKR. 19.90 per liter to 273.40 now. It will further fuel the inflationary pressures resulting in further increase in cost of living and cost of doing business - which is already the highest in the entire region, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that he forewarned the government much before that they need to address the teething problems in the import of the Russian crude, i.e. handling of oil cargoes; adjustments required vis-à-vis refining processes and commercial transactional procedures to settle oil payments. Nonetheless, the government failed to listen to us; else, we would have more Russian crude by now, which is now more than 30 percent cheaper as compared to international markets today, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh particularly highlighted that the international oil markets are in a flux and instability; and, all national & international economists agree that the demand for the petroleum products internationally will remain low for a couple of years due to slowing down of the global economy. That should have convinced the economic managers of the country to hold such an enormous, counter intuitive and counterproductive raise in petroleum prices - while, the domestic demand by refineries will not even cross 150,000 barrels / day for the imported crude due to unprecedented slowing down of the national economy.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh reminded that just last week the government has announced PKR. 7.50 per kWh raise in electricity prices; despite FPCCI's repeated demands that electricity and petroleum prices should be kept stable - if not subsidized or reduced for the export-oriented industry. He questioned that how the existing export orders can be met in a profitable manner after the double blow of electricity and petroleum price hikes?





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:44 am  
Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
Asr ..... 5:07 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:08 pm  
Isha ..... 8:44 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

**Second Round Table of Engineer Parliamentarians Caucus' being scheduled**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Second "Round Table of Engineer Parliamentarians Caucus" being scheduled on 2nd August 2023 at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad at 09:30 am by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). This roundtable is being hosted by Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, MNA/Chairman, PEC & Engr. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi, Convener-EPC/former chair person PEC, which will be attended by the honorable Senators, Members of the Parliamentarians Caucus, Chairman Senate Honorable M. Sadiq Sanjrani will be the Chief Guest.

Respective specialized sessions will be chaired by Engr. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister; Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Former Prime Minister; Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani, MNA; Engr. Senator Saifullah Abro; and Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, MNA & Chairman PEC. Speakers will be Engr. senator Rukhsana Zuberi (former chairperson PEC); Engr. Naseer Ahmed Gillani; Engr. Mian Sultan Mahmood.

Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is a national apex regulatory body constituted through an enactment of the Parliament (PEC Act 1976) to regulate the engineering profession. The Council as per its Act has also special mandate to act as a "Think Tank to the Federal Government" to aid by working with the Members of Parliament and support them in all matters pertaining to engineering profession and policies required for the socio-economic development of the country, to endeavor for a better prosperous Pakistan.

# SIFC to ensure immediate, uninterrupted execution of foreign investment projects: PM

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would ensure the immediate and uninterrupted completion of the projects of foreign investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a Saudi delegation led by Saudi Deputy Minister for Mining, Industries and Minerals Khaled bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer, said there existed immense investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector.

Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said Pakistan was thankful to the Saudi government and people for supporting Pakistan in every need of the hour.

"Pakistan is your second home. The brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were of special significance. The whole Pakistani nation was grateful to Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for supporting Pakistan in every difficult time," he remarked.

The prime minister assured the delegation that not only the interim government but also the next elected government would keep on facilitating the investors.

He said the solar power project of 10,000 megawatts announced by the government was also a good opportunity for investment.

The Saudi minister said that the establishment of SIFC was a positive message to foreign investors in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia was keen to invest in the vast opportunities of investment in the mining sector of Pakistan, he added.

The Saudi minister appreciated the prime minister for the pro-investor measures particularly the establishment of the SIFC as it would lead to economic development.

Calling Pakistan his second home, the Saudi minister assured that Saudi Arabia would continue to support Pakistan.

Federal Minister Engineer Khurram-Dastgir, Minister of State for Petroleum Musaddik Malik, Special Assistant to PM Tasnim Ahmed Qureshi and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



## 24th Anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco in Pakistan Mohmed Karmoune with Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain cutting the cake during ceremony of 24th anniversary of the Accession to the throne of his majesty King Mohammed VI, at local hotel in Federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Government needs to create an environment that fosters breastfeeding among working parents

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) has urged the step up and "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!" In a press release shared on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week being observed from the 1st of August to the 7th of August 2023, SPARC highlighted the critical role of workplace support in empowering mothers to continue breastfeeding while juggling their professional responsibilities.

This year's theme "Enabling Breastfeeding: Making a Difference for Working Parents" sheds light on the challenges faced by working mothers in balancing the



demands of their careers with their desire to provide their babies with the best possible start in life. It is essential to understand that the success of breastfeeding greatly relies on the support and understanding from employers and co-workers.

Asiya Arif Khan, Executive Director SPARC, said that breastfeeding is a fundamental aspect of early childhood development, providing unmatched nutrition and immunity to infants, leading

to better health outcomes and reduced risk of diseases. Recognizing the significance of this natural process, SPARC stands committed to creating an environment that fosters breastfeeding among working parents.

She added that over 40% of Pakistan's children under the age of 5 years are stunted as compared to the South Asian Average of 31% (World Bank). Malnourishment can be resolved if infants are breastfed instead of given formula milk. This prevents babies from a number of short-term and long-term diseases. Importance of breast feeding should reflect at national level through policies to promote child nutrition.

## Bank of China opens branch in Pakistan's capital Islamabad

**Xinhua**

ISLAMABAD: The Bank of China (BOC) opened its branch in Pakistan's federal capital Islamabad on Monday to further expand its business network in the South Asian country.



Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar said that the opening of the branch is another milestone in the deepening financial and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, and is of great significance to expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

"The Pakistani side will push forward the development of Pakistan-China cooperation with stronger determination and more effective measures, and will continue to consolidate and deepen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership," the minister added.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China Xuan Changneng said that on the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the opening of another branch of BOC is a positive practice to strengthen the financial ties and deepen the financial cooperation between the two countries.

Liu Jin, president of the BOC, said that the bank would continue to give full play to its advantages in globalization, actively promote high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, and play a bigger role in supporting Pakistan's infrastructure construction and industrialization.

This is the second branch of the BOC to open in Pakistan. The first one was opened in the southern port city of Karachi in 2017.

## Austria should play its role to resolve the Kashmir issue: Barrister Sultan

**Bureau Report**

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Austria should play its role to resolve the Kashmir issue.



While talking to the Austrian ambassador, Mr. Andrea Wicke, who called on him here today, president Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that being a mutual friend of both countries (India and Pakistan), Austria can play an important role to help resolve the lingering dispute peacefully. Briefing Ambassador Wicke about the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said that it was high time that the Austrian government should use its political and diplomatic clout to stop human rights violations in Kashmir.

## PAC organized National Women workers convention on GBV



**News Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized National Women workers convention on GBV and harassment at work in collaboration with Rawalpindi women chamber of commerce and industry. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Mr. Liaqat Ali Chhatta was the chief guest of the convention. While addressing the participants of the convention Mr. Liaqat Ali Chhatta said that United Nations convention in 1979 on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life — including the right to vote and to stand for election — as well as education, health and employment.

States parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Chief Guest further said that in June 2019, the government, employer, and worker members of the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted a groundbreaking treaty known as the Violence and Harassment Convention (C190). The treaty is the first to set international legal standards for preventing and responding to violence and harassment in the world of work.

## Muslim Conference endorses active role of women in politics: Sardar Attique

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

DHEERKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the Muslim Conference has fulfilled its national responsibility by giving active role to women in politics. No society can develop without the active participation of women. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of women belonging to Muslim Conference Muzaffarabad division. The delegation was included former government minister Shamim Ali Malik, senior leader of the Muslim Conference and member of the Majlis-e-Amala, Soraya Anwar Abbasi, chairperson of the women's wing, Samia Sajid Raja. Chairperson

Students Wing Maimoona Kayani Advocate, Central General Secretary of Women's Wing Kausar Parveen Advocate, Muslim Conference City President Abida Munir Qureshi, Muzaffarabad City General Secretary Maryam Mubasher Jahandad and other women Member of the party. Speaking to the delegation, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan further said that the role of women in the Muslim Conference has always been exemplary and the role of women leaders in making the party strong and active can never be forgotten.

He said that the women of the Muslim Conference deserve congratulations for organizing a wonderful event under the auspices of the Women's Wing on the

occasion of Pakistan's Accession Day, in which hundreds of women participated. He said that the Muslim Conference is the historical and ideological party of Kashmir is the one who initiated the independence movement and since then women have played an important role in strengthening and organizing this movement. Today, women in Occupied Kashmir are playing a great role by sacrificing their children. Even today, women in Occupied Kashmir are serving imprisonment under baseless charges. By adopting this historical role, the goal of Kashmir's independence can be reached.

He said that the issue of Kashmir has entered a decisive stage at this time,

despite Indian atrocities, the Kashmiri people are standing firm in the field. Today, the shadows of war are hovering in the region. The focus of the whole world is on South Asia at this time. This is all about the issue of Kashmir and the role of Kashmiri youth leaders as well as women in highlighting the Kashmir issue is also worthy of praise.

He said that the Muslim Conference women should fulfill the duty of delivering the party's message and manifest from door to door and ensure their participation in Nila Butt Day on August 23. He said that the Muslim Conference is the bearer of identity and recognition of the people of the state. Even today, he is working on the mission of Pakistan. He said that women should support the Muslim Conference.



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# Inflation Reemergence, a Global Concern

**Malaika Sarwar**  
 After an extended period of price stability, interest rates gradually declined to near-zero or even negative levels, which was considered a relatively positive development. In many Western countries, there was a prevailing belief that debt had no bounds, whether it was incurred by individuals or by governments. The implementation of Quantitative Easing by major Central Banks reinforced the emergence of a new economic policy aimed at promoting stable development and challenging the older deflationary and conservative economic theories. This shift led economists to believe that conventional cyclical policies could now function as structural policies. However, the influence of Liberal Keynesianism caused many economists to prioritize short-term consequences, often overlooking the underlying causes of economic processes.

Inflation has made a sudden and unexpected comeback; jolting investors awake from the illusion of a prolonged period of stability. The escalating debt levels are making the financial system more vulnerable. It is essential for countries not to disregard the structural limits of money creation while increasing the circulation of money. Similarly, businesses must strike a balanced relationship between debt and risk capital. Inflation exacerbates economic inequality, as individuals with varying abilities to safeguard their purchasing power are affected differently. This discrepancy particularly impacts groups like freelancers and retirees, leading to potential extremist opposition and even the resurgence of terrorism, which was once believed to have been eradicated.

The rising inflation in the United States and, to a lesser degree, in Europe, creates disparities in the international financial landscape, pitting more developed nations against the rest of the world. Moreover, it exacerbates inequalities among countries, mirroring the disparities that occur within individual states among citizens with varying abilities to safeguard their

purchasing power. Inflation also gives rise to discrepancies among companies, as some may struggle to adjust the prices of their products in line with inflationary trends. This disparity can lead to market instability and specific challenges within industrial sectors where companies have varying capacities to cope with inflation's effects. The social consequences can be substantial, further exacerbating the inequalities that arise at the individual level. Predictions become increasingly challenging, and confidence among producers, consumers, and all economic participants diminishes, leading to long-term adverse consequences.

In the upcoming period, this sudden realization poses a significant risk of speculative bubbles bursting. Speculative bubbles in real estate, financial markets, and commodities, fueled by the illusion of endless debt, can collapse when liquidity becomes scarce abruptly. While efforts can be made to mitigate the effects of these bursting bubbles, it may not be possible to eliminate their consequences. The potential outcome of this situation leading to a recession is genuine, and early indications are already causing concerns about this possibility. To comprehend this shift, it is crucial to identify the underlying structural reasons behind the phenomenon. If left unaddressed, this transformation could pave the way for inflation to escalate into hyperinflation, triggering a growing sense of uncontrollable global disorder.

The signs pointing towards a potential crisis on the horizon prompt us to engage in reflection and comprehend the underlying structural causes that contribute to the prevailing disorder. Interestingly, similar indicators were observed during the monetary crisis that arose with the collapse of the Bretton Woods system and the Gold Exchange Standard. The monetary crisis of 1968, which led to the decision by President Nixon to suspend the

convertibility of the dollar into gold, was followed by a series of subsequent events including the oil crisis, the proliferation of speculation in commodities markets, conflicting trends in exchange rate parity, particularly among European currencies and the fragmentation of commercial integration, especially in Europe, as a stable integrated market relies on stable exchange rates. These phenomena had multiple intertwined causes, but the breakdown of the Bretton Woods order can be seen as the triggering factor that set these events in motion.

Currently, the signs of a potentially severe crisis are like those in the past, with monetary and financial aspects closely integrated. The 1968 monetary crisis corresponds to the 2007 financial crisis, and the end of the gold standard aligns with the growing challenges faced by US finance in maintaining its role as the pivot of the global financial order. The United States stands as the most indebted country globally, and to address this, its legislature had to increase the government's ability to raise the constitutionally permitted budget deficit. Failure to gain this authorization could have resulted in the specter of a US debt default. However, emergency measures like these do not instill international confidence in private finance and financial authorities. The risk on a global scale is the insolvency of heavily indebted economic actors, be they states or individuals. It's essential to consider that Italy ranks as the second-most indebted country after the United States, and financial crises can lead to contagion, increasing disorder.

The belief that borrowing could be expanded was fueled by mechanisms that facilitated the international absorption of US Treasury securities. The United States could increase the issuance of government bonds as many countries held the dollar as a reserve and payment currency, invest-

ing in US public debt to receive compensation without sacrificing the liquidity of their assets. However, the use of the dollar as a reserve and payment currency has declined while US debt has risen. The imbalance was temporarily alleviated due to ongoing conflicts, as conflicts tend to strengthen the leading currency, making it a haven.

The pressing issue to address is the construction of a new world order, encompassing a new international monetary and financial order, defined by rules supported by a broad international consensus, and the re-establishment of international institutions. An illustrative episode highlights the changing dynamics of the global order. The UN's vote on the conflict in Ukraine saw an overwhelming majority of about 150 countries supporting the Western front, while around 50 countries, representing more than 50% of the world's population and comprising the fastest-growing economies, rejected it. This dissent signifies a refusal to recognize Western leadership in the current world order, rendering the rules of the UN obsolete. Similar sentiments apply to other international institutions.

For a world order to take root, it must be supported by a global consensus and form part of a long-term plan. Only a shared choice by all or at least the main world players can give rise to a new multipolar world order. Any new world order must be grounded in a collective effort rather than the proposals of a single country. This is a prerequisite for establishing a stable monetary-financial order. In response to the escalating financial crisis, a financial order anchored in shared rules, aimed at financing balanced development and green investments, becomes imperative. International institutions will need to be updated to align with this emerging multipolar world order.

*The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarwaramalika18@gmail.com*



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

## CPEC: A Bridge to the Future - II

New Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, and Gwadar Technical & Vocational Institute have all been completed.

Gwadar, Pakistan's deep sea port on the Arabian Sea, is a key component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and has the potential to become a major regional trade and transit hub. The government has made substantial investments in the development of Gwadar port and the associated infrastructure, including roads, railways, and pipelines, which will increase connectivity and facilitate trade with neighbouring nations including China, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Eleven power projects totaling over 6,370 MW have been completed, 880 km of transmission lines have been installed, and projects totaling around 1200 MW are anticipated to be completed by 2023-2024 which will provide much needed power pivotal for socio-economic and industrial growth. Additionally, approximately 192,000 jobs have been created by CPEC investments and their secondary effects.

The CPEC has already entered its second phase, during which socio-economic development, science and technology, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization will be the focus of cooperation.

Of the agreed-upon 27 socioeconomic development projects, 17 fast-track projects have been initiated and are proceeding smoothly, while seven projects have been completed and five are in progress.

During the most recent meeting of the outgoing Chinese ambassador, Mr. Nong Rong, with President Alvi, which I also attended, the President expressed his satisfaction with the substantial progress made to complete the already commissioned projects, launch new projects, and advance the ML-1 project in order to accelerate the country's development.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

The President specifically mentioned Chinese-Pakistani cooperation in the joint production and marketing of JF-17 Aircraft on the global market, which, according to him, would expedite the export of cutting-edge fighter aircraft and meet the security needs of the purchasing nations. The President mentioned in particular the success of a garment factory that was established in Lahore in a record-setting five months and began producing garments for internationally renowned brands.

Both Pakistan and China have time and again reaffirmed their commitment for speedily implementing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, to take the decades-old geo-political relations to geo economic orbit. CPEC would ultimately help in creating a regional economic bloc of three billion people through improved regional integration and connectivity, and Pakistan could play a critical role being located in the centre of three engines of growth -- South Asia, Central Asia and China.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multibillion-dollar initiative that has the potential to revolutionise the economy of Pakistan. To realise the full benefits of CPEC, Pakistan's leadership, bureaucracy, government, and nation must all contribute. As CPEC takes shape, we must be patient and understanding. CPEC represents a fantastic opportunity for Pakistan. However, it is merely an opportunity. It is up to Pakistan to grab this opportunity and ensure its success.

*Concluded*  
 The author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD / CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)

## Population Explosion

World population day, which is being commemorated today is an appropriate opportunity for Pakistan, the fifth most populous nation of the world, to assess our position in this crucial regard on the Global Map. By 2050, we are projected to surpass the United States of America to become the third most populated nation of the world. This really is scary as it seems.

The United Nation Population Fund's modelling study predicts that 34.4% of the population may live in the poverty by 2030.

Additionally, 37.4% of people will experience food insecurity, 35.9% of Children will experience stunting, only 58% of kids are anticipated to be proficient readers by the time they are in third grade, 57% will lack access to clean drinking water, and 43% of the city inhabitants may find themselves living in slums. By 2030, only 7 more years away, all of this is anticipated to have occurred.

Important parties must act right away to address these issues. This entails a strong

Political Communication and commitments, and efficient population policy management.

In order to raise expenditure effectiveness on the family planning front, public money must also be increased. The acquisition of contraceptives, expansion of the Lady Health Workers (LHWs) program, behaviour change messages and creation of public-private partnerships should be the main priorities.

Undoubtedly, the rapid population growth will worsen problems with climate change adaptation and resilience, put stress on water supplies and perhaps contribute to political unrest and conflict.

Pakistan is at the key crossroads in its journey, necessitating immediate action. If the population problem is not addressed, there could be long-lasting socioeconomic problems. Pakistan may turn these difficulties into chances for sustainable development and a higher standard of living for future generations by giving population policy priority and implementing thoughtful measures.

*Writer is student of Law College, University of Sargodha.*



Analysis

Zakaria Khan



# Becoming a value-adding CFO takes integrative thinking, says new ACCA guide

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Chief financial officers (CFOs) have an immense responsibility and career-defining challenge in helping their organisations navigate complex multi-dimensional problems. Businesses and other organisations

face significant challenges in introducing sustainability into their business models and strategies. They also face increased sustainability reporting and assurance requirements. Their processes and systems will need to be updated and transformed to manage these. Report author Sharon Machado,

head of sustainable business at ACCA said 'CFOs and professionals who are ultimately accountable for well-informed decision making must be integrative in their own thinking. They need to consider the balance across the resources and meeting of differing stakeholder needs. Often, this will

be in the face of incomplete, complex, uncertain or ambiguous information. CFOs need to act without being able to reliably predict the outcomes. In a fast-changing world, the organisation's purpose and strategy may need to change, either incrementally, or sometimes, fundamentally.'

## Pak-Iran Relations

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# Pakistan Investment Seminar hosted by JETRO

**Spokesman Report**

TOKYO: The Government of Japan, in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), held a significant Pakistan Investment Seminar at the JETRO head office in Tokyo. This event was an integral part of ongoing efforts to foster international trade and investment ties between Japan and Pakistan.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President of JETRO, who emphasized the strategic importance of enhancing economic cooperation and exploring synergies between the two nations. Ambassador of Pakistan Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar made welcome remarks. The Honorable Minister of the



Board of Investment Pakistan, Ch. Salik Hussain, delivered the keynote address. Minister Hussain articulated the positive trajectory of economic relations and outlined the prospects

for future collaboration and investment between Japan and Pakistan.

Detailed presentations and discussions followed, covering macroeconomic conditions in Pakistan and

the operational insights of Japanese companies within the country. A representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) elaborated on investment opportunities and incentives available in Pakistan.

Additional Secretaries of the Board of Investment Mr. Jamil Qureshi & Ms. Ambreen Iftikhar, made comprehensive presentations on the investment climate in Pakistan, including an overview of the Special Investment Facilitation Council's efforts to streamline procedures and promote foreign investment.

The Seminar was attended by more than 140 Japanese companies signifying renewed interest in investing in Pakistan.

## Emerging Business Titans vie for prestigious title at the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) Pakistan is thrilled to launch the 2023/2024 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) program, inviting applications from college and university students who own or operate businesses. With an esteemed history as EO's premier awards program for student entrepreneurs, GSEA seeks to identify and empower the next generation of business leaders.

The Pakistan Chapter of EO is now accepting applications from student entrepreneurs across various universities. The GSEA program offers an incredible opportunity to gain mentorship, access to local accelerator learning days, and a total prize package of PKR 100,000 for the top three winners of the Pakistan Chapter. The ultimate winner will receive PKR 500,000, along with an all-expenses paid trip to EO GSEA Global Finals. The runner-up will be awarded PKR 200,000, and there will be additional accolades for Social Impact and Technology Innovation.

Saad Siddiqui, GSEA Pakistan 2023 national competition winner, shared his experience, stating, "I owe a great deal of my success to the support and mentorship from esteemed individuals such as Mr. Ahmed Jalal, Mr. Taimur Adil, and all the members of EO GSEA Pakistan."

## Digital payments leader Visa eyes regional expansion; officially opens new Pakistan office

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Visa (NYSE: V), the world's digital payments leader has officially inaugurated its new office in Pakistan.

Visa's expanded on-ground presence in Pakistan is a testament to its commitment to supporting the company's financial institution and merchant clients, local government partners, investments and local communities as part of continued efforts to drive digitalization of the payments landscape.

With the new office, Visa aims to strengthen its ongoing talent acquisition strategy by attracting and retaining key talent. Year-on-year, Visa offices in NALP have seen 15% growth in employee evolution. The new purpose-built office space is designed entirely around needs of the staff and allows for a hybrid work environment. It is an extension of Visa's culture of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity.

Cash displacement in the North Africa, Levant and Pakistan (NALP) region has accelerated in the last two years. Visa has seen digital payment adoption increase at a much faster pace and is committed to supporting Pakistan's journey to a cashless economy through digital transformation. The company's many innovative solutions deployed over the years continue to encourage this shift to digital payments in Pakistan. Visa recognizes emerging trends in consumer payment behavior and payment patterns and remains committed to capturing these opportunities in the NALP region.

Visa's expanded on-ground presence demonstrates its support of Pakistan's government's digital commerce agenda, and commitment to working with local banks, businesses and fintechs to design and deliver the payment options Pakistani consumers seek.

"As a network that works for everyone, everywhere, Visa's mission is to drive digital commerce for the benefit of consumers, businesses, and the economy across Pakistan. As part of our overarching strategy for the NALP market, our new office will enable us to continue collaborations with local financial

# US sanctions 20 Da'esh/ISIS, al-Qaeda operatives in Maldives

**News Desk**

WASHINGTON, AUG 01 (APP): The United States has imposed sanctions on 20 people accused of financially supporting ISIS, or Da'esh, and al-Qaeda operatives in the Maldives, with several of those sanctioned allegedly having been involved in planning attacks on journalists and local authorities.

Among those sanctioned was Mohamad Ameen, who has been accused of being a key recruiter for ISIS-K.

"The United States will continue to deter and disrupt financial and other



support for terrorist attacks in Maldives," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement issued on Monday

Monday's sanctions named key members of the ISIS-affiliated Addu City cell, which has attempted to carry out terrorist attacks since at least

2018, the US said. Jinaau Naseem, the self-proclaimed leader of the cell, has provided financial support to foreign terrorist fighters in Syria.

Other members of the cell are accused of planning an IED attack, producing propaganda and enabling the travel of members to Syria. They were also designated by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control for having assisted ISIS with financial or technological support.

The new sanctions also named people participating in a Maldives-based gang that helped fund ISIS activ-

ities and prepare potential members to be sent to areas of conflict.

"The United States is committed to denying funding and resources to these terrorist support networks and countering the threats they pose both locally and internationally," said Brian Nelson, undersecretary of the Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence.

The announcement comes after Washington designated an ISIS-Somalia finance leader last week with the aim of disrupting the group's "ability to generate, store and move funds".

## Italy GDP unexpectedly shrinks in blow to Meloni

**Spokesman Report**

ROME: Italy's economy performed surprisingly poorly in the second quarter, data showed on Monday, offering an uncomfortable outlook for Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni as her government tries to tackle the negative impact of high inflation.

Gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 0.3 per cent on a quarterly basis between April and June and was up 0.6pc year-on-year, national statistics bureau ISTAT said. A Reuters analyst survey had pointed to a flat reading quarter-on-quarter and a 0.9pc yearly rise.

The gloomy data makes it harder for the government to reach its stated goal of 1pc growth rate this year, although the Treasury said the target "is still fully within reach."

Rome added it would continue to work to implement its EU-funded national post-Covid investment programme and to bring inflation down.

In a report for Capital Economics, Franziska Palmas wrote Italy was no longer outperforming its peers, estimating the country would experience a "sharper drop in output than other euro zone majors in the second half of 2023."

# AlHuda CIBE Hosted an Exposure Visit for National Bank of Ethiopia in Malaysia

**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) a consultancy and advisory company for the development of Islamic finance industry with continuation of its legacy hosted an exposure visit of the Executive Management of National Bank of Ethiopia in Malaysia. It was the combination of Executive Training for the Regulators and exposure of practices in a well established market. National Bank of Ethiopia is the regulatory body for the financial sector in Ethiopia, the objective for this exposure visit is to grasp understanding for overcoming regulatory challenges to gear up the Islamic (interest-free) banking and finance industry. AlHuda CIBE is dedicatedly working for the development of Islamic Finance around a decade in Ethiopia, it is not only limit-

ed to Ethiopia but in East, West, Central and southern part of Africa as well.

The exposure visit was from 4th -10th June 2023, the executive training was based on conceptual framework of Islamic (Interest Free) banking and finance, products based on trade, partnership, and rental, risk management, takaful, sukuk, shariah framework, compliance, governance and accounting standards. The industry visits for the National Bank of Ethiopia were hosted by Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), International Shariah Research Academy (ISRA), International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), May Bank, and Syarikat Takaful Malaysian AM Berhad. Being a regulator for the Financial Market it was a huge opportunity for learning about developed experience to execute in Ethiopian Islamic (Inter-

est-Free) banking industry.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair the Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics said that he would like to thank the National Bank of Ethiopia for choosing AlHuda CIBE, it is not only the value addition in our journey but it will have a positive impact on interest-free banking and finance industry in Ethiopia. He also said, their interest, appetite to learn, cross questioning about the challenges and upfront discussion about upcoming opportunities in this sector reflects the eagerness of the Ethiopian financial market to bring existing interest free financial set-up to the next level. AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics is always equipped to set a long-lasting impact for the growth of Islamic finance industry development across the globe.



CIBE-UAE



## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,230.50	48,034.59
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,441.84	47,998.26
Index Value	Change
12,514,628,474	+195.91
Percentage	Time
+0.41%	1 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,666.27	-33.14
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,535.78	-23.75
Percentage	Time
-0.067%	31 Jul, 12:57 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,476.58	+304.36
Percentage	Time
+0.92%	1 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	761.72	769.72
Canadian Dollar	224	226.2
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	319	322
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.96
Kuwaiti Dinar	932.56	941.56
Malaysian Ringgit	63.13	63.73
New Zealand \$	178.06	180.06
Norwegians Krone	27.95	28.25
Omani Riyal	743.89	751.89
Qatari Riyal	79.18	79.88
Saudi Riyal	76.7	77.4
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	329.62	332.12
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	80	80.9
UK Pound Sterling	370.2	374
US Dollar	288	291

# Trying times for masses as govt goes for Rs20 hike in fuel prices

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Citing the rising commodity price in the global market, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday announced a Rs19.95 per litre increase in the petrol rate – a move that will further trigger the inflation in the country at all levels.

In a message aired live by TV channels, Dar said the hike in high-speed diesel (HSD) would be Rs19.90 per litre, as he argued that the government was bound to follow the deal reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Any deviation would have negative consequences for the country and the outgoing government took the decision in Pakistan's interest, he said, adding that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed them to pass on minimum possible burden to the masses.



With the new prices coming into effect with an immediate effect, petrol and HSD will now be available for Rs272.95 and Rs273.40 per litre respectively – increasing the transportation cost both for individuals and goods to an unbearable level.

Under the stand-by agreement between Pakistan and the IMF, the government is not only

bound to increase the Petroleum Development Levy (PDL) from the present level of Rs50 per litre to Rs60 but also do away with the subsidies to reduce fiscal deficit, leaving the people at the mercy of market.

Constitutionally speaking, it is the last fortnightly price review of the outgoing PML-N coalition government whose term is set to expire on 12th of this month. That's why the government was hesitant to make the announcement supposed to be made on Monday (July 31) before 12am – a politically devastating move given the general elections are to be held in October or November.

In this context, Dar said they tried to work out all the available means for providing relief to the masses while delaying the move but couldn't find any room for that.

But the people don't think in terms of deals, figures, international obligations and market

forces as the latest hike petroleum products' prices didn't come in isolation.

In recent days, the government also jacked up the electricity base price as part of the energy sector reforms suggested by the IMF which envisage reducing circular debt and yet again minimising subsidies although the government says those consuming up to 200 units – stated to be over 65 per cent of total consumers – won't be affected by the decision.

Meanwhile, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) too raised the tariff for the Sui Northern Gas by 50 per cent and the Sui Southern Gas by 42pc on average – as the increasing prices of utilities and fuel comes in a package.

It means a Sui Northern gas consumer is going to pay an additional amount of Rs415.55 per MMBtu (Metric Million British Thermal Unit) while the increase in the case of Sui Southern stands at Rs417 MMBtu.

# Frustrated politicians want anarchy, bankruptcy of country: 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 Tuesday that the rumours that the ruling coalition is divided on the question of the caretaker prime minister are unfounded.

He said that the interim Prime Minister should be a politician with extensive experience dealing with international organisations as the country is on the brink, while a failed politician wants anarchy in Pakistan that should lead to bankruptcy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country is still in the red and the situation requires tough decisions leading to economic and political stability; therefore, an active political figure should be made caretaker prime minister.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that an active and energetic PM would continue difficult negotiations with the lenders, undertake reforms, and ensure work on the CPEC and the Special Investment Facilitation Council to "facilitate the promised investments" from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and other Arab investors.



The business leader said that the parties involved in the ruling alliance have shown great unity under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif in the last 14 months, and it is expected that the coalition parties will also consider the issue of a caretaker prime minister amicably.

All the parties are trying to understand the sensitivity of the situation and will continue to cooperate with each other before and after the election, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the head of the IMF has expressed good expectations about Pakistan, the vice president of China is visiting Pakistan, and several MoUs have been signed.

The stock market is also increasing, but

an unwise political group wants to see Pakistan as a failed state to fulfil its agenda.

He further said that the interest rate is still 22 percent and there is a strong possibility of a further decline in the value of the rupee, which will make people more worried and businesses destroyed, so all the political forces should fight to save the economy instead of trying to get a lion's share. The standby programme of the IMF is a temporary relief, and the economy will only progress when there is political stability, so this programme should not be derailed by political conflicts.

The next IMF review will be held in November, and if successful, the loan tranche will be received in December. Therefore, the caretaker government will have to work hard to ensure the success of this review, for which the presence of a dynamic political caretaker prime minister will be a prerequisite.

The dire economic conditions of the country are proving to be a blessing in disguise for some people, and they are trying their best to create uncertainty and make the country default.

Like the present government, the caretaker government also has to stop such conspiracies and efforts to spread chaos; otherwise, the situation may deteriorate, he warned.

# ICCI terms massive hike in petroleum prices as a blow to the economy

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the government has made a massive hike of almost Rs.20 per litre in the prices of petrol and diesel, which would prove to be a blow to the economy. He said this while addressing a meeting of the business community.

He said that it would unleash a new wave of high inflation and further increase the cost of doing business in the country. The decision would badly squeeze the purchasing power of the already crushed common man leading to a sharp decline in the growth of business activities. The government has also hiked electricity price by Rs.7.5/unit that would multiply the production cost. He said that the price of petrol has jumped from Rs. 227/litre on 1st August 2022 to almost Rs.273/litre on 1st August 2023. Similarly, the price of diesel has surged from Rs.245/litre on 1st August 2022 to more than Rs.273/litre on 1st August 2023. This unprecedented hike in POL prices would multiply



the energy and transport costs and further increase the cost of doing business due to which trade and industrial activities would badly suffer. He urged that the government should reconsider such decisions to save people, businesses and the economy from their devastating consequences.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the SBP has already increased the policy interest rate to 22 percent, making credit cost unaffordable for the business community. The recent hikes in POL and electricity prices would make our products very uncompetitive in the international market and cause decline in our exports. He wondered who

would do business and invest in Pakistan in an environment of frequent hikes in the utility tariffs and POL products.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI said that the repeated hikes in the POL prices and utility tariffs would shatter the confidence of investors who needed stable prices and tariffs to make long-term investment decisions in Pakistan. They urged that the government should reconsider the latest hikes in POL and electricity prices to save the masses, businesses and the economy from further troubles.

# Seagold Private Limited Recognized as a Top Cargo Agent by Emirates SkyCargo



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Seagold Private Limited, one of the leading logistics companies in Pakistan, is thrilled to announce that it has been honored as one of the Top Cargo Agents for Karachi by Emirates SkyCargo for the year 2022-23. The prestigious award was presented at a grand ceremony held at a local hotel in Karachi.

Faisal Yaqoob, Director-Global Air Freight, Seagold (Private) Limited, received the accolade from Saeed Abdulla, Cargo Manager Pakistan-Emirates SkyCargo.

The esteemed recognition from Emirates SkyCargo is a testament to Seagold's unwavering commitment to excellence in the cargo industry for over

two decades. With a legacy of more than 11 years of partnership with Emirates, Seagold has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism in its operations. Receiving the Top Agent award for Karachi consecutively for the past three years further validates Seagold's commitment to delivering excellence consistently.

"We are incredibly honored to be acknowledged as one of the Top Cargo Agents by Emirates SkyCargo," said Ayaz Admani, CEO, Seagold (Pvt.) Ltd. "This recognition not only reflects our strong partnership with Emirates but also serves as a motivation to continuously raise the bar in providing top-notch logistics solutions to our valued clients."

# Nestlé Pakistan reports half year results

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan's sales for the first half of 2023 rose by 26.1% as compared to the same period last year. The increase in revenue is mainly a result of broad growth across our products, complemented by a favorable portfolio mix, demand generating activities and pricing management initiatives.

The results were shared at the end of the Company's Board of Directors' meeting at its Head Office.

A focus on localization of

raw and packaging materials, boosting exports and tighter control on fixed costs by the Company also led to an improvement in the operating profit. This was achieved despite headwinds of high inflation and limited foreign exchange availability for imports, among others.

The Company maintains a cautiously optimistic outlook for the rest of the year, with efforts focused on accelerating localization and exports to remain resilient and contribute to the national economy.

## Will Zubair Tiwana be the new FBR chairman?



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana is reportedly the frontrunner in the race to fill the vacant slot of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman after the retirement of Asim Ahmad on July 30 who was appointed by the PML-N government in April last year.

An officer of the Inland Revenue Service (IRS), Tiwana is currently serving as the IRS Member Operation of IRS. Some reports suggest, although could not be verified so far, the federal cabinet has already approved his appointment through a circulation summary and a formal notification will be issued later in the day.

It is claimed that Finance Minister Ishaq was favouring Tiwana from a long list of aspirants from the IRS, Customs and Pakistan Administration Services.

Whether it is Tiwana or some other person, the challenge remains the same as the FBR is responsible for meeting the Rs9.415 trillion revenue collection target in 2023-24 which is a huge jump from the last fiscal year's figures of Rs7.2tr.

Meanwhile, the FBR is working hard to improve its working as suggested by the launching of IRIS 2.0 – an upgraded version of the tax filing system developed by the Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) – last week.

The move comes as the government is working on enhancing tax collection albeit missing the urgent requirement of expanding the tax base amid a disappointing tax-to-GDP ratio. Moreover, the record-high interest rates and inflation are discouraging business activities with an obvious negative impacts on the collection of direct tax.

# Meezan Bank introduces Meezan WhatsApp Banking Service for its Customers

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, has introduced Meezan WhatsApp Banking, a hassle-free service that empowers both individual customers and businesses to conveniently access a wide range of Account Management services without the need to visit the Bank's website or log in to the mobile application. Developed in collaboration with Infobip (Globally Authorized Vendor), this new service facilitates seamless interaction between Meezan Bank and its customers and is available 24/7. All Meezan customers, including those residing abroad can now avail instant services such as checking account balances, generating IBAN, viewing transaction history, downloading account statements, and obtaining tax certificates.

Commenting on this initiative, Mr. Irfan Siddiqui – Founding President & CEO,

Meezan Bank said, "The launch of Meezan WhatsApp Banking provides our customers with a globally recognized digital touchpoint that offers instant access to multiple account management services. This new service will reinforce our commitment towards delivering state-of-the-art digital solutions for our customers."

Mr. Faiz ur Rehman, Group Head Information Technology at Meezan Bank said, "Meezan WhatsApp banking will help us serve our customers through the most commonly used household social media app. The high compatibility and acceptance of WhatsApp services around the world has given us a leverage to customize our communications as per customer profiles. Notably, the utilization of this service incurs no charges for customers and to initiate a conversation with the Bank, customers simply need to send a message to 111-331-331."





# Pakistan team reaches India for Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan men's team reached India on Tuesday to partake in the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, scheduled to commence on August 3.

According to the details, the national team will travel to Amritsar via Wagah Border before flying out to Delhi and then Chennai where the continental event will take place.

Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) last week, issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to the national men's Hockey team to partake in the tournament.

Last month, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) selection committee unveiled an 18-member squad for the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.

The 18-member squad with seven stand-by players were finalised after the conclusion of two-day trials and was approved by PHF President Brigadier Khalid Sajjad Khokhar.

Umar Bhutta will continue to lead the national men's hockey team while Abdul Waheed Ashraf will serve as his deputy in the Asian Champions' Trophy.

The recently-announced squad includes Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Ehtisham Aslam, Osama Bashir, Aqeel Ahmed, Arshad Liaquat, Muhammad Imad, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Zakaria Hayat, Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf (vc), Muhammad Umar Bhatta (c), Roman, Muhammad Murtaza Yaqub,



Muhammad Shahzaib Khan, Afraz and Abdul Rahman.

Meanwhile, Ali Raza, Muhammad Baqir, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Abdul Wahab, Waqar Ali, Muhammad Arsalan and Abdul Qayyum have been included in the stand-by players' list.

Last month, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) unveiled the schedule of the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy. As per the statement released by the AHF, the six-team tournament will run from August 3 to 12 in Chennai.

The tournament will begin with Korea and Japan playing the first game, while hosts, India will play the third game of the opening day when they take on China.

The six-team tournament will see Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China, and India battle it out for top honours. All the participating teams are placed in one pool and the positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

Pakistan will start their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy campaign against Malaysia on August 3 before taking on

Korea on August 4, Japan on August 6 and China on August 7.

The green shirts will then lock horns with arch-rivals India in their last round fixture on August 9.

The final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy will be held on August 12.

Notably, Pakistan and India are the most successful sides of the tournament, having won the title three each while Korea will participate in the upcoming edition as the defending champions, who won the previous edition in 2021.

## High-profile meeting reviews preparations for inauguration of synthetic turf at National Hockey Stadium

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: High-profile meeting on Tuesday chaired by Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman evaluated the preparations of a grand ceremony in which the newly-laid synthetic turf will be inaugurated at refurbished National Hockey Stadium in the next couple of days.

The important meeting was attended by Commissioner Lahore Division Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, AC Model Town Sahibzada Yousaf, Additional Secretary Sports Nabeela Irfan, MD Wasa Ghafran Ahmed, Secretary RTA, Secretary Transport, SSP VVIP Security, SSP Special Branch, SP M Shahzad, SP Tauqeer, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Admin Ijaz Munir and other officials attended the key meeting in person.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail gave a detailed briefing about the top class preparations for the upcoming grand inaugural ceremony.



While speaking in the meeting Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman informed that ideal arrangements are being made for the inauguration of synthetic turf at renovated National Hockey Stadium. "Strict instructions have been issued to all departments concerned for smooth traffic plan, parking, cleanliness, sanitation and seating of guests and other partic-

ipants in National Hockey Stadium".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman further said that focal persons of all departments have been finalized to develop an ideal coordination for the smooth organization of the mega inaugural ceremony. "Director Admin Ijaz Munir has been appointed focal person of Sports Board Punjab".

Commissioner Lahore Division

Muhammad Ali Randhawa, in his address, said that fool-proof security arrangements will be made for the grand ceremony in which several distinguished guests will participate. "Besides security, all departments will make best administrative measures to make this occasion memorable".

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail on this occasion said that the National Hockey Stadium has been painted with charming colours besides making a befitting seating plan for guests and audience.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that all possible measures are being taken for the development of hockey. "The promotion of hockey, which happens to be Pakistan's national game, is among our top priorities," he added.

Later, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman, Commissioner Lahore, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail and other officials also visited different parts of the stadium to inspect the upgradation and renovation work.

## Ali Asfand, Arafat Minhas orchestrate sensational win

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A stunning display with the ball scripted Pakistan Shaheens' second win in as many days. Shaheens successfully defended a small target of 94 by bowling out Melbourne Renegades on 85 in 19.4 overs at the TIO Stadium in the Top End T20 Series on Tuesday.

With three wickets each from their

four overs, Ali Asfand, who conceded only eight runs and bowled 16 dots, and Arafat Minhas, who conceded 15 and bowled 15 dots, spearheaded Shaheens defence. Sajjad Ali, Faisal Akram and Ahmed Khan took a wicket each. Dylan Brasher's 20-ball 19 was the highest score in the innings.

Shaheens were bowled out for 93 in 18.5 overs after they elected to bat. Shawaiz Irfan top-scored with 32-ball 34 and hit

two sixes and a four. The next best scores were of 13 by Basit Ali and Faisal Akram. Ruwantha Kellapotha was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets for 15. Fergus O'Neill and Tom Rogers picked up two wickets apiece. Shaheens play the next match tomorrow, against Stars, at the same venue. The first ball of the match will be bowled at 1830 local time.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan Shaheens beat Melbourne Renegades by 8 runs

Pakistan Shaheens 93 all out, 18.5 overs (Shawaiz Irfan 34; Ruwantha Kellapotha 3-15, Tom Rogers 2-18, Fergus O'Neill 2-21)

Melbourne Renegades 85 all out, 19.4 overs (Ali Asfand 3-8, Arafat Minhas 3-15) Player of the match - Ali Asfand (Pakistan Shaheens)

## Pakistani athletes shine at World University Games in Chengdu, China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Chengdu, China, Agha Hunain Abbas Khan on Monday informed that all of the athletes participating in the World University Games for Pakistan are females, highlighting the potential for women's sports and the capability of Pakistani young women.

Their success not only brings glory to their nation but also serves as a reminder for young girls aspiring to pursue sports. The all-female cast was selected on the basis of being the best during Pakistan's recently held national games, where all of them secured gold in their chosen sport, he said in an interview.

A ten-member delegation including the five athletes is representing Pakistan

in the World University Games in Chengdu, China.

Manisha and Malecha, twin sisters from Gilgit Baltistan, are representing Pakistan in Taekwondo, while Fiza, hailing from Quetta, will bring her talents on the wushu mat. Uzma, studying in Faisalabad, competes in the hammer throw, while Amtul, who was the star of the national games, having bagged four medals (two gold, a silver, and a bronze) before, would try to beat her personal all-time bests in the long and triple jump in Chengdu.

"As Pakistan continues to nurture its sporting talent, it is crucial to provide adequate resources and build a support system around the athletes. The Higher Education Commission is doing a great job of providing full scholarships



for student-athletes, and it is hoped that various institutes can come together to build a holistic approach to ensure continued success and representation at the international level reflective of the talent of Pakistan," Agha Hunain said.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Pakistani team was welcomed with tremendously loud cheers from the Chinese audience, showing the deep

affection the Chinese hold for Pakistan.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was present at the Opening Ceremony and later tweeted, "Proud moment to have the Pakistani delegation enter the stadium amongst loud clapping and a standing ovation at the opening ceremony of FISU World University Games, Chengdu."

It is worth mentioning that 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions are participating in the 31st FISU World University Games which kicked off on Friday at Dongan Sports Stadium in Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province and games will conclude on August 8.

The province is famous for spicy food and Panda which is the symbol of Chinese Culture around the globe.

## PSB approves participation of Pakistan contingent in CW Youth Games

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has approved the participation of the Pakistani Contingent in the 7th Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Trinidad and Tobago from August 4 to 14.



It was approved in the 28th meeting of PSB held here on Tuesday. This would provide a remarkable opportunity for young athletes to showcase their skills on an international platform.

During the meeting, multiple crucial agendas were discussed and approved.

The Board also unanimously approved the regularization of daily wages employees, taking a significant step towards promoting fairness within the organization.

To support sports initiatives and improve facilities, the Board approved the budget estimate for the Pakistan Sports Board for the upcoming financial year 2023-2024.

The Board also granted permission for the Pakistan Contingent to participate in the 2nd Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Games scheduled to be held in Belarus from August 4 to 14. This would foster greater sports diplomacy and cooperation with other Commonwealth nations.

Moreover, the Board approved Pakistan's participation in the 18th Asian Games set to take place in China from September 23 to October 8.

In an effort to make sports accessible to all, the Board took a positive step by rationalizing the rates of the PSB facilities for its members. This measure aims to encourage wider participation and engagement in various sporting activities.

The Board also granted permission for the revision of the Constitution of the PSB. This would streamline and strengthen the organization's operations, ensuring effective governance and support for athletes and sports enthusiasts.

## Bowlers star as Pakistan Shaheens stun Melbourne Renegades

DARWIN: Arafat Minhas and Ali Asfand spearheaded Pakistan Shaheens' bowling attack to edge Melbourne Renegades by eight runs in a low-scoring Top End T20 Series thriller here on Tuesday.

Set to chase a modest 94, Melbourne Renegades were bundled out for a paltry 85 to hand a narrow eight-run victory to Pakistan Shaheens.

A stunning display with the ball scripted Pakistan Shaheens' second win in as many days. Shaheens successfully defended a small target of 94 by bowling out Melbourne Renegades on 85 in 19.4 overs at the TIO Stadium in the Top End T20 Series on Tuesday.

With three wickets each from their four overs, Ali Asfand, who conceded only eight runs and bowled 16 dots, and Arafat Minhas, who conceded 15 and bowled 15 dots, spearheaded Shaheens' defence.

Sajjad Ali, Faisal Akram and Ahmed Khan took a wicket each. Dylan Brasher's 20-ball 19 was the highest score in the innings.

## Sports Board Punjab will provide all possible support to Pakistan's chess team



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said Sports Board Punjab will provide all possible support to Pakistan's chess team for their participation in international chess events; he said this while talking to members of Pakistan's chess team at National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday ahead of their participation in World School Chess Championship scheduled to be played in Kazakhstan from August 3 to 8, 2023.

Pakistan's 10-member chess contingent including eight players of U-12 (Ayat Asmi, Ashaz Hussain, Furqan and Ayad Moeed Ahmed) and U-18 (M Adil Irfan, Suleman, Abdur Rehman and Adil Rehan) age group categories and two officials (Sidra Butt and Amir Kareem), who will participate in 50-nation World School Chess Championship were present in the meeting.

Secretary Chess Association of Punjab Raja Gohar Iqbal, Vice-President Saleem Akhtar, Press Secretary Rafi Jamal and other officials were also present on this occasion.

After proper trials activity, the top performing players were selected from two schools Lahore Grammar School and Learning Alliance for the grand championship.

Talking to Pakistan's chess contingent, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said Sports Board Punjab has always taken effective measures for the promotion of sports culture in all parts of Punjab province. "Chess is a very popular sport among the younger generation and it is being played at school level and that's why its future is bright in the country," he added.

## Third B-5 Training and Coaching Course on Aug. 26

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The third B-5 training and coaching course, being organized under the auspices of the Sindh Softball Association (SSA) in collaboration with the National Softball Academy (NSA), will be held in Karachi on August 26.

Qualified coaches from Softball Asia will provide training to the players, coaches, and sports teachers of schools, colleges, and universities regarding the new amendments in rules and regulations of B-5 by the World Baseball Softball Confederation.

A special session will also be conducted on sports injuries awareness during the course.

General Secretary of Sindh Softball Association, Mohammad Zeeshan Merchant has nominated Murad Hussain as the Director of the training course and Shiraz Asif as the event coordinator.

Interested persons willing to participate in the course can contact Shiraz Asif, regarding their registration at 03122721024 or shiraz.asif02@gmail.com