



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
کہا ہے سے عام بن سلمان اہول سے بیان  
کیا، کہا کہ میں نے اس بن مالک رضی اللہ  
عنه سے پوچھا کیا تم کو یہ بات معلوم ہے کہ  
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اسلام  
میں معاہدہ (حلف) کی کوئی اصل نہیں؟  
اس رضی اللہ عنہ نے فرمایا کہ نبی کریم صلی  
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے خود قریش اور انصار کے  
درمیان میرے گھر میں حلف کرائی تھی۔  
(بیگناری صحت نمبر 6083)  
Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited

## Glowing tribute

Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJsSC & Services Chiefs pay glowing tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 52nd Shahadat Anniversary today. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas is the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, who embraced Shahadat at Goth Ahmed Shah, Sujawal on 20 August 1971. His martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. In the line of duty, he lived up to the great traditions of Pakistan Armed Forces in defending the motherland.



## Saudi Hajj & Umrah minister's visit highlights bilateral significance: Aneeq

Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Saturday said the visit of Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, to Pakistan was highly important due to its significant implications for bilateral relations. He said this during a crucial meeting with Saudi Ambassador, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki here in the ministry. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## A visit

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited a hospital to meet and enquire after the health of former Provincial Minister Mr Sarfraz Chakar on Saturday.



Photo: PID

## Two terrorists killed in Khyber IBO: ISPR



### Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: On night 18/19 August 2023, security forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation on reported presence of terrorists in general area Bara, Khyber District.

two terrorists were sent to hell. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists and resultantly

## President Alvi signs official secrets, army amendment bills into law



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday signed the Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill and Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 into law.

and the Army Act. The person will not be allowed to participate in political activities under the law, and after retirement, resignation, or dismissal, they will not be involved in political activities for 2 years.

Individuals assigned to sensitive duties will not be allowed to participate in political activities for 5 years, and those violating the ban will receive a harsh punishment of 2 years in prison. If a person under the Anyone who defames the military or spreads hate will be sentenced to 2 years in prison and will be tried under the Electronic Crimes Act.

The development comes days after the president refused to sign multiple bills. The approval of the bills would widen the scope of Army Act and the Official Secret Act.

Earlier, both bills were approved by the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan.

Under the Army Act Amendment Bill 2023 unauthorised disclosure of information related to national security and interests will be penalised, and the individual involved in it will be sentenced to five years in prison.

According to the bill, any action against Pakistan and its armed forces, involving disclosures, will also be taken into account, and the relevant person will be dealt with under the Official Secrets Act

Meanwhile, the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was passed by the National Assembly earlier this month, modification in the original draft for the amendment.

The original draft empowered intelligence agencies to arrest suspects or conduct searches without warrants. This clause was dropped in the final version of the bill.

Another change was made to clause 5 of the bill, which earlier stated: "[A] person may be presumed to have been in communication with enemy or a foreign agent if he has, either within or without Pakistan visited the address of a foreign agent or consorted or associated with enemy or a foreign agent..."

## PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi arrested in cipher case

### Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice President Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is nominated in a case related to cipher controversy, in federal capital.

The former foreign minister, sources said, was taken into custody from his residence in Islamabad and will be shifted to the FIA's headquarters. It is recalled Mr Qureshi had recorded his statement in the cipher case.

The developments come shortly after the PTI stalwart held a press conference wherein he slammed the government for unjust action against the PTI leaders and workers.



He also hit out at the government over late night action against the PTI leader Usman Dar in Sialkot, saying his house was sealed in midnight and family members were forced out of it.

He said factories owned by Mr Dar had also been sealed, leaving hundreds of people unemployed. If transparent elections

are possible in such environment? he questioned the caretaker government and the Election Commission of Pakistan.

He also called for timely action in the country, saying various sections in the country have expressed their concerns in this regard.

The former minister also rejected the reports of cracks within the PTI's core committee.

The PTI vice president was after a first information report (FIR) was registered against him and PTI chief Khan under Official Secrets Act on August 15 for making the contents of the diplomatic cipher public for political scoring.

The PTI chief has been accused of sharing the content of the classified cipher to unauthorised persons and misrepresenting

the facts the vested interests by putting the state security at risk.

It said the former premier and Qureshi held secret meetings at Bani Galan residence in March last year when they conspired to distort the content of the classified document.

The FIR said the PTI chief illegally kept a copy of cipher, which was sent by the then Pakistan ambassador to the US, with "malafide intention". It added the former premier had not sent the copy back to the Foreign Office.

It added that such actions by the accused persons directly/indirectly benefited the interest of foreign powers, besides serving damages to Pakistan.

The FIR said the role of the former principal secretary Azam Khan will be ascertained during of investigation into the case.

## Caretaker govt committed to financial prudence: PM



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Saturday said that in the midst of economic challenges, their unwavering commitment to financial prudence stood strong. On social media platform X, the prime minister said that from vendors to lawyers, farmers to doctors, and every other segment of the society, their contribution propelled the 'Pakistani Dream'. "Together, with this diverse support, we are journeying towards a brighter and more prosperous future for our nation," he further posted in a tweet.

The post also carried a short video clip of an address by the caretaker prime minister to the cabinet members.

## Justice Isa visits Jaranwala to show solidarity with Christian community



### MA Rasheed

FAISALABAD: Senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Saturday paid a visit to Christian Colony in Jaranwala to show solidarity with affected members of the community after Wednesday riots.

Justice Isa, who will take over as Chief Justice of Pakistan next month, was briefed by police and civil administration at Jaranwala's Daanish School.

He also met the victims of the displaced minority community and expressed deep sorrow over the incident. Justice Isa also visited an affected church and settlement that was attacked by a violent mob.

## Desecration of the Holy Quran in the Netherlands

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns another provocative and deeply offensive act of desecration of the Holy Quran in The Hague on 18 August 2023.

This deliberate Islamophobic act deeply hurts the feelings of 2 billion Muslims around the world, and threatens peaceful coexistence and inter-religious harmony.

Such offensive acts cannot be covered under legitimate freedom of expression, opinion and protest. International law obliges States to prevent and prohibit deliberate incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief.

Pakistan believes that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. It is the responsibility of national governments and the international community at large to prevent racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic acts. That was the spirit behind the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 to mark 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

## AJK President urges global action against human rights abuses in IIOJK



### Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has called upon the international community to intensify efforts to halt state terrorism and human rights violations in the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) State. Speaking during a meeting with prominent thinker and writer Nida Jamal at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis, President AJK stressed the urgency for international human rights organizations to take effective notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-held territory, coinciding with World Humanitarian Day on August 19.

## NIH confirms report of monkeypox case

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination has confirmed that one case of monkeypox has been tested positive. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the patient is currently hospitalized for management in Rawalpindi.

The patient is receiving appropriate care and a team from the NIH under the ministry of National Health Services is conducting epidemiological investigations and contact tracing.

The patient's contacts and family members are also being monitored. At this time, there is no risk of further spread of the disease in Pakistan, the NIH added.

## Caretaker PM to visit Jaranwala

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has decided to visit Jaranwala along with Caretaker CM Punjab and federal ministers.

Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George has been directed for preparations of the caretaker prime minister's visit.

The caretaker PM will visit the vandalized churches and meet the people affected in the arson attacks in Jaranwala.

PM Anwaar ul Haq Kakar will express solidarity of his government with the Christian community and announce compensation for the losses to the people affected in the lawless incidents.

On Wednesday, a violent mob of hundreds of people ransacked and torched several churches and residences of members of the Christian community.

## Court orders to de-seal Usman Dar's property



### Faisal Butt

SIALKOT: A civil court has ordered to de-seal the property of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Usman Dar.

As per details, the counsel of Usman Dar said that the residence, secretariat, Factory and other property has been de-sealed on court orders.

The Deputy Magistrate yesterday order to de-seal his properties and the court orders were implemented today, Usman Dar's lawyer said.

Earlier, the residence, factory, and secretariat of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Usman Dar were sealed.

## Protest

KARACHI: Christians hold a torchlight rally to condemn the attacks on churches in Pakistan at Teen Talwar area of the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Saudi Hajj & Umrah minister's visit to Pakistan highlights bilateral significance: Aneeq

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Saturday said the visit of Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, to Pakistan was highly important due to its significant implications for bilateral relations. He said this during a crucial meeting with Saudi Ambassador, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki here in the ministry. The meeting, attended by prominent figures including Saudi Deputy Minister for International Cooperation Dr. Alhasan bin Yahya Al-Manakhara, Religious Affairs Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, and

Director-General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro, delved into various aspects of collaboration between the two countries. Minister Aneeq asserted that Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah's position as Chairman of the administration of Masjid al-Haram and Masjid al-Nabawi had immense respect for Pakistan.

He said the visit of the Saudi delegation was poised to facilitate the exchange of ideas on matters of mutual interest, including crucial topics such as Hajj, Umrah, the administration of Haramain Sharifain, Route Makkah Project, and the promotion of religious tourism. He expressed the hope that this collaborative engagement was expected to



foster a deeper understanding and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki shared insights on the enduring importance of Pakistan within Saudi Arabia. The ambassador highlighted that Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Moham-

med bin Salman, had consistently recognized the value of Pakistan as a crucial partner. During his previous visit to Pakistan, the Crown Prince even declared himself as Pakistan's ambassador, a gesture that resonated deeply with the Pakistani populace, he maintained.

Ambassador Al-Malki also underscored the personal bond referring to the nation as his second home and expressing a profound connection with his Pakistani brethren. Furthermore, a commitment to future collaborations was demonstrated during the meeting, as Ambassador Al-Malki expressed intentions to establish memorandums of understanding for enhanced cooperation in refining Hajj arrangements. He said this step was anticipated to bring improvements and innovations to the pilgrimage experience, underlining the commitment of both nations to continually enhance the religious journey of millions of pilgrims.

## Caretaker Sindh cabinet takes oath

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori on Saturday administered oath to members of newly appointed 10-member caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar's cabinet.

The oath-taking ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran at the Governor House in Karachi, which was also attended by caretaker CM Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Sindh issued a notification of 10-member cabinet, stating that Governor Sindh appointed provincial ministers on advice of caretaker CM.

The caretaker Sindh cabinet members include Dr



Saad Khalid Niaz, Ms Rana Hussain, Dr Junaid Shah, Brigadier (retd) Haris Nawaz,

Mubeen Jatori and Younus Dagher, Ishwar Lal, Arshad Wali Muhammad, Omar

Soomoro and Khuda Bux Marri. A day earlier, it was report-

ed that Sindh Caretaker CM Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar has completed consultation and shortlisted names to be taken in the first round of the interim provincial cabinet.

Sources added that the caretaker Sindh government has finalised names for the caretaker provincial cabinet, which will consist of academicians, prominent doctors, eminent surgeons, economists and security experts.

Sources claimed that the interim cabinet will work impartially and in the broad interest of the people of the province. Special consideration was given to the educational and professional qualifications of shortlisted members, sources added.

## Mohsin Naqvi visits Govt High School Sheikhupura

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspected the relief camp being established in Government High School Sheikhupura Noh during his visit to the Ganda Singh Wala. Mohsin Naqvi met with the two elderly women and their family members in the room of the relief camp and inquired from them about facilities and food arrangements being provided in the relief camp. When the elderly women tried to get up from their bed, Mohsin Naqvi asked them to keep sitting. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his affection towards the elderly women by bowing down.

## Photo exhibition paying tributes to diverse beauty of China: Ambassador Haque

## Spokesman Report

BELJING: A photo exhibition titled "China in Frames: A Photographic Tribute" by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was held at Yindi Art Museum to pay tributes to the rich culture and diverse beauty of China. The collection of photographs reflects the Ambassador's three years in China, showcasing his deep appreciation and admiration for the country's unique charm. Each photograph tells a story of breathtaking landscapes, iconic monuments, ancient traditions, and the vibrant spirit that permeates every corner of China.

The exhibition also encapsulates the Ambassador's profound connection with China, paying tribute to the shared heritage and the endur-



ing friendship between China and Pakistan. Addressing the opening ceremony, Ambassador Haque who travelled to numerous provinces, cities, tourist places and cultural sites in China said that the exhibition expressed his deep affection for China and showed the beauty and diversity of Chinese

landscapes. "In each photograph is a brush stroke portraying a nation that has captured my heart and soul," he added. He emphasized that these photographs are not just ordinary pictures; they represent his love for China, its people and the captivating landscapes, diverse culture, and progress

the country has made.

"These photographs do not merely capture moments but captured the essence of a land that has graciously unfolded its wonders before me," he added. Ambassador Haque said that his photographs will serve as cherished memories of his staying in China, and added, "China having rich history, landscapes, traditions and people has been my home away from home." He said that his stay in China has been a revelation that has unfolded with every step, every interaction and every moment. Terming the exhibition as a tribute from an iron friend to a best friend, he said that the friendship between Pakistan and China is all-weather and time-tested and it will continue to grow in the future. Ambassador Haque has been greatly impressed by

## Caretaker communications minister inspects Hazara Motorway, M.1



## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tararr Saturday visited Hazara Motorway and M.1 and issued instructions for keeping the motorways in the best condition.

He gave a 10-day deadline to the concerned officials while expressing his indignation over the non-cleaning of green belts and the non-sorting of waste.

The minister also issued instructions for the installation of new signboards at various points as required.

He expressed his displeasure over potholes at various places on the

national highway and directed immediate repairs.

To avoid accidents on the motorways, anti-glare screens should be repaired immediately, he added.

The minister directed the installation of safety fences at several places on the motorways. The full presence and sustainability of the security fence should be ensured, he added.

He gave a one-month deadline for the delay of work on under construction rest area near Shah Maqsood on Hazara Motorway 35-E.

He also directed to open mosques and restrooms for passengers after completion of construction work.

## Asphalt plant opens after CMs instructions

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the direction of Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi, LDA Asphalt plant being closed down for the past 5 years has been made functional. CM Mohsin Naqvi visited the Asphalt plant located at the Shahkam Defence Road and reviewed its working after inspecting the Control Room. Mohsin Naqvi directed to control smoke of the Asphalt plant along with ensuring security of the workers working in the plant. DG LDA while giving a briefing on the plant project apprised that LDA will itself undertake work of the construction and patchwork of roads of the city. The Asphalt plant has been shut down since 2018 and has been made functional on the direction of CM Mohsin Naqvi. LDA will perform its duties of the restora-



tion and construction of the roads of Lahore with the functionalization of the Asphalt plant. All administrative affairs of the Asphalt plant will be performed by TEPA LDA. The M&R Section has been established in the TEPA LDA for the repair and restoration of roads. Chief Secretary, Commissioner Lahore division, Deputy Commissioner, CCPO and other officials were also present on the occasion.

## Notables from Balochistan meet PM



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD, AUG 19 (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday here held a meeting with Nawabzada Jamal Raisani.

Notables and political personalities belonging to Balochistan also attended the meeting. They congratulated the prime minister on assuming office and expressed their best wishes for him.

## Massive increase in flour prices at Utility Stores

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Government has massively increased the flour prices at Utility Stores across Pakistan.

As per details, the price of 20kg flour bag has increased by Rs1544 whereas the 10kg has been hiked by Rs772 in Utility Stores.

After the increase, the 20kg flour price has reached from Rs1296 to Rs2840 whereas the 10kg bag price has been jacked up to Rs1420.

Earlier, the 20kg flour bag price was jacked up to Rs2,900 in the open market of the provincial capital of Punjab. As per details, the price of 40kg wheat bag has crossed Rs4,800 in the open market after an increase of Rs50.

Due to the increase in the wheat price, the 20kg bag of flour was sold by shopkeepers at Rs2,930 while the 10kg bag is being sold at Rs1,470 in Lahore. Punjab secretary good said his team is monitoring the activities of the 'wheat mafia' and the crack-down is underway by the deputy commissioners and the commissioners across the province.

## Jaranwala Incident: Punjab IG see RAW's hand behind

GUJRANWALA: A Christian leader on Saturday said that the Inspector General (IG) Punjab has claimed that the Indian secret agency 'RAW' is behind the ugly incident that occurred in Jaranwala.

According to the details, Christian leaders expressed gratitude to scholars and the Pakistani state during a press conference after the Jaranwala incident.

The Christian leader stated that the Punjab IG mentioned a conspiracy by RAW in the Jaranwala incident, he added that if there is any foreign conspiracy to spark the riot, it should be thoroughly investigated.

The Christian leader also mentioned that India should protect its minorities, put stop in the killing of Kashmiris.

"Our religion teaches respect for all faiths," the Christian leader said.

Christian leaders demanded that a comprehensive investigation be conducted into the Jaranwala incident, highlighting the significant role the Christian community has always played in building and preserving Pakistan.

**CTD Operation in Punjab**

# CTD arrests 13 alleged terrorists of banned organizations

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 13 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 55 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 58 suspected persons were interrogated and 13 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explo-

sives and other prohibited materials. He said that Jalat Khan, Jannat Khan, Kashf Rasool, Israr Khan, Sahibzada, Nazir, Abdul Salam, Amir Khan, Asadullah Muawiya, Ameer Khan, Mumtaz Khan, Anwar Khan and Ghulam Rehman are among the arrested terrorists, who belong to the banned organizations, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Daesh, Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan and Al-Qaeda. The arrest of these alleged terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Rawalpindi, Chiniot, Kasur and Multan, he said

and added that the explosives 2360 grams, IED bomb 1, detonators 11, protective fuse wire 26 feet, pistol 30 bore 1, bullets 6, flags 4, 71 pamphlets of banned organization, 93 stickers and 46475 rupees cash were recovered from the possession of terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered 10 cases against the arrested alleged terrorists in Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Sheikhupura, Bahawalpur and Multan, and shifted them to an

unknown location, he added.

He said that 339 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 4113 persons were checked, 34 suspects were arrested, 26 FIRs were registered and 10 recoveries were made during these operations. The Counter Terrorism Department Punjab is diligently pursuing its goal of a safe Punjab and no stone will be left unturned in its efforts to bring terrorists and anti state elements behind bars, he said and concluded that In case of any related information.

## Social welfare fellowship activities will continue: Zeeba Javed



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Newly elected president of Innerwell Club Multan Central, Zeba Javed and other officials wore the collar in the installation ceremony. In this regard, the installation ceremony of Innerwell Multan Central Club was held. The post was practically assigned to him. Speaking at the installation ceremony held after assuming the post of president, Zeba Javed said that the social welfare fellowship activities will continue.

So that the suffering sections get relief and they can play a positive and active role in the society, he said that the ongoing welfare projects of Anerville Multan Central will be taken forward and new projects will also be started. Chairman Meena Ghori, Secretary Club Maryam Javed, Subakdosh President Rukhsana Naem, Iram Iqbal, Ayesha Bukhari and other members participated and congratulated the newly elected President Zeba Javed on assuming office and gave gifts and bouquets.

## Direction of the Punjab govt strict monitoring started in health sector: Amir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak has said that on the direction of the Punjab government, strict monitoring has been started in the health sector by the divisional administration.

He expressed these views while making a surprise visit to Nishtar Hospital 1 and 2, including the emergency ward yesterday morning. On this occasion, Commissioner Engineer Amir Khattak made a detailed review of the medical facilities and medicine supply available to the patients. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor Dr. Altaf Ahmad Rana and MS Dr. Rao Amjad gave a briefing on medical facilities.

Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that there are clear orders of the Chief Minister of Punjab that there should be no compromise on the supply of medicines and the sanitation situation, because the Chief Minister of Punjab has a special focus on the improvement of the health sector. Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the cases are increasing. In view of this, the dengue ward will be kept functional as per international requirements while there is zero tolerance on the provision of all facilities including air conditioner and oxygen in the wards.

## District Administration decides to curb the scandalous business of sex drugs: Umar Jahangir

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the district administration has decided to curb the scandalous business of sex drugs and in this regard, drug inspectors have been ordered to crack down. He said that the purchase of smuggled sex and fake drugs And the mafia involved in the sale should be exposed.

He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the Drug Quality Control Board. Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Faisal Raza Qaisrani gave a briefing on drug control. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that more than 10 medical stores and companies were punished in the Drug Quality Control Board meeting. The loss of thousands of lives can be prevented by fully implementing the Drug Act.

## Strongly condemned the burning of Quran in Jaranwala: Dardana Siddiqui

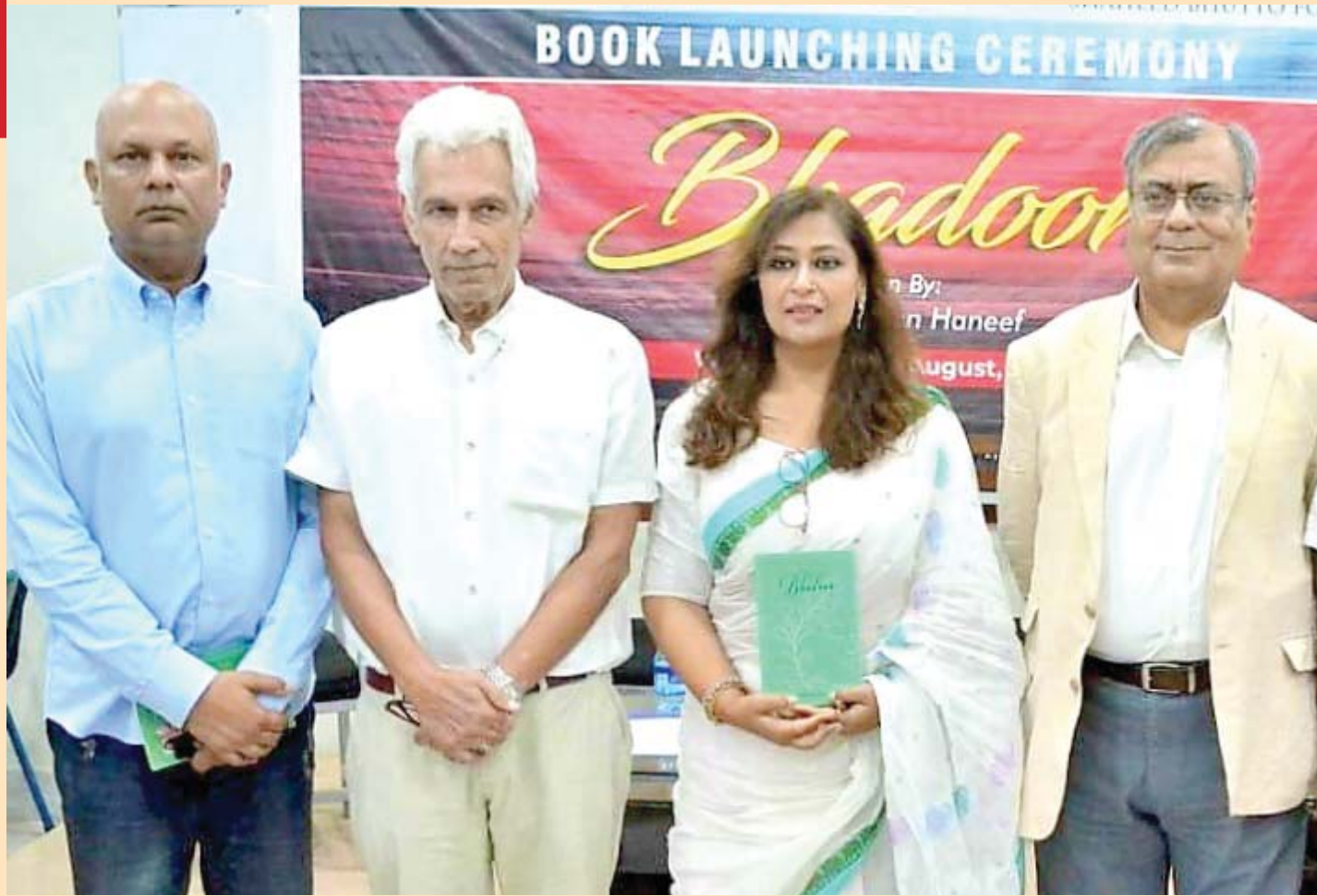
Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Women Secretary General Dardana Siddiqui strongly condemned the burning of the church after the alleged desecration of the Quran in Jaranwala. Secretary General Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Dardana Siddiqui, members of the Central Majlis Shura Rafia Fatima, Fawzia Irfan and the candidate of Constituency PP 214 Shazia Sher Afzal have said that "The law and order situation in the country is very bad- After the alleged desecration of the Holy Quran in Jaranwala, the burning of the church and damage to property is very unfortunate.



## Book launching

ISLAMABAD: Shaheed Bhutto Foundation organized a book launch ceremony of Madiha Arsalan Hanif's book Bhadoon. During the ceremony, CEO Shaheed Bhutto Foundation Asif Khan, Harris Khaliq and Arshad Waheed expressed their views on the book.



# All the minorities have full freedom under the Constitution: Dr Safdar Hashmi / Pastor Yusuf Raza

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr Safdar Hashmi and Bishop of Multan Pastor Yusuf Raza Nikke in Multan. Speaking at the important press conference at the press club, he said that Pakistan is everyone's Pakistan, here all the minorities have full freedom under the constitutional and legal framework. Due to some mischievous elements, the country's identity has suffered destruction. Today, the purpose of our joint press conference is to condemn all the events happening in Jaranwala, whether it is the desecration of the Holy Quran or the burning of the church. Is, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and all other religions have complete



freedom in Pakistan

He further said that the desecration of the Holy Quran is condemnable be it in Sweden or in Pakistan. Similarly, it is also a crime to harm a religious place and population. A full investigation into this incident is required. We believe that the desecration of sacred places, holy figures and books of all religions is condem-

nable in the spirit of the constitution of Pakistan. He said that he strongly condemns incitement, vandalism and arson in the guise of desecrating the Holy Quran.

Inciting the public, taking the law into one's hands, attacking life, property, honour, reputation, holy places is a crime. This incident and the incidents related to it are less to be condemned.

Pakistan's identity has been damaged in the world due to these incidents. We demand that a transparent inquiry be conducted into these incidents and that action be taken against all those involved, be they desecrating the Holy Quran or damaging the Church and other places.

So that such incidents can be remedied. On this occasion, Khawaja Asim, Hassan Ikhwani, Asrar Hussain, Hanif Lal, Kaleem Dutt, Sohail Botha, Waheed Iqbal, Dani Ahl Gulzar Advocate, Abbas Ijaz, Javed Jozef, Sarfaraz Ramzan Hanif Lal Masih President Minority Wing Jamaat-e-Islami Multan. And Central Deputy Media Coordinator Hassan Ikhwani, Khawaja Asim Riaz and others are also present.

# Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's new caretaker cabinet take oath

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet consisting of Nine ministers, Two advisers and One special assistant took oath, no person from tribal districts especially North and South Waziristan Lower Waziristan are included in the cabinet.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath to the members of the new caretaker cabinet in a ceremony held at Governor House Peshawar.

Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan was also present in the ceremony.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan formed his new cabinet yesterday, which

includes 9 ministers, 2 advisers and one special assistant and four members of the previous cabinet have also been included in the new cabinet.

The nominated ministers include Syed Masood Shah, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah KaKa Khel, Justice (Retd) Irshad Qaiser, Ahmed Rasool Bungash, Asif Rafiq, Dr Najib Ullah, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah and Syed Aamir Abd Ullah.

Dr. Riaz Anwar and Dr. Sarfaraz Ali Shah will be the advisers to the Chief Minister while Zafar Ullah Khan will be the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister.

While Now not even a single person from North Waziristan and South Waziristan Lower

Waziristan has been included in the cabinet, much to the dismay of the people of the tribal districts.

Nadeem Wazir, district president of Jamaat-e-Islami from Lower South Waziristan says that all this is a big excess in the areas where there is unrest and incidents are happening every day, so in these circumstances it was necessary to have someone's representation in the provincial cabinet, which was not given to any of the merged districts.

He expressed serious concerns over the caretaker cabinet and said that the people of the tribal districts affected by the operations have not yet stood on their feet and now there is an atmosphere of unrest again.

Nadeem Wazir further said that earlier we used to say that



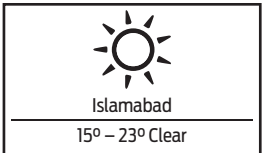
there is FATA, injustice is being done to us and we are not being given our right, even though

the tribal districts have now been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, still ignoring the tribal districts is not only cruel but shameful.

He demanded from the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to give us our right and remedy the deprivations of the tribal districts and the Chief Minister should have done this, at least at the provincial level one or two ministries should have been given to the tribal districts.

Usman, a political activist from North Waziristan, said, "I think so." the current cabinet is probably composed of people close to PDM like the previous cabinet.

He said that I think we are being neglected again at the provincial level like in previous periods.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:02 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	4:55 pm
Maghrib	6:50 pm
Isha	8:20 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6

# Murtaza Solangi visits media houses, NPC

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi visited multiple media houses and the National Press Club (NPC) on Saturday to discuss matters of mutual interest with the journalist community.

The visit marked the formal commencement of his duties in his newly assumed position as the Interim Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

Solangi expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he received from the media community upon his appointment, acknowledging the support, prayers, and well-wishes extended by his friends and colleagues in the media industry.

During his visits, Minister Solangi visited the offices of leading publications including Daily Nawa-i-Waqt, The Nation, and Ausaf, along with news networks such as Dunya News, Sama News, 24 News, ARY News, Express News, Suno News, Hum News and Dawn News.

In these interactions, he expressed gratitude for the affection shown by his well-wishers.

Addressing the journalist community, Murtaza Solangi underscored the crit-



ical role of the Election Commission in upholding the democratic process by ensuring free and fair elections.

He assured the caretaker government's complete backing in facilitating the commission in the discharge of its constitutional duties.

The minister highlighted the prevailing challenge of forging a national consensus on significant national matters.

He lamented the transformation of

political disagreements into personal animosity, stressing the need for rectifying this trend and fostering unity among diverse segments of society.

Murtaza Solangi further emphasized the necessity of combating the growing intolerance within society.

He said the Ministry of Information, in collaboration with the media, would strive to provide the public with accurate and comprehensive information about the prevailing situation.

"As a representative of the journalist community, our foremost priority is to create an enabling professional environment and safeguard the rights of journalists," Solangi maintained.

He expressed his regret over the unfortunate incident involving senior journalist and anchor Kamran Yusuf, stating that the Punjab government was taking steps to apprehend the culprits who robbed him.

The minister also offered his condolences over the demise of the father of senior journalist Shehbaz Rana and brother of senior journalist Sanaulah Khan.

Solangi prayed for the departed souls to find eternal peace and for strength and resilience to be granted to the grieving families to cope with their profound loss.

## Land mafia encroaching on green belts, footpaths in Multan

**Bureau Report**

MULTAN: In the locality of Hassan Parwana Colony in Multan, there is a dominance of the land mafia over green belts and footpaths. The mafia members have encroached upon both sides of a 25/30-foot-wide government-owned road, constructing courtyards and car porches for their houses. Despite complaints lodged with the enforcement team of the Metropolitan Development Authority (MDA) and the municipal corporation, no action has been taken.

According to details, there is an escalation of violations and illegal commercial activities in Hassan Parwana Colony. Residential properties have been transformed into commercial plazas. Encroachments have spread from Ali Charga to Zeb-un-Nisa Park on both sides of the road, and residents have taken over the state-owned land in front of their houses, converting it into parts of their car porches and courtyards. Sturdy iron gates have been installed. These violations distress the general public, while the administration seems unaware and ineffective. Other residents are concerned about these encroachments.

The renting out of government land by the land mafia is evidence of administrative corruption and incompetence. The Deputy Commissioner of Multan announced an end to these violations a week ago, but no steps to remove or rectify these encroachments have been taken. The residents of Hassan Parwana Colony demand that these blatant violations be eradicated and the government land be restored to its original state with green belts. There is also a complaint that thieves and criminals are active within these barriers and walls.

## Minister leads crucial discussion on Hajj 2024, long-term policy implementation

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Saturday chaired a high-profile meeting centring on accelerating the application process for Hajj 2024 and delving into the comprehensive implementation of a long-term Hajj policy. Religious Affairs Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary for Hajj, and Director General Hajj were present in this inclusive meeting. Minister Aneeq emphasized the significance of learning from past Hajj arrangements to pave the way for further enhancements. He underscored the importance of swift approval of the Hajj policy, highlighting its potential to optimize the overall arrangements. During the meeting, it was affirmed that a comprehensive strategy would be implemented, catering to both short-term and long-term Hajj policy preparations. The briefing's notable highlight pertained to the allocation of surplus funds from Hajj expenses back to the revered pilgrims as an unprecedented sum of Rs12 billion was restituted to the pilgrims, marking the first instance of such an extensive refund in history. The minister was told that despite encountering formidable challenges posed by adverse weather conditions, the arrangements for Hajj 2023 stood as a model of excellence in all aspects. As the discussion drew to a close, a resolute commitment was made to expedite the processing of Hajj 2024 applications, ensuring a seamless process for aspiring pilgrims. Additionally, a progressive proposal garnered attention, focusing on the collection of funds for future pilgrims through convenient installments as this forward-looking approach would facilitate the financial aspect of the pilgrimage for years to come.

## Popular folk singer Attaullah Esakhelvi turns 72

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Popular singer and folk icon Attaullah Khan Esakhelvi turned 72 on Saturday. Born on August 19, 1951, in Esakhel, district Mianwali Attaullah developed an interest in music as a child, but music was strictly forbidden in his home. Disillusioned by ban on singing, he left home and continued his training and performed at local villages where his songs were recorded on audio cassettes by his fans. In 1972, Esakhelvi was invited to perform on Radio Pakistan, Bahawalpur and performed on the television show Neelam Ghar in 1973.

Later he was invited by a music company in Faisalabad to record folk songs in its studio and recorded four albums in one recording session. The albums were released at the end of 1977 and became national best-sellers. In 1980, Esakhelvi performed in the United Kingdom for the first time. It was also his first concert abroad. His albums were eventually released in the UK under various labels. Since then he has never seen back and has recorded more than 50,000 songs in seven languages.

Ataullah's name entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 1994 for the highest number of audio albums released. Most of his songs had lyrics in easy diction on themes like death, sorrow, pain, deception and love. Some of the popular tracks from his hit albums include 'O Dil Torr Ke Hansti Ho Mera' are 'Tujhe Bhulana To Chaha', 'Mujhko Ye Teri Bewafai Maar Dalegi', 'Bedardi Se Pyar Ka Sahara Na Mila', 'Acha sila diya tune mere pyar ka' and 'Mujhko Dafna Kar Woh Jab Wapis Jayenge'.

The songs 'Pyar naal na sahi, ghusse naal vekh leya kar', 'Qameez tedi kal', 'Mahi Wasse Mera', 'Ni Oontaan Wale Tur Jaan Gei' and 'Raataan', 'Petal Barayae Sona Banras Amlan Naal', Sachi dash we dhola kal kion nahi aaya', 'Kal O kaun si tere naal' are some of Attaullah's smash hit songs. For his lyrics, he selects poetry by Farooq Rokhri, Malik Sona Khan, Munawar Ali Malik, Farooq Rokhri, and several little-known poets from Mianwali District.

The Government of Pakistan awarded him the Pride of Performance Award in 1991. On March 23, 2019, he was awarded Sitara e Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan. He also received a lifetime achievement award from Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.



## Welcome Banner

ISLAMABAD: Workers are installing welcoming banners on poles at Constitution Avenue about the visits of Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tawafiq Bin Fawazan Al-Rabiah, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Serena Hotels and NAB hosted a seminar on 'Umeed-e-Sehar ki baat karo'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative joined hands with NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad and hosted an engaging seminar dedicated to spread awareness against corruption in an entertaining yet enlightening manner. The seminar titled "Umeed-e-Sahar Ki Baat karo", which translates to, 'Let's talk about a new dawn of hope'. The event aimed to shed light on elements of corruption and provided a platform for intellectual discourse against corruption and how to fight it.

There was a meet and greet where the guests gathered before the evening commenced with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a beautiful Naat recital. Welcoming the guests was Capt. (R) Muhammad Faheem Qureshi, Director of Awareness and Prevention Wing, NAB Rawalpindi who highlighted the significance of speaking up against corruption and discussed hope and progress for the growth of the nation.

This was followed by speeches made



by eminent professionals in the field, including Dr. Ashfaq Hasan (Dean Business School NUST/ Economist Speaker) and Dr. Anis Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Rifah University/ Academics/Religious Scholar, who further expanded upon the efforts being made by the nation to fight against corruption in an enlightening manner.

The guest of honor Director General of NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Mr. Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig, was the keynote speaker who emphasized the importance of keeping hope alive and the need to strive for a brighter future. His speech

was particularly inspiring and focused on motivating the audience to have a positive outlook towards the upcoming future of the nation.

The second half was an entertaining 'Mukalama' which enthralled the audience, followed by national songs that uplifted the evening, engaging the crowd and filling it with the nationalistic spirit. The event attendees included associates from NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad, notable members of corporate sector & government officials and other dignitaries from the capital. A delicious feast awaited the guests at the end of the event.

## Suspect involved in two bank robberies, killing health deptt official held

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Police on Friday arrested a suspect involved in two bank robberies by looting millions of rupees and suspect involved in killing of a health department official was arrested. According to Police sources, the Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) post located on Punjab-KP border in Jand police station limits through digital criminal identification system identified him subsequently he was arrested. According to Police sources, the suspect along with other members of gang committed bank robbery in Meezan Bank Multan in 2012 and in UBL Bank Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir in 2018 by making hostage all the bank staff and customers on gunpoint. In the both robberies, he looted cash worth million of rupees and went underground. The spokesman said that the suspect was handed over to Jand police for further interrogation and liaison with Multan and Azad Kashmir police.

Separately, Police arrested suspect involved in stabbing to death an official of Punjab health department. Police sources said that Mran Javaid stabbed to death 38 years old Muhammad Saqib- an employee of the Punjab health department presently posted at district headquarters hospital was stabbed to death over some petty dispute in day broad light killing incident in the busy main chowk in the limits of Attock city Police station on August 6 and fled away. Police traced the nominated accused and send him behind the bars.

# Hashoo Foundation launches Alumni Network and celebrates achievements

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Foundation, well known for its impactful initiatives focused on fostering an equitable and inclusive society, proudly launches its Alumni Network following immense success of its alumni's. Rooted in its vision of creating a world where every individual thrives with dignity by taking informed decisions, Hashoo Foundation (HF) has solidified its reputation as a knowledge-based and impact-oriented organization.

With a longstanding commitment to empowerment and inclusion, the alumni network aims to provide a nurturing space to alumni members with the mission of helping them excel in their fields as well as giving back to the community.

A crowning jewel in Hashoo Foun-

dition's endeavors, the Hashoo Alumni Network is a testament to its unwavering commitment to creating lasting impact said Ms Ayesha Khan, Country Director of the Hashoo Foundation.

The Hashoo Alumni Network is launched as an initiative to connect, support, and uplift former Hashoo graduates, and provides a formal platform for a thriving community of change-makers.

As one of the accomplished Alumni shared, "Hashoo Foundation didn't just give me a safe space but also nurtured my personal as well as professional life."

Over the years, Hashoo Foundation has offered a safe haven for many youth across the country to strive for their goals and dreams. The Alumni Network will carry forward the work and cultivate meaningful relationships, contributing to the virtuous circle of

giving and helping.

Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman, Hashoo Group and Chairman of Hashoo Foundation stated, "From nurturing dreams to fostering success, our Hashoo Alumni Network embodies empowerment. With this dedication, we will take it to an international level to amplify impact and create a world where every connection sparks change". He further said that this alumni network should "provide you all a platform to collaborate, learn from each other, assist others and form strong professional networks. I am confident that Together with hashoo foundation, we will continue to serve and inspire others around the world"

Mrs. Sumaira Hashwani, while appreciating the Country Director and Hashoo Foundation team's dedication to the organisational mission, conveyed



her pride in the accomplishments of the Foundation and the remarkable achievements of the Alumni. She emphasized the profound impact that

a single individual can wield in effecting change, and underlined the collective strength that lies in solidarity to create substantial societal transformation.

She added that we invite you to use this online platform to network in order to help others and make impact in people's lives.

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# ‘Balochistan, the deprived and disenfranchised corner of the world’

**Jalal Uddin Kakar**

**T**he resource-rich province is today marked by a high rate of poverty, illiteracy, a pathetic health sector, terrorist attacks, unemployment, defilement, impoverished road infrastructure, and more worrisome, the deprivation of its own resources.

It is a gigantic task to encompass the whole wake-up call in words, but let us look at the matter at length through a wide horizon to cover every dimension. Pakistani bigwigs and tycoons know intimately about the resources inside the land of Balochistan but know quite little about the people on that land. One of the Harvard professors said that Quetta (Balochistan) is the most enlightened city in the world. As it is, it would not be exaggerating to say that Balochistan is rich in natural resources and possesses the potential to boost the GDP of the country. But in effect, 80 percent of its natives live below the poverty line. It is safe to say that Balochistan is Pakistan's Area-wise largest province, but unequivocally, it is the least developed province with a low NFC award. It is interesting to note that the state of the education and health sectors in Balochistan has been abysmal. As touted, poverty, a worsening law and order situation, financial and social barriers, combined with the lackadaisical attitude of concerned quarters, are major reasons contributing to the sorry state of education in Balochistan.

Earlier in November, Secretary Education Balochistan Ghulam Ali Baloch told Dawn.com that only 1.3 million out of a total of 3.6 million children were going to school in the province. Further, he pulled no punches about the fact that

the department was not doing much for the development of the education sector; rather, it was just dealing with administrative issues. It would be quite authentic to highlight that recent data shows that the literacy rate in Balochistan is 44 percent. However, the finance minister proposed a paltry amount of Rs 65 billion for the health sector and Rs 77 billion for education, allocated for primary, higher, and secondary schools. Meanwhile, the various provinces are facing a financial crunch. So much so that in recent times, they (particularly the oldest one in the province called the University of Balochistan) could not pay the teachers' salaries for three months. And the crisis is not over yet. However, there was no such mention in the budget to pull these varieties out of trouble. The passing of a bill to establish the 'Pak-China Gwadar University' in Lahore and the naming of Gwadar airport after Feroz Khan Noon is like rubbing salt in a deep wound.

As history bears witness to this cognizant fact, last year's torrential rains and floods wreaked havoc in the entire province, giving a big blow to the shambling education and health sectors. For instance, in many places, schools and basic health centers were destroyed in the wake of the rains and floods.

Suffice to say that Balochistan has been in the grip of terrorism and unrest. Since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, two fronts have been opened against the state, i.e., the TTP has stepped up its attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as the Pakhtun belt of Balochistan. It would not be an exaggeration to say that a number of terrorist attacks have been held in Balochistan this year. These include, the recent militant attack in the Zhob city of Balochistan, where the Pakistani military lost nine soldiers, further-

more, Seven people were injured in two terrorist attacks, one of which was said to be a suicide bombing. Two separate blasts in Quetta claimed the lives of four people, including two police personnel, and injured 22 others, officials said. Both attacks targeted the police. The first blast occurred near a police vehicle parked next to Qandahari Bazaar on Shahrah-i-Iqbal. More saddled was that a senior officer of the Levies force and four others were injured in a bomb attack in the Mazai Adha area of Qila Abdullah, a district bordering Afghanistan. On average, one security operation was conducted every second day. According to a report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) on Tuesday, Islamabad Capital Territory, Punjab, and Sindh experienced relatively fewer incidents of violence in comparison to K-P and Balochistan. 80% of all fatalities in the country happened in two provinces in Q2 of 2023.

Let us have a glance at unemployment. In Balochistan, unemployment has been an overlooked and ignored issue caused by a lack of economic opportunities. Despite being the least populated country, Balochistan's issues, including the lack of job prospects for youth, have increased manifold. Meanwhile, it is an open secret now that jobs in Balochistan are scarce these days. It has deprived the youth of their due share and rights. Most of the candidates have been appointed through favoritism and nepotism. The masses in Balochistan believe that the budget schemes will solely benefit the ministers who come to the assembly for their vested interests.

It is stunning that the unscrupulous government has not yet ensured a healthy and clear environment in the whole province. Just contemplate for a while how

dirty the city would be, where you would not find a single dustbin for cleanliness.

At par, the infrastructure policy has always been seen on the back burner, with zero percent inclination towards road infrastructure. It suffices to strengthen the argument by verbalizing that There is not a single well-paved and properly maintained road in the whole province. More worrisome is that you would not see a single road indicator in the capital of Balochistan (Quetta).

The more astonishing fact is that every citizen of this rich-resources province is disenfranchised from the basic necessities of life even after having multi-billion-dollar projects like the Saindak project, the Reko Diq project, the Gwadar port, and Sui Gas. The value of CPEC projects was \$62 billion as of 2020. In 2022, Chinese investment in Pakistan rose to \$65

billion. Similarly, the total value of the Reko Diq asset is close to \$1 trillion. But even then, the involvement of the citizens was not considered in the decision by the federal government. The local citizens have always been deprived of their benefits.

The local population was not taken into confidence while launching such projects, nor have they been given an opportunity to be a part of these schemes. Such projects are illegally handed over to incompetent political workers and party members because of their political affiliation and loyalty without fulfilling legal requirements and necessary procedures.

These irregularities have left a question mark on such projects and serious reservations in the minds of the local population, lest these unanswered questions eventually lead to revolt and chaos.

*The writer is a student at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad*

## Next General Election to be held on time

**C**hairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday affirmed that next general elections would be conducted on time immediately after the completion of delimitation process on the basis of new census. While talking to media at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Chairman Senate said that PDM coalition government was consisted of almost all the political parties that had taken decisions in this regard.

The previous coalition government in the Council of Common Interests, also granted approval to the census 2023 being cognizant of the constitutional requirement of delimitation of electoral constituencies on the basis of new census data, he recalled adding that now Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would carry out delimitation of constituencies on fresh census data. As soon as delimitation exercise is completed, the ECP would announce the date for next general election, he maintained reiterating that next general election would take place and on the right time as the ECP would conduct the elections and the nation should remain contented. The Upper House of the parliament is present as the representative of all the federating units of Pakistan and it will continue working to ensure the rights of all the four provinces of the country during the tenure of the caretaker government, Sanjrani stated.

Senate is a constitutional body and it does not have executive authority but senators as representatives of the people were effectively raising their voice on the issues concerning the country and the nation while as chairman of the Upper House he was also playing his role, the Senate Chairman said. Responding to a query on the election of the President, the Chairman Senate said that though the tenure of the incumbent president was being completed on September 09, 2023, the constitution provides for continuity of the outgoing president till the election of the new president. He added that following the general election in the country, the electoral college for the presidential election would come into being with the formation of National and provincial assemblies and the election for the next president would also be conducted subsequently as well.

Pakistan is on the path of democratic progress and it will keep moving forward and things will improve day by day, he said and added that the homeland has made progress in 77 years and there was a bright future ahead as Pakistanis are a determined and strong nation and it would cope with the most unfavourable circumstances successfully and the country would keep moving ahead on path of progress. On another query about Baluchistan, Sanjrani said that Baluchistan had a vast area and it required billions to carry out development work across the province. There are many mega development projects completed in the province while a number of projects are under completion and the process of progress is on the right track, he observed and acknowledged that more measures and resources were required for the development of Baluchistan.

Sanjrani said that Baluchistan enjoys representation at every forum and elected representatives of the province were very vocal on issues of the province. The nomination of the caretaker Prime Minister from the province is another initiative that will help alleviate the sense of deprivation from the population of Baluchistan, he asserted. Earlier, the chairman along with members of the Senate and officials paid a visit to the grave of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, laid a floral wreath on the grave and offered fateha. He also penned down comments in the visitors' book.



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

## “Pakistan’s Climate Challenges:

**Niamat ullah Harifal**

**N**avigating Towards Sustainability” Climate change is an urgent issue that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts for resolution. As Bill Gates rightfully emphasizes, it should be at the forefront of our priorities. Pakistan has recently witnessed severe climate catastrophes, ranging from devastating floods to crippling water crises. The frequency of droughts has escalated, accompanied by rampant wildfires. NASA's recent findings reveal that the average surface temperature has surged by 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century, resulting in an alarming 8-inch rise in sea levels. The atmospheric balance has been disrupted by hazardous chemicals such as carbon dioxide, fluorine, and sulphates, not to mention the overlooked aerosol effects. Strikingly, Pakistan contributes a mere 0.34 percent of global greenhouse gases while bearing a disproportionately heavy burden of their consequences.

In the aftermath of calamities, the toll is staggering. In 2022, Baluchistan alone incurred a staggering loss of \$1.625 billion due to floods, wreaking havoc on vital infrastructure like schools, roads, hospitals, bridges, and power stations. The World Bank's report from October 2022 grimly outlines the toll: 1,700 lives lost, a \$30 billion blow to the economy, and over 8 million people displaced. The Country Climate and Development Report forecast a worrisome 20 to 30 percent contrac-

tion in Pakistan's GDP by 2050 due to climate-related events, environmental degradation, and pollution.

Pakistan's participation in international agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris

Agreement, illustrates its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases. The Paris Agreement, endorsed by 184 nations, holds the promise of mitigating global warming's effects. The Muslim Seven-Year Action Plan on Climate Change also underscores the importance of eco-friendly practices. Despite these efforts, challenges persist. World leaders like Biden and Sunak, while vowing to support eco-friendly practices, have paradoxically issued permits for oil and gas drilling, fueling concerns among environmentalists and scientists.

Pakistan's goals are ambitious, aiming to achieve 60% renewable energy and 30% electric vehicles by 2030, while also phasing out coal imports and promoting nature-based solutions. However, the feasibility of these goals depends on resource availability and commitment to implementation. A significant portion of Pakistan's cities grapple with water stress, affecting around 30 million residents in 24 major urban centers. Shockingly, clean water remains inaccessible to them. The International Monetary Fund predicts an imminent water crisis, with some cities potentially becoming barren by 2025. The burgeoning population exacerbates the situation, demanding increased water resources.

Two primary factors contribute to the water scarcity: the rapid population growth and inadequate water stor-

age infrastructure. The absence of sufficient dams and check dams magnifies the impact of droughts. Forests play a crucial role in carbon absorption, yet rampant deforestation poses a significant threat. Urbanization and burning for various purposes contribute to this loss. The government's role in granting permits for construction within natural forest areas further worsens the situation, as observed near Islamabad.

Urgent action is imperative. To combat the escalating drought, Pakistan requires an extensive network of large and small dams to store water. Remarkably, the nation needs around 100 large dams and 1000 small dams, yet progress remains uneven. Adequate infrastructure, including resilient road networks, is also essential to sustain supply chains during natural disasters.

Global commitment to the promises outlined in the Paris Agreement is crucial. The world's failure to substantially curb greenhouse gas emissions places humanity on the brink of extinction through global warming. Pakistan, too, must undertake thorough research and adopt effective governance to realize its policy objectives.

In summary, Pakistan's climate challenges demand immediate and coordinated action. The nation must focus on sustainable development, infrastructural enhancement, and adherence to international agreements to protect its environment and secure its future.

*The writer is Student of school of sociology in Quaid i Azam University Islamabad*

## The New Federal Ministers that I know personally - II

**W**ith his appointment by the caretaker prime minister, there is hope and anticipation for continued success and advancements in the field of information technology, which could lead the country to earn commendable recognition.

Mr. Ahmad Irfan Aslam's appointment to the law portfolio in the newly sworn-in federal cabinet brings a wealth of experience and expertise. I know him personally as a colleague when he was serving as a Commercial Counselor at the embassy of Pakistan to France and me as a press minister. We used to have a lot of discussions about everything under the sun. His capabilities were recognized early on, even though he wasn't from the superior services of the country.

His close association with the former Attorney General, Mr. Ashtar Ausaf, speaks to his credibility. His pivotal role in the Rezo Dik case, where he transitioned from his post in Paris to become a lead lawyer, demonstrates his commitment and adaptability. Even in capacity as a lead lawyer, he visited Paris several times and we exchanged notes on various issues of mutual interests.

His relative youth and limited experience compared to seasoned lawyers, Mr. Aslam's creativity, ingenuity and deep understanding of the law, position him as a valuable asset.

His contributions are poised to enhance the Ministry of Law and the pursuit of justice both nationally and on the international stage. His appointment stands as a testament to the caretaker prime minister's excellent judgment.

Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani's appointment to the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs is a testament to his exceptional leadership and experience in various capacities within the ministry. His journey, culminating in leading the ministry as secretary during challenging times, reflects his unwavering commitment.

I recall a memorable encounter in London where I as director Media to the President and was a part of his entourage to attend the tripartite summit with former President Asif Ali Zardari, British Prime Minister and Afghan President, where Mr. Jilani's pivotal role ensured the success of the meeting held at the British Prime Minister's winter camp office.

His flawless tenure as secretary and achievements therein are a source of pride for the foreign service of Pakistan. A seasoned and composed individual, he exudes authority on international and foreign affairs, an attribute accentuated by his think tank engagements. With burning foreign issues at hand, Mr. Gilani's profound understanding, seasoned diplomacy, and adeptness as a diplomat are poised to steer the country towards positive outcomes, making a remarkable global impact. His ability to foster business, trade, and investment will be instrumental in achieving Pakistan's diplomatic goals.

An all-around remarkable choice, it's anticipated that Mr. Jilani's success will leave an indelible mark on the nation's foreign endeavors. His selection is indeed excellent, given his non-controversial nature.

*(The author is the former Press Secretary of the Presidency 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)).*

# Safe, responsible migration addresses skills shortages for businesses: Malik Tahir Javaid

## Spokesman Report

KATHMANDU: Malik Tahir Javaid, President Employers Federation of Pakistan has said that Safe and responsible migration is a shared interest, benefiting businesses by addressing skills shortages and workers by improving living conditions. Our roles are crucial in fostering secure migration and safeguarding migrant workers. To engage in meaningful dialogue, we must comprehend migration's challenges and opportunities, contributing positively to its governance. He was speaking at Conference on Protection and Welfare of South Asian Migrant Workers organized by South Asian Regional Trade Union Council and South Asian Forum of Employers in Kathmandu, Nepal. Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General also represented Pakistani Employers. Malik Tahir Javaid said that he was deeply grateful to President Harbhajan Singh Sidhu of SARTUC and Alok Shriram, Chair of SAFE, for orchestrating this essential bilateral consultation on migration. As a representative of SAFE and Chairman of WEBCOP Pakistan Punjab Chapter, he stands before them to emphasize the pivotal role that bilateral

dialogues between employers and trade unions play in resolving critical workplace issues. "The joint initiative by SARTUC and SAFE to convene this regional consultation stands as a testament to our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). The SAFE Action Plan on Migration and SARTUC's Resolution underscore our dedication to shaping the migration landscape positively, providing a shared platform for accelerating our efforts. Acknowledging the challenges in the process of Labour Migration, the growing need for improving governance and management of Migration, and being fully conscious of their responsibility in this area, the SAFE developed and adopted Action Plan on Migration. The SAFE countries are committed to collective responsibility and to initiating social dialogue with the Government, Workers, and other stakeholders for promoting safe and regular migration and social protection of migrant workers while focusing on gender equality, inclusiveness, and benefit for the poor segment of society." Malik added that there has been significant efforts and developments in building bilateral



agreements between countries of origin and destination guaranteeing social protection and safe working conditions for migrant worker. However, the need has arisen for bilateral plus

on sub-regional agreement. Building upon the resolution and commitment, the employers' organizations are engaged with the government and other stakeholders in their respective countries for promoting decent work for all including domestic workers and improving governance of migration. He said, "A significant development on our agenda is the improvement and strengthening of skills development and recognition system. Almost all South Asian countries are focusing on TVET reforms to improve the quality and relevance of training for equipping youth with the skill sets needed in the overseas market. The piloting of skills Passport to recognize and certify the skills acquired informally through work experience in some countries including Pakistan is a major achievement that will help in smooth transition of returning migrants to the labour market and promote decent employment opportunities to potential migrants. However, the introduction of new technologies and automation at the workplace is changing the skills demand that may result returning of migrant workers with low skills." He was of the view that bilateral and tripartite

social dialogue to create safe and productive workplaces ensuring the safety of workers and enterprises' sustainability is in progress. However, with the adoption of two ILO OSH Conventions to FPRWs, the need for compliance with OSH legislation and conventions has further increased and demand more role of trade union and employers. Tripartite dialogue, a cornerstone of our efforts, continues to forge safe and productive workplaces through the formulation of legislation on domestic workers and ratification of Convention 189 for ensuring rights and social protection for domestic workers. "In Pakistan, EFP has played an active role in such initiatives, including the development of a Code of Conduct for Employers of Domestic Workers and the establishment of a Workers Union for domestic workers, whereas, the formation of employers association of domestic workers is in progress. Beyond these milestones, EFP has contributed to various initiatives, including the "Skills Initiatives 2030," aimed at bolstering TVET systems, and the establishment of the Migrant Workers Rehabilitation Cell, facilitating the reintegration of returning migrants."

## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of the participants of the NCRD training workshop on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development with the trainers Executive Director Devcom Pakistan Munir Ahmed and EvK2CNR scientific advisor Ashiq Ahmed Khan.



## APHC expresses serious concern continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Scores of Hurriyat leaders including APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Mushtaqul Islam, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Maulana Mushtaq Veeri, Abdul Rashid Doowodi, Maulana Abdul Wahid Kishitwari were booked under frivolous cases and lodged in different jails of India and IOJK. Senior APHC leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, continues to remain under house detention in Srinagar since August 2019. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said the jailed leaders who were already suffering from multiple ailments have been now kept in solitary confinement, which is nothing but a sheer political vendetta. He deplored that the Indian authorities are not producing these leaders before court on the date of hearing of their cases just to prolong their unlawful detention.

# Pakistani Food Festival & Cultural Show draws in Sri Lankan-Pakistani community

PPA

COLOMBO: Pakistan High Commission Colombo celebrated "Pakistani Food Festival & Cultural Show" in line with the 75 years of Pakistan-Sri Lanka diplomatic ties as well as the Independence Day celebrations of Pakistan in the month of August. The event focused on showcasing the rich and vibrant culture of Paki-

stan in a captivating manner. From the tantalizing array of culinary delights to the mesmerizing performances that captured the essence of Pakistani traditions, every aspect of the festival was thoughtfully curated and executed by the Press Section. The audience was particularly impressed by how the festival served as a bridge between the friendly nations of Pakistan & Sri Lanka, fostering cross-cultural connections

and deepening their mutual bonds. The uniqueness of the event was that all of the performances were done by Sri Lankan artists who prepared special cultural dances, instrumental music & Pakistani songs for this event. Another objective of the event was also to introduce Pakistani cuisines & dresses to the Sri Lankan people who enjoyed the variety of all the food & non food items alike.



# New caretaker government of Pakistan: Was Jalil Abbas Jilani misquoted

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

It is reported that, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, new foreign minister of Pakistan told The Express Tribune on August 17, 2023, that 'improvement in relations with India was contingent upon the resolution of all outstanding issues, including the long-standing issue of Jammu and Kashmir. But his public position aside, the sources said, Jilani was of the view that Pakistan should explore different options paving the way for resurging the peace process during Musharraf-Mannohan time.' I hope and pray that Ambassador Jilani, a seasoned diplomat and truly a well-wisher and great friend of the people of Kashmir was deliberately misquoted. India is not pretending. It has not raised the issue of Kashmir and does not intend to raise it at any international forum. There's been no change in its stance on Kashmir - that Kashmir is frankly not in dispute and not up for discussion. Otherwise, why lock up the pro-resistance leaders? Why to have 900,00 military and paramilitary forces stationed in the Valley of Kashmir? There have been numerous attempts, certainly, in the past to present proposals for resolving Kashmir dispute, but none has seemed to take hold. The revival now of Musharraf's Four Point Formula which was widely discussed in 2006 has again

been raised as a solution that offers the most promise of hope to those who have grown weary of the struggle and are willing to accept serious compromises in the interest of alleviating some suffering. Let there be no doubt that Musharraf's four-point Formula does not want to resolve the Kashmir dispute but to dissolve it. General Musharraf's Four-point formula involves the following: 1. Demilitarization or phased withdrawal of troops 2. There will be no change of borders of Kashmir. However, people of Jammu & Kashmir will be allowed to move freely across the Line of Control. 3. Self-governance without independence 4. A joint supervision mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir involving India, Pakistan and Kashmir. Let us analyze these four points. Demilitarization is an option that was suggested by the United Nations and in particular by Sir Owen Dixon of Australia. This has been the demand of the leadership of the Kashmiri resistance that demilitarization from both sides of the Ceasefire Line will pave the way for a serious and thoughtful solution to the Kashmir dispute. Yes, the Line of Control is in fact a line of conflict which needs to be eroded so that the people of Kashmir can move freely from

one area to the other. But the problem arises when the 'Four-point Formula' says that borders cannot be withdrawn. That is a very loaded phrase. That means that the Line of Control should in fact be established permanently as an international border. Such an option is an insult to the intelligence of the Kashmiri people. Self-governance undoubtedly has broad meaning. Self-governance means freedom, independence, and autonomy. It means that the people would be makers of their destiny. It also means that one has to be the shaper of one's future. So, the term self-governance by itself is not an issue but the concept of self-governance within the parameters of Four-point Formula is. It is problematic because under this plan, self-governance excludes the option of freedom or independence. In fact, it clearly says that the people of Kashmir will be given self-governance without independence. Will India retain the power to tax the Kashmiris? Will people have a hand in the politics and influence who has the mandate to rule? Will they pass new laws which infringe on the limited self-rule the Kashmiris possess? Where does self-rule begin and where does it end, if Kashmir does not possess sovereignty over its land? The drafters of the four-point formula have been quite conscious of the sentiments of the people of Kashmir. They knew that the resistance to



foreign occupation that began in 1931 and continues until now does not accept de-facto rule by any country over Kashmir. Therefore, they wanted to play a linguistic game and came up with the idea of self-governance which is a deceptive and misleading term that gives an appearance of sovereignty without any substance. It is purely a mask. It prohibits further discussion on the subject of independence and promotes internalization of the Kashmir dispute. Without actual sovereignty for Kashmir, under the Four-point formula, the people of Kashmir will have to accept the supremacy

and rule of India over their lives, and the possibility of that being eroded by whatever whim, fancy or circumstance may intervene in the future. Perhaps self-governance now, designed and managed by external powers, which is subject to the will of those foreign powers without due respect for the sovereignty of Kashmir and all the international protections that accompany it, has the appearance of a step in the right direction but on an extremely slippery slope. Self-governance is a mere illusion: what is given can be taken away, when it does not in fact include true sovereignty. Have

we forgotten the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A? Those who believe that the people of Kashmir should accept the Musharraf's Four-point formula should be bold enough to say exactly what it is i.e., that the formula gives the people of Kashmir only choice and that is to be part of India. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Famed jurist and author, A. G. Noorani is correct when he said on November 2, 2009 (The Hindu), "The solution (of Kashmir) should be such that a Kashmiri leader could announce it in Lal Chowk." I totally agree with Mr. Noorani. If a person genuinely believes that the Four Point formula is the only way out, let him announce in Lal Chowk (Times Square of Srinagar) that this form of self-governance is not what we were striving for. Self-governance is neither freedom nor independence. Self-governance is the declaration that Azad Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan and Jammu & Kashmir that of India. Let there be a referendum and the people of Kashmir should get a chance to decide. If they vote in favor of the formula that verdict must be final and acceptable to all. Agha Shahi, one of the most recognizable diplomats of South Asia wrote in his letter to me on November 8, 2004, "Reversion to our principled stand need not be impediment to improvement of relations with India to

the extent possible, short of full normalization. We have lived with such a situation for decades (1972-1999) and can live with it in the hope of a change on the geopolitical landscape. At least the present status quo does not call for the sacrifice of our vital interests." However, I still believe that in order to reach an imaginative settlement of the Kashmir dispute, all parties concerned - Governments of India & Pakistan and the leadership of the people of Kashmir - will have to show flexibility. But in the Four-point formula the only party which becomes a sacrificial lamb and shows flexibility and makes sacrifice are the people of Kashmir. That should not be an option. The demand for self-determination is greater now than it has been in many years. It's time for all parties to recognize the realities on the ground. The United Nations still has the ability to persuade both India and Pakistan to resolve the conflict once for all. It must also find the will to do so. If that happens, peace and stability will be guaranteed not only in Kashmir but in the region of South Asia - home to one fifth of total human race. Dr. Fai is the Secretary General of World Kashmir Awareness. He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435 or gnfai2003@yahoo.com

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,218.49	48,325.84
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,615.14	48,196.18
Index Value	Change
8,813,173,373	-107.35
Percentage	Time
-0.22%	18 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,262.43	-47.78
Percentage	Time
-0.65%	18 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,495.02	+20.19
Percentage	Time
+0.059%	18 Aug, 2:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,450.76	-175.24
Percentage	Time
-0.55%	18 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	784.55	792.55
Canadian Dollar	224.8	227
China Yuan	39.83	40.23
Danish Krone	42.5	42.9
Euro	327.5	330.5
Hong Kong Dollar	37.67	38.02
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2.02	2.1
Kuwaiti Dinar	958.62	967.62
Malaysian Ringgit	63.71	64.31
New Zealand \$	173.22	175.22
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	752.76	760.76
Qatari Riyal	79.62	80.32
Saudi Riyal	80.1	80.9
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	335.71	338.21
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	83.1	83.9
UK Pound Sterling	382	385.8
US Dollar	301.5	303.8

# GFS Builders lead in the google ranking

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: GFS Builders and Developers is a sign of trust. GFS Builders lead in the google ranking, leaving all the builders behind. GFS is at top of the list of Google in Pakistan. CEO of GFS Builders and Developers, Irfan Wahid, said that GFS Builders has proved with their work that they are the most popular brand in Pakistan and abroad. We achieved a great success due to our outstanding work and commendable efforts by our brilliant team. The entire nation stands with GFS that is not only appreciated locally but also internationally.

CEO Irfan Wahid said that today every one in Pakistan is worried over the uncertain situation, and he is under stress for one reason or

the other. In such a depressing atmosphere we are trying to bring happiness in the life of middle class families by providing them residence at economical cost with the facility of easy installments. It is our commitment to ensure every Pakistani has his own house.

Mr. Irfan Wahid pointed out that GFS Builders & Developers has been associated with the construction industry of Pakistan for the past two decades. GFS is ranked among the top builders in the country because of its impressive and grand projects. Our innovative constructions are a fine blend of classical and modern style of living and this uniqueness distinguishes GFS from other builders.

GFS Builders & Developers has successfully completed numerous projects in Karachi including NT Industrial Zone 1 & 2, North



Town Phase 1 & 2, 7 Wonder City Karachi, Multan and so many other grand projects across Pakistan. 7 Wonder City Islamabad, 7 Wonder City

# L'Oréal Paris unveils a cutting-edge hair-care revolution in a star-studded launch

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: L'Oréal Paris marked a new chapter in haircare innovation with the grand launch of L'Oréal Paris's Elvive-Hyaluron Moisture shampoo in Pakistan. The exclusive event, held in Karachi, was attended by esteemed social stakeholders, influencers, media representatives, and journalists.

L'Oréal Paris's spokesperson, Vardah Aziz, unveiled the groundbreaking product, highlighting its unique benefits and features. The event also featured the debut of the product's television commercial (TVC), which garnered excitement among the attendees. Consul General of France for Karachi, Monsieur Alexis Chahtahinsky, also graced the event with his presence along with many notable names in Karachi.

Commenting on the event, Qawi Naser, Managing Director of L'Oréal Pakistan, shared, "L'Oréal Paris Hyaluron Moisture Shampoo launch signifies its unwavering commitment to redefining beauty standards and pioneering cutting-edge solutions for the Pakistani Consumer.



This groundbreaking product reflects our dedication to elevating haircare and empowering individuals to embrace their unique beauty."

L'Oréal Pakistan has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the nation by spearheading revo-

lutionary advancements in the beauty industry. With arich legacy of innovation and a deep understanding of local beauty needs, L'Oréal Paris has become a trailblazer in delivering innovative products that cater to the diverse and unique preferences of Pakistani consumers.

# PPL receives first Digital Technology Award by ICAP



## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a preeminent event organized by Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has been awarded "First Position", during Digital Technology Award Ceremony. The Award is linked to the "Advanced Robotic Process Automation (RPA)". PPL's RPA initiative is the Innovative Application of Robotic Automation Technology in Joint Venture Accounting, by an E&P company in Pakistan.

In total, Sixty National and Multinational Companies contested in three categories. Chief Finan-

cial Officer (CFO), of PPL, Mr. Mohammad Khalid Rehman received the award during Accounting Technology Innovation Congress, on August 12, held at Hotel Movenpick Karachi.

The initiative is in-house digital transformation towards automation of cost allocation and reporting to Joint Venture Partners. It has contributed to efficiency while ensuring, accuracy and reliability of reporting, with minimum manual intervention.

The event organized by ICAP's Digital Assurance and Accounting Board, is the first of its kind Congress, aimed at recognizing innovations in use of latest technologies.

## Hard work

ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy with heavy machinery to install over head pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.

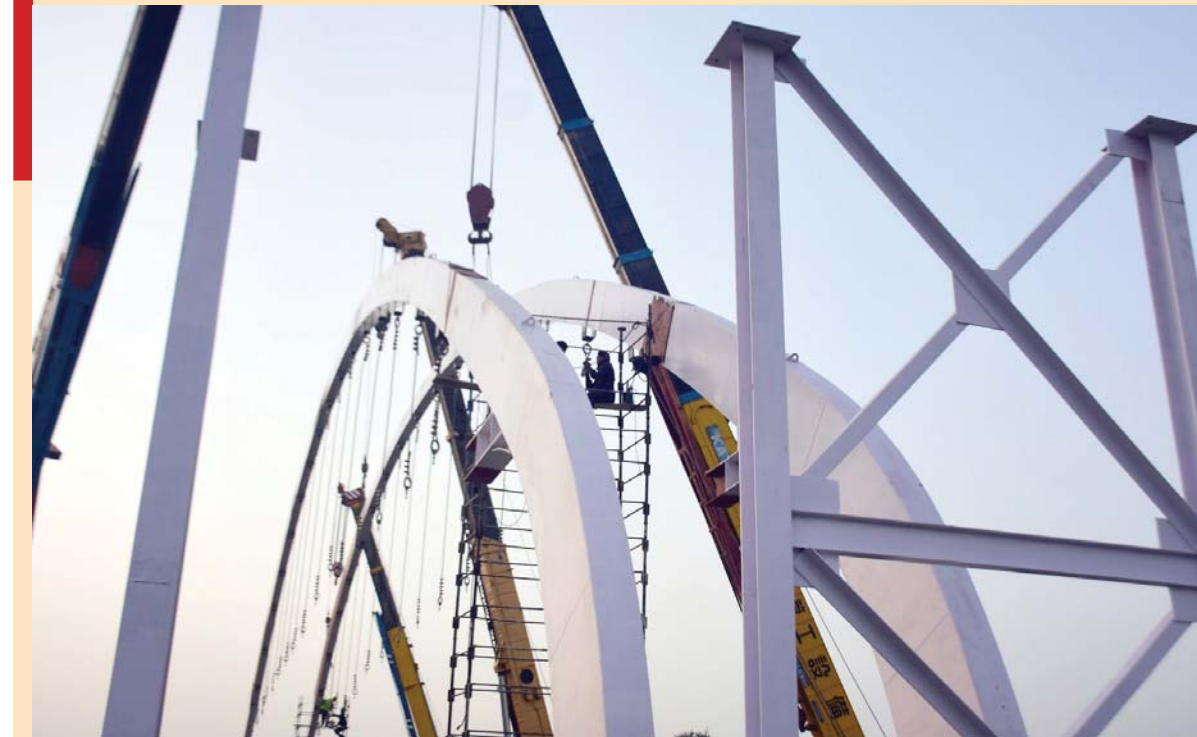


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# ICCI calls for addressing issues of hotel industry to facilitate its growth

## Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hotels Association Senior Vice Chairman Mian Akram Farid visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed the key issues of the hotel industry with ICCI Office Bearers for their redress.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the government should address the key issues of the hotel industry to facilitate its better growth that would enable it to create more jobs. He said that the hotel industry is an important source of revenue generation for the country, while 5 to 6 million people are associated with the hotel industry. He said that since the 1990s, no new big hotel chain has come to Pakistan due to lack of a national tourism policy and a consistent policy framework from the government for the hotel industry. He said that the

government can generate more revenue by creating a favourable environment for this industry and solving its major issues.

Mian Akram Farid, Senior Vice President, Pakistan Hotels Association, stressed that the government should abolish the import/regulatory duty on the import of machinery and other items for the hotel industry as these duties have increased the cost of doing business manifold. He said that according to the current market rate, land prices have increased many times while imposition of various taxes and levies on the hotel industry has created further problems. He said that the bulk of the capital is spent on the purchase of land for hotels and stressed that the land should be provided this industry at government rates. He further said that the 22% high interest rate should also be reduced. He said that the high electricity and gas tariffs have also greatly increased the cost of doing business for this industry and emphasized that these high utility tariffs

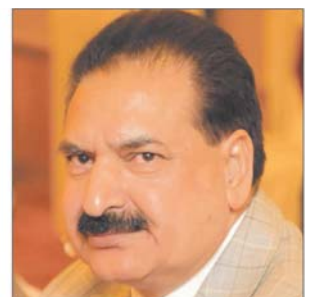
should be rationalized.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI urged that immediate action should be taken against the illegal guesthouses running in the federal capital. He said that earlier the CDA had closed the guest houses established in the residential areas of Islamabad, but now again the guest houses have cropped up in the residential sectors of Islamabad. Apart from this, residential apartments are also being used as gatehouses and they are not paying taxes.

Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that the hotel industry was not given any relief in the last budget. He said that due to credit sales, hotel owners are paying sales tax and bed tax. He demanded that the government should immediately abolish bed tax at the federal and provincial levels so that the industry can survive. He said that the government should consider reducing the federal and provincial sales tax on hotels to 10 percent to reduce its problems.



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari  
President  
ICCI



Mian Akram Farid  
Sr. Vice Chairman  
Pakistan Hotels Association



Faad Waheed  
Sr. Vice President  
ICCI



Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar  
Vice President  
ICCI

## Webinar on Co-Combustion of Coal and Biomass for Clean Electricity Generation

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized webinar on "Co-combustion of Coal and Biomass for Clean Electricity Generation", which was delivered by Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, chairperson of Punjab higher education commission.

Coordinator General, COMSTECH Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and introduced the speaker. He appreciated the contribution of Prof. Munir toward his field of expertise, academic excellence, and research productivity.

Prof. Munir said that the big challenge in the 21st century is to provide cheaper energy to everyone in environment friendly manner. He said that the energy need will increase by 300% by the end of the 21st century. He said that the electricity generation is linked with the environmental pollution. Prof. Munir mentioned that the global average surface temperature has increased by about 0.6 centigrade and this is projected to increase by 1.4 to 5.8 centigrade by 2100.

Prof. Munir said that Pakistan generates 61% electricity from thermal (oil, gas and coal), 24 % from hydel, 12% from nuclear, and 3% from renewable sources. He said that Pakistan is in the serious crisis of oil and gas shortages.

He said the coal is a game changer for Pakistan. Pakistan has coal reserves worth about USD 30 trillion, and this reserve can provide 100,000 MW of electricity for more than 500 years.

Prof. Munir said that co-combustion of coal with biomass is gaining popularity with the electric utilities producers because it is relatively cheaper, low risk, sustainable, and renewable way of generating green power in utility plants.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir has PhD degree from University of Leeds, UK. His area of research is biomass-coal co-combustion, and his research work has been published in international and national journals of high impact factor.

More than 100 participants joined the webinar online from Pakistan and other different OIC member states.

# Pakistani handicrafts in hot demand at Kunming expo

## Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The 7th China-South Asia Exposition and the 27th China Kunming Import and Export Fair kicked off in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. The five-day expo invites substantial impetus for fast-growing trade and business relations between China and South Asian countries. "China-South Asia Exposition is the biggest expo in Yunnan province. We've been participating in this expo for a couple of years, exhibiting carpets and scarves. This year, as Covid-19 has finished, more exhibitors and visitors are coming here," said Muzaf-

far, a Pakistani exhibitor. This year, around 300 Pakistanis participate in the expo, among which there are more than 60 exhibitors and 40 delegates and others. Pakistani jade, leather jacket, football, and brass ornament are attracting a lot of Chinese buyers, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. "Pakistani traditional handicrafts, including brass and wooden furniture, are very popular among Chinese customers, which always sales fast on the expo," said another Pakistani exhibitor from Sialkot who has been doing business in China for decades. This is the first time he participates in the China-South Asia Expo.

# Training and Media Opportunities Women's Cricket Camp: PCB official

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The national women's team's training camp for the white-ball series against South Africa begins on Sunday (tomorrow). The camp will be staged at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre and will conclude on 27 August.

During the camp, both T20I and ODI squads along with reserve players will engage in a one-day match (25 August) and one T20 practice match (27 August). The players will also feature in a match scenario on 21 August from 10 am to 4 pm. On 22 August, the players will train under lights at the National Bank Stadium from 8pm to 10pm.

On the remaining days of the camp

(20 and 24 August), the participants will prepare for the series with extensive practice through nets and fielding sessions from 2:30pm to 5 pm.

The Players Will Rest on 23 and 26 August.

Monday, 21 August:  
Match scenario 10am to 4pm.  
Batting coach Taufiq Umar's media talk - Hanif Mohammad HPC, 4:15pm

Friday, 25 August:  
One-Day match 09:30am to 4:30pm.

Batter Sidra Amin's media talk - Hanif Mohammad HPC, 4:45pm

Sunday, 27 August:  
T20 match 2:30pm to 5:30pm.

Fast bowler Fatima Sana's media talk - Hanif Mohammad HPC, 2pm

Pakistan T20I squad:

Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah and Umm-e-Hani

Reserves - AnooSha Nasir, Omaima Sohail and Waheeda Akhtar

Pakistan ODI squad:

Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Navaz (wk), Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Reserves - Najiha Alvi, Natalia Parvaiz

and Tuba Hassan

Player support personnel: Nahida Khan (manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Kamran Hussain (bowling coach), Taufiq Umar (batting coach), Muhammad Asfand Yar (strength and conditioning coach), Zubair Ahmed (analyst), Rifat Asghar Gill (physiotherapist) and Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager)

Series itinerary

27 Aug - South Africa team arrival

1 Sep - First T20I v South Africa

3 Sep - Second T20I v South Africa

4 Sep - Third T20I v South Africa

8 Sep - First ODI v South Africa

11 Sep - Second ODI v South Africa

14 Sep - Third ODI v South Africa

## Sindh Colour clinch Prime Minister Youth Program National Women's Football League title



Spots Desk

KARACHI: Sindh Color won the Prime Minister's Youth Program Talent Hunt Youth Sports National Women's Football League after defeating Federal. There was a wave of happiness in the sports circles of Sindh on this success. The chief guest of the closing ceremony was Javed Ali Memon, in charge of Sports Higher Education Commission, while on this occasion Vice Chancellor of Lahore College Women University Dr. Shaghfat Naz, Adnan Saeed from HeC, Head of Department Physical Education and Sports Sciences IBA University Sukkur Dr. Shah Zaman Khan, Director Sports Lahore College for Women Miss Sumaira Sattar, Deputy Director Sports IBA University Sukkur and HEC National Women's Football League Incharge Asad Hussain Sheikh, Arshad Jamal, Mohammad Zaki and other sports figures were also present. The special guest Javed Memon said that many talented players have emerged in the National Football Women's League. I hope that these players will go ahead and make a place in the national team. Sindh Color and Sindh White participated in the league under the patronage of Head of Department Physical Education and Sports Sciences IBA Sukkur Dr. Shah Zaman Khan and Deputy Director Sports IBA University Sukkur Asad Hussain Sheikh. Sindh Color outclassed Federal in all areas in the final and won the trophy by 2-0. Both the goals were scored by Sumita Amanullah on behalf of the winning team. Sindh Color also won the honor of scoring the highest number of goals in the league. Sindh teams officials Arshad Jamal, Miss Quratul Ain Hameed, M. Zakir, Shah Khalid, Miss Humira, Abed Hussain and Zubair Ahmed's efforts are also appreciated.

## UAE win toss, elect to bowl first against New Zealand in second T20I

A Sports

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) have won the toss and elected to field first in the second T20I of the three-match series against New Zealand.

PLAYING Xis

UAE: Muhammad Waseem (c), Aryansh Sharma (wk), Vriitya Aravind, Asif Khan, Ansh Tandon, Basil Hameed, Ali Naseer, Aayan Khan, Mohammed Farazuddin, Muhammad Jawadullah, Zahoor Khan.

New Zealand: Tim Seifert, Chad Bowes, Dane Cleaver (wk), Mark Chapman, Mitchell Santner, James Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Cole McConchie, Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee (c), Ben Lister.

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches 1, New Zealand 1, UAE 0

Notably, New Zealand lead the three-match series 1-0 after a sensational five-wicket haul by their captain Tim Southee led them to a narrow 19-run victory in the first T20I.

Chasing 156, the home side fell just 19 runs short and were bundled out for 136 despite Aryansh Sharma's brisk half-century.

The UAE were in command midway through the pursuit as they were 84/3 with Sharma and Ansh Tandon at the crease.

However, the wickets kept tumbling at an alarming rate and they were consequently bowled out in the final over.

Sharma waged a lone battle for the hosts with a 43-ball 60, laced up with nine boundaries and a six.

Besides him, the next best run-getters for the UAE were Ali Naseer (16) while Asif Khan and Vriitya Arvind scored 13 each.

However, six of their batters failed to make it into the double figures.

New Zealand captain Tim Southee returned astonishing figures of 5/25, followed by two each by James Neesham and Mitchell Santner.

Put into bat first, New Zealand registered a commendable total of 155/6 on the board at the back of a quickfire 55-run knock by Tim Seifert.

Seifert recovered New Zealand from an early blow after Junaid Siddique dismissed Chad Bowes on the first delivery of the innings.

He then knitted a 51-run partnership with Dane Cleaver (4) before both perished in quick successions to leave New Zealand reeling at 60/3 in the eighth over.

Seifert remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with a 34-ball 55, laced up with two boundaries and three sixes.

New Zealand then lost three more wickets at regular intervals and had slipped to 109/6 in 15.2 overs before Cole McConchie and Rachin Ravindra added vital runs at the death.

McConchie played an unbeaten cameo of 31 in 24 deliveries while Ravindra made a brisk 11-ball 21.

For the UAE, Basil Hameed and Junaid Siddique bagged two wickets each while Mohammed Farazuddin made one scalp each.



## Winner

FATEH JANG: Player of the winning Team Shahzad Kanyal posing for a group photograph along with Social Worker Hamza Baig after Kashif Ali Memorial All Pakistan Open Tape Ball Cricket Tournament at Shehzad Kanyal area of the district.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Harry Brook frustrated by World Cup snub



Sports Desk

LAHORE: England batsman Harry Brook has revealed his frustration at being left out of the squad for this year's Cricket World Cup.

Ben Stokes' decision to come out of one-day international retirement played a key role in Brook failing to make England's preliminary squad for the defence of their 50-over crown.

The 24-year-old has emerged as one of England's brightest young talents, helping them to a dramatic drawn Ashes series against Australia recently.

But England's selectors left Harry Brook out of a 15-man squad for their four warm-up matches with New Zealand in September.

The same group will most likely be chosen to try and retain the World Cup in India in October and November.

"Obviously it's disappointing, but I can't do anything about it now, you've just got to move on. I'm trying not to think about it anymore," Brook said after playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred at Lord's.

"I've not had much conversation with (coach) Matthew (Mott) or (captain) Jos (Buttler). They said with Stokesy coming back I was probably going to miss out this time."

"He (Stokes) is one of the best players to ever play cricket, so I can't really complain, can I?"

While Harry Brook has made a flying start to his Test career, he has played just three ODI matches for England.

"I feel like I'm playing well at the minute and feel I could potentially add value to the team. There's always something more you could do," he said.

"I haven't had much opportunity to play one-day cricket, whether that be for Yorkshire or England and, although I've played a lot of T20 cricket, I don't know I've done as well as I have in the past in the last six months, so that might have had an effect."

## All-round Hasaranga powers B-Love Kandy into LPL final at Titans' disposal

A Sports

COLOMBO: Wanindu Hasaranga paired up his 48-run knock with two wickets and muscled B-Love Kandy into the Lanka Premier League (LPL) final with a convincing 34-run victory over Galle Titans in the Qualifier 2 on Friday.

Opting to bat first, B-Love Kandy posted a decent total of 157/7 on the board, courtesy of a match-saving 48-run knock by skipper Hasaranga.

B-Love Kandy got off to a poor start to their innings as they were reduced to 20/3 inside five overs.

Following the slump, Hasaranga joined experienced Dinesh Chandimal at the crease and launched a counter-attack with clean hitting.

The pair pulled B-Love Kandy out of trouble, adding 72 runs for the fourth wicket at a brisk rate before Hasaranga faltered and fell just two shy of his half-century.

The all-rounder smashed three boundaries and four sixes on his way to a 30-ball 48.

Chandimal soon followed Hasaranga back to the pavilion after stitching a brief 13-run partnership with Angelo Mathews.

Chandimal scored 38 from 37 deliveries, laced up with three boundaries and a six.

Following his dismissal, Mathews and Chaturanga de Silva added valuable runs at the death and bolstered the team's total.



Mathews scored 24 off 17 before getting run out in the final over while de Silva played a brisk 15-run cameo in just six deliveries.

Kumara and Sonal Dinusha bagged two wickets each for Galle Titans while Kasun Rajitha and Shakib Al Hasan made one scalp each.

Set to chase 158, Galle Titans' batting lineup failed and could only raise 123/8 in the allotted overs.

Their openers Litton Das and Lasith Croospulle provided a flying start as they had piled up 37 runs in the first four overs.

Chaturanga de Silva provided a much-needed breakthrough to B-Love Kandy as he dismissed Das in the fifth over, who scored 25 off 19 deliveries.

Galle Titans then lost two wickets

- Lasith Croospulle (14) and Sohan de Livera (1) - in quick successions and thus were slipped to 45/3 in the seventh over.

Shakib Al Hasan and Sonal Dinusha then attempted to anchor the run chase as they put on a brief 28-run partnership before the former perished in the 12th over, scoring 17 off 15.

Galle Titans then lost wickets at regular intervals which halted the flow of runs and they were consequently restricted to 123/8 in 20 overs.

Dinusha top-scored for the Titans with a cautious 32-ball 28, hitting a six.

Wanindu Hasaranga-led B-Love Kandy will now take on table-toppers Dambulla Aura in the LPL 2023 final, scheduled on Sunday.

## Waseem, Aayan power UAE to stun New Zealand

A Sports

DUBAI: Aayan Afzal Khan's astonishing figures of 3/20, followed by skipper Muhammad Waseem's half-century powered the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to upset New Zealand by seven wickets in the second T20I.

Set to chase a modest 143-run total, the UAE comfortably accumulated 144 runs for the loss of just three wickets with 26 balls to spare.

UAE captain Muhammad Waseem led his side from the front in the run chase with an anchoring half-century.

The hosts, however, had a contrasting start to their innings

as they lost opener Aryansh Sharma (0) in the first over.

Following an early blow, Waseem joined forces with Vriitya Aravind and added 40 runs to the total before Kyle Jamieson got rid of the latter at the stroke of the powerplay.

Aravind scored 25 off 21 deliveries, hitting three boundaries and two sixes.

Coming out to bat at number four, Asif Khan soon strengthened UAE's command on the match with belligerent hitting amid his 56-run partnership with Waseem, who finally perished in the 11th over.

Waseem struck four boundaries and three sixes on his way to

a 29-ball 55.

Meanwhile, Asif continued his domination over New Zealand bowlers and steered his side to a historic victory in the 16th over.

Asif scored an unbeaten 48 off 29 deliveries, hitting five boundaries and a six. Whereas, Basil Hameed scored 12 not out.

Jamieson, Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee could not wicket apiece for New Zealand.

Put into bat first, the touring side got off to a dismal start to their innings as Jawadullah castled Tim Seifert in the third over with just 14 runs on the board.

Opening batter Chad Bowes was joined by Mitchell Santner

at the crease and the pair knitted a brief 13-run partnership before Aayan Afzal Khan halted their recovery with twin strikes in the fifth over.

The left-arm pacer castled Santner and Dane Cleaver in successive deliveries to leave New Zealand reeling at 27/3.

The visitors then endured a major setback soon after the powerplay when Aayan Afzal Khan struck again to remove Bowes, who batted cautiously for his run-a-ball 21.

Mark Chapman then stood up for New Zealand after Bowes' departure and put on a brief 17-run partnership with Cole McConchie before the latter



perished in the 12th, leaving his side reeling at 65/5.

Chapman then received subtle support at the other in the form

of James Neesham.

The pair batted sensibly for their 53-run partnership until Neesham miscued one off Ali

Naseer in the 17th over.

The all-rounder smashed two boundaries on his way to a 17-ball 21.

Meanwhile, Chapman dominated the UAE bowlers at the death before finally perishing in the final over.

He struck three boundaries and as many sixes on his way to top score for New Zealand with a 46-ball 63.

Aayan Afzal Khan led the bowling attack for the UAE with 3/20 in his four overs, followed by Muhammad Jawadullah's 2/16.

Besides them, Mohammed Farazuddin, Zahoor Khan and Naseer made one scalp each.