



**Progress of Balochistan main priority of govt: PM**

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said progress of Balochistan was the main priority of his government. He made the remarks in a meeting with Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki here at the Chief Minister House. (Report on Page 8)



**Uzbek envoy vows to strengthen bilateral trade relations with Pakistan**

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Arif Usmanov has vowed that he will make all-out efforts for increasing bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Both the countries had been enjoying a cordial relationship for years and "now it is the need of the hour to further cement our economic relationship across diversified fields," he said while talking to the media at a dinner on Thursday night hosted by PEC Chairman Engineer Najeeb Haroon. (Details on Page 8)

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**Group photo**

Islamabad: The Students of Harvard University, USA posing a group photo with General Syed Asim Munir, COAS at GHQ:



Photo: ISPR

**Int'l community must realise Pakistan's sacrifices in war against terrorism: COAS**

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Friday underscored that Pakistan was acting as bulwark against terrorism and the international community must "realise the immense sacrifices rendered by the country".

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army Chief expressed these remarks during an interactive session with a group of 38 students from Harvard University, United States hailing from nine different countries who met him here at the General Headquarters (GHQ) as part of their visit to Pakistan.

COAS Asim Munir talked about regional security issues and the Pakistan Army's contributions to promote peace and stability in the region.

He also highlighted the rich potential of Pakistan and urged the participants to perceive the country based on their experiences during their stay.

The army chief pointed out the human sufferings and atrocities being committed in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and efforts to change the demographic realities of the area.

The students appreciated COAS Asim Munir for providing an opportunity for a constructive interaction.

Earlier this week, COAS Asim Munir visited Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, where six soldiers embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with terrorists.

The army chief visited Sherwani area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan District and was briefed on the prevailing security situation including ongoing intelligence and counter-terrorism operations.

During his visit, COAS Munir interacted with officers and troops deployed in the area and appreciated their "unflinching resolve in fighting the menace of terrorism".

Speaking on the occasion, the army chief said that Shuhadas [martyrs] are the country's pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and stability in Pakistan.

COAS Munir emphasised that terrorists, their affiliates and abettors working on the behalf of hostile agenda to destabilize Pakistan will be hunted down until their surrender to the state.

Students appreciated the COAS for providing the opportunity for a constructive interaction.

**PM reaffirms govt's desire to further strengthen ties with US**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday reaffirmed the government's desire to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the United States in the key areas including trade and investment, energy, security, and climate change.

He was talking to the U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome who called on him here.

Ambassador Blome congratulated the prime minister on assuming office and reaffirmed



the United States' desire for supporting Pakistan's economic and development agenda.

The prime minister said that

Pakistan and the US enjoyed longstanding and broad-based relations, rooted in mutual respect, common interests and

shared values.

He emphasized that the caretaker government's main responsibility was to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan in the electoral process and provide constitutional continuity during the period of democratic transition.

He expressed satisfaction over the current positive trajectory of bilateral ties and appreciated the United States' role in helping Pakistan to stabilize its economy and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue the reform agenda for achieving sustainable growth.

Noting the role that the U. S. private sector had traditionally played in supporting Pakistan's economic growth, he hoped that more U. S. companies would explore the investment opportunities, particularly to tap the vast potential for investment in Pakistan's information technology sector.

Lauding the important contributions of the Pakistani-American community towards strengthening ties between the two countries, the prime minister called for increasing people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

**55 prefab structures established in flood-prone areas of GB: CS**

**News Desk**

GILGIT: Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Muihudeen Wani Friday said 55 prefab structures in different schools have been established in flood-prone areas of GB. He said each prefab structure has a state-of-the-art smart hall whose dimension is 23 x 34 ft and is equipped with an LMS system which includes solar-powered LED and AC, said an official statement. He said, "The Prefab structure is complete in all aspects having attached washroom and server room. It is equipped with student-friendly furniture which includes 30 chairs and 15 tables." He said one additional chair and table are for the teachers as well.

**PPP CEC decides to advocate general elections in 90 days**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee (CEC) has decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days:

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired the session of the PPP CEC to make key decisions including general elections and consultations with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The political party decided to urge the organisation of general polls in November, sources told ARY News. The CEC declared the 2023 census statistics 'suspicious'.

During the session, the former Sindh chief minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah gave a briefing to the CEC members.

The PPP leaders said that the Sindh population was undercounted in the 2023 census data which would result in major losses includ-



ing the distribution of the funds. Sources said that PPP will finalise its strategy after the verdict of the Supreme Court (SC).

While addressing a press conference, Sherry Rehman said that the PPP CEC held discussions on various topics including general elections, delimitations, inflation and inflated utility bills.

"Another crisis will hit the nation if elections are not conducted in 90 days in accordance with the Constitution. PPP has adopted a stance of elections in 90 days."

"ECP has invited the PPP for consultations and we have not changed our stance. We were told

that elections would not be delayed after notifying the census."

Regarding the caretaker set-up, she said that the caretaker government can neither pass new legislation nor amend any laws.

Sherry Rehman said that the country must not be pushed into another constitutional crisis. "There is no reason for delaying the polls when the number of seats is not being increased."

Addressing the press conference, former Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah said that the digital census was 'controversial'. "We agreed to notify the census data after being told that the number of seats will be unchanged."

It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has begun consultations with the major political parties ahead of the general elections to finalise the electoral roadmap.

**Cipher case: Shah Mahmood Qureshi's physical remand extended**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Special court in Islamabad on Friday granted the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi's three-day physical remand in a case pertaining to a diplomatic cipher that reportedly went missing from ex-prime minister Imran Khan's custody.

Judge Abu Al-Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain heard the case against Shah Mahmood Qureshi under Official Secrets Act 2023.

At the outset of the hearing, the FIA lawyer pleaded with the court for 9-day physical remand of the former foreign minister for recovery of cipher copy, while Shoaib Shaheen, Qureshi's lawyer, opposed the request.

**Nawaz to return to Pakistan in October, confirms Shehbaz**

**Spokesman Report**

LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in October, his brother and party's president Shehbaz Sharif confirmed on Friday.

"We held consultations with the senior leadership of the party and we have decided that Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in October and lead the election campaign," Shehbaz Sharif said

while talking to journalists in London.

The PML-N president also said that his brother would come to Pakistan and face the law and "there are no two opinions on it". However, Shehbaz Sharif did not specify a date when Nawaz would return.

"Nawaz Sharif's name was not there in Panama papers. His name was included in the investigation through a conspiracy and no action was taken against other people whose



names were actually there," the former premier said.

Responding to a question on

whether 'current and former judges' would be punished, Shehbaz emphasised on 'trans-

parent accountability' across the board and said Pakistan cannot move forward without it.

In response to a question about elections, the former premier said that his party had dissolved assemblies as per the Constitution. "Following the dissolution, it is the responsibility of Election Commission to hold elections," he added.

He also vowed that as a political party, the PML-N will "fully facilitate the ECP for free, fair and transparent elections".

**Security agencies foil attempts to hack phones of govt officials**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Security agencies have exposed an attempt to obtain sensitive information by hacking the mobile phones of senior government officials.

According to statements issued by the Prime Minister's House, security agencies have foiled an attempt to breach the mobile phones of senior government officials.

This vicious effort aimed to extract sensitive information from government officials and bureaucrats under the guise of senior officials.



According to the statements, mobile hacking links were sent via WhatsApp in an attempt to obtain information.

Prime Minister's Office directed the government officials to remain vigilant, refrain from responding to irrelevant messages, and promptly inform the Cabinet Division upon receiving such messages.

**General elections likely in February 2024**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to hold general elections in the second week of February 2024.

Sources privy to the development told ARY News that the election commission is likely to issue general elections schedule after December 2023.

"The election schedule will be issued 54 days after the completion of the delimitation process," said sources with ECP.

Moreover, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has started consulting major political parties on upcoming general elections in the country. The electoral watchdog has decided to consult leaders of major political parties to decide a roadmap for the upcoming elections in the country.

**Judge Humayun Dilawar, who convicted PTI chief, demoted**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Humayun Dilawar, a district and sessions court judge who convicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, was demoted to Officer on Special Duty (O.S.D.).

According to details, Judge Humayun Dilawar was demoted to Officer on Special Duty (O.S.D.) on the orders of the Islamabad High Court (IHC). As per the notification - issued by the IHC Additional Registrar on instruction of Chief Justice Aamir Farooq, Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar has now been asked to report to Islamabad High Court (IHC).

## Guard of honour

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented guard of honor upon his arrival at CM House on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Progress of Balochistan main priority of govt: PM

## Bureau Report

QUETTA: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said progress of Balochistan was the main priority of his government.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki here at the Chief Minister House.

The chief minister briefed the PM on the administrative affairs of the province.

The prime minister directed that a detailed briefing should be presented regarding the administrative affairs and development and infrastructure projects of Balochistan.

He said progress of Pakistan was not possible without progress of Balochistan. The province was not only rich in natural resources but its real strength was its capable human resources, he added.

Earlier Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq Kakar on Friday arrived here on a three-day visit to Balochistan.

This is the prime minister's maiden official visit to his native province after assuming the office.

On his arrival at the Quetta Airport, Prime Minister Kakar was received by Interim Balochistan Chief Minister Ali Mardan Khan Domki, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan and Inspector General of Police Abdul Khaliq

Sheikh.

The prime minister was accompanied by Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti, Communications Minister Shahid Tahir and others.

During the visit a 14-member delegation of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) led by Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The delegation congrat-

ulated the prime minister on assuming the charge of his office and expressed best wishes for him.

The JUI-F leaders also paid tributes to the prime minister for promptly initiating effective actions to successfully evacuate the people stranded in a chairlift in Battagram.

PM Kakar directed the relevant authorities to ensure safety arrangements and strict monitoring of all the chairlifts across the country.

## More than 40 countries to participate in 20th China-ASEAN Expo in September

## Spokesman Report

BELJING: The 20th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), an annual trade show that aims to facilitate economic cooperation between China and ASEAN, will be held from September 16 to 19 in Nanning, South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with the exhibition's scale bouncing back to pre-virus levels, Chinese officials said.

The expo carries great significance as this year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – under which ASEAN has become a pilot demonstration zone for the initiative's development – as well as a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future. The expo this year is themed "Building a harmonious homeland, a common destiny to the future – promoting high-quality development of BRI and building an economic growth center," Vice Minister of Commerce Li Fei said at a press briefing of the State Council Information



Office on Friday.

He noted that during the past 20 years, the trade fair has become an important open cooperation platform for the two economies, while also playing a positive role in regional economic integration. This year, over 40 countries and 1,700 companies are expected to participate in the fair, Sui Guohua, vice governor of Guangxi, said at the Friday press briefing.

The exhibition area for foreign companies accounts for 30 percent of the total area. "A number of accompanying conferences will also be held, aiming to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN,

and to provide new impetus to the regional economic recovery and global development in the post-virus era," Sui said.

Sui estimated that boosted by those facilitation activities, the project deals worth over 400 billion yuan (\$54.88 billion) will be signed, of which manufacturing projects will account for over 40 percent. The expo also marks the second edition of the event since the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) went into force at the beginning of 2022.

In 2021, China and ASEAN elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. "The implementation of RCEP has provided new opportuni-

ties for trade and investment cooperation between China and ASEAN, with policy dividends being released," Li said. The vice commerce minister noted that the two sides are facilitating the negotiation of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement 3.0, which is expected to raise the opening-up level of bilateral trade and investment area, expand beneficial cooperation in new emerging sectors such as digital economy, green economy and supply chain connectivity.

In 2022, bilateral trade between China and ASEAN grew 11.2 percent year-on-year to \$975.3 billion, growing 1.2 times during the past 10 years. China-ASEAN trade accounted for 15.5 percent of China's foreign trade in 2022. Accumulated two-way investment also surpassed \$380 billion among China and ASEAN members as of July 2023, official data showed. In the current grim situation of global trade, which faces multiple risks such as recession in developed economies and artificial "decoupling," China-ASEAN econom-

ic and trade relations adhere to innovation and scientific and technological progress, which allow them to continue to optimize the supply chains and cross-border trade platforms, Chen Jia, an independent analyst on global strategy, told the Global Times.

Multilateral frameworks such as BRI and RCEP provide cooperation opportunities in infrastructure construction and connectivity between China and ASEAN members, Wang Jianjiao, research fellow with Silk Road Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. "The Silk Road Academy of Social Sciences judged that from 2023 to 2025, new energy projects of China and ASEAN members will continue to see an increase, of which the energy and transportation fields are the focus. Meanwhile, there is still a large space for development cooperation in new infrastructure," said Wang.

Opportunities for cooperation also exist in areas such as artificial intelligence, financial technology and e-commerce, Wang noted.

## IESCO offers electricity bill installment option to consumers

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday amid protest on heavy billing offered the consumers to avail electricity bill installment options at the company's field offices. Chief Executive of IESCO, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan also appealed to the consumers to refrain from participating in any group or protest that aims to cause harm to government property and employees. In a statement, he said employees are actively involved in illuminating the homes of valued customers in various situations.

## PIA decides legal action against protesting employees

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The administration of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has decided to take legal action against the employees protesting against the privatisation of the national flag carrier and demanding salary raise.

Sources told ARY News that the PIA administration completed its legal consultations to take action against employees protesting against the privatisation plan and demanding salary raise.

The action will be taken against the alleged violations of the Pakistan Essential Services (Maintenance) Act, 1952, which was imposed in May, said sources, adding that the



negligence in performing tasks would be considered a crime.

Under the Essential Services Act, the employees were banned from gathering crowds or staging protests or sit-ins.

Earlier, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) administration sealed the office of the airline's Senior Officers Association (SSA) for holding

protests with other employee associations against the privatisation and bifurcation decisions.

The PIA Senior Staff Association (SSA) office has been sealed by the national airline's administration for a series of protests against privatisation, bifurcation and for salary raise. The SSA office was sealed

over the directives of the airline's GM Welfare IR & Sports Shoaib Ahmad Dahri, according to the copy of an email obtained by ARY News.

PIA SSA Secretary General Safdar Anjum said in a statement that the administration took an illegal step by sealing the association's office. He termed the admin's move as a bid to destroy peaceful environment.

He vowed that the protests will be continued till the demands are met.

Prior to the development, the PIA employees staged a protest against the proposed privatisation of the airline. The protestors demanded the higher authorities approve their charter of demand.

## No one would be allowed to fan flames of extremism: Solangi

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that the interim government believed in protecting and promoting the rights of all citizens in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

"We will not allow anyone to fan the flames of extremism and lawlessness," he said during a conversation with Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council who met him here.

Minorities, especially Christians, played an important role in the establishment of Pakistan, Solangi remarked.

The minister said that caretaker Prime Minister had strongly condemned Jaranwala incident, adding "the government will not tolerate such behavior."

The process of construction and rehabilitation of the affected churches and the houses of the affected citizens was in progress, the minister told Ashrafi.

The Maulana congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming the responsibilities as caretaker Minister.

Tahir Ashrafi paid tributes to Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar



for taking immediate legal action against those involved in the Jaranwala tragedy.

He said that Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi's immediate actions in that regard were commendable.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed grief over the demise of the father of senior journalist and General Secretary of the Karachi Union of Journalists (Dastoor) Naimat Khan.

The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Solangi said he was saddened by hearing the news of the demise of Naimat Khan's father. He said he shared the grief of the bereaved family.

## Uzbek envoy vows to strengthen bilateral trade relations with Pakistan



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Arif Usmanov has vowed that he will make all-out efforts for increasing bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan had been enjoying a cordial relationship for years and "now it is the need of the hour to further cement our economic relationship across diversified fields," he said while talking to the media at a dinner on Thursday night hosted by Pakistan Engineering Council Chairman Engineer Najeeb Haroon and senior journalist Zahid Karani to mark Pakistan's 76th Independence Day celebrations.

The Uzbek envoy said, "I am currently in Karachi to meet Pakistani business community, traders, investors for some fruitful discussions

on business expansion." He would also meet Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and other government officials, he added. Engr Najeeb Haroon warmly welcomed the guests. Speaking on the occasion, he said Pakistan had massive potential and talent that could aid a lot in its economic development as the investors were keen to expand their business operations globally with a positive hindsight. "Collaborative efforts and optimism are much needed to yield long-lasting productive results," he stressed. The dinner was also attended by Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong, Consul General of Thailand Narut Soontarodom, Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Oman Engr Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari and diplomats from other countries, besides businessmen and industrialists.

## Israel's Ben-Gvir makes racist remarks after 70 years of apartheid



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine condemns in the strongest terms the racist and heinous remarks made by Israel's fascist Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, which only confirms Israel's apartheid regime of Jewish supremacy and racial terror against the Palestinian people.

Ben-Gvir's racist remarks and continued incitement against the Palestinian people are the inevitable culmination of 75 years of Israeli hate-mongering, rooted in the Nakba and sustained by Israel's illegal occupation and oppression which institutionally dehumanizes and relegates the Palestinian people to an inhuman status.

The State of Palestine recalls that Israel, the occupying Power, its officials, occupying forces, and settler militias, have no sovereignty or right to any part of Palestine. The rights of the Palestinian people to live as free and independent people in their homeland, in dignity, in peace and security, are universally recognized and enshrined.

Israel's systematic hate speech, provocative rhetoric, violence and dehumanization of the Palestinian people across decades are fomenting mass violence at unprecedented levels. Ben-Gvir and Israeli officials must be sanctioned and held accountable for inciting violence and destruction and knowingly leading and contributing to the mass persecution of the Palestinian people.

# Closing Ceremony Urs of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria

*Jamaat Ghousia always strive for the integrity and stability of the country*

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The three-day celebrations of the 784th anniversary of the great spiritual leader of the Suhrawardy family, Shaikhul Islam Hazrat Ghaus Bahauddin Zakaria Suhrawardy Multani, concluded today in Multan. Speaking at the closing session of the National Zakaria Conference, Allama Syed Mazhar Saeed Kazmi, the head of Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Pakistan, said that the teachings of Hazrat Ghaus Bahauddin Zakaria are a source of salvation for the growth and guidance of humanity, prosperity and governance. As a result of his efforts to preach the religion and spread Islam, the entire South Asia became illuminated with the light of Islam. Allama Kazmi said that tyranny and oppression and fascism are present in the country.

Rights of poor and innocent people are being usurped. It is very important to establish a justice system in the country for the establishment of peace and harmony. He said that Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi is a responsible and courageous politician of the dear country. There is no stain of corruption on him till date. Allama Kazmi while appreciating the brave and courageous feelings of Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi the elder brother of Makhdoom Shah



Mahmood Hussain Qureshi said that today is a historic day. We are well wishers of this family and we have 80 years old relationship with this family.

He prayed for the early release of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Hussain Qureshi and expressed the expectation that this family will always remain united under the leadership of Makhdoom Sahib and will continue to serve as before in the country's politics. Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi said that Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi is the Sajjada Nashin of Dargah and the head of my family. As long as I live, no one can raise an evil eye at them. He said our bodies are separate but our soul is one. Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been imprisoned because of his persistence and courage.

Makhdoomzada Zain exhorted the Ghousia party to be firm on religion. Make halal provision your slogan along

with the observance of five prayers. Sahibzada Syed Hasan Saeed Kazmi, Professor Dr. Muhammad Siddique Khan Qadri, Zonal Khatib Awqaf Mufti Muhammad Kashif Faridi in National Zakaria Conference

Qazi Muhammad Bashir Golarvi, Dr. Arshad Ali Baloch, Qari Ruknuddin Qadri, Sahibzada Labib Rabbani, Qari Ghulam Farid Azhari and Qari Muhammad Siddique Khan also spoke. Makhdoomzada Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Darbar Aliya Jabba Sharif Sheikh Wahan, Pir Maqbool Ahmed Hashmi, Makhdoom Syed Ghulam Mustafa Gillani, Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat Provincial Moderator Allama Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi, Pir Talha Hussain Rizvi, Dr Shahwar Mustafa Owaisi, Malik Zahoor Ahmad Mahe Brigadier (R) Maqsood Qureshi Pir Saif Ahmad Qureshi Mian Abid Hussain Qureshi. Imran Haider Qureshi

Besides Mian Abid Hussain Suhrawardy, Malik Niaz Muhammad Bhutta, Sardarzada Ghulam Abbas Chachar, Mian Asif Mahmood Naqshbandi, Mian Jameel Ahmad Naqshbandi, thousands of devotees and pilgrims from all over the country participated. Qari Haq Nawaz Saeedi recited. While Hafiz Hilal Ahmad Owaisi and Qari Ghulam Farid Azhari recited Khatam Sharif. Hameed Nawaz Asim, Waheed Nawaz, Hamid Nawaz, Mohammad Asim Golrovi, Mohammad Zulqarnain Mehravi, Mohammad Nauman Bakhtiar Saeedi and Shaikat Hussain Saeedi presented Hadiya Manqbat.

Eminent personalities belonging to Quraysh family participated in the celebrations. Allama Syed Mazhar Saeed Kazmi prayed for the unity of the world of Islam, the integrity and stability of Pakistan, the establishment of peace and the early release of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

## Commissioner Khattak forms committee to check all NGOs in Multan Division



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak formed a committee consisting of Additional Deputy Commissioner, D O Industries, Director Social Welfare, concerned Assistant Commissioner to check all NGOs of Multan Division. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak chaired the committee. A review meeting was held on the performance of NGOs. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that the registration of all NGOs, SOPs of their work should be checked. A full report should be submitted after auditing the NGOs.

He ordered a crackdown against those begging children in the division and said that the Child Protection Bureau should play an active role in this regard. He also directed the Edhi Homes administration to install security cameras and appoint doctors.

The data of children, women and persons addicted to drugs should also be compiled. Eliminating and discouraging drugs from society is a collective responsibility. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Abida Farid, Social Welfare, Child Protection Bureau, Violence Center Women, Darul Falah, Darul Aman Special Education Officers were present.

## Amir Khattak ordered the early completion of all development schemes

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Development Working Party meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. In the meeting, amendments in 6 schemes, revised estimate of 9 schemes due to change in prices, change in the scope of 2 development schemes were allowed. Commissioner Amir Khattak ordered the early completion of all development schemes and said that quality in the completion of schemes. But compromise will not be tolerated. Director Development Rubina Kausar, officers of development departments were present in the meeting.

## PTCL & ChildLife Foundation join hands to save children through Telemedicine Facility



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and ChildLife Foundation have partnered to provide telemedicine services for the remote telemedicine facility in more than 200 telemedicine satellite and emergency centers across Pakistan.

Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Dr. Ahson Rabbani CEO, ChildLife Foundation, chaired the ceremony recently held at ChildLife Foundation's Emergency Center at Civil Hospital, Karachi. Basharat Qureshi, Group VP Enterprise PTCL, Umar Farooqi, Group Director Enterprise PTCL, Syed Ali Hussain, GM Information Technology ChildLife Foundation & Shahzad Zaki, GM Communications ChildLife Foundation, were also present on the occasion, along with other officials.

PTCL is providing ChildLife Foundation with its state-of-the-art connectivity solutions that are equipped with latest technology & managed services.

During the ceremony, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "We are honored to enter a partnership with ChildLife Foundation to support the children of the country. PTCL, being a national company, is leading the digitalization effort across the country."

On the occasion, Dr. Ahson Rabbani CEO ChildLife Foundation said, "The partnership with PTCL signifies a significant stride in utilizing technology to bridge healthcare gaps in underserved areas. These Telemedicine Satellite Centers, powered by PTCL's communication solutions, enable remote communities to access expert pediatric consultations, overcoming previous barriers to quality healthcare."

PTCL and ChildLife Foundation place highest level of commitment to provide best-in-class emergency health services to children across Pakistan. This agreement is part of the growth momentum in the diverse areas of ICT and Security Solutions, which is key to a digital eco-system in Pakistan.

## Bifurcation process slows down after SW Lower becomes a separate district

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's previous provincial government cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa formally approved the division of South Waziristan into two districts on 12 April 2022.

One district was named Upper Waziristan while the other district was named Lower Waziristan, but despite the official notification issued on September 13, 2022 the district of Lower South Waziristan is still deprived of its fruits.

Due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, public problems started increasing, the bifurcation process should be expedited, demand of ANP leader Noorzaman Wazir and tribal elders.

ANP senior leader Noor Zaman Wazir says that South Waziristan has been divided into two districts, Upper and Lower Waziristan, but unfortunately the offices of Lower South Waziristan district are still in Tank district.

He said that until the offices of all the departments of Lower South Waziristan district are shifted to Wana and the people are not made easily accessible to these offices, then it is of no use.

Informed sources say that the heads of some departments have been appointed in Lower South Waziristan, but on the one hand, they cannot work due to lack of offices and on the other hand, the staff of the District Account Office are sitting 160 km away in Tank district due to which the official work of Lower South Waziristan district has come to a complete standstill.

## Carefully

ISLAMABAD: Residences of Khanna area are crossing the huge nullah with help of cable car with the charges of 10 rupees as it is a unique thing and good short cut in the age of Modern technology.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# 'Enough' of Indian atrocities on Kashmiris: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar Haq Kakar, in his address to the United Nations on September 22, blamed India's water and state terrorism in the occupied valley and the innocent Kashmiris. Expose the ongoing atrocities and draw the attention of the international community towards a solution to the



Kashmir issue.

India has started a plan to evict the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir from their land after August 5, 2019, the properties of the Kashmiri

people are being burnt, even the houses are being burnt, the innocent Hurriyat leaders in jails are being given medical facilities not even available, many freedom fighters were brutally martyred inside the jails, there is no street in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir that has not been a victim of Indian state terrorism, in such a situation, Kashmiris who migrated from Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to Azad Kashmir are enough.

The former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan expressed these thoughts while talking to the pressmen

here. He said that India also held the G20 conference in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India is fooling the world with strict vigilance that there is peace in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Muslims were massacred and now the same history is being repeated in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Journalism has also been restricted in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Restrictions have been imposed on social media, there is an amnesty for reporting the good news, arrests or encounters for writing the truth.

# Save the Children International Committed Towards Holistic Development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Continuing its mission to foster collaboration and drive sustainable solutions towards community development, climate change and disaster management, the Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children International (SCI), Inger Ashing, Country Director Save the Children in Pakistan, Muhammad Khuram Gondal and delegation comprising senior officials of SCI engaged in pivotal meetings with Government officials from Federal Ministry for Planning, Development & Special



Initiatives and Federal Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Conservation. The discussions centered on climate change resilience, youth engagement, and strategic initiatives for holistic development.

During their visit to Ministry for Planning, Development

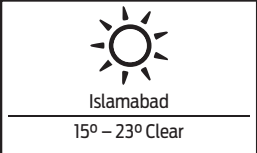
& Special Initiatives, SCI delegation met with Joint Chief Economist MoPD&SI, Zafar ul Hassan, Sr. Joint Secretary MoPD&SI, Qazi Zaheer Ahmed and Chief SDG MoPD&SI, Muhammad Ali Kamal. Ms. Inger Ashing highlighted the importance of strategic planning

in propelling Pakistan's progress underscoring SCI's commitment to community initiatives and empowering young minds to drive positive change.

The Secretary for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Zafar ul Hassan stated, we look forward to collaborating with Save the Children International on planning and carrying forward disaster risk reduction & management initiatives. He further advised SCI to undertake initiatives of children's protection, health & education. Agreed to cooperate with each other.

CEO Save the Children Inter-

national reaffirmed the organization's dedication to climate resilience. The conversation centered around aligning efforts to safeguard Pakistan's environment, strengthening the country's response to climate-related challenges, and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. She further said that "I would like to highlight that Climate Change is the cross cutting theme of Save The Children International and we are committed to safeguarding the well being of communities especially children and protect them from the effects of climate change."



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:08 am  
Zohr ..... 12:10 pm  
Asr ..... 4:50 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:43 pm  
Isha ..... 8:11 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

# Power losses must be prevented, and unsuccessful enterprises must be sold: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that exports and remittances are continuously decreasing.

Imports are increasing due to the agreement with the IMF to lift the ban on imports, which is eating up the forex reserves.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the current account deficit is widening due to increased imports, the demand for dollars is increasing in proportion, and the value

of the rupee is depreciating rapidly, which leads to electricity, gas, and price inflation.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all these factors are increasing the cost of living and the cost of doing business, and the masses as well as businessmen are worried.

He said that steps must be taken to increase exports and remittances to prevent the fall of the rupee.

The business leader said that due to the falling value of the rupee, people are transferring their savings to the dollar, which has further increased its demand. Currently, the dollar is being sold in the market for up to 312 rupees, and there is a possibility of a further increase.



Mian Zahid Hussain said that the rupee has lost 25 percent of its value

since the beginning of this year. After the approval of the loan of three billion dollars by the IMF, while the risk of Pakistan's default was reduced, there was temporary stability in the value of the rupee. Still, now it has started to decline again.

Economists at the time said that this stability was temporary and that the decline would start again soon if reforms were delayed, and it has, he noted.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that unless heavy losses in the electricity and gas sectors are eliminated, failed government enterprises are sold, and tax collections are increased by increasing the tax base, the decline of the rupee will continue.

Erosion in the value of local currency will increase inflation, while the problems of the people and the business community will continue to multiply.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the 71% capacity charges included in the electricity bills have skyrocketed the tariff.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that people worried about the current situation are burning electricity bills in some places and torturing the officials of electricity companies, which must be noticed.

Immediate treatment of the deadly diseases affecting the economy is necessary, for which an economic council consisting of all parties should be formed to support the caretaker government in the required economic reforms that can improve the situation.

## Amazing view

KASHMIR: Tourists are enjoying at the beautiful Patlian Lake of the Neelum Valley as the Kashmir is the best tourists attraction in Pakistan.



Photo: Online

## Three killed, two injured in different incidents in Fatehjang

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Three persons among two teenage boys were killed while two others injured in three different incidents in the remits of Fatehjang Police station on Friday, Police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, two teenage boys were crushed to death by mini truck near Bhall Syedian on Rawalpindi-Fatehjang road. Police while quoting the family of the deceased has said that 16 years old Hassan Ali along with his friend 18 years old Muhammad Ibrar was going on his motorcycle when a mini truck driven by unknown driver rammmed over them resultantly both were died on the spot. The driver managed to escape from the scene successfully.

In the second incident, a 45 years old man was drowned at local pond. Police while quoting eye witnesses said that the man later identified as Aftab Khan- a native of Mathail went to pond to beat the heat where he went in to deep waters and drowned. Later rescue 1122 divers flush out the body. The dead bodies were shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital. Separately, two persons were injured when a speedy passenger van collided head on with a car coming from opposite direction on Kohat road in the same police station limits. The injured were shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital for medical treatment. Police registered two separate cases and launched further investigation.

## Women Chamber organized a seminar titled 'Women Entrepreneurs'

**News Desk**

KARACHI: Women should not only engage in business but also participate in investment to achieve financial success. Their active involvement and passion are crucial for their overall advancement. These sentiments were expressed by former MNA Shahida Rahmani Women Chamber of Commerce District South, during a seminar titled "Women Entrepreneurs" organized under the auspices of a Beach view club. She emphasized that recognizing women's rights and struggles is an important endeavor, which reinforces their determination. Women contribute significantly in societal, economic, and political spheres, showcasing their hard work and dedication, which can play a vital role in mitigating our



economic challenges.

Founder of Women Chamber of Commerce South, Farida Qureshi, stated that it's essential for women to participate in various fields just like men and to attain better education from graduation to masters. She affirmed her belief that women, through their capabilities, can contribute to societal and economic growth. Our Senior Vice President, Shimmi Khan,

also highlighted her relentless efforts and journey to prove that women can step into the business world through hard work. She demonstrated that they need to generate resources themselves for this purpose.

At the conclusion of the event, Founder of Women Chamber of Commerce South, Farida Qureshi, and Senior Vice President District South, Shimmi Khan, distributed awards and

certificates among the participants. They also set up stalls offering jewelry, cosmetics, garments items, handicrafts, and other products for better business opportunities. This occasion was graced by the presence of brave officers from Sindh Police including SSP Naseem Ara Panhwar, Senior TV Artist Ghazala Jawed, Executive Officer Bisma Badar, Asim Khan, Basit, and other officials.

## AIOU announces results of B.Ed

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of 1.5, 2.5 and 4-year B. Ed programs offered in the autumn semester 2022. Results have been uploaded to the CMS portal. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood had instructed all departments to streamline the process from admissions to examinations and follow the academic calendar of the university. It is pertinent to mention here that all the academic activities are held in a timely manner according to the academic calendar.

## Bhimbar district magistrate issues ban on felling of trees from private and government land

**Bureau Report**

BHIMBAR: Ban has been imposed on cutting of felling trees from private and government areas, forest land. According to order No. 300-02/23 dated 19-08-23, the Government of Azad Kashmir has issued the amended Forest Ordinance 111 of 2023 on 26-06-23 by issuing restricted forest or unrestricted forest from private areas. Felling has imposed a complete ban on the felling auction and transportation of trees. In the implementation of the mentioned ordinance, apart from the limited area forests, especially the unrestricted forest private areas, the public is facing problems due to the chain of felling trees. If the cutting of trees from the owned areas is prevented, then the population is devastated, due to which there is a fear of loss of life and property in addition to the enforcement of the ordinance, the situation of peace and order will deteriorate. Implementation of Section 144 ZF is necessary for enforcement.

Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral District Magistrate Bhimbar exercising the powers under Section 144 of the Criminal Code, order that any person/persons within the limits of District Bhimbar shall / shall not cut down any type of trees from the government land / forest area nor shall encourage any other person / persons to do so, if any person / persons are found violating this order, action will be taken against him/her. Section 188 APC will be implemented, this order will be applicable for two months from the date of issue.

## Housing scheme victims to protest at Islamabad Press Club: 'Billion-rupee fraud'

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive of Tabeer Marketing, Usman Shaheen, said in a press conference that the owners of Moida City, Khanianabad Farm House and Green Oaks have revealed that billions of public money have been embezzled by the owners of the housing scheme. Around Wawela, hundreds of victims of Moida City and Khanyalabad Farm Housing Scheme and Green Oaks reached outside the National Press Club. The victims are also reaching the police station and FI office with their applications. Hussain, Amjad Hussain and Abid Hussain tell the victims to take 50% and return the files. Some people say that another housing society called Hartusflora located on Chuck Bailey Road will give you plots instead of plots which is also a fraud.

The victims say this is another fraud. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti have appealed to DG NAB and higher authorities to return their lifetime savings, the victims said. That soon a delegation of the victims will meet Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, while most of the victims were adamant about dharna and blocking the motorway.

## ANF Passing Out Parade

# 129 ANF officials pass out from academy to join active service

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Another batch of 129 ANF officials passed out today from ANF Academy to join the active service of premier drug law enforcement agency of Pakistan. The Passing out Parade ceremony was held at Police Lines Islamabad. This batch of 129 officials included 16 females in various ranks. They completed rigorous training in almost all facets of drug law enforcement, including extensive physical training, spanning over twenty-eight weeks. Maintaining a high standard of merit during competitive selection process, the trainees were selected out of 87600 applicants, earlier.

The passing out ceremony was graced by Director General Anti Narcotics Force Major General uhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik, HI(M), as Chief Guest. The event was attended by ANF Officers, Foreign Dignitaries, Senior Officers and representatives of other Law Enforcement

Agencies and Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) Members, besides the families of the passing out officers and officials.

Representatives of various drug related international organizations, like UNODC, US International Narcotics & Law Enforcement, UK National Crime Agency, UNDP and Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) of various countries based in Pakistan also attended the Ceremony. Other salient activities of the Ceremony included presentation of Pakistani flag by the ICT CTD Team; march-past by the recently established ANF Vigilance Squad (AVS); and Rifle Spinning & other demos by the Special Squad of Pakistan Rangers.

Felicitating the officials on joining the frontline of defence against illicit drugs, DG ANF Major General Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik, HI(M), being the Chief Guest of the Ceremony said that saving mankind from illicit drugs is not



only an official task but a sacred mission and religious obligation for ANF. He highlighted various challenges faced by ANF its unprecedented counter narcotics achievements despite lean resources. He hoped that induction of this new blood in ANF would further enable it to augment its endeavours to make Pakistan a Drug Free Country.

He also highlighted that ANF and other governmental agencies

alone cannot control the spread of drugs unless a whole of the nation approach against this epidemic is not adopted through involvement of all governmental and societal stakeholders. He reiterated "One Nation, One Destination, Drug Free Pakistan".

Following awards were presented to the distinguished officers and officials on the occasion.



DG ANF Cane was presented in three different categories to overall best trainees namely; Assistant Director-Asjad Imtiaz, Assistant Sub Inspector Ramsha Waheed and Constable-Tanveer Ahmed.

Commandant ANFA Medal was presented in three different categories to trainees namely Deputy Director-Saba Pervaiz, Sub Inspector - Kalsoom Fatima and Constable-Muhammad Saqlain.

Chief of Staff ANF Medal for Best in Academics performance was presented to three trainees namely; Assistant Director-Asjad Imtiaz, Assistant Sub Inspector-Ramsha Waheed and Constable Muhammad Zahoor.

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Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

## APCEA holds briefing on CPEC energy projects

The All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) on Wednesday organized a comprehensive briefing for media and think tanks to apprise about potential and significance of existing and ongoing energy projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The briefing titled "Infodor Salon on CPEC Energy Projects" brought together media, think tanks and representatives from seven key CPEC energy enterprises.

The consortium of seven companies included Power China Pakistan, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd, China Energy International Group Company Limited Pakistan Branch, China Power Hub Generation Company (PVT.) Ltd, China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Company, China Machinery Engineering Corporation, and Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Pvt) Ltd. APCEA holds briefing on CPEC energy projects

During the briefing, the Power China Pakistan representative said that the company had been a pivotal driving force in the development of the CPEC since its debut in Pakistan back in 1987. Our investments in regional infrastructure growth, particularly in the domain of power plants, has been instrumental in transforming the landscape of Pakistan's energy sector, he said.

Currently, he said that there were 41 ongoing projects, including subcontracts, under CPEC with a contract value exceeding 6 billion US dollars. Approximately, 1,500 skilled Chinese personnel are working hand in hand with more than 11,000 talented local Pakistani professionals in these projects, he told.

As the leading enterprise of the APCEA, he said, "We stand at the forefront of groundbreaking endeavors. We have invested in and constructed the Dawood Wind Power Project in Pakistan, as well as the largest super-critical coal-fired power plant, the Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Plant. We have successfully completed the Tarbela Hydropower Project, which is the largest hydroelectric power station in terms of installed capacity in Pakistan, he expressed. APCEA holds briefing on CPEC energy projects

As regards the ongoing projects, he said that the company was working on construction of the world's tallest and largest roller-compacted concrete dam, the Basha Dam project, as well as the 765KV Dasu Transmission Line Project, which represented the highest voltage level in Pakistan's power infrastructure.

He said the company's contributions to economic development, local employment and fulfillment of social responsibilities has been commended and publicized, receiving praise on official media and various social media platforms within the framework of the CEPC.

China Power Hub Power Generation Representative Li Hualin said that the total investment of the energy project, launched in Balochistan by the company, was more than US\$ 1.9 billion. He said that the project had generated more than 23 billion kWhs cost effective and clean electricity to national grid, which was an excellent way to contribute economic development and tax revenue for Government of Pakistan.

Since the beginning of the construction on this project, he said CPHGC has been committed to the goal of creating a "desert oasis" and creating a green and environmentally friendly ecological power plant.

He said the project was constructed in accordance with strict environmental standards and had won 74 national and provincial awards, including National Quality Engineering Gold Award, Luban Award and some international awards.

At present, he said a total of 868 Pakistani employees were working in CPHGC, of which Balochistan employees accounted for 31 per cent.

# President vs Election Commission: The country is the victim - I

In the aftermath of the president's tweet regarding the Army Amendment Act 2023 and the Official Secrets Amendment Act 2023, there was a profound upheaval in the nation's legal and political realms, sparking extensive discussions, debates, and passionate reactions. Some individuals praised the president as a heroic figure for speaking out against the suspected tampering of the controversial bills, recognizing the broad implications these actions held for the current and future well-being of the Pakistani populace. On the other hand, there were those who criticized the president's leadership abilities, characterizing him as ineffective and lacking the necessary administrative prowess to effectively manage his team of subordinates. This group called for his immediate resignation.

Hardly a day after, the President created another huge tide in the fragile political and legal environment of the country when he wrote a letter to the election commission directing him to appear in the president house and discuss with him the date for holding the next general election within 90 days.

The tone of the president's letter conveyed a sense of disregard for the amendment made in section 57 of the Election Amendment Act 2023, which had vested the authority to set election dates in the election commission.

The president was within his right to term the Election Act amendment as potentially violating the constitution,

arguing that alterations to the subordinate legislation of the Election Law cannot supersede the explicit constitutional provisions. Conversely, there are those who firmly assert the legality and appropriateness of the amendment.

With such opposing viewpoints, it seems inevitable that we are heading towards a significant legal confrontation. On one side stands the president, and on the other, the current government and the election commission. Typically, the president is known for his flexibility, not taking rigid positions on trivial matters, and avoiding unnecessary unrefining feathers. Possessing wisdom and a profound grasp of complex issues, he is skilled at facilitating resolutions agreeable to all stakeholders. But on matters which he thinks are important he is also known to take a stand until either he is convinced and he convinces the others.

Yesterday, I watched a talk show where former Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Mr. Kanwar Dilshad criticized the President's letter. He argued that the ECP wouldn't follow the President's order, wouldn't meet with the President to discuss election dates stating that the Election Act amendment in 2023 removed this power from the President.

Two other well-known constitution-

al lawyers strongly disagreed with him. They argued that no subordinate legislation could alter the constitution, and any amendments conflicting with constitutional provisions would be invalid and revealed that a constitutional petition had already been filed in Pakistan's Supreme Court to overturn this law.

As anticipated, Mr. Kanwar Dilshad's statements were proven correct. The ECP wrote a letter to the President today (24.08.2023), declining to attend the meeting saying that under section 57 of the Election Amendment act, the authority to announce election date rests with the Election Commission.

Now, before delving into the President's remaining options to enforce his directive to the ECP, let's pause and consider another scenario involving PTI lawyers, particularly Barrister Zafar. In a recent interaction with the Election Commission, Barrister Zafar presented extensive arguments that warrant discussion.

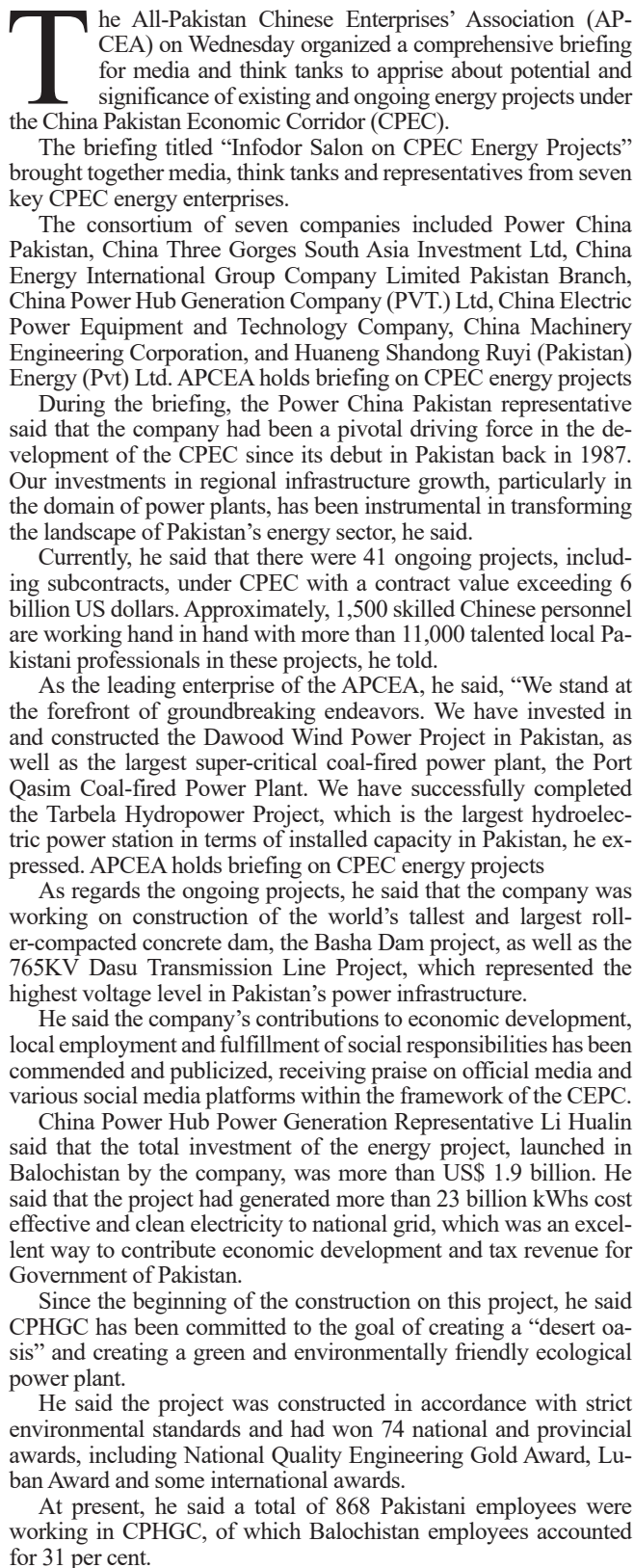
During a hearing before the ECP, Barrister Zafar presented compelling arguments regarding the delimitation process based on the latest census. He stated that the ECP lacked the authority to conduct delimitation for two significant reasons. Firstly, any alteration in the allocation of seats to national and

provinces assemblies would necessitate an amendment to Section 51 of the constitution. However, this amendment couldn't take place since the parliament was not in session. Secondly, Barrister Zafar contended that the decision to hold elections based on the new census, as made by the Council of Common Interest (CCI), held no legal standing. He deemed the CCI's constitution unconstitutional, as two caretaker chief ministers, not elected by the people of KP or Punjab, were part of it. Consequently, their decision regarding the census lacked legitimacy.

According to Barrister Zafar, election laws demanded that PTI should be granted a level playing field to conduct its campaign activities just like other political parties. The Election Commission patiently listened to these submissions, informed that they were engaging with party leaders to gather input for setting election dates, and stated that no decision had been reached yet, keeping their options open.

Let us analyze Barrister's arguments in the light of provisions of the constitution related to seats and the census. Article 51(1) stipulates, "There shall be [three hundred and thirty-six] seats for members in the National Assembly, including seats reserved for women and non-Muslims." Article 51(3) states, "The seats in the National Assembly referred to in clause (1), except as provided in clause (4), shall be allocated to each Province and the Federal Capital as under."

*To be Continued*



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

## To leave no one behind and where does Pakistan - I

On 25 September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." This agenda has 92 paragraphs. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States pledged to ensure "no one will be left behind" and to "endeavour to reach the furthest behind first". In Multan Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar has extolled the partnership of United Nations for achieving sustainable development goals in south Punjab and has said that the set goals can be achieved by the cooperation between government, private sector, civil society and the international partner by using resources according to the plan.

In this regard today the second of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Multan, Punjab, by the United Nations and the district administration. In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts.

"These dialogues will help United Nations agencies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside of the federal and provincial capitals," said Julien Harnais, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and to their ideas for bringing about effective progress in their communities. They are telling us how they would like to work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development." The discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: the cost of gender-based violence; food insecurity; access to basic social services with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene; and youth employment.

Nearly 100 local leaders — women and men, including youth — participated together with senior Multan officials,

the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government of Pakistan will participate in the event in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, are 17 objectives designed to help bring about peace and prosperity for people all over the world. They are an urgent call for action by all countries to work together towards ending poverty while improving health and education, reducing inequality, spurring economic growth and tackling climate change. As the world collectively strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, Pakistan finds itself grappling with a range of challenges that continue to impede its progress. Despite concerted efforts, the nation remains ensnared in a web of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and political discord. These factors not only hinder the achievement of the SDGs but also undermine the country's overall development trajectory.

First thing that hinders our progress is corruption, corruption has long been a thorn in Pakistan's side, siphoning off critical resources that could otherwise be channelled into development projects. From embezzlement of public funds to bribery, corrupt practices have seeped into various layers of the government and society, eroding public trust and stalling progress. The diversion of funds intended for education, healthcare, and infrastructure projects to personal coffers perpetuates inequality and exacerbates the challenges of achieving SDGs related to poverty eradication, quality education, and reduced inequalities.

In the next phase, the incompetence of bureaucracy comes into play. It is a "Stumbling Block." These individuals do not remain public servants; they work as members of the politicians' teams. Bureaucracy, who constitutes the district administration, acts as an obstacle in local and national development. The bureaucratic machinery in Pakistan mostly struggles with inefficiency, red tape, and lack of transparency.

*To be Continued*

## 76 years of Pakistan: An Overview

Socioeconomic and political tensions in the subcontinent along with British weak control over its colonies led to the creation of Pakistan on 14 August 1947. Pakistan has come so far that five days ago its 76th birthday was celebrated with full zeal and zest. Actual powers were transferred by Britishers on 15 August 1947 but Pakistan early on 14 August commemorated the ceremony of Independence. Throughout Pakistan the journey has been like a bumpy ride, tough time, tangled itself in severely disruptive democracy, stumbling economy, rented foreign policy, outdated education, robust flourishing population with increasing militancy and diverse climate hazards. Let us review these challenges throughout 76 years of twisted journey:

Firstly, it took Pakistan nine years to draft its first constitution which cost five Prime Ministers, four Governor Generals and a bundle of communal and religious riots. First constitution was enforced on 23 March 1956 but unfortunately due to political turmoil, Martial Law was imposed by Gen. Ayub in 1958 which lasted for two years. Political tensions in the country that led East Pakistan to become the sovereign state of Bangladesh.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto assumed power as ninth Prime Minister in 1973 which lasted till 1977 then another Martial Law was enforced by Gen Zia ul Haq which lasted for eleven years 1977 to 1988 until his plan crashed. Fourth and last Martial Law was imposed by Gen Musharraf in 1999 after ousting Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister. This shows Pakistan's twisted journey, how democracy remained a handicap and military generals ruled the country.

Additionally, if we look at the economic health of Pakistan throughout 76 years the facts are quite bitter. A news reporter asked Quaid I Azam, "How will you manage the country now that you have gained independence?" Quaid I Azam replied there are two emerging powers in the world, Russia and America. We will pick a side.

The path was determined then and still our country is tangled in the rent economy. In 2022 Pakistan went through record breaking inflation which never occurred before in history. Pakistan throughout history remained in the vicious cycle of debt, internal and external, which reached 124.3 USD billions in June 2023. Pakistan's economy is crippled and has

reached the verge of default.

Furthermore, Education, which remained an important key factor in determining the nation's destiny, remained hampered and only a minor amount of budget annually attributed towards it. Quaid I Azam stressed much about the importance of education but soon after his death, till now, very little attention has been paid towards it. Pakistan's stakeholders have designed the curricula to maintain their dominance in the society which is called the hidden curriculum.

In addition, when the country got independence, its total population was 32.5 million in 1947. But by 2006-07 it had reached 156.77 million. In the most recent census in 2023 the country's population has reached 241.49 million, the fifth largest populated country in the world after India, China and the US. It is projected that in 2050 it will reach 403 million. Pakistan's population is growing at a much high-level 2.6 percent annually. If measures are not taken it will have harsh consequences. Due to the industrial activities of the Global North, Pakistan has become hub of climate hazards like floods, drought, earthquake, smog and water scarcity. Pakistan has been through deadly earthquakes in previous years which cost thousands of lives. Floods of June 2022 have cost many lives, overall loss was 30 bn US dollars. So historically Pakistan remained a hub of natural disasters.

Last but most important realm of Pakistan, the condition of security has always been a daydream. Pakistan's geography posed serious security challenges. The hostile border with Afghanistan and emerging threat of Tehreek I Taliban TTP has become bone of contention for the security. Also, Pakistan's active roles in Afghan War and 9/11 has casted drastic aspects historically which still are insolvable.

All in all, these 76 years have never been so easy and the country has seen a constant roller coaster ride which resulted in harsh economic growth, economic as well as political instability, rented foreign policy and has posed diverse security challenges due to hostility with Taliban's regime. But in a way of addressing all these challenges the country first needs stable governments which can draft policies that can foster positive growth and prove prolific.

*The Writer is BS Sociology student in Quaid I Azam University Islamabad*

# New US Consul General Ms Kristin K. Hawkins arrives in Lahore

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Kristin K. Hawkins assumes her position as the new United States Consul General in Lahore today. Ms. Hawkins succeeds Mr. William K. Makaneole in the role. I look forward to meeting and working with the people in Punjab Province to strengthen the longstanding partnership between the United States and Pakistan," Ms. Hawkins said. "There are many opportunities for us to jointly advance our two countries' shared

interests, including by strengthening economic ties, addressing shared climate and environmental challenges through the U.S.-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' framework, and expanding our people-to-people connections. Ms. Hawkins, the 34th U.S. Consul General in Lahore, is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service and most recently served as the Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. In that role, she oversaw efforts relating to planning and implement-

ing U.S. civilian assistance programs in Pakistan. Ms. Hawkins also previously worked in Pakistan from 2015 to 2017 in the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section, where she managed academic and professional exchange programs and coordinated media engagements. Her other prior assignments in the U.S. Department of State include Senior Georgia Desk Officer in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs in Washington; Deputy Spokesperson in Kyiv, Ukraine; Political Officer and



Front Office Staff Assistant in Moscow, Russia; and Consular Officer in Kingston, Jamaica. Ms. Hawkins is from Virginia and has a bachelor's degree in foreign affairs and economics from the University of Virginia. She speaks Russian and has studied Ukrainian and French.

## G.20 should prevent India from human rights violations in occupied Kashmir

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed has appealed to the G-20 countries and other world powers to pressurize India to stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and play their role for a just solution to the Kashmir issue. It should be remembered that the G20 summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 at the invitation of the Indian government. Commenting on the meeting of the G-20 in New Delhi, Mr. Ali Raza Syed said in a statement that the international community, including the member countries of the G-20, knows that India is involved in serious violations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir and Kashmiris who have been suffering for a long time, are trying to achieve their right to self-determination.



He said that Indian authorities want to prove that the situation in their country is normal, while the actual reality is the opposite. It is clear that apart from Occupied Kashmir, the minorities living in India are also deprived of their basic democratic and human rights. Muslims, Christians and even Hindus belonging to lower castes are victims of the brutality of Indian extremists and mistreatment by the Modi's government. Chairman of KC-EU said that the situation in Occupied Kashmir is so bad that India does not allow any representative of international human rights organizations and foreign journalists to visit the occupied territory. Ali Raza Syed said that earlier India had tried to mislead the world about the Kashmir dispute by calling the meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar on May 22. With these pretexts, India wants to continue its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory and in this context international law and UN Security Council resolutions exist. Chairman Kashmir Council Europe said that for peace in the region, it is necessary to find a peaceful and acceptable solution to the problem.

## Pak-Japan Relation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H. E. M. Wada Mitsuhiko called on Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani. They had a fruitful exchange of views on further strengthening bilateral ties, charting future bilateral benchmarks, and paving the way for enhanced Pak-Japan collaboration in various domains.



## MQM UK President hosts reception in honor of Aziz Group Chairman



Arif Chaudhary

LONDON: Britain's prominent business and political figure and MQM UK President Chaudhry Altaf Shahid hosted a reception in honor of Pakistan's prominent business and entertainment personality Aziz Group Chairman Hafiz Abdul Razzaq Aziz at a local restaurant in Oldham in which British business personalities Muhammad Ishaq Aziz-Abdul Rehman Aziz-Chief Counselor Azarar Afzal Malik Promoter Zulfikar Ali Mehr-Arif Pandhir and various members of the community participated in the discussion about the current political and economic conditions of Pakistan. He said that I am grateful to Chaudhry Altaf Sahib for organizing today's event. Hospitality is a feature of our culture. It was a pleasure to meet friends. But there is full hope that Pakistan will be on the path of development in the future. Former Chief Counselor Zazar Afzal Malik said that we overseas Pakistanis living in Britain love their country very much, so we expect the political and economic conditions in the country to improve. And hope that the economic conditions of Pakistan will improve soon. The host Chaudhry Altaf Shahid thanked all the guests who came to his invitation and said that Hafiz Abdul Razzaq would always stay in Pakistan and attract Pakistanis living abroad to invest. We are and we are hopeful that Pakistan will make progress after coming out of the tense situation soon.

## Millions of children in Pakistan still need urgent support



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: One year after historic floods devastated Pakistan and a national state of emergency was declared, millions of children continue to need humanitarian assistance and access to essential services, UNICEF warned today. Recovery and rehabilitation efforts remain underfunded. This season's monsoon rains are worsening already challenging conditions for flood-affected communities, tragically claiming the lives of 87 children across the country. UNICEF estimates there are still 8 million people, around half of whom are children, that continue to live without access to safe water in flood-affected areas. Over 1.5 million children require lifesaving nutrition interventions in flood-affected districts, while UNICEF's current appeal of US\$173.5 million to provide life-saving support remains only 57 per cent funded. "Vulnerable children living in flood-affected areas have endured a horrific year," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "They lost their loved ones, their homes and schools. As the monsoon rains return, the fear of another climate disaster looms large. Recovery efforts continue, but many remain unreachable, and the children of Pakistan risk being forgotten." Since August 2022, thanks to support from the international community, UNICEF and partners have reached 3.6 million people with primary health care services; enabled access to safe water for 1.7 million people in areas where water networks were damaged or destroyed; reached over 545,000 children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support; and supported education for over 258,000 children. Over the past twelve months, UNICEF has screened 2.1 million children for severe acute malnutrition - a condition where children are too thin for their height - and admitted 172,000 children for lifesaving treatment. Yet the needs continue to outstrip the resources required to respond. "UNICEF calls on the Government of Pakistan and partners to increase and sustain investment in basic social services for children and families. We must build back climate-resilient systems that bridge equity gaps and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks. We cannot forget the children of Pakistan. The flood waters have gone, but their troubles remain, in this climate volatile region," said Fadil.

## OIP discusses Indonesia's rise as a Middle Power and its Global Leadership

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: "The emergence of Indonesia as a 'Middle Power' in the Indo-Pacific is an excellent example of proactive diplomacy marked by constant attempts to improve collaboration, maintain peace, and promote multilateralism while upholding democratic values and human rights". This was stated by Spica A. Tutuhutunewa, Director of Center for Foreign Policy Strategy for America and European Region, Foreign Policy Strategy Agency, MOFA Jakarta, when giving his lecture on the topic of Indonesia's Rise of as Middle Power and its Global Leadership. She was speaking at the 11th session of the OIP which is being jointly organized by the Indonesian Embassy and the Bahria University, Islamabad. The speaker highlighted the challenges faced by the Southeast Asian region (SEA) including unemployment, economic recession, climate change, frequent weather events, socio-economic gaps, income disparity, and military tensions. She also highlighted the growing complexity of the Indo Pacific region, with flash points like Taiwan Straits, South China Sea, and Korean peninsula.

Discussing Indonesian diplomacy and leadership she said that as a middle power Indonesia was bridge builder and net contributor to peace and stability. Geography, demographic dividend, democracy and economic capabilities were its strategic assets and the country was capitalizing on these strategic trust with reviving multilateralism and respect for international law and principles. She also



informed that Indonesia was the chair of ASEAN and MIKTA in 2023 while it had G-20 Presidency in 2022. She informed that new indicators measuring patterns of diplomatic engagement show the country of 270 million to be among the region's most diplomatically active players. "Free and Active Policy was not necessarily neutral because no country could live in isolation. While describing the Indonesian foreign policy, the speaker said that Indonesia has (4+1) priorities namely Economic Diploma-

cy, Protection of Indonesian abroad, sovereignty, regional and global contribution and leadership and strengthening diplomatic infrastructure, she emphasized. "Indonesia's geo-strategic position and extensive diplomatic networking with neighboring and extra-regional powers make Indonesia an important contributor to dealing with challenging global issues" the speaker pointed out. According to the Lowy Institute Power Index 2023, Indonesia is one of only six Asian countries to have had an increase in its overall index of exerting influence in international politics. These strong credentials make Indonesia an important global player with significant influence at international Forums. Indonesia, a historically non-alignment nation faces tough challenge because of the increasing geopolitical tension between the US and China. It emphasizes the importance of ASEAN and multilateral institutions like the G20 and UN in navigating geopolitical tensions. During the G20 summit, Indonesia provided a platform for US, Chinese, and Russian leaders to interact and mediate their conflicts, allowing it to play a strategic role.

## ISSI hosts delegation from Sichuan University, China

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 4-member delegation from the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University, China. The delegation was led by Associate Professor Dr. Zeng Xiangyu, and included Dr. Gao Liang, Ms. He Xiangyi, and Ms. Li Jialun. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks, extended a warm welcome to the visiting scholars from China. He stated that friendship with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and the time-tested, all-weather Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership was a factor of stability in the region and beyond. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor, he

added, was pivotal for Pakistan's economic turnaround and for regional connectivity and prosperity. He added that Pakistan fully supported President Xi Jinping's vision to promote peace and development across the globe through major initiatives including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his remarks, briefed the visiting Chinese delegation about the structure and functioning of ISSI. He lauded the efforts made by China for global development, especially the CPEC. Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), in her remarks, discussed the water issues in South Asia. She said that climate change and

global warming were exacerbating the water-related issues and underscored the need for collective efforts to minimise such non-traditional threats. Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA), in her remarks, evaluated the situation in Afghanistan. She said that the Interim Government was in power in Afghanistan for two years now and was seeking to grapple with the issues of governance, human rights, and counter-terrorism. Mr. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC), said that Pakistan was a developing country, protecting its maritime interests while remaining within its resources. The remarks were followed by an interactive session in which different aspects of Pakistan-China relations were



discussed the research on wide-ranging global and regional topics. In conclusion, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, shared his views and thanked the delegation for the visit.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
47,671.21	47,750.76	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
47,853.55	47,570.31	
Index Value	Change	
5,364,166,362	-79.55	
Percentage	Time	
-0.17%	25 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,338.58	+4.95	
Percentage	Time	
+0.067%	25 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,226.82	+127.40	
Percentage	Time	
+0.37%	25 Aug, 1:48 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
31,624.28	-662.93	
Percentage	Time	
-2.05%	25 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	796.98	804.98
Canadian Dollar	230	232.3
China Yuan	41.28	41.68
Danish Krone	43.67	44.07
Euro	339	341.8
Hong Kong Dollar	38.22	38.57
Indian Rupee	3.63	3.74
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.27
Kuwaiti Dinar	967.24	976.24
Malaysian Ringgit	63.83	64.43
New Zealand \$	177.29	179.29
Norwegians Krone	28.04	28.34
Omani Riyal	779.15	787.15
Qatari Riyal	81.91	82.61
Saudi Riyal	83.5	84.3
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	338.8	341.3
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	85	86.8
UK Pound Sterling	398	402
US Dollar	314.3	317.3

# USD20 billion increase in exports can address the issues of economy: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and senior leader of PML(N) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that if exports are increased by 20 billion dollars, the economy can get out of difficulties. In order to boost industrialization, the government should provide free land on lease to the industry. Free and fair elections are vital to stabilize the economy. 3 times free and fair elections would address all issues of the country and put it on sustainable development. To steer Pakistan out of the current crisis, the entire leadership of the country has to sit together and take tough decisions for the better economic future, otherwise the inter-institutions fight will prove disastrous for the country.

It is difficult to promote investment in Pakistan in the presence of NAB because investors are reluctant to invest in Pakistan due to NAB's actions. If local investors will not invest in Pakistan, then who will come and invest here, so if favorable conditions are created for local investors first, foreign investment will follow. Foreign ambassadors in Pakistan are promoting the business of their countries through trade diplomacy, but Pakistani ambassadors in foreign countries do not understand trade diplomacy. He expressed these views while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of



Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the economy of Pakistan is currently facing serious challenges due to which businesses are also suffering. The dollar flight, high electricity, gas and oil prices have increased the cost of doing business many times and if this trend continues, many businesses will close down. Therefore, the government should focus on creating conducive environment for businesses in consultation with the private sector so that the economy recovers.

All loss-making SOEs should be privatized as the government is spending huge amounts of about PKR 1000 to keep them afloat, which is a huge burden on the national exchequer. He said that the ICCI wants to establish an industrial estate in the region so Shahid Khaqan Abbasi should support the Chamber in these efforts. He said that all political parties should agree on a charter of economy to ensure long-term economic policies.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that to improve the economy, Pakistan has to promote industrialization and exports rapidly. So there is a need for the government to cut 22 percent interest rate to single digits and reduce energy prices to make our industry and exports competitive.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI, said that every government should make economic policies in consultation with the business community, which will help in better promotion of trade and industrial activities. He stressed for one window operation and promoting ease of doing business.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that if the rising dollar is not stopped, it will have disastrous consequences for the country, so the government should pay attention to this issue on an urgent basis. Pakistan should start direct flights with all important countries because at present PIA flights are not going to many countries including Europe and America, while flights of other countries are also not coming to Pakistan. He said that through the efforts of the Chamber, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have started direct flights with Pakistan while Indonesia will also start its flights with Pakistan soon, but there is a great need to have direct flights with all important countries for promotion of trade and exports.

Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ajmal Baloch, Akhtar Abbasi, and others also spoke on the occasion.

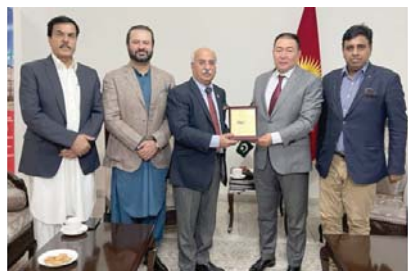
## Selling the fish

ISLAMABAD: People are buying fish from shopkeepers at Weekly Friday Market at Sector H-9 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## PAEI briefs Kyrgyz envoy on upcoming property exhibition



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The founder chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, Khurshid Barlas, along with the PAEI delegation including Fahad Barlas, Convener Exhibition, Amin-u-Rahman, Shamraiz Iqbal, EC members met with Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan His Excellency Totuiev Ulanbek Asankulovich at the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan. In the meeting, Chairman Khurshid Barlas briefed the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan about "3rd Pakistan International Property Housing and Construction Exhibition from 17-19 November 2023" at Pakistan China Friendship Center Islamabad. The three-day exhibition will be attended by a large number of prominent builders, developers, allied construction industry from all over the country, including banking projects and various business community related to the tourism industry. Highlighting the exhibition.

To introduce property buyers and investors to their latest property developments as well as upcoming projects Property Expos have gained popularity in the real estate sector as a means of generating leads and expanding their network. During the conversation, Kyrgyz Ambassador Totuiev Ulanbek Asankulovich said that the development of bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan can be a milestone in regional and global trade integration and linkages. Due to their geo-economic importance, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan can play an important role in promoting trade links between different regions and global markets. He said that the geographical location of Kyrgyzstan provides many opportunities for trade with Pakistan.

Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas presented a special invitation to the Kyrgyz ambassador to participate in 3rd Pakistan International Exhibition, which was accepted by the Kyrgyz ambassador.

## Jubilee Life, Telenor sign MOU to bring simplified insurance to millions of Pakistanis

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, has signed an MOU with Telenor Pakistan, one of the country's largest telecommunications service providers to bring unprecedented ease and accessibility for health and life insurance services. Under this collaboration, insurance products from Jubilee Life will be directly integrated into the Apollo app, Telenor's flagship platform which caters to a robust network of 120,000 retailers across Pakistan.

Apollo, a trademarked product of Telenor Pakistan, stands at the forefront of innovation. It's a comprehensive digital solution that redefines the conventional retail distribution landscape into a modern digital space, ensuring easy access to the Apollo retailers. Through its ingenious design, Apollo enables the retailers to



connect with the audience more efficiently than ever before.

Through an effective collection of their expertise, Jubilee Life Insurance and Telenor Pakistan are set to revolutionize insurance penetration in the country. This initiative will enable millions of Pakistanis to be empowered in terms of securing insurance policies through Telenor Pakistan retailers, ushering in a new era of swift and simplified insurance acquisition. The stream-

lined, user-friendly process caters to the modern dynamics of the nation, where convenience and efficiency are being given the utmost importance especially by younger audience.

Mr. Farhan Faridi, Group Head - Retail Operations, Marketing and Administration at Jubilee Life Insurance, stated, "As the dynamics of our society evolve, digital technologies have become an integral part of our daily lives.

## SECP issues first certificate of Shariah compliance

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued the first-ever certificate of Shariah compliance to two Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), namely Signature Residency REIT and Rahat Residency REIT.

Earlier this year, in pursuance of Pakistan's Federal Shariah Court (FSC) judgement, wherein the FSC directed the government to facilitate all lending activity under an inter-

est-free system, the had SECP issued Guidelines for Offering Islamic Financial Services 2023. These guidelines facilitate conventional financial institutions intending to convert themselves into Shariah-compliant business models. Since the issuance of the guidelines, a number of entities have applied for certification as Shariah-compliant companies.

The Signature Residency REIT is a close-end developmental REIT with a fund size of Rs. 825 million and a 4-year indicative life.

## Pak-Iran parts manufacturers announce to exchange technologies, barter auto parts

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) and the Iranian Auto Parts Manufacturers Association (IAPMA) have announced the plan to exchange technologies and barter the parts and raw materials, exploiting the immense scope for the manufacturing and supplying auto parts and accessories between Iran and Pakistan.

The delegation of auto parts makers visited Iran, under the banners of the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers and Pak Iran Business Council of FPCC, at the invitation

of the Iranian government to attend the Auto Parts exhibition, held in Tehran, besides meeting high-ups of Iran Chambers and the Iranian Auto Parts Manufacturers Association (IAPMA) to pave the pathway of trade venues.

The Iranian officials and entrepreneurs reciprocated their big cooperation between two great friends tied by religion, neighborhood, culture, and friendship. Pakistan embassy and its commercial section dedicatedly remained active during the seven days long hectic-trip of the leading parts producers. After affirming the barter trade agreement, positive energy is seen on both sides of the Pak-Iran border.

Referring to the great capabilities and long history of the relationship between Iran and Pakistan, Nilofar Esadi, the deputy head of the international affairs of the Iran Chamber, said the two countries could fill the gaps in the auto industry in their countries by cooperating in this field. Pursuing the memorandum of understanding signed between the presidents of the Iran Chamber and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce for establishing the Iran-Pakistan Joint Business Council, she added that we planned to cooperate closely to develop trade with Pakistan.

Mr. Muhammad Nasim, Head of the Delegation, and Mr. Najam Ul

Hassan Jawa, Co-head of the delegation, said the Pakistan auto parts sector was producing the top quality parts since they had to aftermarket the world's best Japanese standards. They had localized tractors and motorcycles, more than 95%, followed by cars, 60%. Nasim further stated that Pakistan was producing the cheapest tractor in the world. Pakistan is strategically located in an ideal position due to CPEC to connect the Iranian markets to the world. Pakistan was enjoying preferential or zero duty to all major markets, which could give respite to Iranian auto parts makers in the form of export excess to the world they were clipped due to sanctions.

The delegation expressed identical thoughts at the reception honored by the (IAPMA). The association's president greeted the board and said they had many common things to cooperate. Muhammad Nasim underlined the close interaction between the two auto-parts-producing countries to remove existing barriers and misperceptions. Najam Ul Hassan Jawa requested both governments to ease the modus operandi for making barter trade. The delegation also visited the Pakistan embassy, and the HE Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Ambassador to Iran, and Dr. Amir Husain, Commercial Counselor, briefed the delegations on how to work with the emerging Iranian market under the

# Bonmati, Carmona and Kerr shortlisted for UEFA women's player of year

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Two Spanish Women's World Cup winners, Aitana Bonmati and Olga Carmona, and Chelsea's Australian striker Sam Kerr were on Friday named on the three-player shortlist for UEFA's women's Player of the Year award.

Bonmati, who plays for European champions Barcelona, captained Spain at the World Cup and was named player of the tournament. Carmona, of Real Madrid, scored the only goal in the final against England.

Kerr, a semi-finalist with host country Australia, was Chelsea's top scorer as they won the English Super League and lost to Barcelona in the Champions League semi-final.

The trio were chosen in a vote by coaches of clubs who played in last season's Champions League group stages, coaches of the 55 UEFA-affiliated countries and a panel of European journalists.

England and Manchester United goalkeeper Mary Earps just missed out as the fourth-highest vote-getter.

The winner will be announced on August 31 in Monaco at the draw for the men's Champions League group stage.

Spain and Barcelona striker Alexia



Putellas has won the past two years. The three finalists for the coaching award are Barcelona's Jonatan Giraldez and the two World Cup final coaches, Jorge Vilda of Spain, and Dutchwoman Sarina Wiegman who led England.

## Multan administration and police is fully prepared to host the Asia Cricket Cup: DC



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: CPO Multan Mansoorul Haq Rana along with Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir visited the stadium and route regarding the security arrangements for the opening match of Asia Cup to be played on August 30 at Multan Cricket Stadium.

All available resources will be utilized to ensure foolproof security during the opening match at the cricket stadium. CPO Multan Mansoorul Haq Rana

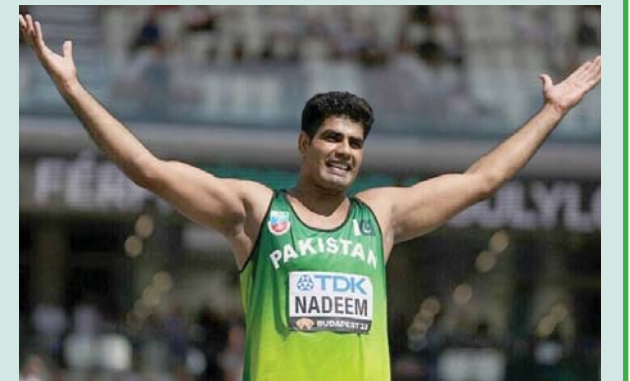
The district administration is fully prepared to host the Asia Cricket Cup. Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir.

According to the details, Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir along with CPO Multan Mansoorul Haq Rana visited the stadium and the route in connection with the security arrangements for the opening match of the Asia Cup to be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium. SSP Operations Multan Mohammad Imran, DSP Makhdoom Rashid Naem Abbas, SHO Makhdoom Rashid Rashid Nadeem, In-charge Security Ali Tahir, Pakistan Army and officers of sensitive institutions were accompanied by Deputy Commissioner and CPO Multan. Deputy Commissioner Multan and CPO Multan also met PCB management

SSP Operations Multan Muhammad Imran briefed CPO Multan Mansoorul Haq Rana on security arrangements. CPO Multan issued important orders for the peaceful conduct of the cricket match. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir and CPO Multan Mansoorul Haq said on the occasion that all available resources will be utilized to ensure foolproof security during this time. CPO Multan said that the security of the players and match officials as well as the cricket fans will also be taken into consideration. An effective traffic management plan has been created for the convenience of citizens and uninterrupted flow of traffic.

Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir said on this occasion that the district administration is fully ready to host the Asia Cricket Cup. Lighting and cleaning measures have been started at the cricket stadium and routes. He said that it is an honor to host the inaugural match of the International Cricket Fair. Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir further said that special shuttle service and parking will be arranged for cricket fans. The ticket sales and checking mechanism will be closely monitored. Deputy Commissioner Multan said that the visiting teams will be warmly welcomed through the cultural decoration of the city. The opening match of the Asia Cup will be played on August 30 at the Multan Cricket Stadium

## Arshad Nadeem qualifies for World Athletics Championship Final, Paris Olympics



**Sports Desk**

BUDAPEST: Commonwealth Games (CWG) Gold medalist Arshad Nadeem on Friday secured his place for the final of the ongoing World Athletics Championship in Budapest, as well as, the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Arshad Nadeem started off the qualifying round of the javelin throw event with a 70.63m throw in his first attempt, while in his second attempt, he threw his javelin at a distance of 81.53 meters.

However, the Automatic qualifying mark for the final of the World Athletics Championship was 83 meters, while the benchmark for the Paris Olympics was 85.50 meters.

Arshad Nadeem breached both benchmarks in his third attempt with an amazing 86.79-meter throw, consequently qualifying for both events.

Meanwhile, his Indian counterpart Neeraj Chopra also qualified for the World Athletics Championship final and Paris Olympics with an 88.77-meter throw in his first attempt.

They will now meet in the finals of the World Athletic Championship on August 27.

Arshad Nadeem talked about the match with Neeraj Chopra, before departing for Budapest to participate in the ongoing event.

"It is expected to be a good match with Neeraj Chopra in World Athletics," he said.

He also gave an update about his fitness and thanked the President of the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) Major General (Rtd) Muhammad Akram Sahi for supporting him while he was nursing his injury.

"I am fully fit and will try to perform well," said Arshad Nadeem. "I have trained hard for the event after getting fit." "I am grateful to Federation President General Akram Sahi for supporting me in difficult times," he added.

It is worth mentioning that Arshad Nadeem was declared fit for the World Athletics Championship earlier this month by the medical board, after being ruled out of the Asian Athletics Championship, due to an injury to his left knee.

## UK HC visited Gaddafi Stadium

UK High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms Jane Marriott OBE visited Gaddafi Stadium to discuss matters of mutual interest with chair of PCB Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf, and also interacted with national women cricketers.



## Pakistan thumps England to register fourth consecutive victory in World Blind Games

**A Sports**

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan blind cricket team on Thursday, registered their fourth consecutive victory in the ongoing International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Blind Games with a thumping six-wicket victory over hosts England in their final group stage game.

England, after opting to bat first, bundled out at a meagre 103 runs in 18 overs.

Wicketkeeper LJ Sugg top-scored with 25 runs, while, opening batter M Dean scored 13 runs. Except for these two, none of the batters managed to reach double figures, while three batters went back to the pavilion without opening their accounts.

Shahzaib Haider topped the bowling charts for Pakistan with four wickets, while Mohammad Shahzaib picked up two wickets.

Pakistan got off to a strong start in their chase, thanks to a solid 59-run opening stand between Matiullah and captain Nisar Ali before England blind team sent the captain back to the pavilion in the fifth over.

## 'Nothing' in speculation linking Salah to Saudi: Klopp

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp dismissed suggestions on Friday that Mohamed Salah could become the latest star name to depart European football for Saudi Arabia.

According to reports, Al-Ittihad are trying to lure the Egyptian to the Gulf state with a huge salary offer that would rival the deals that enticed Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the Gulf kingdom.

Salah signed a three-year contract extension at Anfield just

over 12 months ago and his agent has previously poured cold water on speculation of a move.

"If we considered leaving LFC this year, we wouldn't have renewed the contract last summer. Mohamed [Salah] remains committed to LFC," Rami Abbas posted on X, formerly Twitter, earlier this month.

Liverpool's plans for the transfer window have already been thrown into chaos by the loss of midfielders Fabinho and Jordan Henderson to Saudi clubs and Klopp said the club would not

consider any offers for Salah.

"Talk about media stories," Klopp said at his pre-match press conference ahead of Sunday's trip to Newcastle. "Nothing to talk about from my point of view — Mo Salah is a Liverpool player."

"He is an essential player, and will be. There is nothing there. If there was, the answer would be no."

Japan captain Wataru Endo could make his first start for the Reds at St. James' Park after the defensive midfielder appeared as a substitute in last weekend's 3-1 win over Bournemouth.



Liverpool's failure to beat Chelsea to the signature of Moises Caicedo or Romeo Lavia before turning to Endo has attracted criticism of their business in the transfer window and Klopp recognised he may need more reinforcements in the final week of the window — or luck with injuries — to get by in the coming

months. "We have to be lucky with injuries, I have no doubt of the quality of the boys we have," added Klopp.

"In this moment we are covered, but it is not dreamland where you can be prepared with every situation, we have had to learn this is in the past.

# Bhutan-bound Pakistan U-16 football team honored by Candy land

**Tahir Amin Malik.**

LAHORE: The Pakistan U-16 Football team, set to compete in Bhutan, was bestowed with an honor by Candyland, a valued coalition partner of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF).

The recognition ceremony took place at a local hotel, where the young athletes were celebrated for their dedication and potential. PFF Normalisation Committee Chairman Haroon Malik granted the occasion as chief guest, while other notables present on the occasion were former PFF senior official Col (R) Mujahid Tareen, cricketer coach Manzoor Elahi, PCB executive committee member Amir Nawab, Ajmal Sabir, Basalat Mirza from Candyland, players, football lovers and a good number of media persons.

Speaking on the occasion, PFF NC Chairman Haroon Malik expressed, "Football possesses the remarkable ability to unite the world. This power of football has gathered immensely talented U-16 players from every nook and cranny of our nation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Candyland for their remarkable joint initiative. It's heartening to see their dedication not for personal publicity, but purely for the advancement of grassroots football in Pakistan. This will undoubtedly benefit Pakistani football for years to come."

Malik continued, "Pakistan's sporting landscape, particularly in football, is profoundly blessed to have individuals and organizations like Candyland. Their earnest desire to elevate Pakistan's standing on the international

football stage reflects a genuine passion for the sport. With their unwavering support, we have the opportunity to enhance our grassroots football and propel it to unprecedented heights. Strengthening grassroots football serves as the bedrock for flourishing at higher levels. Once again, I extend my gratitude to Ismail Industries and its proprietors, Muhammad Ismail and Miftah Ismail, for their magnanimous commitment to the advancement of football in Pakistan."

Offering guidance to the young football prodigies, Haroon Malik said, "The diligent efforts undertaken by PFF and Candyland to unearth talents like yours are truly commendable. We've identified you as gems, and we are committed to nurturing your potential. Now, you stand as ambassadors



of Pakistan, and for the honor of your nation, it's essential to toil with unyielding passion, unwavering dedication, and boundless self-belief. With these qualities, you will undoubtedly soar to great heights." Former PFF senior official

Col (R) Mujahid Tareen shared his insights, saying, "The collaborative initiative of PFF and Candyland is praiseworthy and much-needed. This is the essence required in every sport, particularly in football. The talent has been successfully unearthed,

and Candyland's diligent care is commendable. It is now the responsibility of these players to channel all their energies into preparing for upcoming events and striving to bring glory to their nation."

Candyland, in its steadfast commitment to fostering football from the grassroots, not only facilitated nationwide trials in collaboration with the PFF Normalisation Committee but also meticulously curated a well-balanced U-16 squad for the Bhutan event. These comprehensive trials drew participants from every corner of Pakistan, including remote areas brimming with untapped talent, leading to the identification of 200 remarkably gifted players.

Out of this pool, 50 players were selected for the national U-16 training camp in Abbottabad. As August draws to a close, the team is set to embark on their journey to Bhutan. Comprising 23 players and 7 officials, the Pakistan U-16 football squad, nurtured through dedication and strategic collaboration, stands prepared to make their mark.