



### Govt to come up with plan to resolve issue of electricity bills: PM

PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said the government would come up with short, medium and long-term plans to resolve the issue of electricity bills and initiate reforms in the power sector. He also assured that the government would implement a plan for the conservation of electricity... (Details on Page 8)



### CIFTIS to support Pakistan in increasing services export: Ambassador Haque

The ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in Informational Technology (IT), e-commerce, finance and logistics, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque. The exhibition will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition, he told APP after inaugurating the 'Pakistan Pavilion' at the CIFTIS. Commercial

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Alert

LAHORE: Rangers and police personnel stands alert outside Gaddafi Stadium during the Asia Cup 2023 one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Short Documentary Highlighting Air Battle of 03 September, 1965 released

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General Public Relations (Air Force) has released a short documentary to highlight the valour and professionalism of the brave sons of the nation in the September 1965 war. The documentary showcases the



air battle fought on the day of 3rd September, 1965.

## Situation in GB completely peaceful: Solangi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was completely peaceful and speculative news about deployment of Pakistan Army were completely baseless.



The services of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces have been requisitioned only to maintain law and order on the eve of Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S).

In a post on his X account, quoted a statement released by the Home Department of Gilgit-Baltistan which said "it has been clarified that the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful and the news and speculations circulating in media regarding the deployment of Pakistan Army are completely baseless. All roads, trade centers, business activities and educational institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan are open as usual, Solangi said in the statement.

Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and Imambargahs as per the past practice, he maintained.

It has been further stated by the GB Home Department that Section 144 of CrPC 1898 has been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect the lives and property of the people and avoid any untoward incident, he remarked.

# Business leaders, COAS discuss economic initiatives

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar alongside prominent business figures met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, here on Sunday.

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting in which country's economic trajectory was discussed in detail, LCCI spokesman confirmed this to the media.

During the meeting, General Asim Munir highlighted the pivotal role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), emphasizing its potential to attract substantial investments of up to 100 billion dollars from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others. To bolster economic decision-making, he revealed the formation of task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors.

Kashif Anwar, in alignment with the broader business



community, recommended active engagement with all chambers to incorporate diverse perspectives into the task force's agenda.

Addressing critical issues faced by the public, Kashif Anwar proposed a reduction in income and sales tax rates on electricity bills. He noted that the populace grapples with the burden of high taxation on electricity, impacting daily lives, businesses and common people. Additionally, Kashif Anwar introduced a pragmatic approach to fuel adjustment charges, advocating

for their collection during the winter months when electricity consumption is lower, alleviating financial stress on consumers.

Recognizing the pivotal role of exchange rates in Pakistan's economic landscape, the LCCI President called for greater control over the rates of the US dollar in both interbank and open markets.

The COAS General Asim Munir responded positively, assuring that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering

transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates.

President LCCI also pointed out that the disparity between the State Bank's rate and the Hundi rate often leads to the preference for Hundi channels when it comes to remittances. He emphasized that if these rates were aligned, remittances would naturally flow through the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Kashif Anwar emphasized the importance of an enhanced and sustained interactive dialogue between the business community and relevant authorities. He expressed concerns over the prevailing lack of responsiveness to suggestions put forth by the business sector. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar called for a unified commitment from political parties, suggesting the signing of a charter of the economy as a precondition before any upcoming elections.

Expanding on General Asim Munir's earlier remarks regarding the existence of a grey econ-

omy, accounting for 2 to 3 times of the overall documented economy, Kashif Anwar proposed an innovative approach. He recommended incentivizing the grey economy to transition into the formal, white economy, offering a strategic solution to combat this pervasive issue.

President LCCI said that the expansion of the tax base would remain elusive as long as the grey economy remains unincorporated, unable to contribute to the formal, white economy.

This gathering exemplified the shared dedication of both the business community and the military leadership to work collaboratively in addressing pressing economic challenges and propelling the nation toward growth.

As Pakistan continues to navigate economic complexities, this constructive dialogue signifies a promising step toward finding practical solutions and fostering economic prosperity for the nation, he concluded.

## HEC bars universities from direct agreements with foreign NGOs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has barred universities from making direct agreements with international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

As per details, in a letter to Vice Chancellors and heads of educational institutes, Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Malik stopped the universities from signing contracts with international NGOs without the permission from foreign ministry.

He stated that universities are working with international organizations on sensitive and political matters which does not portray a positive image of Pakistan.

## Madad Ali Sindhi pledges to assess ability of teachers to improve educational system

Madad Ali Sindhi

KARACHI: Interim Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has vowed to evaluate the ability of teachers to correct the educational system in the country. He said that the educational system would be put on the right track.

While talking to media persons during his visit to the Karachi Press Club (KPC) here Sunday, the minister said that the education and ability of the teachers would be checked in the educational institutions including the universities of the country. He said that a grand provincial meeting had also been convened to discuss the matters of education and vowed to improve the quality of education.

Replying to a question, he said that education was the provincial subject after the 18th Amendment. He said that Sindh, Punjab and other provinces had reservations over history subjects and they wanted to put the personalities, they considered to include them in the curriculum.



## PPP demands ECP to issue election schedule

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has demanded Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to immediately announce the election schedule. As per details, PPP senior leader Nasir Hussain Shah said in a statement that the ECP understood their stance and shortened the time for delimitation process.

He urged the ECP to announce the election schedule as the current situation in the country demands timely elections.

Nasir Hussain Shah claimed that PPP has solution for the country's problems and will take the country out of this current crisis. Earlier, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced to finalise delimitation of constituencies by November 30 which was earlier scheduled to be completed on December 14. The decision was taken after consultations with the political parties to ensure an early election.

"The purpose of reducing the time frame of delimitation is to hold the election as soon as possible," the press release stated. "The polls schedule will be announced keeping this date in mind." It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) reiterated its demand for holding of next general elections within the constitutionally mandated 90-day period in a meeting with Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officials.

## Nobel Foundation cancels Russia, Belarus, Iran invites to annual prize awards

News Desk

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Foundation said on Saturday it would not after all invite the ambassadors of Russia, Belarus and Iran to attend the Nobel Prize awards ceremony in Stockholm this year, reversing an earlier decision after widespread criticism.

Last year, the foundation left out the ambassadors of Russia and its ally Belarus because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The foundation said on Thursday it would invite them, and Iran's ambassador, to this year's prize award ceremonies in December, commenting that it sought to include even those who did not share the values of the Nobel Prize.

That announcement prompted the leaders of several Swedish political parties to say they would boycott the ceremonies.

## Special cell established to investigate cases related to financing of terrorism and extremism

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A special investigative cell in the Anti-Terrorism Department of Islamabad Capital Police has been set up which will investigate cases related to financing terrorism and extremism.

On the special directions of Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Naseer Khan has taken the initiative to set up this special cell.

A police spokesperson said, "The in-charge of this cell will be an officer in Grade 17 and it will operate under the supervision of SSP CTD."

The ICCPO has stated, "This cell will function in accordance with international standards and will also seek cooperation from other law enforcement agencies in matters of special investigations."

He further said, "Robust legal actions will be taken against the individuals involved in the financing of terrorism and extremism."

Previously, ICCPO Dr Akbar Naseer Khan had established an anti-terrorism and extremism unit in CTD which was the first one of its kind in Pakistan. In this unit, Islamabad Capital Police teams are working to combat extremism in educational institutions and schools.

## PTI chairman ready to talk to all, say lawyers

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former prime minister was ready for talks with everyone but with only elections on the agenda, his lawyers said Saturday.

PTI legal team comprising Intezar Panjotra, Shoaib Shaheen, Naeem Panjotra, Gohar Ali Khan and his personal physician Dr Faisal Sultan met the deposed premier in Attock jail yesterday.

Talking to journalists following the meeting, Shoaib Shaheen said that PTI chief was worried about the people

of Pakistan amid 'deteriorating economic situation.'

Meanwhile, Naeem Haider Panjotra said that Imran Khan was completely fine and healthy in jail, stressing the need for political stability in the country.

Taking to X, Panjotra quoted Khan as saying that he was ready to talk to any political party or institution about holding elections.

"Finally met Khan sab at Attock Jail with other colleagues. Alhamdulillah, he is in great spirit but concern about ongoing uncertainty, inflation, and terrorism," Barrister Gohar Khan posted on X. "He is willing to talk to all BUT about election."

## Protest

HYDERABAD: Women workers of Jamaat-e-Islami hold banners and placards during protest against inflation, outside press club.



Photo: Online

## Govt to come up with plan to resolve issue of electricity bills: PM

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said the government would come up with short, medium and long-term plans to resolve the issue of electricity bills and initiate reforms in the power sector.

In an interview with a private television, he also assured that the government would implement a plan for the conservation of electricity as was practiced in the Western world and taught by Islam.

To a question about public agitation on the issue of electricity bills, the prime minister said extreme political and social attitudes were not beneficial for society.

He said the system of taxation was meant to tax the rich and spend on the poor but at present the system was in the clutches of profiteers and was marred with inefficiency, adding indirect taxation system was responsible for many of the woes of the poor. "We needed to tax different sectors which are still not brought under the



tax net."

He said Pakistan's economic conditions were affected by the international financial institutions and "we have to fulfil the agreements made with them."

The government also had to fulfil the agreements made with the power companies in the past decades, he continued.

He understood that there was a section of society which was heavily burdened with electricity bills and he could identify with the social and economic problems of people as he himself faced these problems in the past, he added.

To a question about privatization, he said the privatization

power sector.

He assured that the Finance Ministry would come up with recommendations to provide relief to vulnerable sections of society. He said he was misquoted about the recent protests on the issue of electricity bills.

He said the caretaker government was the continuation of the constitutional order and it would not remain in place any extra time on the expiry of its term.

He clarified that the Election Commission would announce the date for the election.

"According to the law of the land, Election Commission will decide about elections," he said adding however, the superior judiciary after listening to the legal experts could decide about the elections.

"Law and a binding judgment of the Supreme Court will decide. The respect and reverence of judiciary is important for democratic dispensation and social order and these should not be disturbed," he remarked.

He said according to its constitutional role, the Supreme Court will remove any doubt about the timing of elections.

of state sector entities including Pakistan International Airlines was on the agenda of the government and work was being done on it.

He agreed that because of the past circumstances, there were concerns among the political parties about the schedule of polls.

Responding to a question, he said the situation in border areas was aggravated due to the situation emerging after the withdrawal of the United States and NATO from Afghanistan.

There was an inventory of weapons and equipment that was left by the US in Afghanistan and now the terror outfits were more equipped and were not only dangerous for Pakistan but also for China and other countries, he said adding the US should have handed over the inventory of weapons responsibly, but there was a rushed withdrawal by the US and now it was not clear who was in possession of these weapons and equipment.

He was of the view that the state had two tools including negotiations and the application of force against militants to achieve peaceful social order.

"We have to use both approaches to achieve our goals."

## CIFTIS to support Pakistan in increasing services export: Ambassador Haque

### Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in Informational Technology (IT), e-commerce, finance and logistics, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque. The exhibition will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition, he told APP after inaugurating the 'Pakistan Pavilion' at the CIFTIS. Commercial Counselor, Ghulam Qadir, Science and Technology, Counselor Khan Muhammad, and representative of Pakistani companies were also present.

Some prominent Pakistani enterprises including Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEL, National Bank

of Pakistan (NBP), National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises, and others have set up their booths at Pakistan Pavilion to attract international investors during the event. Ambassador Haque emphasized that the Pakistan Pavilion provides a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

"This initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries, and further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region," he added. He said, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered its second phase." "We are now focusing on cooperation with China in agriculture, IT, logistics, services, tourism and education," he added. "Pakistan



has signed several protocols which have opened up the multi-billion Chinese market for Pakistani products including boiled meat, dairy, cherry and chilly etc." Terming the signing of protocols a game changer, he said that this would not only benefit Pakistan traders and companies but also provide ample opportunities to enhance their exports to Chinese markets. He said, "Pakistan and China are focusing on making Khunjerab Pass an all-weather land route for trading and business between the two countries."

"Following the difficult weather

conditions, the border remains open for 7-8 months a year but now both countries are working to make it an all-weather route by upgrading facilities like logistics, warehouses, customs clearance, etc.," he added. To a question about the opening of an international road transport (IIR) route between Islamabad and the Chinese city of Kashgar, he said it was very promising and it would not only enhance bilateral trade activities between Pakistan and China but also increase regional trade.

"The products can travel from Pakistan through China to Central Asian countries and vice versa and this is in line with the regional connectivity and trade under the Belt and Road Initiative," he added. With the theme 'openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future', the CIFTIS is scheduled to take place in Beijing from Sept 2-6.

## Turkiye welcomes return of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia, Iran



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian welcomes his counterpart from Türkiye Hakan Fidan (L) in Tehran on September 3, 2023.

### News Desk

RIYADH: Türkiye welcomes the return of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Tehran's foreign minister said on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed in March to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies following years of tensions between the two countries.

During a press conference with his Turkish counterpart in Tehran, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Iran

is working on holding a tripartite economic meeting with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is on a visit to Iran and it is his first official trip to the country since assuming the position of top diplomat.

"The visit will render the opportunity to discuss the possibilities for further advancing our bilateral cooperation in all fields with Iran," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

## CDA plans to develop several new parks



ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to develop several new modern parks in the federal capital to provide better recreational facilities to the residents of the city.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policy to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told to media.

"We need three to four months to develop a new park after completion of the codal formalities." At present, they said the federal capital had six amusement parks, which were considered sufficient to cater

to the recreational needs of Islamabad residents.

"But the policy has been made that whenever a new sector will be developed, an amusement park will be constructed along," they added.

The sources said that the CDA was developing several new sectors, including I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16, D-12, and Park Enclave, adding that Model Villages and parks were also being developed in the said areas.

"As and when these areas are developed and completed, the new parks will be there to meet the demand and requirement of the general public as per CDA approved layout plan," they added.

## FIR registered against abduction of Hareem Shah's husband



### News Desk

KARACHI: Police have registered an FIR in the abduction of TikToker Hareem Shah's husband's case.

As per details, the Police officials stated that the FIR was registered in Defense police station on the complaint of his mother.

The police officials said that the husband of Hareem Shah, Bilal Hussain Shah was abducted on August 27.

On January 28, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) asked multiple banks to freeze accounts of TikToker Hareem Shah after she was filmed in a video with a huge cache of foreign exchange.

The FIA had written letters to Punjab Bank and Habib Bank

for freezing the bank accounts of Hareem Shah after she mocked the Pakistani authorities for letting her travel abroad with the bundles of foreign currency.

"Freeze accounts of Hareem Shah until an inquiry under money laundering charges concludes," the agency said in a letter to the banks.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had also written a letter to the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency to launch a money-laundering probe against TikToker Hareem Shah.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had initiated a money-laundering probe against famous TikToker Hareem Shah after the social media star in a video openly committed illegally carrying large sums of currency abroad.

## Nobel Fest VI to be held in Islamabad in Nov

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Nobel Fest VI 2023, to be held in Islamabad in the month of November, will help the future generations explore mysteries of our world through diving into knowledge of scientific discoveries and technological innovations essential to combat modern day challenges.

According to the COMSTECH, the high level event will be held during November 29-30 at COMSTECH with the support of OIC-COMSTECH and Inclusive Development Foundation under the theme "Bridg-



ing Science and OIC Countries in the Digital Future."

It will center around scientific discoveries and technological innovations, with a particular focus on key topics such as the future of medicine, digitalization in education, world-changing technologies, efforts

to combat climate change, and strategies for economic development.

The objective of the Nobel Fest is to make education and science accessible for everyone in the world, especially the least developed and developing countries of OIC.

Nobel Fest is considered as one of the key tools in the popularization and development of education, science and technology and motivates thousands of students and young scientists to search for answers to the unexplored mysteries of our world.

Nobel Fest is a unique and one of the most impactful educational and

technological gatherings with an annual audience of 5K offline, 800K online participants from more than 500 universities, and 100 countries. Since 2020, 15 Nobel Laureates, 15 breakthrough winners, eminent experts, innovators, leaders of international organizations and global businesses have participated in the yearly event of the Nobel Fest.

The Technology and Start-up Expo during the event will include a demonstration of scientific and technical developments of universities and competition for the best Tech projects.

# Railway PREM workers protest against steep rises in electricity, gas, water bills

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: The brave people of Pakistan have proved by going on a complete strike that the governments never run by lawlessness and burdening the people like not withdrawing the rising prices of electricity, petrol and the continuous demonstration of austerity. This is the open slap on the face of democracy said Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq.

According to the details, the business community and the public force further said that they are thankful to all the businessmen, lawyers and labor who ensured arrangements for the complete shutdown in Faisalabad to open the eyes of the sleeping government.

Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President of Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan said that the system of the country has sat down in the real sense.

Moreover, on the call of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq, Divisional Ameer Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt, Central President Cloth Board Etihad



Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, traders, lawyers and labor organizations raised voices against electricity bills, petrol and untoward inflation in the country.

On striking, they demanded the government to supply electricity, petrol and other commodities on low rates observing the poverty situations.

In the camp set up in Chowk Ghan-

taghar today, traders, lawyers, shopkeepers, laborers and ordinary people from the city of Faisalabad have proved that the people will not accept the government pressing policies at all. They elaborated to Keep in mind that the problems of the common man have been continuously neglected? while compiling the electricity, petrol, gas and others also withdraw

taxes levied on essential commodities. In the camp, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Vohra, Divisional Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt, President Anjuman Tajran City Khawaja Razaq Sikka, General Secretary Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, Chairman Central Ulema Council Sahibzada Zahid Qasmi, President Supreme Council Amin Butt, Haji Aslam Bhalali, City Cloth Board President Amjad Aqeel, General Secretary Abbas Haider Sheikh, Mian Ijaz Hussain, President Press Market Chaudhry Muhammad Akram, General Secretary Sohail Rafi, lawyers and labor leaders addressed. They warned If the government will not withdraw the prices of electricity, petrol, gas and essential items, then for the future, mega plan of action will be announced soon and then there will be a full-blown Qalandar, and the government has no choice to control this dire situation, and the angry people are ready to do anything at any time, so come to the real track.

## CTD Operation: Females terrorists arrested

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 5 suspected females terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 27 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 27 suspected persons were interrogated and 5 alleged females terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Faiza, Fakhira, Eman Maria and Javeria, he said and added that she belong to the banned organizations Daesh. He said that the arrest of these alleged females terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore and Sheikhupura. He said that the protective fuse wire 18 feet, 14 books of banned outfits, 21 pamphlets, 29 stickers, 3 receipt books, 3 Mobile phones and 26070 rupees in cash were recovered from the possession of arrested females terrorists.

The spokesman said that the females terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered cases against the alleged females terrorists in Lahore, Sheikhupura and Kasure, and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

He said that 304 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 15225 persons were checked, 76 suspects were arrested, 66 FIRs were registered and 16 recoveries were made during these operations.

## Railway reduced fare announce for Economy Class of Shalimar Express

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Pakistan Railway Headquarters Lahore has issued a new fare table in which the economy class fare of Shalimar Express train has been significantly reduced. The Shalimar Express train is a VIP train that stops at Khanewal and Bahawalpur in Multan division for passengers traveling from Khanewal and Bahawalpur to Karachi.

Or those passengers who want to travel from Bahawalpur and Khanewal to Faisalabad, Lahore can avail this package. There is a shortage. According to the new fare issued, the fare from Khanewal to Faisalabad has been reduced from Rs 1050 to Rs 750, Khanewal to Lahore has been reduced from Rs 1450 to Rs 1050, Khanewal to Rahim Yar Khan has been reduced from Rs 1450 to Rs 1100, Khanewal to Rohri has been reduced to Rs 2050. 1650 rupees, Khanewal to Nawabshah reduced from 2350 to 1850 rupees, Khanewal to Hyderabad reduced from 2700 to 2100 rupees while the fare from Khanewal to Karachi has been reduced from 3250 to 2350, similarly Bahawalpur to Faisal. Reduced from 1450 to 1050 to Abad, reduced from 1700 to 1250 from Bahawalpur to Lahore.

Bahawalpur to Khanpur reduced from 900 rupees to 600, Bahawalpur to Rahimyar Khan 1050 to 750, Bahawalpur to Rohri 1450 to 1100, Bahawalpur to Nawabshah 2050 to 1650, Bahawalpur to Hyderabad 2300 to 1800, Bahawalpur to Karachi reduced from 2700 2100 has been made.

## DPO assured the traders of all kinds of facilities at the Angoor Adda border

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waziristan Goods Transport and various other unions held talks with DPO Lower South Waziristan Farman Ullah in a good atmosphere while assuring the traders of all kinds of facilities.

However, it was unanimously decided in the discussion that all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan towards Lower South Waziristan will not be stopped in any way. If anyone has any liabilities regarding the vehicle, the said driver or owner will contact the local administration, police or FC in this regard.

DPO said, from today, all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan for trade are allowed and it was decided, that the legitimate problems of the business community will be resolved through mutual consultation of Jirga.

On this occasion, DPO said that from today any vehicle will come to Pakistan from Afghanistan side, If any individual or union members owe him, they will report to the district administration, police and FC, and lgal action will be taken against anyone who obstructs business without authorities.

DPO Farman Ullah said that from today there will be no restriction on all the transport vehicles from Afghanistan side coming to Pakistan.

DPO Farman Ullah said that there will be no excuse for those who cause disruptions in trade activities on the Pak-Afghan border, and strict disciplinary action will be taken against them.

## RPO Multan Decision to Record Appeals in a Short Period of Time: Capt Sohail

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Multan decision to record appeals in a short period of time.

The series of welfare measures of police officers and employees will continue. Decision on record appeals in Punjab. It is a unique honor of Multan Region Police. Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary

Multan: Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary set a record by deciding 2268 appeals out of a record 2836 appeals in a short span of eight months.

On this occasion, the RPO said that Multan region has decided all the pending of police officers and employees in Multan, Wahari, Khanewal and Lodhran. These measures have been taken for the welfare of police officers and employees of Multan region. He further said that the few pending appeals will be decided this month.

It is to be noted that in Multan region in the past, as many as 2268 appeals were decided in the last five years. While deciding the same number of appeals in eight months, it set a record

This is a unique honor of Multan Region Police in Punjab. The credit goes to a top police officer of Multan region.



## Protest

KARACHI: Members of civil society and Hindu community hold a protest in favor of their demands at Ten Talwar area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Three-day exhibition of historical furniture concludes

News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: Three-day exhibition of historical furniture has concluded. Justice Malik Manzoor Hussain Judge High Court Abbottabad, Jibran Malik Chairman District Zakat Committee, Malik Shakeel Awan Central President Anjuman Tajran Mansehra, Justice Help International President Nadeem Sheikh Advocate, labor leader Syed Zulfikar Shah participated in the closing ceremony, the furniture exhibition was organized by Reach Corporate Solutions.

More than 50 companies from all over the country are setting up their stalls in the exhibition. Justice Malik Manzoor Hussain said that the organization of the furniture exhibition is welcome, people are getting the best



furniture at reasonable prices. He said that the exhibition broke all the

records, the rush of furniture buyers on the stalls, the furniture is being provid-

ed to the public at lower prices than the market, the stock was exhausted due to the rush of buyers, the public made record purchases, the exhibition will be held again soon. will be held, the stock of furniture has been exhausted due to high orders.

On this occasion, the guests were dressed in Ajrak, at the end of the exhibition there was a spectacular firework display and the cake was cut for the successful exhibition., Mega Furniture, Royal Furniture, Pakistan Furniture, MH Interiors, Future Office, MJ Furniture, Turkish Interwood, Pak Tribal, Life Interiors, Fine Furnishers, Alishan Furnishers, Home Style, Taj Furnishers, Amirwood Interiors, The Mode Living, Adam Traders, Abdullah Bed Sheet, Ilyas and other leading companies are participating.

## Patrolling police Multan crack down arrested 440 criminals: Huma Naseeb

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: According to Senior Pole Patrolling Police Superintendent (SSP) Multan Region in the month of August 2023, while cracking down on criminals, arrested 440 people, registered cases against liquor and drug dealers and those possessing illegal weapons in the respective police stations and recovered huge amount of arms and liquor from their possession.

Keeping highways crime free is my top priority and violators of law and order are being dealt with strictly. 351776 persons were checked through police



app, and 168439 vehicles were checked.

92,290 challans have been issued by the police cracking down on drivers through the Chalanig app. (Huma Naseeb SP Patrolling Police Multan Region) According to

the spokesperson of patrolling police, in the month of August 2023, under the supervision of Patrolling Police Multan Region (Huma Naseeb, SP Patrolling Police Multan Region) 440 cases of various types were registered and hundreds of accused

were arrested. 965 liters of alcohol, 4630 grams of hashish and 1230 grams of opium were recovered after registering 167 cases against them.

By filing cases against those who possess illegal weapons, 05 in category 78 in A category, 05

in category and 78 in B category were arrested, 02 Kalashnikovs, 09 rifles, 15 pistols, 02 revolvers with 117 bullets, 19 missing children were delivered to their relatives/heirs, those traveling on the highway. Provided 609 different types of help to individuals, 07 illegal encroachments were also eliminated. More 01. Along with the recovery of 26 stolen motorcycles, along with the recovery of 480 grams of unhealthy meat, 01 tractor, 01 truck, 01 mobile, 04 mobile phones and 480 grams of unhealthy meat were also recovered. Appreciation certificates and prizes were also awarded for this.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**  
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**  
**Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.**  
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**  
 Email: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**  
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

# Unlocking Pakistan's Inland Waterway Potential

Pakistan possesses a vast potential for developing a robust ferry or ship liner service, utilizing its extensive river system, coastline, and canal network. With a coastline spanning approximately 2,000 kilometers and five major rivers, including the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej, Pakistan boasts a natural transportation network capable of efficiently and sustainably moving people and goods.

Recognizing this potential, the World Bank, in March 2022, emphasized the need for establishing a federal-level Inland Waterway Authority (IWA) in Pakistan aimed to standardize inland waterways transportation (IWT) through legislative measures.

It's noteworthy that the World Bank has been advising Pakistan on the development of its inland waterways since 1961. An earlier confidential report dated November 8, 1961, revealed the World Bank's keen interest in enhancing Pakistan's inland water transport system, offering financial assistance of around \$2 million for the initial phase of improvements.

Despite decades of recommendations and discussions, Pakistan has yet to harness the highly promising economic benefits of maritime and inland waterway transportation. This delay is attributed to a combination of factors, including shifting priorities, political challenges, and the influence of vested interests in various sectors of the economy.

In 2017, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif welcomed a proposal to establish a ferry service between Karachi, Gwadar, and Muscat, emphasizing its potential to provide an affordable alternative mode of transportation for the people regular-

ly traveling these routes. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs subsequently proposed the creation of a ferry service, linking Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar with ports in Iran, Iraq, Oman, and the UAE. The proposal also included plans for the establishment of ferry terminals and related operational facilities.

In parallel, the Planning Commission developed Pakistan's first comprehensive transportation policy, which incorporated inland waterway development and maritime transportation. The Inland Waterway Transport National Policy of Pakistan 2018 outlined the strategic direction for inland waterway transport, promoting it as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. The policy envisioned the integration of inland waterways into an intermodal transportation system, emphasizing the use of navigable waterways along the Indus River for both freight and passenger transportation.

Moreover, the policy highlighted the importance of developing an inland waterway transport master plan to explore additional navigable rivers and canals while emphasizing effective riverine water management planning.

Simultaneously, the policy recognized the significance of Pakistan's maritime sector, considering it a potential engine of economic growth through support for international trade and regional transit. It proposed the development of international ports and their integration into global supply chains, with a focus on efficient,

private sector-led terminal operations.

Fast forward to 2023, Pakistan's President, Dr. Arif Alvi, reiterated the importance of sea transportation, both for the movement of goods and the development of ports, resorts, and coastal tourism. He emphasized the need for Pakistan to adhere to international standards in developing its coastal areas and harness its blue economy.

While Pakistan has not yet established a federal-level Inland Waterway Authority, the Punjab government has taken a positive step by establishing the Inland Waterway Development Company. This company aims to develop a 200-kilometer stretch of the Northern Indus

as a pilot project to showcase the potential of waterborne transportation. This initiative demonstrates the feasibility of revitalizing the vast network of waterways from Karachi to the North, spanning the entire country.

The Punjab government's survey of the Indus River Channel, funded by private sector entrepreneurs, evaluates the feasibility of phase-wise development, initially focusing on transporting goods and passengers between Daudkhel and Attock. The project envisions expanding throughout Punjab and eventually connecting with waterways in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. The ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive national inland water transport plan, generating significant financial and social benefits by creating employment opportunities and diversifying transportation avenues.

To fully capitalize on this potential,

Pakistan must overcome various challenges, with political will being the foremost requirement. Addressing issues related to infrastructure, investment, and security concerns, such as potential misuse for anti-national activities, is critical. Other countries have successfully managed similar security challenges and harnessed the economic and environmental advantages of waterborne transportation.

Investing in a ferry or ship liner service in Pakistan can lead to a wide range of benefits, including boosting tourism, job creation, increased revenue, reduced transportation costs, and the development of essential infrastructure.

It's essential for Pakistan to redefine its security priorities and place economic and financial security at the forefront. By doing so, Pakistan can fully leverage waterborne transportation to transport goods, connect remote regions with urban centers, and promote sustainable and efficient transportation while ensuring the economic prosperity of its citizens.

In conclusion, Pakistan stands at a pivotal moment where it can tap into the immense potential of its waterways to reshape its economy and secure its future. Embracing waterborne transportation is not just a transportation alternative; it's a path to economic prosperity, job creation, and a sustainable future for the nation.

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



Analysis **Qamar Bashir**

## Polio: Rawalpindi's high-risk areas

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Health Authority Dr. Ejaz Ahmad has said that a week-long Anti-Polio drive will commence in the four high-risk towns of the district on Monday (September 4).

The CEO told that 2,770 teams including 2,430 mobile teams, 568 area in charges 261 fixed points and 156 Union Council medical officers would vaccinate polio drops to over 741,579 children under five years of age in four towns of the district including Rawalpindi city, Rawalpindi Cantonment, Rawalpindi rural, and tehsil Taxila which had been declared high-risk areas.

He added that drops would also be administered at 109 transit points while teams have been deputed at toll plazas so that no child could miss immunization. The CEO said the purpose for launching the special drive was the presence of continuous detection of the polio virus from environmental samples collected from the area of Sarac Kala, Taxila and Safdarabad, Rawalpindi. The positive sample in Rawalpindi indicates that the virus was circulating in the region, though no positive case had been reported so far, he said and added that "If a single case is reported in a region, it remains a threat to children residing in 200 houses in the vicinity.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta directed the official concerned to improve the anti-polio micro plan devised during the previous campaign.

He said the crippling disease was a national issue, and it was the responsibility of all to play an influential role in making the country polio-free.

The Commissioner warned the officials that strict action would be taken against those responsible for fake entries. Liaquat said hiding facts was not a solution to any problem, but it complicated the issue.

Liaquat further directed to cover the missing and refusal cases by convincing the parents with the help of local community leaders and achieving the target set for the drive.

He urged the citizens, particularly the parents, to come forward and play their role in eliminating the crippling disease from society.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmii. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

## Indian Supreme Court on Article 35A and Revival of Special Status of Occupied J & K - I

The region of Jammu and Kashmir has been marred by a history of conflict, with the issue of Indian aggression casting a long shadow over its past and present. The complex and contentious relationship between India and the people of Jammu and Kashmir has had profound consequences on the region's political landscape, social fabric, and international relations.

The seeds of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir were sown during the partition of India in 1947. As the subcontinent gained independence from British colonial rule, the princely states were given the choice to accede to either India or Pakistan based on their geographical and demographic realities.

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Maharaja Hari Singh, was predominantly Muslim but ruled by a Hindu monarch. The decision to accede to either India or Pakistan was met with uncertainty and tension. Amidst this uncertainty, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with India in October 1947, seeking military assistance against tribal militias and forces from Pakistan that had invaded the region. India's intervention, however, was met with resistance from local Kashmiri leaders who sought a more democratic and inclusive approach to determining the region's future. The conflict escalated into the first Indo-Pakistani war over Kashmir, leading to a de facto border known as the Line of Control (LoC) dividing the region between Indian-administered Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir. This division resulted in a complex territorial and political dispute that has persisted for decades.

Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir has been accompanied by human rights concerns, with allegations of extrajudicial killings, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and excessive use of force by Indian security forces. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants Indian security

forces wide-ranging powers in the region, often criticized for enabling impunity and inhibiting accountability. These allegations have drawn international attention and criticism from human rights organizations, putting pressure on India to address these concerns and ensure the protection of civilians in the conflict zone. The issue of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir has not only strained relations between India and Pakistan but has also impacted the broader geopolitical landscape of South Asia. The two countries have fought several wars and skirmishes over the region, with the potential for armed conflict always looming. Efforts by international actors, including the United Nations, to mediate and find a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir conflict have faced challenges due to stubbornness of India. The issue continues to affect regional stability and has broader implications for global security.

The history of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir is a tale of complex geopolitics, conflicting aspirations, and unresolved disputes. The region's history is marked by a struggle for self-determination, human rights concerns, and the ongoing impact of a historical decision. As the international community watches and calls for peaceful resolutions, it is clear that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir remains a critical factor in shaping the political and social dynamics of the region.

On August 5, 2019, India made a controversial decision that sent shockwaves through the nation and the international community alike. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, announced the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, revoking the special autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir. This move marked a significant turning point in the region's political landscape, sparking debates and discussions on its implications for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, India's federal structure, and its global relations. Article 370 was a provision in the Indian Constitution that granted a special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

*To be continued*



Analysis **Abdul Basit Alvi**

## Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya were discussed during ISNA Convention

Spokesman Report

Kashmir has had its checkered history of strife, foreign invasion and occupations just like all other nations of the world. That was up to 1947 when the British Empire let South Asia (India and Pakistan) go free after nearly 200 years of colonial slavery. That is when the newly un-enlaved India chose to turn on its smaller neighbor to its north—the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. Just to be sure the Indians had their eyes on Kashmir ever since they started dreaming of freedom from the British at the beginning of 1925- The birth Hindu nationalism of Savarkar's Hindutva and its political manifestations in the form of RSS and Hindu Mahasaba," this was stated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, President World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman, Kashmir Global Coalition during 60th Annual Convention of Islamic Society of North American (ISNA) that took place in Chicago on September 2, 2023.

"Currently, Kashmir is now a full-fledged settler-colonial project. A genocidal and ethnic cleansing plan is in place. Under the new Domicile Law, 4.2 million Indian Hindus have been issued domicile certificates. Floodgates have been opened to demographically flood Kashmir with non-Kashmiri Indian settlers to dilute the Muslim population," Dr. Mir warned.

Mir continued, "India also resorts to harsh techniques, including attacks on Muslim spaces, such as repression of educational and religious institutions, and endowments and places of worship. Thousands of innocent Kashmiri civilians of all ages have been incarcerated for variable periods in Indian prisons over the last seven decades, starting in 1947. Some of the political prisoners have been languishing in the jails for decades, like Shabir Ahmad Shah and some for years, like Yasin Malik, Masarat Aalam, Aasia Andrabi and internationally known human rights activist Khurram Parvez."

"There is a deep conspiracy to erase the most treasured tradition of Kashmiri Muslim creed, culture, and legacy. This atrocity is starting to run deeper and deeper under the Modi regime. It is what amounts to crimes against humanity. Even in the academic space, our history books, or any reference to Kashmir's struggle for self-determination are

being removed," Dr. Mir alerted.

Other speakers were Dr. Miko Peled and Dr. Mohammad Karim.

Dr. Miko Peled is a writer and human rights activist, born and raised in Jerusalem. He is considered by many to be one of the clearest voices calling for justice in Palestine, and creation of a single democracy with equal rights on all of historic Palestine. Driven by a personal family tragedy to explore Palestine, its people and their narrative, he has written a book about his journey, 'The General's Son: The Journey of an Israeli in Palestine.' He travels regularly to Palestine, and he has been arrested several times by the Israeli authorities for his activities.

Dr. Mohammad Karim is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the university of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He served as Provost, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Chief Operating Officer of the University. He served on the Board of Regents of the North American Bangladeshi Islamic Community (NABIC) as well as on the Bords of multiple universities in Bangladesh. He is an author of 20 engineering books and over 300 scientific publications.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum was the Emcee of the event. Dr. Fai said that Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya genocide are the three important international conflicts. We do not need to tell the Palestinians and Kashmiris what they want. They should be provided the full opportunity to decide whatever they want without any external pressure or compulsion. That choice was given to Palestinians under UN Security Council resolution # 43, 46 and 48 which were adopted in April 1948; and to Kashmiris under UN Security Council resolution # 47, adopted on April 21, 1948. The denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Palestine and Kashmir is a clear danger to the international peace and security.

Dr. Fai added that Rohingya genocide cannot and should not go unnoticed. More than 1 million Rohingya Muslims have fled and are living in refugee camps in different parts of the world. The pain and suffering of Rohingya Muslims are a challenge to the world conscience. Time has come that the United Nations need to intervene in all these three situations to bring peace to the region of South Asia and Middle East.

# Interfaith Harmony Conference promotes unity, tolerance among religions: Aneeq Ahmed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Religious leaders and scholars from diverse religious backgrounds converged at the Interfaith Harmony Conference recently held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in the federal capital. The conference, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, served as a platform for prominent figures to advocate for unity, peace, and tolerance among different religious communities. Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, opened the conference with a powerful message of unity. He strongly condemned any distortion of faith and emphasized the need for all religions to come together.

Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, who also serves as the President of the International Interfaith Harmony Council, shared valuable insights on the importance of religious cohesion. He emphasized that the teachings of Islam inherently advocate for peaceful coexistence among all

communities.

Mufti Muneeb also stressed the importance of using appropriate terms, such as Christian for followers of Jesus Christ and specific terms like Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, and Buddhist for followers of those respective faiths. In line with the spirit of inclusivity, Mufti Muneeb suggested refraining from using the term 'infidel' if it carries negative connotations about certain groups. He challenged the notion that terrorism is tied to religion and emphasized that it stems from individual actions.

He also cautioned against providing refuge to individuals who commit blasphemy against revered personalities or holy texts, emphasizing that such acts should not be tolerated. Several other faith leaders and scholars, including Bishop Sarfraz Peter, Pastor Emmanuel Khokhar, Sardar Santok Singh, and Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad, made significant contributions to the conference. They emphasized legislative measures to control religious violence, the elimination of hate materials from national curricula, and the



need to shun discriminatory attitudes towards minority communities. Proposing an enabling environment across the nation, Pastor Emmanuel Khokhar stressed the importance of immediately stopping the teaching of hate material in educational institutions.

In addition to these faith leaders, religious scholars and figures, including Dr. Abdul Qadir Haroon, Maulana Abdul Rauf, Air Marshal (ret'd) Farhat Hussain Malik, Emil Darinoz Tekin, Dr. Sarfaraz Awan, and Bishop

Nadeem Kamran, contributed their insights during the conference. The conference drew participation from a diverse range of diplomatic representatives, including those from the United Kingdom, United States of America, Japan, Austria, Italy, Germany, Poland, Türkiye, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, Sweden, Finland, Palestine, Jordan, Myanmar, Iraq, Switzerland, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Norway, Maldives, and more.

Speakers emphasized that safeguarding these rights was not just

a legal obligation but a moral duty aligned with the teachings of Islam. As the conference concluded, a resounding demand for accountability emerged, particularly concerning the Jaranwala incident. Participants called for a thorough investigation and appropriate punishment for those found responsible, emphasizing that justice must prevail, regardless of religious affiliations, to maintain social harmony and uphold the principles of justice. In response to recent interfaith disturbances and acts of violence,

the faith leaders passed a unanimous resolution, fostering interfaith harmony, promoting religious tolerance, and nurturing peaceful coexistence among all communities in Pakistan. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony successfully convened the 'Interfaith Harmony Conference,' bringing together faith leaders, religious scholars, diplomats, and individuals from all walks of life. The event demonstrated a united vision of unity and inclusivity, drawing inspiration.

## Pakistan High Commissioner pays a farewell call on the President of Bangladesh

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: High Commissioner Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui paid a farewell call on the Honourable President of Bangladesh Mohammed Shahabuddin this afternoon.

The High Commissioner thanked the President and the Government of Bangladesh for the support and hospitality extended to him during his tenure in Bangladesh. High Commissioner Siddiqui hoped that relations between the two brotherly countries will further grow to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

The President appreciated the efforts of the High Commissioner for strengthening relations between the two countries and congratulated him on successful completion of his term in Bangladesh. The Honourable President reciprocated the greetings conveyed by the High Commissioner on behalf of the President of Pakistan



Dr. Arif Alvi during the meeting.

Earlier, the High Commissioner held

farewell meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. AK Momen, Minister for Commerce Mr. Tipu Munshi and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan.

During his call on the Foreign Minister, the two sides agreed to continue efforts to further improve bilateral relations.

Commerce Minister Mr. Munshi and the High Commissioner reviewed progress in bilateral commercial relations and agreed to further strengthen them by intensifying exchanges between the businesses in the days ahead.

During the meeting with the Home Minister of Bangladesh, the progress achieved in the last three years in addressing consular issues including the release of prisoners was discussed. The Minister hoped that the successor of the High Commissioner would continue to build on the foundation created in the last over three years.

## North Korea stages 'tactical nuclear attack' drill

Reuters

North Korea conducted a simulated "tactical nuclear attack" drill on Saturday that included two long-range cruise missiles, state media reported on Sunday, as leader Kim Jong Un inspected shipbuilding and munitions factories.

The KCNA news agency said the drill was carried out early on Saturday to "warn enemies" that the country would be prepared in case of nuclear war as Pyongyang again vowed to bolster military deterrence against Washington and Seoul.

The two cruise missiles carrying mock nuclear warheads were fired towards the West Sea of the peninsula and flew 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) at a preset altitude of 150 meters.

A separate statement said Kim visited Pukjung Machine Complex, which produces marine engines, and a major munitions factory to stress the importance of strengthening Pyongyang's naval forces.

"He affirmed that a future plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK (Worker's Party of Korea) would set forth an important modernization of the complex and the development direction of the shipbuilding industry," the KCNA statement said.

The statement did not specify the date of his visit. The latest missile test came just after the joint annual summertime exercises between South Korea and the U.S., known as Ulchi Freedom Shield, came to a close on Thursday after an 11-day run, featuring air drills with B-1B bombers.

North Korea has been stepping up its military deterrence against Washington and Seoul and has criticized last month's summit agreement between the two on improving military cooperations.

A KCNA statement on Aug. 21 said Kim recently visited a navy fleet stationed on the east coast to oversee a test of strategic cruise missiles aboard a warship, and stressed the ship would maintain striking power for combat situations.

## Catheter Saved Saudi man from Abdominal Artery Rupture

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Surgeons in Al-Qasim (Central Saudi Arabia) saved the life of a man who suffered from an abnormal bulge in the aorta during a 3-hour surgery.

Saudi Health stated that a team of vascular surgeons at King Fahad Specialist Hospital in Buraydah admitted on Thursday 31st August a man suffering from a severe pain in the abdominal and back areas. The results of medical tests showed a 7cm long ballooning in the aorta causing acute pain due to lumbar spinal stenosis.

Such a case has a high percentage of risk as the aorta is a main artery; it could be fatal in case of rupture.

The team decided to perform urgent surgery in which they used a catheter without any side effects. Post-surgery, the patient remains under observation at the ICU.



## Nigerian president recalls ambassadors worldwide

News Desk

NIGERIA: President Bola Tinubu has ordered a recall of Nigeria's ambassadors worldwide with immediate effect, his spokesman said on Saturday.

"The president is determined to ensure that world-class efficiency and quality, will henceforth, characterize foreign and domestic service delivery to citizens, residents and prospective visitors alike," presidential spokesman Ajuri Ngelale said.

Nigeria's United Nations permanent representatives in New York and Geneva are exempted from the

"total recall" due to the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) later in the month, Tinubu's office said in a statement.

Nigeria has 109 diplomatic missions worldwide, comprising 76 embassies, 22 high commissions and 11 consulates.

Tinubu, who has embarked on the country's boldest reforms in decades, is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the general assembly and also meet leaders from Brazil, India, South Korea and Germany during the G20 meeting later in the month.



## Pakistani postdoc: Using Chinese agricultural technology to increase Pakistan's grain production

Xinhua

LANZHOU: Asfa Batool, a Pakistani postdoctoral fellow at Lanzhou University in north-west China's Gansu Province is continuing her dryland agricultural research in China in the hope of using her knowledge and technologies to increase the grain production of Pakistan.

Since Asfa came to Lanzhou University for her master degree in 2012 at the first time, she has spent about 11 years in the university where she earned her doctoral degree in ecology in 2018 and started postdoctoral research after her graduation from PhD.

Referring to studying in China, she was grateful to her advisor, Xiong Youcai, professor at the college of ecology of Lanzhou University, who once gave a lecture in her undergraduate studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan and introduced Chinese dryland agriculture and water saving

technology.

She was inspired by Chinese agricultural technologies and expected to learn from him to change the current situation of agriculture in Pakistan.

Sponsored by Chinese Government Scholarship, she applied for a graduate student at Lanzhou University and started her graduate study following professor Xiong in 2012.

She has been engaging in research work focusing on agriculture and biotechnologies to improve plant growth and productivity.

"Chinese dryland agricultural technology provides a potential innovative approach to upgrade the productivity of crops in arid and semi-arid regions, and a key solution to boost the agricultural production system and Lanzhou University is a well-known institute in China for agriculture studies. That's why I chose the university," said Asfa, adding that she hopes that Chinese technologies will be practiced

in Pakistan because dry areas in Pakistan need more attention where the crops only depends on rainfall.

According to Xiong Youcai, Chinese dryland agricultural technology can not only avoid resource waste and effectively save water but also improve soil fertility and reduce evaporation at the soil surface.

The most important thing is that this technology is easy to be practiced and costs less.

With Xiong's support such as helping her set up research objectives and providing lab facilities and the funding projects provided by Lanzhou University, Asfa did a lot of research on wheat and maize including split root experiments to study the role of phytohormones in drought stress. She also applied Chinese water-saving technology to maize and wheat planting experiments in Pakistan.

"I did that how flat planting and ridge furrow planting can help Pakistan to increase the

yield and the crop productivity there. I compared Chinese technology with the local planting technology. I also especially focused on the poor people like local farmers how they can increase their yield and get benefits from Chinese technology," said Asfa.

She is quite sure that China's ridge and furrow mulching technology, a part of dryland agriculture, can produce more yield than flat planting. When she practiced the technology in experimental fields in dry areas in Pakistan, she was confident that she got very good results there.

She also visited many places in Gansu Province where local farmers implemented the water saving technology to get a harvest and feed their families.

For her, China is really making unremitting efforts to bring out the poor people to have a good life. "That's Pakistan needs," Asfa said, adding that she really wants to bring Chinese agricultural



technology back to Pakistan to benefit more local farmers and improve their life quality.

Besides learning technologies, she focused on theoretical research. She has proposed and demonstrated several novel design techniques with number of high quality journal publications in the reputed peer-reviewed journals.

Moreover, she also worked in collaboration with scientists in China, Africa, Australia and Pakistan as a bridge. She helped arrange many international forums and meetings hosted by Lanzhou University because she is well in both Chinese and English, let alone her mother language Urdu.

According to Asfa, she helped

participants about their accommodation and participation in the forum and facilitate them regarding daily needs. Lanzhou University trusts on her for every matter related to this.

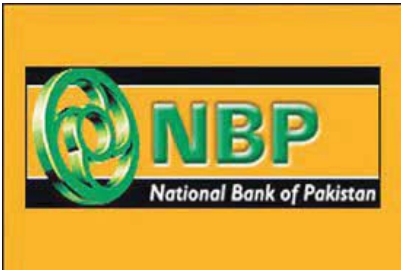
In this April, 2023 Forum of University Alliance of the Belt and Road was held in Lanzhou University.

Asfa did a lot of volunteer work, including managing participants' invitation letters and visa letters and facilitating them regarding their presentation and other official meetings at the university.

"These were all impressive experiences because they provides a platform for me to share and communicate different ideas among the people who come from different parts of the world," said Asfa.

Asfa is eager to implement Chinese agricultural technologies to Pakistan after graduation and she thinks that China and Pakistan should join hands and collaborate more in more fields.

*NBP offers financial services to promote international trade: Shaikh Shariq*



**News Desk**

BEIJING: The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has set up a stall in the Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) to offer financial services to more and more clients in China and other countries to promote trade among them, Chief Representative, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq said on Sunday.

"CIFTIS is one of the largest exhibitions in China and we are participating in the exhibition by setting up our stall.

With this exhibition, we want to connect more and more businessmen and traders and the financial institutions to expand our business and offer our services to more and more clients," he told to media.

He said that this exhibition is related to trade in services which is one of the major components of the economy of any country.

Hence, this exhibition will play a significant role in increasing the bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and China as well as other countries.

Shaikh Shariq informed that the bank is already providing a number of financial services to customers not only in China but in 17 countries around the globe.

Pakistani firms like Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEL, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others have also set up booths to attract investors at CIFTIS, which takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6.

*Durable peace must for development of SAARC countries*



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday strongly advocated the cause of achieving durable peace in the region, an essential prerequisite for economic growth, prosperity, and development for all countries of South Asia.

Chairing a virtual conference on "The role of Afghanistan for durable peace in the region" he said, "South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential," said a press release.

"One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries, including Pakistan," he added.

He said, "Counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist elements and bring about much-needed stability."

About economic integration, he said, "We must embrace economic integration initiatives within the South Asian region and enhanced economic cooperation can create an environment conducive to peace, prosperity, and development for all."

He said being trade leader of South Asia he firmly believed that by taking these steps, the Afghan Taliban government could play a pivotal role in shaping a more secure and prosperous South Asia, as this, in turn, would foster economic growth, improve living standards, and create a brighter future for all nations in the region.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "We remain committed to supporting any positive efforts towards peace and development in South Asia and are hopeful that, Afghanistan can become a beacon of hope and stability for the entire region."

He hoped that Afghanistan would flush out all armed militants' sanctuaries on their soil.

**Organizational health and safety is very important for exporters: Dr. Gohar Ijaz**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Commerce, Production and Industry Dr. Gohar Ijaz said that it is important that Pakistani exporters comply with all the laws of International Labor Standards. Progressive implementation of international labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, is essential to achieve the goals of increasing exports. He was talking to a delegation consisting of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) President Malik Tahir Javed, Chairman Central Mian Akram Farid, former President Majeed Aziz in his office in Islamabad. The initiative and the attitude of exporters will enhance Pakistan's case to the EU for the next grant of GSP Plus.

He assured that the government is fully committed to providing an enabling ecosystem to exporters and advised the EFP to encourage all its member members to comply with all the

conditions. Empires Federation of Pakistan has arranged for employers. President Malik Tahir Javed said that the Employers Federation of Pakistan is giving an award to such businesses on December 25 in Karachi, which have taken measures related to the elimination of child labor, the safety and health of industrial workers, and others.. S, H laws, he further informed that the Empires Federation of Pakistan is leading the private sector in matters of elimination of child labour, employment, labor legislation, social security, etc.

He invited the Federal Minister as guest in the program Invited for special participation, Chairman Central Mian Akram Farid also advised the Federal Minister to start the process of visiting chambers in all major cities and said that as the leader of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, if she came at the first opportunity. They will get honor if they visit CCI. Expensive electricity is an injustice



to traders and people, they kept saying that bring a new policy for overseas Pakistanis, it will increase remittances, the problem will not be solved until the government consults with

traders and industrialists, the department official added. If not, no businessman can steal electricity.

He said that the government should not increase the price so much that the consumers cannot pay the bills, free electricity supply to government employees and officers should be stopped, power plant owners should meet with the power plant owners. Prices should be brought down, businesses cannot run due to unaffordable expensive electricity.

President Global Compact Network Pakistan Majeed Aziz told the Federal Minister that Global Compact Network Pakistan's awareness campaign to follow the ten principles of the international agreement. He added that it is important that the government works with employer organizations to establish practical policies and institutional frameworks to promote a safety culture and ensure full compliance with all standards.

**'GCNP event on Target Gender Equality'**

ISLAMABAD: Majyd Aziz, President Global Compact Network Pakistan, presenting crest to Chief Guest Malik Tahir Javaid, President Employers Federation of Pakistan, at the GCNP event on Target Gender Equality. Mian Akram Farid, Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Hina Mansab Khan, Chairperson Women Chambers Council, Fiza Farhan, Advisor to UN Secretary General, GCNP team members Samreen Shaikh and Zainab Fatima are also seen in the picture.



**PIA offers connected flights to 16 destinations in China via Beijing**

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has introduced connected flights between Pakistan and 16 captivating cities of China via Beijing in partnership with Air China, PIA Country Manager, Bilal Afzal said on Sunday. These Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shenzhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Nanjing, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Changchun, and Chongqing, he told to media on the sidelines of China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing. PIA has set up a booth in Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase its accomplishments, particularly the role played by the national flag carrier to promote people-to-people contacts between the people of Pakistan and China.

He said that the passengers could also travel from 16 cities in China to Islamabad by availing of this offer. "PIA is currently operating one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday but working on a plan to add a new direct flight between the two coun-

tries." About discounts, he said, "PIA offers a 20 percent discount for students with free baggage of 80 kgs for economy class and 100 kgs for executive economy respectively on flights between Pakistan and China." "The passengers can avail further discounts if tickets are purchased online," he said.

"We have also offered discounts on cargo from China to Pakistan and vice versa and businessmen and traders could benefit from it," he added. "Pakistani community especially businessmen and students living in China have expressed pleasure over discounts." Talking to APP, Ali Imran, a Pakistani educationist in Hangzhou said, "The connected flights to different destinations in China are a big relief and it provides great convenience to the passengers traveling between the two brotherly countries."

He said that the discount on fare and cargo service would greatly facilitate Pakistani professionals and students to meet their families more frequently. The passengers could also avail increase in baggage allowance during their travelling between the two countries.

**RCCI to organize business opportunities conference in Cairo, Egypt**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is taking a delegation of the Pakistani business community to Cairo, Egypt, for Pakistan- Egypt Business Opportunities Conference on September 7.

RCCI president Saqib Rafiq in a statement informed that the trade volume between Pakistan and Egypt is close to \$400 million which can be increased to one billion dollars in couple of years and added that by enhancing trade cooperation with Egypt, Pakistan can get easy access to many African markets including Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Algeria.

Saqib Rafiq, said that with participation from esteemed Egyptian businessmen, the event is primed to set a new precedent in fostering bilateral economic growth and partnerships. He urged that both sides should focus on developing strong linkages between their private sectors in order to explore all untapped areas of trade promotion.

The conference, organized by RCCI, will witness the convergence of visionary entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Egypt, he added.

He further added that on the sidelines of the Business Opportunity Conference, Business-to-business (B2B) meetings will



also be held. This will provide an exclusive platform for delegates to establish meaningful connections and nurture potential partnerships, he remarked.

Prior to the conference, the RCCI leadership had a pivotal meeting with Tariq Muhammad Dehroug, the Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, Sameh Ahmed El Ghamrawi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Mohamed Saad, Egyptian Defense Attaché.

These meetings served as an opportuni-

ty to discuss the substantial strides made in preparation for the event and highlight the monumental business prospects that await both nations, he added.

With a delegation numbering in the hundreds, RCCI's efforts stand as a testament to its commitment to fostering economic growth and international collaborations. The Business Opportunities Conference in Cairo signifies a significant milestone in creating lasting partnerships that transcend geographical boundaries.

**Over 3m bales of cotton arrival recorded at ginneries till Aug 31 in Pakistan**

**Bureau Report**

MULTAN: Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over three million (30,41,104) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till Aug 31, 2023.

According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Sunday, Punjab ginning factories recorded a cotton arrival figure of 10,68,796 bales while arrivals to ginneries in Sindh recorded at (19,72,308) bales including 11,84,243 reaching ginneries in Sanghar district alone. Arrivals in Baluchistan were



recorded at 70,600 bales. Out of the total arrivals, seed cotton converted into bales was recorded at 2.8 million (28,61,106) bales.

Exporters have bought 168,726 bales of cotton in total while textile mills bought total of over 2.6 million (26,15,271) bales. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not yet started procuring cotton, according to the report.

**World Intellectual Property Organization registers Sindhri, Chaunsa mango as Pakistan's products**

**Spokesman Report**

HYDERABAD: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has registered a Geographical Indication of Sindhri and Chaunsa varieties of mangoes which have been recognized as the products of Sindh, Pakistan.

Mehmood Nawaz Shah, Vice President of Sindh Abadgar Board, which spearheaded the activity for the registration around a year ago, informed here on Sunday that the crucial milestone had been achieved thanks to the cooperation of IPO Pakistan.

He apprised that a meeting was

also held in this regard through a video link, attended by IPO Pakistan's Chairman Farrukh Aamil, Consultant WIPO Noor Asifa, Mohsin Bullo of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and office bearers of SAB.

Shah said the meeting discussed the export-related benefits of the



geographical indication.

The meeting was told that no other country could lay a claim on Sindhri and Chaunsa varieties of mango other than Pakistan.

The meeting, according to Shah, referred to the ongoing dispute over

Basmati rice between Pakistan and India and expressed hope that such a dispute over the 2 varieties would never crop up.

The SAB's Vice President said the registration would also help enhance the fruit's export.

