



**Minister George vows to protect rights of religious minorities**

Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George reiterated his ministry's commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities living in the country. The federal Minister urged the media to raise incidents of HR violations, assuring his ministry would take necessary action in that regard. (Details on Page 8)



**Uzbekistan Embassy celebrates Independence Day**

The Uzbekistan Embassy in Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day with a gathering of distinguished guests and diplomats. Among the attendees were Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries and Productions Dr Gohar Ijaz, Gen. (R) Ehsan Ul Haq, Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) of Pakistan, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Ambassador Otajan Mavlamov, senators, MPs... (Details on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Defence & Martyrs Day**

ISLAMABAD: To pay homage and tribute to the Martyrs and Ghazis of the 1965 war, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath and offering dua at Pakistan Monument on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

**Commander of Turkish Naval Forces visits NHQ**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Commander Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercüment TATLIOĞLU visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. Chief of Turkish Navy laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument and afterwards was introduced to Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters. Later, Admiral Ercüment TATLIOĞLU called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office, where professional matters of mutual interests, regional maritime security environment and bilateral naval collaboration were discussed. Various avenues of cooperation including training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. He also appreciated Pakistan Navy's role for providing humanitarian aid amid recent devastating earthquake at Türkiye. The visit of Commander Turkish Naval Forces will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

**PM lays floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday laid floral wreath here at Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay homage and tribute to the valiant soldiers of the armed forces. Speaking at a ceremony held

here at Pakistan monument in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day, the prime minister said "We come here to pay tribute to valiant sons of the soil who embraced 'Shahadat' while ensuring the security of the nation". He said "our martyrs who

embraced martyrdom for the sake of their people and the country can never be forgotten and will always remain in our hearts". The prime minister said Quran e Kareem had also specifically mentioned martyrs with great reverence.

The people, he said who in their respective times sacrificed their lives to safeguard their nation, country, people and laws had in fact offered their lives in the way of Allah Almighty. Referring to the moments of martyrdom of the valiant soldiers, the prime minister said

"this is the moment that appears to be a death but actually it is the moment of meeting with the immortal". He said the way the martyrs receive peace and blessings after death, they would have been longing for sacrificing their lives again and again.

**Caretaker gov't won't introduce any law beyond its mandate: Solangi**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that the present government would not introduce any law or rule which was beyond its mandate. Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali and Secretary Energy Rashid Mehmood Langrial he said the caretaker regime would not take any step which was above its constitutional mandate as caretaker dispensation. Murtaza Solangi said that electricity theft was the most important factor among the factors of increased electricity tariff in Pakistan. He said that electricity theft worth Rs 589 billion was recorded in Pakistan every year. He said that far reaching reforms in energy sector were needed at the moment. The minister for information said that today's press conference was about the power theft related issue and more media briefings would be held about other factors behind inflated power sector bills. He said that the government would also brief the media about the steps to be taken to provide relief to electricity consumers in the coming days.

**SBC challenges Army Act amendment, Official Secrets Act in SC**

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Sindh Bar Council (SBC) has challenged the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Supreme Court (SC). As per details, the plea was filed by SBC urging the Supreme Court to declare the amendments null and void. The plea stated that President Arif Alvi has not signed the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 and it also violates basic human rights. Earlier, President Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets (Amend) Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill 2023. Arif Alvi took to X [formerly known as Twitter] and said God is his witness that he did not sign as he disagreed with these laws.

**Four soldiers martyred, 12 terrorists killed in heavily armed attack**

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Four soldiers of Pakistan Army on Wednesday embraced martyrdom while gallantly thwarting a heavily armed terrorists' attack on two military posts along Pak-Afghan border in Chitral, whereas 12 terrorists were killed and several critically injured amid intense exchange of fire. A large group of terrorists equipped with the latest weapons attacked two Pakistani military posts located closer to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in general area Kalash, District Chitral, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The military's media wing said the terrorists' movement and concentration in Gawardesh, Pitigal, Barg-e-Matel and Batash areas of Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan had already been picked up and were timely shared with the Interim Afghan Government. Owing to heightened threat



environment, the Pakistan Army posts were already on high alert. "The valiant soldiers fought bravely and repulsed the attacks inflicting heavy casualties to the terrorists. During the fire exchange, twelve terrorists were sent to hell, while a large number has been critically injured," the ISPR said. Sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to

**Minimum wage raised to Rs32,000**

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: The caretaker cabinet of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has approved raising the minimum wage from Rs25,000 to Rs32,000. Caretaker KP Chief Minister (CM) Azam Khan chaired the cabinet session today to review a 10-point agenda. The session was attended by caretaker ministers, advisers, special assistants, chief secretary and senior officers. During the session, two items each were tabled by the labour, health and relief departments, whereas, Auqaf, local government, agriculture and population welfare presented one item each. The caretaker KP government approved raising the minimum wage from Rs25,000 to Rs32,000. The CM Azam Khan-led cabinet approved the grant in aid for schools that came under the administration of Workers Children Education Board.

**General elections: ROs to get services of 3,600 data entry operators**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has planned to provide services of 3,600 data entry operators to the returning officers (ROs) during the general elections. The ECP decided to start a comprehensive training programme for its employees ahead of the general elections. The

Commission expedited preparations for the general polls and it granted permission to get services of 3,600 data entry operators. The ECP spokesperson said that the training sessions will be held in different cities from September 4 to 16 which aims to maintain transparency and timely completion of the electoral process. The officials told the media that a modern system was also developed

to monitor the training programme. 25 senior officers of the election commission will supervise and monitor the training sessions. In another development today, the Election Commission of Pakistan decided to invite foreign observers and media for the upcoming general elections. "All preparations for invitation to foreign election observers and

media, have been completed and a code of conduct has been finalized," election commission sources said. According to ECP sources, the foreign observers will be issued invitations as and when the election schedule will be announced. "The election commission will issue cards to election observers and the media with special security features," sources said.

"The cards with special security features for foreign observers, have already been prepared," sources said. "Foreign observers and media will be given access to enter the polling stations," according to sources. "Foreign observers could also inspect transparency of the vote counting and compilation of the election results," ECP sources added.

**PM, Naval Chief visit family of martyred Naval officer for condolence**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday visited the family of Lt. Commander Hamza Abid of the Pakistan Navy who was martyred in a helicopter crash in Gwadar. Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the prime minister expressed condolences to the parents and family members of the martyred naval officer. The father of the martyred officer had also served in the Pakistan Navy. "We as a nation are indebted to the martyrs," the prime minister wrote on X, formerly Twitter. He also prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in the paradise.



## Tribute to Shuhada

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff Pakistan Navy Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf paying tribute at Shuhada monument on Defence and Martyrs Day at Naval Headquarters on Wednesday.



## Pakistan Navy Celebrates Defence Day of Pakistan

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy celebrated Defence Day of Pakistan with reverence and effervescent spirit. The day was observed to commemorate supreme sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Shuhada, Ghazis and national heroes who stood against the enemy with unparalleled display of unity and tenacity during 1965 Indo-Pak War.

In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who repulsed blatant aggression of enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with support of our people. The day displays the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the defence of our motherland and glorifies the indomitable bond of our Nation and the Armed Forces

to stand together in the face of adversity and belligerence. The Admiral reiterated that Pakistan Navy maintains perpetual readiness to deter war, ensure maritime defence and proactively contributes to nation building initiatives. The day dawned with special prayers offered in all naval mosques for preservation of integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Quran Khawani were held for inter-

minable peace of Shuhada of the 1965 war. Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf laid floral wreath at Shuhada's Monument at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, interacted with the families of Shuhada and offered Fateha. Wreath laying ceremonies and Fateha Khawani were also held at Shuhada's memorials at Field Command Headquarters. Flag hoisting ceremonies

were held at all naval units and establishments where-in Commanding Officers of all units and establishments addressed special gatherings of officers and men and highlighted the significance of the day. All ships and establishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions. Other activities of the day included various sports matches in Pakistan Navy units.

## Japanese govt delegation convenes with SIFC to discuss investment perspectives

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Japanese government delegation, comprising Takuma Otaki, Muryama Katsuhiko and Sakamoto Sayaka, the representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Hiraki, Commercial Attaché, Embassy of Japan convened with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at the PM Secretariat here on Wednesday.

The primary agenda of this significant meeting was to provide the Japanese delegation with a comprehensive insight into the inception, mission, mandate, and targeted investment sectors of SIFC. Furthermore, it aimed to tap into the invaluable perspectives of the Japanese delegation concerning the business dynamics between Pakistan and Japan, a news release said.



A thorough presentation was delivered, elucidating SIFC's multifaceted role as a 'single-window' platform dedicated to facilitating potential investors from friendly nations. This presentation also

encompassed an exploration of the extensive potential and investment prospects across diverse domains within key sectors, including Agriculture and Livestock, Information Technology, Mines and Minerals, and Energy.

In a bid to further enhance investment relations between Pakistan and Japan, both countries, actively engaged in discussions to address key aspects of investment facilitation. These discussions encom-

passed various facets, including the repatriation of profit and dividends. SIFC elaborated on the goal to create a seamless process not only for profit repatriation but also for essential business costs.

It was highlighted that Pakistan recognized the importance of providing attractive tax incentives to bolster investment from Japan.

These measures are aimed at ensuring that investments in Pakistan are not only lucrative but also efficient, contributing to a thriving business ecosystem.

SIFC is excited about the evolving partnership with Japan and remains committed to implementing policies that not only enhance the ease of doing business but also create a welcoming environment for investors. Together, both nations are laying the foundation for a prosperous and mutually beneficial future.

## Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Mr. Gohar Ijaz, Minister for Commerce, Industries, & Production, Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Minister for Communication, Maritime, & Railways, Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister for Power & Petroleum, Dr. Waqar Masood, Advisor to the PM on Finance, Air Marshal (Rtd) Farhat Hussain Khan, Advisor to PM on Aviation, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers attended the

meeting. Ministry of Aviation submitted a summary regarding "Financial support for PIACL & its Restructuring". Secretary Aviation gave a detailed briefing to the Chair about the financial burdens, liabilities of PIA and the need for restructuring of the organization. The ECC discussed and reviewed the timelines and costs of the restructuring plan. After detailed discussion and deliberation, it was decided to constitute a separate committee for assessment of the restructuring plan of PIA.

## Is India changing its name to Bharat?

## Reuters

Invites sent by Indian President Droupadi Murmu calling herself "President of Bharat" for a dinner on the sidelines of the G20 summit have stirred speculation that the government may be about to change the country's name.

What is the controversy about India's name?

By convention, invitations issued by Indian constitutional bodies have always mentioned the name India when the text is in English, and the name Bharat when the text is in Hindi.

However, the invites — in English — for the G20 dinner called Murmu the President of Bharat.

An official at the president's office said they didn't want to comment on the issue when asked by Reuters.

Given the Hindu-nationalist ideology of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and its push for increased use of Hindi, critics responded to the use of Bharat in the invites by suggesting the government



was pushing for the name to be officially changed.

Over the years, Modi's nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has been changing colonial names of towns and cities claiming to help India move past what it has termed a mentality of slavery.

What is the official name of the country?

In English, the South Asian giant is called India, while in Indian languages it is also called Bharat, Bharata and Hindustan.

The preamble to the English version of the constitution starts with the words "We, the people of India..." and then in Part One of the document it states "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States."

In Hindi, the constitution replaces India with Bharat everywhere, except the part defining the country's names, which says in Hindi, "Bharat, that is India, shall be a Union

of States."

Changing India's name to only Bharat would require an amendment to the constitution which would need to be passed by a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament.

Will the government officially change the name?

For some, the timing of the controversy is suggestive.

The incident comes just days after the government announced a surprise five-day special session of parliament later this month, without disclosing any agenda. The move prompted unconfirmed reports that a change of name could be discussed and passed during the session.

There has been no confirmation that such a move is in the works, but members of the government and the ruling BJP have suggested that the name Bharat should take primacy over India.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of the BJP, has always insisted on calling the country Bharat.

A government spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

## Punjab marks historic Martyrs and Defence Day with tribute ceremony

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: In an unprecedented move in Punjab's history, a special ceremony commemorating Martyrs and Defence Day was organized under the directive of caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi actively participated in the poignant Martyrs and Defence Day ceremony hosted at Al-Hamra Arts Council. This event, orchestrated by the Department of Information and Culture, was dedicated to paying heartfelt homage to the martyrs of September 6, with the distinguished presence of the martyrs' families as special guests.

Shafqat Amanat Ali and Sanam Marvi further enriched the atmosphere by delivering a stirring recital of Allama Iqbal's poem, "Khudi Ka Samanah." The event also paid heartfelt homage to the martyrs through a compelling documentary film.

During the ceremony, Imtiaz Sarwar, the father of Captain Salman



Sarwar Shaheed, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Khyber Agency, shared his perspective. Imtiaz Sarwar emphasized that the commitment to safeguarding the nation extends beyond shedding blood; it entails preserving life for the purpose of development.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi warmly welcomed Imtiaz Sarwar and embraced him in a heartfelt display of solidarity. The event witnessed the participation of Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Secretaries, senior officials, and the families of martyrs in significant numbers.

## Minister George vows to protect rights of religious minorities



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, on Wednesday, reiterated his ministry's commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities living in the country. The federal Minister, at the launching ceremony of the second National Media Fellowship on Gender-Based Violence and Child Marriages here urged the media to raise incidents of human rights violations, assuring his ministry would take necessary action in that regard.

Khalil George stressed the need to report with responsibility and confirmation of the facts and figures before making news. The minister paid glowing tribute to the martyrs of the Armed Forces of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Defence Day and said that valiant sons of homeland make the entire nation proud by their remarkable courage and not only defended the country from the aggression of the enemy but blown out their installations in the territory of the enemy. Khalil George while

responding to questions about elections said that the caretaker government was endowed with the responsibility of making arrangements for the conduct of elections but it was the constitutional mandate of the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce the dates for general elections in the country and ensure free, fair and transparent polls.

He further said that it was witnessed in the past that every party that returned successfully in the elections termed it 'free and fair' while the unsuccessful candidates made allegations of rigging. On a query about the Jaranwala incident, the minister said that 200 miscreants were found involved in the incident and 128 of them were nabbed on the very first day. The government was determined to take all the miscreants involved in the heinous crime to task, he vowed and said that when a few extremists set ablaze the houses of the Christian community in Jaranwala there were hundreds of Muslims there to help out the victims.

## Karachi traders to stage sit-in on Sept 8

## Web Desk

KARACHI: The business community in Karachi has announced to stage a sit-in on September 8 against 'rising inflation'.

According to details, a consultative session of business community was held, wherein the traders agreed to launch a protest movement against inflation.

President Anjuman-e-Tajran Karachi Javed Shams said that all traders of Karachi will gather in Liaquatabad on September 8 and stage a sit-in after Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, Abdur Rauf Ibrahim — a local trader — also lauded Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir's announcement regarding crackdown against hoarders and smugglers.

On the other hand, business leader Jameel Pracha noted that the community's next protest will be held at Governor House.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistani traders on Saturday went on strike against the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, which has led to widespread discontent among the public.



The traders pulled their shutters down across the country, while protesters burned tires on roads to express their anger.

Earlier in the day, Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar vowed to address the problems of Karachi traders on priority.

The premier said this while talking to Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori who called on him here.

During the meeting, the governor Sindh briefed the prime minister in detail about the administrative matters and the overall law and order situation of the province.

The governor also presented the recommendation about the power tariff prepared by Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the city's traders.

PM Kakar thanked the governor Sindh and issued directives to the relevant authorities to work on the recommendation and present a report as soon as possible.



# Uzbekistan Embassy celebrates Independence Day

*Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz Unveils \$50 Billion Trade Potential with Central Asia*



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Uzbekistan Embassy in Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day with a gathering of distinguished guests and diplomats. Among the attendees were Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries and Productions Dr Gohar Ijaz, Gen. (R) Ehsan Ul Haq, Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) of Pakistan, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Ambassador Otajan Mavlamov, senators, MPAs, former federal ministers and secretaries, ambassadors, high commissioners, heads of international organizations, prominent experts, and journalists.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries & Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, highlighting the significant trade potential in Central Asian countries, totaling a staggering \$50 billion.

Mr. Gohar pledged to achieve a remarkable \$1 billion in trade with Uzbekistan within the current year.

Over the past four years, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have made substantial progress in reviving their bilateral trade

relations, with trade increasing from \$27 million in 2019-20 to an impressive \$126.05 million in 2022-23.

Mr. Gohar emphasized the importance of Pakistan following Uzbekistan's path to revolutionary agricultural development.

Mr. Gohar conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the people of Uzbekistan on this special occasion, highlighting the historical, cultural, and geographical ties that unite both nations.

He also pointed out the operational Transit Trade Agreement between the two countries since March 2022, aligning with Pakistan's vision to become a trade, transit, and trans-shipment hub while enhancing regional connectivity with Central Asia.

Speaking on the importance of trade, Mr. Gohar referenced the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and stressed the need to follow His footsteps for real progress, with a vision to increase annual bilateral trade turnover with Uzbekistan to \$1 billion.

A roadmap has already been signed to boost bilateral trade and facilitate

investment by eliminating non-tariff trade barriers.

The Ambassador of Uzbekistan warmly welcomed Mr. Gohar's vision and efforts, acknowledging the potential for further growth in sectors such as textiles, food, pharmaceuticals, and energy in the realm of bilateral trade.

The Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Arif Usmanov expressed gratitude to President Dr Arif Alvi, the Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force for their cooperation in strengthening connectivity between the two countries. He highlighted the significant progress in the bilateral relationship, emphasizing the elevation of cooperation to a strategic partnership. The achievement, he noted, was a result of confident political dialogue, the strengthening of trade and industrial ties, technological projects, and active military cooperation between the armed forces of both nations.

In the last year, he added, "our brotherly cooperation has been elevated to a level of the strategically partnership due to confident political dialogue, strengthening the trade and industrial,

technological projects as well as the active military cooperation between our armed forces. "Only this year after successful high-level summits of his President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, both countries had conducted the 8th Joint ministerial commission in Tashkent. "And nowadays we are implementing new connectivity projects with the help of chambers of commerce and industrial associations in Islamabad and all provinces of Pakistan" he added.

Usmanov praised the collaborative efforts between Uzbek and Pakistani officials, particularly Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz and Secretary Muhammad Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi, for their relentless work in facilitating dynamic bilateral trade growth.

He pointed out that in just the last two years, bilateral trade had increased by nearly half a billion dollars through transit and preferential trade agreements with Afghanistan. The ambassador underlined the importance of the recently signed Trade and Industrial Cooperation Road Map, which aims to further boost trade, investment, and industrial collaboration. He also

acknowledged the role of Prime Minister Office, ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Industries, Railways and Aviation, Finance, Economic and Security Divisions, and Ministry of Food Security in advancing bilateral ties. He mentioned the successful high-level summits and joint ministerial commission meetings that have taken place between the leaders of Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

"These meetings have led to the implementation of new connectivity projects, involving chambers of commerce and industrial associations in Islamabad and all provinces of Pakistan," he added. The ambassador expressed gratitude for the tireless efforts that had resulted in over a dozen high-level meetings and more than a hundred ministerial summits. These initiatives had strengthened people-to-people contacts, business-to-business forums, and regional institutional connectivity. He informed the audience about the recent adoption of a new Constitution in Uzbekistan, reflecting the government's commitment to reforms and checks and balances. He

highlighted the government's focus on serving the people, ensuring political stability, promoting economic development, and enhancing social protection. He extended thanks to Pakistani politicians, military leaders, experts, and journalists who observed the referendum and presidential elections in Uzbekistan, praising their contributions to the democratic process.

The ambassador expressed the hope for the continued growth of bilateral relations, especially in pharmaceutical production, energy, agriculture, IT, textiles, and logistics. He emphasized the significance of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway construction project, which recently saw progress with the signing of a protocol on feasibility studies, financing, and construction. The ambassador concluded by conveying best wishes to Pakistan's new Caretaker Government, Pak Army, and the brotherly Pakistani nation, foreseeing significant successes and dynamic development in their endeavors.

**Photos by Raja Farid**

## CP approves two Mergers – Home Health Care and Insurance Sectors

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval to two mergers in home healthcare services and non-life insurance sectors. The approvals were granted following the successful completion of Phase-1 competition assessment, conducted in accordance with Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010.

CCP approved the merger application filed by Shifa International Hospitals Limited to acquire SIHT Private Limited from Shifa Foundation. It was found that there was no overlap in the activities of the merger parties in the relevant market, therefore, post-transaction, market conditions will remain unchanged. Furthermore, the proposed transaction, having raised no competition concerns, secured the CCP's approval.

CCP also approved the merger of TPL Insurance Limited (TPLI) with New Hampshire Insurance Company – Pakistan Branch (NHICP) after completing all formalities. NHICP is a Pakistan-based branch of New Hampshire Insurance Company incorporated under the laws of the United States of America. The branch was providing general insurance services, however, its operations ceased in 2016. Likewise, the proposed transaction raised no competition concerns, earning swift approval from CCP.

## Armed thieves robbed players on Wana Shakai Road

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In South Waziristan Lower district limitation Shakai police station near Anzarchina last night, unknown robbers cut the pockets of the players while returning from the football teams of Speshta Club and District Headquarters Hospital Wana.



According to the players, the police have been informed about all these situations and an official report will be filed in this regard.

Police sources say that the investigation is ongoing and legal action will be taken against the robbers involved.

The political and social circles of the area have expressed their grief over this incident and said that the people are fed up with the incidents of theft and robbery every day.

The local people strongly demanded from the higher authorities that an integrated police system and police patrol should be started in Wana, the police are responsible for the protection of the people.

Pakistan People's Party South Waziristan Lower District General Secretary Imran Mukhlis and Awami National Party senior leader Ayaz Wazir say that such tragic incidents in the area are not only alarming but also regrettable.

It is to be remembered that there have been incidents of theft and robbery in Wana before, the details of which have been presented to the media by District Police Officer Farman Ullah Wardag.

## SECP issues Shariah Compliance Certificate to a startup

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a Shariah compliance certificate to a licensed non-banking finance company (NBFC) offering Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) services on the Shariah principle of Musawamah, whereby profit margin is included in the sale price of the commodity.

The certificate has been granted to Qist Bazaar (Private) Limited under the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2018. The regulations provide an enabling regulatory framework for the certification of Shariah-compliant companies and Shariah-compliant securities.

Qistbazaar (Private) Limited, an NBFC providing investment finance services, has engaged the services of a Shariah advisor to structure their products and services in accordance with Shariah regulations. It is expected that more players in the non-bank financial sector will choose to serve Islamic financial products and services in the country.

The first Shariah compliance certificate for a BNPL platform is a significant milestone, promoting Shariah-compliant financial products and enabling new business models for tech-based entrepreneurs.

The SECP, as per the constitutional requirements and its mandate, is committed to developing and promoting Islamic finance within all its regulated sectors. Earlier this year, the SECP conducted a comprehensive diagnostic review of the Islamic finance market and accelerated efforts for the transformation of regulated sectors to offer Islamic financial services and products.

## Chairman JKSM pays glorious tributes to Pakistan Armed Forces and martyrs

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: On this historic occasion of Pakistan Defence Day, Altaf Ahmed Bhat, Senior Leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), extended his heartfelt tribute to the brave martyrs who laid down their lives to defend Pakistan against aggressor India. This day stands as a solemn reminder of the immense sacrifices made by valiant individuals who shed their blood for the cause of Pakistan's sovereignty and security.

Chairman Bhat recognizes Pakistan as a stronghold of the Muslim Ummah and acknowledges it as the only nuclear-capable nation with a strong, united, and professional army ready to counter any threat to its Defence.

The sacrifices and bloodshed endured over the years for Pakistan's sake will forever be etched in the nation's history, reinforcing its position as a leading force within the Muslim world, he added.

## Chairman HEC Pays Tribute to Martyrs of Nation in Defence Day Ceremony at IIUI



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A special ceremony was held at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on Tuesday to pay tribute to the martyrs of the country on Defence Day.

Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed graced the ceremony as chief guest that was held in the council hall of the new campus of the university. It was also attended by President IIUI, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, Vice Presidents of the university, Deans, senior faculty members, students and other relevant officials.

Dr. Mukhtar said that on the occasion that on September 6th, 1965, our brave forces crushed the enemy. "The special feature of the 1965 war was the spirit of ideal love for the Pakistan Army and the people of Pakistan." Chairman HEC said. He said today, there is a crucial need to awaken and re-energize that spirit again.

He said we are proud of the brave sons of the soil, especially the Shuhada who laid down their lives but did not let the enemy move an inch to fulfil its nefarious designs. "The day exudes the spirit of unity and sacrifice in the Defence of our motherland" he said. Dr. Mukhtar added that families of the martyrs are very important to us.

Stressing the need for unity, he said these are high times to stand with each other and rise as a united nation. "It is time to put aside the minor differences and it is the hour of deciding to be a real nation" said Chairman HEC.

# Second National Media Fellowship Launch

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The official launch of the second National Media Fellowship (NMF)—an innovative step aimed at addressing and raising awareness about the pressing issues of gender-based violence (GBV) and child marriages in the society – held on Wednesday.

The fellowship a collaborative effort made by the Centre for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration (CEJ-IBA), the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and it is set to make a significant impact on the discourse surrounding these crit-

ical issues.

The Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Mr. Khalil George, attended the launch as the chief guest for the evening. He congratulated NCSW-UNFPA and CEJ-IBA for making efforts to curb the violence against women and to create awareness on the issue of child marriage. He further said that Media's role is very crucial and incredible as a watchdog that is carrying sensitive responsibility to portray these issues in our society.

NCSW Chairperson Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar on this occasion said that according to a 2022 UNFPA document, 32 per cent of women have experienced violence in Pakistan. On

the other hand, resources and rehabilitation for women survivors remain scarce.

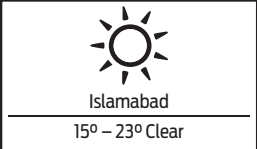
Child marriage is another deep-rooted issue across Pakistan, especially in rural areas, that takes away a child's right to a safe and healthy childhood, quality education that can lead to decent economic opportunities, and social and political empowerment. Children, especially girls, who marry at young age are at higher risk of domestic violence and abuse.

Dr Luay Shabaneh, Representative UNFPA said "Gender-based violence, child marriage and other harmful practices are not women's issues. These are issues of the society at large as the roots

of these practices lie in intrinsic belief systems and social norms which move societies to take action.

CEJ Director Ms. Amber Rahim Shamsi said that the fellowship is a remarkable opportunity to learn and unlearn, delve deep into the systems and structures underpinning GBV, polish digital and data journalism skills, and produce impactful stories as documentaries, multi-media reports and investigative pieces. For years, the CEJ has trained thousands of journalists. But this fellowship is special – it is not a workshop, it is a catalyst for change, so the media can drive conversations beyond hashtags such as #Justicefor Rizwana, Fatima, Zainab and Noor.





**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:19 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	4:39 pm
Maghrib	6:27 pm
Isha	7:53 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
Holy Family	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

# Dialogue stresses need for CoD to address evolving political landscape

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: AwazCDS-Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), organized a dialogue at the Committee Room of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) to discuss and promote democracy in the nation. The dialogue focused on the need for a new Charter of Democracy (CoD) to address the evolving political landscape and the challenges faced by Pakistan in upholding democratic principles.

In his opening remarks, AwazCDS-Pakistan Chief Executive Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted the current poor political and human rights situation in Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed in 2006 by two major political parties, the PPP and PMLN, in strengthening democracy in the country.

Zia-ur-Rehman argued that the changing political landscape, increased political polarization, and the emergence of new leadership in

the country necessitated the development of a second-generation Charter of Democracy.

He believed that this new CoD should encompass the demands for democracy, human rights, rule of law, and address unattended issues from the previous CoD.

Human rights activist Husain Naqi said he had read the draft and talking about rule of law and balancing military and civilians authorities were contradictory to each other because ensuring rule of law means that military would have to work under the civilians.

While talking about a point of 10 percent women representation, he said that they should demand equal representation and this 10 percent demand would be very low.

HRCP Chairperson Hina Jilani said that all political parties which have electoral representation should be approached for new CoD.

She said pressure should be raised on political parties to talk to the military establishment and civil society did not have to directly approach the military for the new CoD.



She appreciated the thought of talking about the new CoD but said that she could not endorse all the agenda as there was a demand of constitutional amendments and some other matters and they would have to look into the agenda carefully.

SAP-Pk Muhammad Tahseen said that there was a need for new charter of democracy and they

should have to include Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and SAARC countries issues in it.

PFUJ president Afzal Butt said there was situation in the country now days and there were attacks on media and judiciary.

He said there was no free media, judiciary, human rights and freedom after May 9 incident and it would equal with a situation like

in 1977. "We have started the struggle to ensure our voice should reach political parties," he said.

Irfan Mufti said citizens have to give their non negotiable to political parties but they did not have given any in the past.

Neelum Hussain said there were lacunas in the document and it should be voice of the people. "We have to talk about food security and

also include it in non-negotiable," she said.

Rashid Rehman said there was a need to understand why a new charter was needed and they should have to tell the history why it was earlier devised.

He said during 1990s the political parties had played in the hands of establishment and it resulted in removing their governments by the presidents but they learned and during exile drafted the CoD.

Advocate Saroop Ijaz said they would have to address the equal citizenship right and should include reversing second amendment in the constitution.

Ahmadiyya Community spokespersons Aamir said that the state had made separate electorate for them and make them vulnerable by mentioning their religion with their names.

HRCP director Farah Zia said that they should have to first analyze the implementation of the first CoD which was devised by two political parties and should also include more political parties for devising new CoD.

## Pakistan Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Defence Day Celebrations at IMCG F-6/2, Chief Guest: Federal Minister for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi, Girl Scouts actively participated in the celebration.



Photo: Raja Farid

## 6 September War is a bright chapter in the defence of Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: September 6 is a day to salute the greatness of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army. When the Pakistan Army responded to India's conspiracy to break the international laws of war and attack. The September War is a bright chapter in the Defence of Pakistan. On September 1965, Pakistan Army created an unforgettable history of courage, bravery and patriotism. Chairman Azad Awam Tehreek, former independent candidate National Assembly Javed Intizar said on Defence Day that 58 years ago, the vile enemy India attacked like thieves in the dark of night. Which the Pakistan Army and the great sons of the nation failed by risking their lives.

## Infinix unveils Cutting-Edge Explorer Satellite Communication Technology

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Infinix, a leader in innovative technology solutions, proudly introduces its groundbreaking achievement in communication technology at the "Story On" event held in Venice, Italy. The focal point of this announcement is the pioneering Explorer Satellite Communication Technology, showcased through the newly launched ZERO 30 5G prototype.

This revolutionary technology is developed on the foundation of LoRaWAN long-range IoT satellite systems, setting new standards in communication. It facilitates rapid message processing and two-way text messaging, ushering in a new era of communication that transcends conventional network limitations.

The Explorer Satellite Communication Technology boasts significant advantages in terms of reliability, efficiency, and capacity. It empowers users to maintain uninterrupted connectivity in remote or challenging environments, bridging the gap between the sky and earth. This comprehensive satellite communication solution, developed by Infinix, has the potential to revolutionize communication and address various emergency rescue needs.

Utilizing the advanced LoRaWAN low-earth orbit satellite network, Infinix has crafted an efficient message system architecture, enabling rapid message transmission with an average rate of one message per second. This system's baseline transmission speed exceeds 2.2kb/s, creating opportunities for future image transmission capabilities. Moreover, LoRaWAN's impressive capacity allows it to handle up to 1.9 million messages per hour, with scalability to serve even more users as additional satellites are deployed.

Infinix's Explorer Satellite Communication Technology offers bi-directional communication, allowing users to transmit up to 84 bytes of data at a time. This versatile and flexible approach enhances connectivity, especially in remote areas and during emergencies, ensuring continuous communication between users. Infinix's strategic plan includes a phased global rollout of this technology, expected to commence around 2024. This initiative aims to fulfill users' security requirements during critical situations.

## Meeting of Pakistan National Committee on Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Pakistan National Committee on Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO was organized at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad.

The meeting was chaired by Convener of the Committee, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR. About 25 participants from the member and stakeholder organizations participated in the meeting whereas, 7 participants from provinces joined virtually. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR in his opening remarks welcomed all the participants and discussed about the salient features of IHP-IX phase. He also emphasized the importance of collaboration of the stakeholders to make this committee more vibrant. He further added that IHP provides an excellent platform to the stakeholders for interaction in order to reshape future roadmap related to water resources in the country.

Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknessi, Director UNESCO, appreciated the work of IHP committee and thanked the participants for their active participation. He highlighted different projects and initiatives of UNESCO in the country to enhance water management and governance. He also apprised about different activities done in Pakistan related to capacity building of the water professionals, Karez System Cultural Landscape and wastewater treatment. Afterwards, the stakeholders from provinces and different organizations presented detailed activities pertaining to IHP-IX. Detailed deliberations were also made for fruitful and sustainable roadmap development. The meeting was concluded by vote of thanks from Secretary, PCRWR.

## AIOU organizes seminar on climate change

PPA

ISLAMABAD: A one-day seminar was held by the Faculty of Sciences at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) to raise awareness on "Significance of Bilateral Relations: Forging Sustainable Partnerships for Climate Action between Africa and Pakistan". The speakers highlighted the urgent need to tackle climate change at the international level as Africa and Pakistan are among the region's most severely affected by it. They also emphasized that Pakistan and Africa have had a long-standing relationship since the independence movement. Pakistan is contributing to peace-keeping missions in many African countries. The speakers further stressed the importance of strengthening the economic, social, and cultural ties between the two nations.

Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Ashraf, emphasized the need for immediate action on climate change. Speakers at the seminar included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan, Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations, International Islamic University, and Dr. Shahid Mahmood from the Institute of Soil and Environment, Arid Agriculture University. Chairperson of the Department of Environmental Sciences AIOU, Dr. Sofia Khalid expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and the Dean of Faculty of Sciences for their support in organizing the event.

## PAC organized photo exhibition to mark Defence day

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized photo exhibition to mark Pakistan Defence and martyrs day. Naheed Manzoor along with Director Waqar Ahmad was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony of the photo exhibition. While addressing the ceremony, Naheed Manzoor said that September War holds a memorable place in our history as a symbol of unwavering national determination, professionalism and spirit of patriotism and sacrifice. Pakistan Defence Day warms hearts, instills enthusiasm and refreshes faith. We salute the martyrs who laid down their lives



for the Defence of the country. Brave sons of the country fought fearlessly against the enemy and created a bright chapter in history, she added. Naheed Manzoor further said that in the war of 1965, the people fought alongside the Pakistan Army. We will not

hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our beloved motherland, maintain its independence and sovereignty.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Defence and Martyrs Day reminds us of the unparalleled courage and bravery of the armed forces and the

nation, 58 years ago today, the armed forces and the nation crushed the evil intentions of the enemy. September 6 is a memorable day in our national history; this day reminds us of the unprecedented unity and determination of the Pakistani nation. The entire nation defeated the enemy's aggression by the side of Pakistan's forces.

Today is a day to salute the unparalleled bravery and sacrifices of martyrs and Ghazis, he added. Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association organized Competitions of tableaux, speeches and national songs to pay tribute to the martyrs.

## UMS welcomes 1,200 students for Orientation 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: LUMS recently welcomed a diverse cohort of 1,200 students from cities, towns, and villages across Pakistan at its Orientation. The Orientation featured a series of engaging events designed to help students transition to university life.

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, LUMS welcoming the new batch, said, "The LUMS community is committed to foster an environment where you can explore your passions, engage with exceptional faculty and collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds. Your time here is about immersing yourself



in all aspects of university life, growing as an individual and becoming a responsible and innovative leader."

Orientation 2023 provided each incoming student with over 30 opportunities to engage and learn including online resources, Zoom sessions, interactive group

discussions, and engaging social activities. During these sessions, the new students were guided on their first-semester courses, the LUMS Code of Conduct, and the importance of academic integrity. Other panels covered topics like personal effectiveness and social maturity,

and safety for scientists and engineers, etc. This academic programming was complemented by sports competitions, a scavenger hunt, a memorable batch photo and other activities meant to build camaraderie and a sense of belonging among the new students and the LUMS community. Orientation also featured panel sessions with notable alumni from different fields of life who provided insights on career growth and advice on how to maximize learning.

Over 700 sessions for 1,200 students across 12 days were made possible by more than 15 campus offices collaborating with approximately

350 students playing various roles: the Student Orientation Committee, Orientation Coaches, Deputies and PALs (Peer Ambassador at LUMS for Social Support). After Orientation, PALs continue to mentor students throughout the academic year to ensure the new students' smooth transition at the University.

Commenting on the Orientation programme, Ms. Fatima Umar, Project Lead, Office of Student Affairs (OSA) said, "With a strong focus on both the academic and the social climate of the campus, the Orientation team is confident that incoming students have meaningful tools to navigate their first year at LUMS."



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: [spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com](mailto:spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com)  
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

# Significance of September 6, 7 & 8 - I

**D**efence Day holds a pivotal place in the history and consciousness of any nation. It symbolizes not only the valor and sacrifices of its armed forces but also the collective determination of its citizens to safeguard their sovereignty, preserve their way of life, and ensure a secure future. The observance of Defence Day resonates with a nation's identity, reminding its people of the importance of preparedness, unity, and resilience in the face of external challenges.

At its core, Defence Day commemorates the sacrifices made by military personnel and civilians who stood firm in the face of adversity to protect their homeland. It is a time to pay tribute to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to defending their country's borders, regardless of the odds they face. These heroes, whether on the battlefield or in support roles, exemplify the unwavering commitment and spirit of sacrifice that define a nation's Defence forces. The importance of Defence Day extends beyond honoring the past. It serves as a reminder of the need for a strong and capable Defence apparatus in the present and future. A nation's security and stability depend on its ability to deter aggression, protect its interests, and maintain peace. Defence forces play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law, ensuring the safety of citizens, and deterring potential threats. The investments made in Defence capabilities not only secure the nation's borders but also contribute to its overall development and progress.

Unity is another crucial aspect emphasized by Defence Day. In times of conflict, a nation must stand together in solidarity to face challenges as a united front. The observance of Defence Day fosters a sense of national pride and belonging, reminding citizens of their shared values, history, and destiny. It highlights the importance

of setting aside differences and working collaboratively to overcome any adversity that may arise. Furthermore, Defence Day underscores the value of diplomacy and peaceful solutions to conflicts. While the armed forces are tasked with protecting a nation's interests, diplomatic efforts and negotiations play a vital role in preventing and resolving disputes. The lessons of history teach us that dialogue and understanding are essential components of maintaining global peace and stability. In an interconnected world, where threats can arise from various sources and dimensions, the significance of Defence Day remains as relevant as ever. Cybersecurity, environmental challenges, terrorism, and economic warfare are among the modern threats that nations must address. A robust Defence strategy encompasses not only traditional military strength but also the ability to adapt to evolving security landscapes. Defence Day stands as a beacon of remembrance, unity, and preparedness for any nation. It serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have defended their homeland, inspiring future generations to uphold the values of courage, sacrifice, and unity. As nations navigate an ever-changing world, the observance of Defence Day continues to emphasize the importance of maintaining strong Defence capabilities, fostering national unity, and pursuing peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Every year on the 6th of September, Pakistan commemorates Defence Day, a day of great significance in the nation's history. This day holds a special place in the hearts of Pakistanis as it pays tribute to the remarkable display of bravery, sacri-

fice, and resilience demonstrated by the country's armed forces during the 1965 war with India. The Defence Day serves as a reminder of the indomitable spirit of the Pakistani people and their commitment to defending their homeland against all odds.

The 1965 war was a defining moment for Pakistan, highlighting the nation's unwavering determination to safeguard its sovereignty. The conflict was initiated by India, and despite being outnumbered and outgunned, Pakistan's armed forces exhibited exceptional courage and strategic prowess. The nation came together as a united front, transcending differences and standing up to external aggression. One of the most notable examples of valor during the war was the Battle of Chawinda, where Pakistani forces thwarted repeated Indian offensives. The soldiers' resilience, dedication, and unyielding spirit played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome of the conflict. The sacrifices made by both military personnel and civilians further underscored the nation's resolve to defend its freedom.

On Defence Day, various events and ceremonies are held across Pakistan to honor the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for their country. Tributes are paid to the soldiers who fought bravely on the battlefield and to the civilians who supported the war effort through their determination and resilience. The day also serves as an opportunity to express gratitude to the families of the fallen soldiers, acknowledging their immense sacrifice and unwavering support. The Defence Day celebrations are not limited to just paying homage to the past; they also serve as a source of inspiration for the present

and future generations. In a world that constantly evolves, Defence Day stands as a timeless reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation's heroes and the responsibility that every Pakistani holds to safeguard the nation's integrity. It is a day to reflect on the past, acknowledge the present, and aspire for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Then, on the 7th of September each year, Pakistan Air Force Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride. This day holds immense significance for the nation as it pays tribute to the remarkable achievements and contributions of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in ensuring the country's security, defending its sovereignty, and upholding the values of excellence and professionalism. Pakistan Air Force Day serves as a testament to the dedication and valor of the men and women who don the uniform and take to the skies to protect the skies and borders of Pakistan.

Established in 1947, the Pakistan Air Force has evolved into a modern and capable air arm that is respected globally for its commitment to precision, innovation, and discipline. The history of the PAF is replete with stories of heroism and courage, from its role in the 1965 war to its continuous efforts in maintaining peace and stability in the region. Every year on this day, the nation comes together to honor the sacrifices and achievements of the PAF. One of the most remarkable aspects of the Pakistan Air Force is its emphasis on professional training and technological advancement. The PAF has consistently strived to remain at the forefront of modern aviation, incorporating cutting-edge aircraft and technology into its fleet. This commitment to innovation has enabled the PAF to effectively respond to emerging challenges and maintain air superiority in the region.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Climate breakdown

**A**mplified by wildfires and desert dust fanned by climate change, more frequent heatwaves are leading to a sharp drop in air quality and human health, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a Geneva-based UN agency, said in a report Wednesday.

The news came as the UN chief released a strongly worded statement on a record summer of global warming in the northern hemisphere, according to the European Union's climate service Copernicus and WMO.

Earth has just experienced its hottest August on record – by a large margin – and the second hottest month ever after this July. Factoring in June, they represent the hottest three month period ever, the data indicates. The year overall is the second warmest on record behind 2016, it was pointed out.

“Our planet has just endured a season of Summer – the hottest summer on record,” said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, warning “climate breakdown has begun”.

“The dog days of summer are not just barking, they are biting”, the UN chief added, describing the consequences of humanity's unleashed fossil fuel addiction.

As the climate crisis provokes more and more extreme weather worldwide, the UN chief called on leaders to “turn up the heat now for climate solutions”. The 2023 WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin – coming on the heels of the Secretary General's statement – puts the spotlight firmly on the damage caused by heatwaves. It notes that high temperatures are not only a hazard by themselves, but they also trigger damaging pollution. Based on the 2022 data, the report shows how heatwaves fanned a dangerous drop in air quality last year.

“Heatwaves worsen air quality, with knock-on effects on human health, ecosystems, agriculture and indeed our daily lives,” said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas, commenting on the report's findings, adding that climate change and air quality must be tackled together to break a vicious circle. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of heatwaves. “Smoke from wildfires contains a witch's brew of chemicals that affects not only air quality and health, but also damages plants, ecosystems and crops – and leads to more carbon emissions and so more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere,” said Lorenzo Labrador, a WMO scientific officer in the Global Atmosphere Watch network which compiled the Bulletin. Last summer's northern heatwave led to increased concentrations of pollutants such as harmful particulates and reactive gases such as nitrogen oxides.

In Europe, hundreds of air quality monitoring sites registered levels exceeding the World Health Organization's (WHO) ozone air quality guideline levels of 100 µg m<sup>-3</sup> over an eight-hour exposure. When it comes to heat, city dwellers usually experience the most intense conditions. With dense infrastructure and numerous tall buildings, urban areas end up with temperatures that are much higher compared to the rural surroundings. This effect is usually referred to as creating an “urban heat island”.

The magnitude of temperature difference varies but may reach up to 9°C at night.

As a result, people who live and work in cities, experience dangerous heat stress even at night.

There is a solution, though. A study in Sao Paulo, Brazil showed that both temperature and CO2 measurements are partly mitigated by incorporating more green spaces within cities, pointing to the benefits of nature-based solutions for climate change.

WMO released its report on the eve of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies marked on 7 September.

The theme this year is Together for Clean Air, focusing on the need for strong partnerships, increased investment and shared responsibility to overcome air pollution.



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

## Sino-Indian War 1962 - II

Sidra Tahir

**C**hina, however, came out of the conflict with a considerably more powerful military and a more aggressive foreign policy. An idealistic foreign policy was adopted in the early years of India's independence. This strategy was founded on ideas like non-alignment and peaceful co-existence. This was one of the major reasons for India's defeat in the Sino-Indian War of 1962. The inability to form solid alliances: India also failed to forge strong relationships with other nations, which may have served to petrify China from attacking.

And the failure to modernize the armed forces was yet another significant cause for India's defeat. India fell short in its efforts to modernize its armed forces in the years preceding the Sino-Indian War.

Several things contributed to this, including budgetary limitations and a lack of political will. As a result, India's military struggled to compete with the Chinese forces and lost the war handily.

Over the years India started to forge deeper partnerships with other nations as its foreign policy evolved to become more practical and realistic. India strengthened its position as a regional power by modernizing its military as well. India and China both suffered substantial military and foreign policy repercussions from the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

The conflict highlighted India's lack of readiness and its weak military capabilities. It emphasized the necessity for its military forces' modernization, education, and improved gear. India understood the value of creating a strong border infrastructure in remote and challenging terrain to increase its capacity to protect its territorial integrity.

Under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru,

India's idealistic approach to foreign affairs was shattered by the war. It forced India to acknowledge the need for a more practical and balanced foreign strategy that would consider the shifting geopolitical circumstances. India discovered the value of broadening its coalitions and looking for trustworthy allies to counter future threats.

To increase its security, it sought stronger connections with nations like the United States and the Soviet Union.

At the defence level, India has signed all the foundational agreements with the US. (LEMOA, 2016), (COMCASA, 2018), (ISA2019), (BECA, 2020). India has also managed to become a part of QUAD and welcomes the US Indo-Pacific policy that is aimed at confining China with the US by using its regional alliances. Even the border stand-offs between India and China have become fiercer due to technical reasons such as the improvement of the frontier, infrastructure, increasing logistics capability, and deployment of advanced monitoring equipment. India now tends to weaponize economic cooperation for its geopolitical agenda.

The conflict showed China's military proficiency and it increased China's faith in its military. Despite China's military victory, it was met with world wide censure and diplomatic isolation. It caused China to realize how crucial it is to strike a balance between aggressiveness and diplomacy to prevent pointless conflict.

The conflict made it clear that China has to make improvements in this area to prevent border disputes from developing into full-fledged wars.

China discovered that settling territorial disputes may not always be as simple as relying exclusively on historical claims.

It pushed China to deal with border disputes with its neighbors in a more sophisticated manner. As it did the result of which was the Sino-Pak Border Agreement 1963.

China's neighbors' perceptions of its emergence as a regional power were impacted by the conflict.

Some nations were increasingly wary of China's forceful and expansionist intentions as a result. Overall, both India and China's foreign policy changed as a result of the Sino-Indian War of 1962. It influenced their military strategies, regional dynamics, and methods for resolving territorial conflicts and managing international relations. Their policies are still influenced by the lessons they learned from this struggle.

The Sino-Indian War of 1962 had important lessons about foreign policy, military readiness, and the need to create trustworthy partnerships. The confrontation highlighted the drawbacks of adopting a foreign policy that was openly ideological, disregarded institutional limitations, and entirely relied on non-alignment. India's lack of readiness to deal with the significant security threat posed by China emerged, revealing gaps in its military capabilities.

One of the most important lessons was the value of establishing solid international alliances to fend off possible threats.

Both military force and diplomacy were crucial, highlighting the need for Defence readiness and financial support for military infrastructure. The conflict also highlighted the intricate political and military dynamics in the area, highlighting the need for a global effort to resolve security issues.

India's resilience and power have become key components in preserving the regional balance of power and successfully fending off China's expansionist plans. India adopted a more pragmatic foreign policy in the years following the war, emphasizing collaboration for mutual trust and gain. India's foreign policy has continued to develop with a narrative that places the country's interests first while attempting to maintain a balance with diverse powerful nations.

## Syed Mohammad Shaheed 'Sitara-e-Juraat' - II

**I**t is worth noting here that from the pocket of Major Ramesh Baldani, his wife's letter in which it was written that as you received military award the 'Chakra Vartri' (equivalent to our military award Nishan e Haider) in 1965 war, Again we are waiting for your victory and celebration. When Major Ramesh's wife came to collect the dead body, she wanted to meet Subedar Syed Mohammad specially to find out who is the one who killed my brave husband. Apart from this, Indian Army officers also acknowledged the bravery of Subedar Syed Muhammad and used to ask who he was and what was his rank and area, which not only our bravest Major Ramesh Baldani including Brigade killed but also took away heavy weapons and war equipment. Son of Syed Muhammad, Malik Muhammad Habib Awan told that even today there is a mention of Subedar Syed Muhammad in the textbooks of Indian schools, which is a clear acknowledgment of the bravery of Subedar Syed Muhammad by the Government of India. The officers of Pakistan Army have also acknowledged throughout the eternal sacrifices of Subedar Syed Muhammad for the country and nation.

Subedar Syed Muhammad was awarded "Tamga e Jang", "Pakistan Defence Medal", "Azadi Kashmir Medal", "Azad Kashmir Defence Medal" and the highest military award "Sitara e Juraat" by the Government of Pakistan. "In remote villages of our heroes who gave their lives for our country and the nation, necessary facilities are lacking."

It is to be noted that the native village of Subedar Syed Muhammad is still suffering from many public problems. In which the leading Girls' Primary School Minota Palindri, which is a Notification No. Services/G. 89(4)2019 Mr. President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the recommendation of the meeting held on January 9th, 2019 is named after him but no plaque etc has been installed. It is very dilapidated and despite repeated efforts, neither its construction nor it is being given the status of middle and high school which is equivalent to

keeping the large population of the area away from the facilities of education. Apart from this, there is no solid road, hospital which are the basic needs of the residents of the area. On March 16th, 2021, Lieutenant Colonel Mr. Usman Khurshid wrote in his writing that the bravery, and bravery of Subedar Syed Muhammad Shaheed cannot be ignored and his name will be written in golden letters till the end.

In order to implement special sympathy and recommendations, contact with Azad Kashmir Government and related institutions was assured. In addition to primary and boys school, upgradation, construction of Subedar Syed Muhammad's tomb and specific property of Subedar Syed Muhammad. Includes attribution. But so far no property is apparently attributed to his name.

Safdar Shahid Malik, who had the opportunity to meet and live with Subedar Syed Muhammad Shaheed, said in "Daily Asas": that undoubtedly his bravery and bravery were worthy of being awarded "Nishan Haider" because it was not given to living people. Jata. If he had been martyred at that time, he would have got Nishan Haider. But Allah had accepted that he was martyred in 1974. In 1971, he got "Star of Courage". He further writes that the AK14 unit still takes pride in their achievements and reads out their achievements to the youth on their annual day.

Subedar Syed Muhammad's backward area Munota Nalian Sidhnuti, dignitaries of Azad Kashmir. His son Malik Muhammad Habib Awan and Mazhar Habib Awan, request to the high authorities and appeal to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwarul Haq Kakar Sahib, Chief of Army Staff and Minister of Education of Azad Kashmir. That immediate orders should be issued for the people of the village of Subedar Syed Muhammad Shaheed who sacrificed his life for the country and nation.

Writer is senior analyst and he can be reached on [javedullahraja@gmail.com](mailto:javedullahraja@gmail.com)



# ISSI holds event marking Pakistan Defence Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized an event to mark Pakistan Defence Day under the theme, "Achieving Self-Reliance through Defence Indigenization."

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, highlighted the invaluable services of the armed forces in the defence of Pakistan and of the nation, that stood like a solid rock with them, in thwarting Indian aggression on September 6, 1965. He also expressed profound gratitude for the sacrifices of martyrs and their families and stressed that this was a Day to reaffirm our commitment to defend Pakistan at all costs. He highlighted that Pakistan lived in a difficult geo-strategic neighborhood marked by myriad threats and challenges. "Today's security environment has significantly changed and besides traditional and non-traditional threats, new challenges like hybrid warfare have emerged, which not only have a physical effect on a country but also seek to undermine the spirit and morale of a nation," he noted. Thus, Pakistan must have the



ability to defend itself across the entire spectrum of threats and challenges.

Earlier, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director of ACDC, in his remarks stated that the nation commemorates this national day as one of the proudest moments in Pakistan's history when Pakistani soldiers sacrificed their lives to safeguard our freedom and protect our homeland. He further highlighted the defence indigenization journey from 1951, when the first ordinance factory to manufacture rifles and ammunition was established to today when Pakistan has more than 20 major public units and over 100 private sectors that engaged in defence production of Paki-

stan. Pakistan's Major achievements include Tank Al Khalid, JF-17 Thunder, Super Mushshak, and K-8. He highlighted that Pakistan's exports of arms, ammunition, parts, and accessories surged to \$415.650 million in FY2023.

In her presentation, Ms. Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate ACDC, said that Pakistan started its defence journey in 1947 with only 33% of defence assets from united India. There were no ordinance factories and assets at its inception to boost the country's defence. Pakistan faced a war over Kashmir right at its inception, and still others in 1965 and 1971. Embarr-

as were placed, which underscored the need for self-reliance in ensuring Pakistan's defence.

Participants appreciated the services and sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces in safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Aspects such as national resolve, unity, resilience, social cohesion, and economic strength were emphasized. Participants reiterated the commitment to work for a strong Pakistan in a whole-of-the-nation approach.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, stated that we not only need to commemorate the sacrifices that armed forces made during the 1965 war, but also those outside of the battlefield— such as in dealing with natural disasters and for peace-keeping around the world. He pointed out that more than 170 Pakistani soldiers have laid down their lives while rendering services in UN Peacekeeping operations. He further highlighted that, today, security is an all-embracing concept encompassing territory integrity, safeguarding ideological borders, and achieving economic security. As a nation, we have the responsibility to meet these challenges.

## Pakistani Embassy Tokyo held Defence Day reception



Hanza Asif

TOKYO: Defence Day reception was held to commemorate the Defence Day at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tokyo. It was attended by Japan's State Minister of Defence Mr Ino Toshiro, senior leadership of Japan's Ministry of Defence, members of Defence Attaché Corps in Tokyo and prominent Japanese scholars.

Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar highlighted the sacrifices of the valiant Armed Forces of Pakistan in defending Pakistan against aggression. The Ambassador added that Pakistan was situated in a region where we faced a precarious peace and security environment. This required an ever more vigilant and fully prepared Armed Force ready to respond to any threat or challenge. Ambassador Tarar reiterated Pakistan's commitment for peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. Ambassador appreciated the cooperation of the Japanese Self Defence Forces with Pakistan Armed Forces particularly, in the realm of training and capacity building. He expressed hope that both the countries would continue to maintain a cooperative relationship for mutual benefit as well as strengthening regional and world peace and stability.

State Minister of Defence Mr Ino Toshiro also addressed the audience and emphasized the importance of defence cooperation between the two countries.

National anthems of both the countries were played at the event.

## Xinhua think tank report reveals perils of US military hegemony



Xinhua

BEIJING: A new research report Xinhua News Agency's think tank released on Tuesday uncovers the damage and threats of US military hegemony.

In the report titled Origins, Facts and Perils of US Military Hegemony, Xinhua Institute outlines the formation of the US military hegemony, summarizes the means Washington adopted to maintain it, and delves into its perils by presenting facts and data.

"This report... aims to trace the root cause of US military hegemony, to explore how the United States has pursued, maintained and abused its military hegemony, and to tell the truth about the perils of the practices of US military hegemony to the whole world," the think tank said.

The concepts of "empire" and "hegemony" are found throughout the history of the United States, the report said. "The idea has continuously influenced US policies and behavior on its way towards global military hegemony."

"As both a dream and a fact the American Empire was born before the United States," it quoted Bernard DeVoto, an American historian, as saying.

Throughout the 240-plus-year history of the United States, there were less than 20 years in which the country was not at war, stressed the report.

Since 2001, the United States has launched wars and military operations in more than 80 countries around the world in the name of "anti-terrorism," which have directly resulted in the death of about 929,000 people, including 387,000 civilians, displacing about 38 million people, it said.

"With its military hegemony, the United States has been promulgating hegemonic policies and actions, bringing tremendous harm to the whole world," the report added.

"The United States has a long and bloody history of military intervention and expansion. Its wars and interventions have caused immense human suffering and instability around the world. The United States must change its ways and adopt a more peaceful and cooperative approach to foreign policy," said Mohamed A. Elchime, professional associate of political science at Helwan University in Egypt.

The US military hegemony is bound to backfire. "The pursuit of absolute security, political exclusion and military containment... will not help establish a security framework, but lead to a dilemma and even turmoil," the report said.

"It could not foster peace and security, but only create war and disaster; it could not bring equality and freedom, but only slavery and oppression; it could not offer development and cooperation, but only cause conflicts and division," the report concluded.

Noting that the study is "of historic significance," said Zivadin Jovanovic, president of Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals.

"I have no doubts that this document will play an important role in strengthening global understanding, solidarity and coordination of efforts toward building a polycentric, more just, inclusive, truly democratic new world order," Jovanovic said.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday.

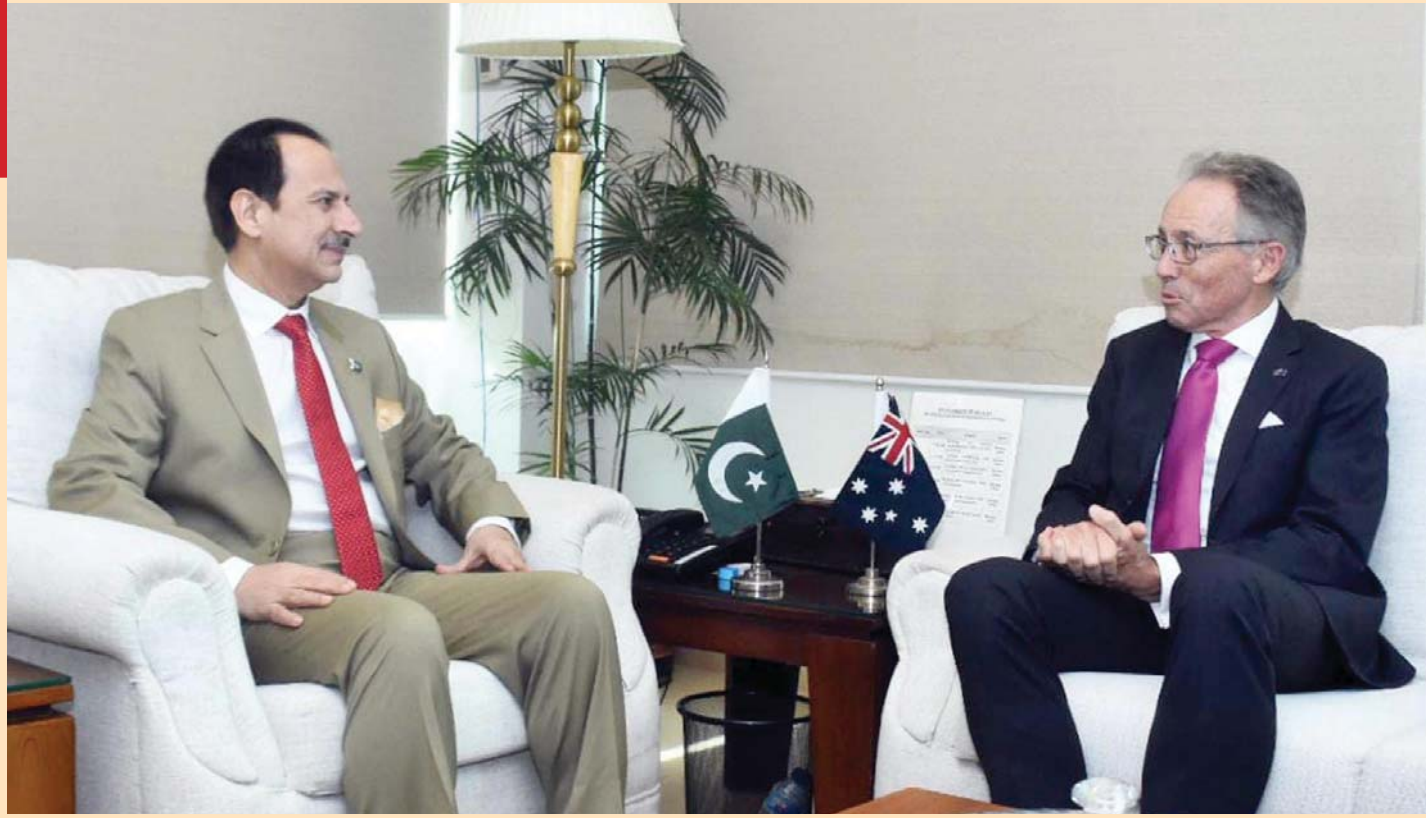


Photo: PID

# US military hegemony backfires: report

Xinhua

BEIJING: By launching wars and invading other countries, the US military hegemony has brought disasters to the world while also causing serious damage to the United States itself, said a report published on Tuesday.

The report, titled Origins, Facts and Perils of US Military Hegemony, was released by Xinhua Institute, the think tank of Xinhua News Agency. It outlines the formation of the US military hegemony, summarizes the means Washington adopted to maintain it, and delves into its perils.

The wars launched and participated in by the United States after the 9/11 attacks have led to the death of more than 7,000 US soldiers and around 8,000 US Defence contractors, while more than 30,000 US soldiers committed suicide, four times the number killed in combat, according



to the report.

The United States has spent over 5.8 trillion dollars on wars since 2001 with more than 350 billion dollars on medical and disability care for veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, while another 2.2 trillion dollars have to be invested in the same field in the

next 30 years, placing a heavy burden on the taxpayers, it said.

US military spending from the post-9/11 wars could have provided health care coverage through adulthood and two years of early education for 13 million US children living below the poverty line, public college scholar-

ships for 28 million students, 20 years of health care coverage for 1 million veterans, and 10 years' worth of salaries for 4 million clean energy industry workers, it added.

The US military is accustomed to concealing the truth when it comes to the various atrocities committed by it in foreign conflicts such as the No Gun Ri massacre during the Korean War, the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam War, the abuse of prisoners during the Iraq War, and the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by drones during the so-called "War on Terror," said the report.

Following the 9/11 attacks, the United States has invoked the term "war on terror" to justify its interventions and exertion of military hegemony, which has resulted in the development of extremist groups like the Islamic State and instability in many regions, it said.

At the same time, these actions have

# ICMPD's celebrates its 30th anniversary

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) hosted a reception to mark its three-decade journey as a migration management organization, focusing on research, policy development, capacity building, and migration dialogues.

The highlight of the occasion was the official launch of the project "Improving Migration Management in Selected Silk Routes and Central Asian Countries," presented by ICMPD's Director General, Dr. Michael Spindelegger. Dr. Spindelegger highlighted Pakistan's critical role as a long-standing partner for ICMPD, underscoring its strategic cooperation in labor migration, skills development, integrated border management, and combating irregular migration.



European Union funds the project. It expands the scope of the Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) in Pakistan and in South and West Asia. This expansion

aims to strengthen awareness campaigns, offer timely and accurate information to potential migrants, and ensure the MRCs' sustainability.

Moreover, the project aims to support migration management and governance, ultimately enhancing global labor market competitiveness for Pakistanis

while safeguarding their rights, well-being, and interests.

Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation in Pakistan, emphasised the

alignment of the project with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. She mentioned the project's contribution to facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration while addressing root causes of migration and regional displacement crises. The project builds on lessons from previous EU-funded initiatives and extends its scope to countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. UNODC also co-implements the PROTECT project, particularly the anti-trafficking in persons component.

Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, highlighted the evolving dynamics of migration, emphasizing the importance of skill partnerships between countries, legal pathways to Europe, and a rights-based approach. He stressed the

"significance of aligning education and training systems with labor market demands for both sending and receiving countries."

The reception brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including diplomats, policymakers, international organizations, and civil society representatives, promoting a rich environment for migration dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Other than the PROTECT project, ICMPD also implements other initiatives in Pakistan on border management, policy development and capacity building. This is based on a cooperative agreement signed by ICMPD and the government of Pakistan.

Dr. Spindelegger is in Pakistan to discuss further cooperation with the government of Pakistan on various areas of migration management.



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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
45,807.57	45,491.48
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,854.18	45,460.28
Index Value	Change
3,944,212,729	+316.09
Percentage	Time
+0.69%	6 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,426.14	-11.79
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	6 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
34,408.23	-233.74
Percentage	Time
-0.67%	6 Sept, 12:28 pm GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
33,241.02	+204.26
Percentage	Time
+0.62%	6 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	210	212
Bahrain Dinar	808.76	816.76
Canadian Dollar	240	242.4
China Yuan	41.79	42.19
Danish Krone	43.76	44.16
Euro	338.7	342
Hong Kong Dollar	39.1	39.45
Indian Rupee	3.69	3.8
Japanese Yen	2.28	2.36
Kuwaiti Dinar	985.65	994.65
Malaysian Ringgit	65.66	66.26
New Zealand \$	178.87	180.87
Norwegians Krone	28.83	29.13
Omani Riyal	790.13	798.13
Qatari Riyal	83.71	84.41
Saudi Riyal	83.2	84
Singapore Dollar	228	230.3
Swedish Korona	28.16	28.46
Swiss Franc	342.19	344.69
Thai Bhat	8.69	8.84
U.A.E Dirham	87.7	88.5
UK Pound Sterling	398.1	402
US Dollar	308	311

# Huawei Pakistan has long prioritized market investment and development

Prime Minister of Pakistan meets CEO Huawei to discuss ICT ecosystem

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei Pakistan, called on His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, to share ongoing and potential collaborations to develop the ICT ecosystem and digital economy in Pakistan.

The honorable Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of Huawei's role in enabling the Digital transformation in Pakistan stating that "technological advancement and enhancement of ICT opportunities for the youth and women had the potential to usher in a brighter future of Pakistan."

Mr. Ethan Sun said, "Innovation is central to Huawei's vision and operations. To this end, last year we have set up the Global Service Centre (GSC) R&D in Pakistan with more than 2000 employees. Our other focus here, and globally, has been on the youth as we strive to create and facilitate an ecosystem for nurturing ICT talent, innovation and technology adapta-



tion. Pakistani engineers are exceptional and the youth has immense potential to benefit from and contribute to this initiative and others that Huawei brings to Pakistan. We would like to unleash the Pakistani talent and connect it to the world!"

Dr. Omar Saif, Federal Minister of IT & Telecommunications commented, "Huawei Pakistan has long prioritized market investment and development. We are glad to continue supporting the government's efforts to provide opportunities and development platforms for young Pakistanis and promote sustainable development of Pakistan's ICT industry."

The prime minister discussed with Huawei the need to empower more local partners and utilizing Huawei global expertise in 5G, cloud and other advanced technologies implementation excellence and use cases to Pakistan to pave the way for achieving more progress on the digital transformation of different sectors and industries with the support of local ICT talents".

# ICCI pays tribute to the martyrs and veterans of 1965 war on Defence Day

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) organized a ceremony to pay tribute to the martyrs and veterans of 1965 war on the Pakistan Defence Day. Former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and former Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman were the chief guests while Senator General (Retd) Abdul Qayyum was the guest of honor.

Speaking on the occasion, former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi said that September 6 has a special significance in our history. He said that on that day, the Pakistan Navy knocked out Indian radar stations and shore installations at Dwarka, on the Gujarat Coast through the Somnath operation. He said that Pakistan Navy's Submarine Ghazi confined the Indian fleet within the Indian harbor due to which the enemy could not advance towards Pakistan.

Former Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman said that September 6 symbolizes the immense courage, bravery and consummate professionalism of our armed forces. He said that the Pakistan Air Force played a great role in this war for national Defence.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that September 6 stands as an important milestone in our national history as our armed forces made great sacrifices to defend their motherland. He said that



the nation will always feel proud of the way Pakistan's armed forces fought in that war and foiled the evil designs of the enemy.

Senator General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum said that September 6 is an important day in the national and military history of Pakistan. He said that the courage and bravery shown by the sons of Pakistan in the war of 1965 is a source of pride for the entire nation.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar President ICCI also paid tribute to the martyrs and veterans of the 1965 war. He said that this day reminds us to promote strong national unity and work hard to make Pakistan a fast-growing economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that September 6 is a proud day in our national history because on that day the armed forces of Pakistan proved that they are always ready to defeat the enemy. He said that a hybrid war has been imposed on Pakistan, which is dividing the nation and stressed that the whole nation should get united to defeat this war.

Muhammad Eajz Abbasi, former President ICCI also paid rich tribute to the martyrs and ghazis of September 6 and assured that the business community of the entire country stands with its armed forces to defend Pakistan.

# PepsiCo Pakistan CEO discusses sustainable business in Pakistan after US Embassy visit



**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome accompanied by a delegation from the US Consulate General Lahore held a high-level meeting with the leadership of PepsiCo Pakistan at the company's Snacks manufacturing plant at Sundar Industrial Estate in Lahore. The engagement comprised of a detailed business overview and discussion on strengthening of U. S.-Pakistan bilateral business and trade ties, advancing sustainability through mutual best practices, and streamlining gender equity for economic inclusion and empowerment of women in Paki-

stan. Ambassador Blome was hosted by CEO PepsiCo Pakistan and Afghanistan, Furqan Ahmed Syed. They were joined by US Consul General Lahore Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins, and other dignitaries and executives.

Furqan Ahmed Syed emphasized the significance of the visit, stating, "Since 1967, PepsiCo has worked in, with, and for Pakistan. Our ethos has always been to strengthen the communities we work with and in. This is exemplified in our continuous efforts to engage the local workforce through diverse and meaningful employment and build capacity through economic empowerment opportunities."

## Askari Bank announces the WhatsApp banking services

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank is proud to announce the introduction of its WhatsApp banking services. Askari Bank is a pioneer in providing cutting-edge and customer-focused banking solutions. This strategic initiative, which aligns with Askari Bank's objective to modernise the bank's digital platforms, intends to transform the client experience by utilising WhatsApp, the most popular messaging service in the world.

Mr. Khurshid Zafar, Chief Operating Officer at Askari Bank, expressed his excitement about this groundbreaking initiative, stating, "At Askari Bank, we are committed to leveraging technology to enhance the overall banking experience for our customers."

Ali Naqvi, Chief Digital Officer, also shared his enthusiasm, stating, "Digitization has emerged as a key driver of change, transforming the way financial institutions operate and interact with customers."



## Brand of the Year award

KARACHI: Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan is presenting the Brand of the Year award -2022 to Mr. Shaharyar Pasha, Head of Marketing — Hamdard for Rooh Afza in the Brand of the Year Awards distribution ceremony held recently at a Local hotel.



# Pakistani Origin Ahmed Larik selected among top 100 Saudi Technology Leaders

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Origin IT Wizard Ahmed Ali Larik has been selected among the Top 100 Saudi visionary leaders by the prestigious platform DT100 for his extraordinary contribution in the transformation of the digital banking landscape.

Ahmed Ali Larik became limelight as an accomplished visionary professional who was a leading force behind digital banking & fintech. He has a key role for technological development in EMKAN Finance, a subsidiary of Alrahji Bank which is one of the biggest Islamic Banks in the world.

DT 100 is a momentous initiative set to applaud the extraordinary accomplishments of Saudi Arabia's technology leaders. This prestigious program is designed to honor exceptional individuals who have spearheaded groundbreaking advancements in technology within the region.

Ahmed Ali Larik is considered as a driving force for empowering KSA toward an innovation-driven economy and has become a recog-



nized thought leader in the industry. He is actively sought after as a speaker at prominent industry conferences, where he shares his invaluable research & insights and expertise as a technology strategist, including appearances at CXO global forums. He has also been awarded a "Technology Master" and included among the top 200 CIOs from the Global

CIO forum.

In continuation to his accolades, he has provided his insight on emerging technologies giving his comparative analysis on the growth gaps between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia markets.

Mr. Larik also has in depth research on Neom, hyperloop and overall smart cities projects, according to him, Neom, a special economic zone in Saudi Arabia, is focused on building an innovative city with a strong emphasis on integrating AI, IoT, and Data Analytics into governance, services, and decision-making, he also sheds light on possible cybersecurity threats and preventions. In Pakistan, the adoption of AI and IoT is still in its early stages.

# ATM 2024 to explore how entrepreneurship is empowering innovation in the Middle East's travel industry

**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI: Arabian Travel Market (ATM), the Middle East's leading event for inbound and outbound travel and tourism professionals, has unveiled its next theme: 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship'. The 31st edition of the show will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from Monday 6 to Thursday 9 May 2024.

Over the last 15 years, the travel and tourism industry has secured only 1

percent of total funding for startups across all industries, according to analysis from McKinsey. This is despite the fact that the sector accounted for more than 10 percent of global GDP in 2019. With exhibitors from the fields of aviation, accommodation, hospitality, attractions, technology and more, ATM 2024 will explore how innovators in the travel and tourism space are working to attract greater levels of funding to further increase the sector's overall contribution to global GDP.

The 31st edition of ATM will once

again host policymakers, industry leaders and travel professionals from across the Middle East and beyond, encouraging them to forge new relationships, exchange knowledge and identify innovations with the potential to reshape the future of global travel and tourism. From startups to established brands, the upcoming show will highlight how innovators are enhancing customer experiences, driving efficiencies and accelerating progress towards a net-zero future for the industry.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Direc-

tor, Arabian Travel Market, said: "The Middle East's travel and tourism sector has demonstrated impressive resilience and growth in recent years, but we must continue to innovate and adapt in order to achieve the industry's long-term goals. Thanks to ATM 2024's theme, 'Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship', we have a golden opportunity to showcase expert insights, cutting-edge technologies and commercial opportunities with the potential to completely reshape the sector."





# PCB unveils 2023-24 men's seven domestic cricket season tournaments schedule

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today unveiled the schedule for seven tournaments which includes two U19 tournaments in the upcoming 2023-24 men's domestic cricket season.

The schedule of the department tournaments, will be announced in due course.

The 2023-24 cricket season will commence with 29 matches of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy starting on September 10 and concluding on October 26. The eight-team regional tournament will begin at Gaddafi Stadium, with Lahore Region Whites facing Lahore Region Blues on Sunday, September 10 while the other first-round matches include Peshawar Region vs Karachi Region Whites at Abbottabad Stadium, Faisalabad Region vs Multan Region at Shoaib Akhtar Stadium KRL Rawalpindi and FATA Region vs Rawalpindi Region at Pindi Cricket Stadium. The final will also be staged at the iconic

Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium from October 22 to 26.

The non-first-class tournament, Hanif Mohammad Trophy, will also start concurrently with Quaid-e-Azam trophy on September 10, featuring 10 regions in two groups. The top two sides from each group at the end of the group stage will qualify for the Super 4 stage, where each team in that stage will play three matches. At the end of the Super 4 stage, the top side will qualify for next year's Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. The matches of the Hanif Mohammad Trophy will be played in Mirpur, Multan, Muzaffarabad, and Rahim Yar Khan.

The one-day tournaments, Pakistan Cup and Hanif Mohammad Cup, will follow the conclusion of the red-ball tournaments, both starting on November 1. Pakistan Cup will be hosted in Abbottabad, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi. The semi-finals will be played on November 16 and 17 at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, while the final will take place on November 19 at the same

venue. Meanwhile, the Hanif Mohammad Cup will begin on November 1 and will be hosted in AJK, Faisalabad, Multan, and Rahim Yar Khan. Like the Hanif Mohammad Trophy, the winner of the Hanif Mohammad Cup will be the side topping the Super 4 stage.

The two-leg National T20 will be held in Karachi from November 24 to December 10. In the first leg, all 18 regional sides will compete to qualify for the Super 8, which will be played from December 1 to 8. The semi-finals of the tournament will be played on December 9, while the final will take place the next day. The venue for the three knock-out matches will be Karachi's National Bank Stadium.

Meanwhile, the two U19 tournaments National U19 Championship (three-day) and National U19 Cup (one-day) will take place from 15 September to 13 November. Both tournaments will be held simultaneously, with a one-day gap between both formats in every round. The 18 regions will be divided into three

groups, with the top team of each group qualifying for the triangular stage. The top two sides from the triangular stage will play the final of the National U19 Championship at the Rana Naveed Academy in Sheikhupura from 10 to 13 November. The final of the National U19 Cup will be played at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on 26 October.

PCB 2023-24 men's domestic cricket calendar:

10 Sep-26 Oct Quaid-e-Azam Trophy; Abbottabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi

10 Sep-25 Oct Hanif Mohammad Trophy; AJK, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan

15 Sep-13 Nov National U19 Championship (three-day)

19 Sep-26 Oct National U19 Cup (one-day)

1 Nov-19 Nov Pakistan Cup; Abbottabad, Islamabad and Rawalpindi

1 Nov-16 Nov Hanif Mohammad Cup; AJK, Faisalabad, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan.

24 Nov-10 Dec National T20; Karachi

## Subhan Karim – a rising football star from Balochistan



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Subhan Karim emerged as a rising star from Balochistan after he showed remarkable performance in the ongoing Under-16 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). Pakistan downed Bhutan by 2-1 in the opening match of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U16 Championship 2023 on September 2 (Saturday) thanks to a beautiful goal by Subhan Karim. Similarly, in the second match on Monday (September 5), Subhan Karim also scored a remarkable goal pushing Pakistan a 3-0 win over Maldives. Due to his remarkable performance, Subhan Karim has become a roll model for the youth specially of the province. The emergence of players like Subhan Karim at the international level will promote unity and patriotism among the youth of Balochistan as, such dedicated sportsmen are role models for other youth of Balochistan. Subhan Karim's success proved that with dedication, hard work and guidance, youth from any area could promote positive image of the country. Encouraging youth to participate in sports will play an effective role for social development and harmony in Balochistan.

## Grant Bradburn wants Pakistan team to be a trophy winning side

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Head coach Pakistan cricket team, Grant Bradburn has highlighted team's commitment to continuous improvement and its determination to bring home trophies.

Talking to a private news channel, the head coach spoke about Pakistan's hunger for trophy success, saying that they have not won the ODI World Cup since 1992.

"You know we're not comfortable with where we've sat. We haven't won a World Cup since 92. We're longing to win a trophy. And if now is not now, when. If not, our guys, who else? So, that's my challenge to them now. I think individually we've got a fantastic team as you've. But we're not the trophy winning team that we want to be yet, but that's what we're working hard towards," he said.

According to Bradburn, Pakistan team is focused on continuous improvement and is challenging its players to elevate their skills.

To a query about the significance of the ongoing Asia Cup ahead of the World Cup, he said they were playing for the bigger picture. He said they were focused on the present and continuous improvement.

"We're playing for the bigger picture, but day-to-day, we're just focusing on the present. Right now, we're preparing to play tomorrow. We're trying to keep our feet on the ground and get better as a unit every day. We're challenging our players to improve their skills. We want to be the number 1 in the world, which means we need the very best skills. It's our firm challenge to our players each and every day that look what we've bought so far in the last few years, that has got us mid table," he added.

Bradburn underlined the importance of making strides in the right direction. He also spoke about the team's ambitious aspirations to become the world's number one in all formats of the game.

"Look, we're aiming to be the number 1 in the world in all formats of the game, so we have high expectations and high standards. We know we won't meet them every day, but as long as we're making strides in the right direction, that's the key for us. It's no secret that we've been working hard on the middle phase of our innings, and by and large, we're very pleased with what we saw in Multan in terms of batting and bowling," he reckoned.

## Zak Crawley to lead England in ODI series against Ireland

Sports Desk

LONDON: England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Wednesday, unveiled a 13-member squad, led by Zak Crawley, for the three-match home ODI series against Ireland, scheduled to commence on September 20.

Zak Crawley will lead England for the first time while his Test opening partner Ben Duckett named as his deputy for the three-match series.

Notably, Crawley has thus far represented England in only three ODIs, all of which came in England's Covid-hit home ODI series against Pakistan in 2021.

Duckett, on the other hand, made his ODI debut in 2016 against Bangladesh, when he scored two fifties in the three-match series.

## Asia Cup 2023: Pakistan cruise to victory against Bangladesh in Super 4 clash

LAHORE: Pakistan cruised to victory against Bangladesh in Super 4 clash of Asia Cup 2023 on Wednesday, by chasing down the meagre 194-run target set by the opponents at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

The stadium was a house full of spectators who were there to cheer up the national squad in their last match on the home ground as Men in Green played the last match of the Pakistan leg of the Asian tournament.

Pakistan lost three wickets during their comfortable run-chase, with opener Imam-ul-Haq being the top scorer for the winning team with his 78 off 84 which included nine boundaries.

He was followed by Mohammad Rizwan who posted 63 for his side.

Pakistan struggled a bit during the start of their innings when Fakhar Zaman was removed by Shoriful Islam for 20 runs.

After Zaman's wicket, skipper Babar Azam was bowled by Taskin Ahmed's low-bounced delivery.

Pakistan were 74-2 when Rizwan came to bat and built a much-needed 85-run partnership with Imam and guided Paki-



stan to victory.

Pakistan will now play arch-rivals India in their next Super Four match in Colombo on September 10 (Sunday).

Earlier in the first inning, Bangladesh were all-out for 193 runs thanks to an exceptional display by the Pakistani pacers.

The home side was on top since the start of the match as they took their first

wicket on the seventh ball of the match.

After Shaheen Afridi bowled a maiden over, Naseem Shah removed Mehdi Hasan Miraz — who scored an important hundred in the match against Afghanistan — on his first ball of the innings and gave the hosts an early breakthrough.

The wickets continued to fall for the Bengal Tigers and soon they were 47/4 in just 9.1 overs.

After that, the experienced duo of Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakil Al Hasan built a 100-run partnership and took their side to a decent score.

Hasan was removed by Faheem Ashraf for 53 runs. Rahim too was soon removed by Haris Rauf for 64.

Just after Rahim's dismissal, Rauf removed Taskin Ahmed on the very next ball.

The last two wickets for Pakistan were taken by Naseem.

Pakistan and India qualified from Group A, meanwhile, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka booked place in the Asia Cup Super 4 from Group B.

Lineups:

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Agha Salman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf

Bangladesh: Mohammad Naim, Mehdi Hasan Miraz, Litton Das, Towhid Hridoy, Shakib Al Hasan (c), Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shamim Hossain, Afif Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud

## Pakistan Defense Day, a spirited baseball match between Pakistan Green and Pakistan White

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In commemoration of Pakistan Defense Day, a spirited baseball match between Pakistan Green and Pakistan White teams was organized by the Pakistan Federation Baseball at the Islamabad Baseball Stadium. The event was graced by the presence of Colonel Sadaf Akram, the esteemed chief guest of the Defense Day ceremony, who inaugurated the match to inspire the athletes.

Among the distinguished guests of honor were Moazzam Khan Klair, General Secretary of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, Mian Rizwan, President of the Pakistan Dodgeball Federation, and Nasir Mahmand, Secretary of the KPK Olympic Cycling Association.

During this significant occa-



sion, President of the Pakistan Federation Baseball, Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, emphasized

the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by our armed forces and various organizations in securing our nation. He encouraged the commitment to safeguarding and developing the country for future generations. Shah also highlighted the progressive trajectory of baseball in Pakistan, as evidenced by the ongoing national male and female camp at the Pakistan Sports Complex in Islamabad. This development signifies Pakistan's bright future in the realm of baseball, both in Asia and on the global stage.

As Pakistan continues to honor its heroes and work towards athletic excellence, the Pakistan Federation Baseball remains dedicated to promoting the sport's growth and nurturing future talent.

## Men, Women Badminton trials under PM Youth Talent Hunt continue

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Men and Women Badminton Trials under Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Program continued in Mardan and Swat under the aegis of the University of Swabi (UoS) and Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) wherein large number of women and men players turned up.

Talking to APP, former international athlete and gold medalist of the South Asian Games in Javelin throw and Director Sports University of Swat Iltaf Hussain Shah said that they held Men trials at the international standard indoor hall of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan wherein 112 Men players turned for the badminton trials. Iltaf Hussain Shah disclosed that University of Swat is holding Men

Badminton trials while KUST is holding the Women Badminton trials in all five regions including Mardan, Swat, Bannu, Peshawar, Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan in different dates given by the Directorate General Sports Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.

He said that the Vice Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal also extended valuable support to him to facilitate the players participating in the trials. He said in the first phase they would conduct the open trials in all the five regions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and players from 15-year-old to 25-year-old are eligible to take part.

He said that all arrangements had been made well in time and hopefully good talented players would come up to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the

National League soon after the provincial league.

Iltaf Hussain said that they have started the trials from August 31 from Mardan, followed by Swat on September 4-5, trials at Hazara, Abbottabad Committee Hall on September 11, Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar on September 14, and at Bannu Sports Complex, Bannu on September 20, 2023.

When contacted Director Sports KUST and former national athlete Wajid Ali Khan told APP that they had been given the task of holding Women Badminton Trials in all five Regions for which all arrangements have been made.

He said the trials process with different dates after Mardan including trials will be held on September 7-8, 2023 in the Indoor Hall of the Mekan Bagh, Mingora, Swat, in Hazara Region, which has been divided in two

phases – one on September 11 at Kalabat Township Hall, Hariapur and in second phase trials will be held on September 12 at Hazara University, Mansehra. The trials will be held at Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar on September 14-15 likewise in trials in Bannu has been divided in two phases; one at Kohat Sports Complex, Gulshanabad Chowk, KDA, Kohat on September 21 and at Bannu Sports Complex on September 22.

Wajid Ali Khan said that Vice Chancellor KUST Professor Dr. Sardar Khan is fully supporting the process and directed him to ensure all facilities to the women players in five different regions. The open trials, he said, would purely be held on merit and the selection committee nominated by HEC would short-list the players before monitoring their perfor-



mances in the trials. He said that they were holding women trials in collaboration with HEC, Islam-

abad wherein a colorful opening ceremony was held at Sports Complex BISE, Mardan. Chair-

man, BISE, Mardan Farid Ahmad Khattak was the chief guest on the occasion.