



**Mushaal prods G20 to focus on ending HR abuses in IIOJK**

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussean Mullick urged the G20 countries to use the opportunity to force the worst human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ensure a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute. (Details on Page 8)



**Pakistan's ambassador emphasizes strong US relations and diplomacy**

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, hosted a unique gathering at his residence, known as "Pakistan House," in the heart of Washington, D. C. Ambassador Khan met with members of the National Press Club during an event coined "Embassy Night," organized by the Club's International Correspondents Committee. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Talk to Media**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press conference on Sunday.



Photo: PID

**Seven terrorists killed, six critically injured in Chitral fire exchange: ISPR**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: As many as seven terrorists were killed while another six got critically injured during an intense fire exchange that took place between the security forces and terrorists in the general area Ursoon, Chitral District on Sunday.



was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army troops effectively engaged terrorists location.

The locals of the area appreciated the operation by the security forces and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country, the ISPR said.

**MFA condemns 'elections' in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan condemned the "elections" held in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, Report informs, citing the ministry.



installed regime is legally and morally reprehensible.

"Pakistan considers Karabakh as the sovereign territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan and any attempt to conduct so called elections by the illegally

Such an attempt is also a grave violation of the UN Charter and principles of established international law," the ministry said.

**Task force to determine sizes of federal, provincial govts: PM**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday said a task force headed by the finance minister would determine the sizes of federal and provincial governments, look at options to better manage pension funds, besides making efforts to rationalize public expenditure and increase revenue.

In an interview with a private television, he said, "We are convinced that there is a need to rationalise expenditure and increase the revenue of the government to create a viable state and lessen existential threats due to economic vulnerability."

He said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was attempting to help achieve



appropriate governance and address the reasons for ill governance in the past.

The civil institutions were lax in their working in the past but now the army leadership with its organizational strength had increased the level of confidence of civil service which had renewed energy to implement policies and achieve goals, he added.

The prime minister said the government was optimistic about investment from Saudi Arabia in the backdrop of talks between Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman and Pakistan's chief of army staff.

The government was planning for a visit of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, adding the visit would be aimed at fully exploiting economic opportunities in the country.

**100,000 Saudi riyals recovered from 'currency smuggler': FIA**

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Multan Zone has arrested a suspected foreign currency smuggler and recovered 100,000 Saudi riyals from his possession.

FIA Deputy Director Dera Ghazi Khan Zahid Mahmood-led team conducted a raid on a tip-off at the Ghazi Ghat check post and arrested the suspected foreign currency smuggler who was identified as Muhammad Aleem - a resident of Okara.

The suspect was travelling to Quetta and the raiding team recovered 100,000 Saudi riyal from his possession after checking the passenger bus. The FIA spokesperson said that the suspect was smuggling the foreign currency to Iran and Afghanistan en route Quetta.

The spokesperson said that intelligence-based operations are underway against the elements involved in currency smuggling.

**Massive crackdown launched to combat power theft**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A massive crackdown has been launched by the Caretaker Government to combat the alarming surge in power theft and to take stern actions against the culprits involved.

On the directives of the government, the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has expedited the drive against power pilferage and caught 105 meters and imposed fine of Rs 7.567 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company in the current month.

IESCO chief Dr Muhammad Amjad said that during the current crackdown against electricity thieves, the field formations checked 5,743 meters and found 105 meters of the electricity consumers involved in power theft through various means.

As many as 73 meters were found tampered while 22 were getting direct power supply, he said and added that a fine of Rs 7.567 million was imposed on the power pilferers while charging over 177,000 units.

He said on the directives of the Federal Minister for Energy, the IESCO launched the crackdown against electricity thieves and their facilitators in all circles including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock,

Jhelum and Chakwal circles.

All operation circles, including In-charge Executives and SDOs, were rigorously inspecting industrial, commercial, domestic and other tariff categories within their respective areas, the IESCO chief said.

He said that the local administration and police were also assisting the Company to carry out the operations. He expressed confidence in the success of this government-led campaign, with the full dedication of officers and staff.

He emphasized that electricity theft put extra burden on the public and government institutions adding that both the agencies and the public needed to work together to combat this menace.

Dr. Khan appealed to the consumers to demonstrate their national and moral responsibility by reporting electricity theft and facilitators to the Anti-Power Theft focal person at mobile number 03195991304 or to the Complaint and Monitoring Cell at numbers 0519252933.

Meanwhile, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has taken strict action against eight officers; five Executive Engineers (XENs), two Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) and a Line Superintendent (LS) for conniving in electricity theft

and giving new power connection to a dead defaulter, the LESCO spokesman disclosed.

He said LESCO Director (Customer Services) Rai Mohammad Asghar took action against those officers after they were proved guilty in their respective departmental inquiries.

Sharing the details, the spokesman said that Mehmood Alam-Qureshi, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Qila Sattar Shah area has been removed from service for conniving in the electricity theft, and on the similar charges, an Executive Engineer (XEN) of Sheikhpura Rashid Soomro will not be considered for promotion in the next grade for two years and he will stick in Grade-18 during this period.

Director (Customer Services) Rai Muhammad Asghar also issued orders for stopping annual increment of XEN Manawala area Muhammad Rizwan for one year, as he was found involved in facilitating the electricity thieves.

After conducting a detailed inquiry, the Company also took departmental action against the following officers on the charge of giving new electricity connection to a dead defaulter, who owed more than Rs 30 million dues to LESCO, in the area of Kot Abdul Maalik.

**Report on Iran oil smuggling, hawala hundi submitted to PM House**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A government agency has submitted a report on Iranian oil smuggling and hawala hundi business in the PM House

According to sources, the report provides details about Iranian oil smuggling and hawala hundi business.

"In Pakistan total 722 currency dealers have been involved in hawala hundi business and Punjab have maximum 205 hawala hundi dealers," according to report.

"In KP 183 and Sindh 176 hawala dealers operating in this business," report disclosed. "Moreover, 104 dealers working in Balochistan and 37 dealers involved in hawala hundi business in Azad Kashmir".

Apart of it 17 hawala dealers operating in federal capital Islamabad.

The government agency has also unveiled details of the officers, politicians and dealers involved in Iranian oil smuggling.

**Bugti says 'no mercy for smugglers' vows to eliminate terrorism**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti said on Sunday that the government has adopted zero tolerance policy to curb smuggling of US dollars, sugar, fertilizer and petroleum products.



"The federal government has started action by registering cases against the elements involved in illegal activities," said Bugti while addressing a press conference here. The interior minister said law will take its course if anyone found guilty in crimes like, Hundi, Hawala, Smuggling of sugar, wheat, fertilizers and other illegal activities.

resources were being utilized to purge the menace of the country. Regarding the Chitral attack, Bugti commended the Pakistan Army's swift response and the people's resilience against terrorism.

It is prime responsibility of the people to keep a vigilant eye in their surroundings, said Bugti urging the masses to report such activities for timely action. He stated that the government has taken a tough stance on terrorism, adding all

He stressed that the government would not allow anyone to impose their agenda through force and will defend every inch of the territory. Interior Minister expressed hope that the Afghan government would uphold its Doha agreement, ensuring that Afghan soil was not used against anyone. Furthermore, Bugti mentioned ongoing efforts to address illegal immigration, with plans to repatriate illegal immigrants in the near future.

**Railways Minister charts plan for revenue boost, safety enhancement**

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Railways Minister Shahid Ahsraf Tarar is actively pursuing measures to enhance railway revenue, as revealed during his recent visit to the PR headquarters here on Sunday.



During the visit, he reviewed the performance of various railway departments, emphasizing the importance of efficient resource utilization and the completion of projects in the public interest.

report on transitioning the railway network to solar energy. In a bid to boost freight revenue, he has instructed measures to be taken.

The minister also stressed the need to prevent track material theft and secure redundant tracks while directing the ministry to compile a progress

Furthermore, Minister Tarar ordered improvements to the signal system for enhanced safety and called for a plan for the disposal of unusable coaches and locomotives.

## The US President visited Vietnam

Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong chaired the official welcome ceremony at the highest level for a head of state for US President Joe Biden on September 10 afternoon.



Photo: Nguyen Hong

## Mushaal prods G20 to focus on ending HR abuses in IIOJK

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick urged the G20 countries to use the opportunity to force the worst human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ensure a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal, a wife of incarcerated hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Sunday pressed the G20 member countries, including US, UK, EU, China, France, Russia, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Türkiye to play their proactive role to resolve the Kashmir dispute because



regional peace could not possible without settlement of the issue.

She stressed that the international community should look at the ongoing human rights violations and massacres of innocent people instead of looking at their trade inter-

ests with India.

Mushaal demanded that the G-20 countries should make all political and social relations with India subject to the end of ongoing human rights violations in the occupied valley.

"Let's say you had no G-20 statement, headlines would say

G-20 is finished, G-20 could be replaced by blocs like BRICS and G-7. So in a way by having a statement we keep the platform and the organisation alive," she added.

The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that the Indian fascist government crossed all limits of barbarism and state terrorism and the world powers were well-aware of the fact that the occupied valley was turned into a largest open prisoner and torture cell.

She went on to say that many of the political figures, human rights defenders and journalists, including Yasim Malik, the Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), prominent political figures Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Farooq Dar and Khurram Parvez, the

Program Coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and the Chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and Irfan Meraj (journalist/human rights activist) were illegally detained in frivolous, bogus and politically motivated cases.

Mushaal stated that the notorious occupation authorities unleashed a reign of terror and used the women rape as weapon of war, besides committing worst war crimes. The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that the people of Kashmir had been facing these inhuman treatment for over seven decades due to their struggle for right to self-determination.

## Pakistan's ambassador emphasizes strong US relations and diplomacy

### Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON D. C.: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, hosted a unique gathering at his residence, known as "Pakistan House," in the heart of Washington, D. C. Ambassador Khan met with members of the National Press Club during an event coined "Embassy Night," organized by the Club's International Correspondents Committee.

Unlike the typical Embassy Night hosted at the Pakistani Embassy, Ambassador Khan explained that the purpose of this gathering was to foster a more informal setting for interaction, stating that the objective was "to get to know each other away from the workplace."

Pakistani ambassador to US,



Pak-US ties, Masood Khan, National Press Club gathering, Embassy Night

Embassy Night is a prestigious event held by the International Correspondents Committee, affording international correspondents the

opportunity to engage with ambassadors and diplomats from various nations. During the event, Ambassador Khan extended his gratitude to Jahanzaib Ali for his significant efforts in making the event a success.

Ambassador Khan empha-

zing stability in the nation.

Khan praised Pakistan's strong judiciary, civil society, transparency, and free media. He also highlighted the thriving media industry within Pakistan, calling it a "lucrative business."

The Ambassador underscored the importance of Pakistan's economic goals, categorizing it as a top priority. He stated, "We have to get this right; it is a strategic goal." While Pakistan maintains robust ties with China, Khan pointed out that the United States stands as Pakistan's single largest trading partner.

Pakistan exports approximately \$8 billion worth of goods and services to the United States, emphasizing the significance of their economic relationship.

## Rising prices of petroleum, electricity the storm of inflation: Siraj Ul Haq

### Asim Tanveer

LAYYAH: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq Addressing a public meeting about rising prices of petroleum products, electricity and the storm of inflation across the country, he said that business mafias have been a part of all governments, untouched by two percent privileged corrupt elite 98 Percent controls public resources. The price of electricity has been increased by 80%, its free consumption, theft is not stopped, expensive contracts with IPPs should be terminated, gas prices have been increased by 50%, while the prices of life-saving medicines have been increased. After every 3 months the amount is increased.

where should the people go, unemployment, poverty and inflation have made people's lives hell. The caretaker government does not have the



mandate to make decisions of a public nature, this authority rests with the elected representatives. Jamaat-e-Islami will once again contact all political parties to create a consensus on election time, the only form of stability is timely elections. The cruel increase in the prices of electricity, gas, petrol, food items should be withdrawn.

He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in Layyah

Karor laal essan on the second day of his three-day visit to South Punjab. He will address a large public meeting in Muzaffargarh on the third day of the ongoing protest movement against inflation and electricity tariff hike. The Amir Jamaat thanked the business community and people of Layyah for supporting the strike. He announced that if the demands of the people are not met, the Jamaat-e-Islami will

announce a strike, and the peaceful protest movement will continue vigorously to give people their rights.

Deputy Amir Liaquat Baloch also addressed the meeting and appealed to the people to cooperate with Jamaat-e-Islami in the struggle to make the country an Islamic welfare state. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab South Rao Zafar and District Amir Mubashir Naeem Chaudhary, National and Provincial Assembly ticket holders and other leaders were also present on the occasion. Women elders also participated in the meeting.

During the period of PDM, PPP and PTI, the constitution and law were flouted, inflation, unemployment and unrest are the result of the policies of their previous governments, the ruling parties were badly exposed, the nation no longer trusted them. Do, only Jamaat-e-Islami is the only option for improvement.

## Pakistan vows befitting response following Chitral attack

### Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday vowed to respond firmly to resurgent terrorism following the terrorist attack on two military posts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower Chitral district.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti urged the Afghanistan government to abide by the Doha Agreement, which ensures that Afghan soil will not be used against any country.

"The terrorists of TTP [Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan] entered from Afghanistan," he said, vowing that Pakistan would firmly respond every inch of the country.

Sarfraz Bugti further said that it was their responsibility to defend every inch of the country, adding that Pakistan Army was giving a befitting response to terrorists.

The interior minister also lauded the people of Chitral for helping Pakistan Army in this 'crucial time', vowing that no one will be allowed to disturb peace by force.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year.

It is pertinent to mention here that



four Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred and 12 terrorists killed in Chitral attack on the Pak-Afghan border.

The Army media wing said that there was information about the terrorists' movement in Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan. The security forces timely action resulted in the killing of 12 terrorists.

A day earlier, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani confirmed that Pakistan had issued a demarche to Afghanistan following a terrorist attack in Chitral.

"Pakistan registered a strong protest over the incident, summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and handed over a protest note (demarche) to him," the foreign minister said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

FM Jalil Abbas Jilani said the Chitral incident was "very unfortunate" and said Pakistan was taking the recent rise in terrorism very seriously.

"It is the responsibility of the Afghan government that if attacks are occurring in Pakistan from their soil then it should stop them," he added.

## Industrial uplift in AJK only key to socioeconomic progress, says AJK PM

### Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming industrial development as a key to reducing unemployment in Azad Jammu Kashmir, has said that the government was ready to provide maximum facilities to investors to flourish trade and industrial activities in the state.

The AJK premier Haq expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by Mirpur AJK Chamber of Commerce and Industry Syed Sabir Hussain Shah at Jammu Kashmir House in the State metropolis on Sunday.

He said that development of the liberated territory and the welfare of its people was his government's top priority. 'Taxpayers' every penny, he said, would be spent on the development of the state and the welfare of the poor masses.

He said that despite facing multiple issues, the government was trying to provide maximum possible relief to the people in terms of inflated electricity bills.

"Supply of cheap flour to the poor is our priority", the PM said. Haq stated that steps were being taken to solve the problems of Mangla Dam affect-



ees and Neelum Jhelum Hydro Project. He said that special emphasis was being placed on improving the electricity, education and health sectors.

Meanwhile, talking to a delegation of journalists led by Sardar Rashid Nazir, President of Ghazi Millat Press Club, Rawalkot Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that he believed in the freedom of the press.

He said that the journalist community has been playing an important role in highlighting the problems of the people.

The delegation was comprised of Sardar Abid Siddiq, former President of the Press Club, Sardar Abdul Razaq Khan, Sajid Mehmood Anwar and others. The delegation thanked the Prime Minister and appreciated his initiatives regarding good governance.

## Kyrgyzstan delegation assesses 'pioneable' prospects for trade relations with Pakistan

### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Dr Zhumaliyev, Member Kyrgyz Republic Parliament and leader of the delegation currently visiting Pakistan on Sunday said that his visit signified demonstrating the highest degree of mutual interest between both countries in further strengthening bilateral trade relations, particularly in the healthcare sector.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis, he said the promotion of trade and industry between the two countries holds significant potential, said a news release issued here.

"By identifying areas of common interest and fostering partnerships, we can pave the way for increased economic cooperation and growth", he added.

He said it was a significant and promising development in the realm of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"The possibilities for collaboration are vast and promising in the field of medical education, both countries can benefit from knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and student exchanges", he remarked.

He said, "It will undoubtedly contribute to the development of our respective healthcare systems."



He said, "He believes that the Kyrgyzstan Trade House in Pakistan, plays a pivotal role in facilitating such collaborations and promoting trade ties and its expertise and resources will be invaluable in ensuring the success of these initiatives."

Ulanbek Totuiev, Ambassador Kyrgyzstan, Roza Amanova, deputy leader of delegation, Dr Shahid Hassan, president of Kyrgyzstan Trade House, and other leading industrialists were also present on the occasion.

Meher Kashif Younis in his welcome address said, "Dr Zhumaliyev, is a tycoon in the healthcare sector of Kyrgyzstan, academician of the National Academy of Sciences and winner of best awards brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge."

He said, "He looks forward to the positive outcomes this visit may yield and the lasting benefits it can bring to both countries."

"He remains optimistic about the future of Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan collaboration," he concluded.

# WAWA called Wazir tribe's jirga regarding construction of small dams

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Sunday in District Lower South Waziristan at Government High School Wana, a non Government organization Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) organized a Grand Jirga consisting of 9 Tribes of Ahmadzai Wazir.

The purpose of convening the Jirga is to take concrete steps to control the situation of water level falling underground in Wana day by day.

There is a need to build small dams to control the water level so that better measures can be taken for this through mutual consultation and the Ahmadzai tribes can be taken into confidence.

The political representatives of Lower South Waziristan also participated in this WAWA Grand Jirga.

Rehmat Ullah Wazir, President of Wana Welfare Association, addressed this grand jirga consisting of tribal elders, that the survey teams are coming to Wana on Monday for



the Feasibility report to protect the district of Lower South Waziristan from drought.

Therefore, the cooperation of the nations and tribes is required to make the environment favorable.

On this occasion, members of the nine-member committee of tribe Zali Khel, Malik Saeed Ullah Wazir, Malik Muhammad Aslam Wazir and Malik Alam Jan Wazir said that the Zali Khel

tribe has unanimously decided that the site of the Small dams wherever the site for the feasibility Report is selected, so, the tribe of Zali Khel will not have any objection to it, and besides, the tribe of Zali Khel will not take any commission and the tribe will also provide full protection to the survey teams

Apart from this, Malik Shehryar Wazir also assured full cooperation from Khojal Khel tribe.

Along with this, Malik Jameel Wazir of Toji Khel tribe and Malik Shaikat Wazir of Gangi Khel tribe and Saira Noor Wazir said, that the efforts of the (WAWA) Organization are really commendable, they have no for doubt, but the elders of both the tribes asked for a two-day respite so that after consulting with their tribes, the rest of the tribes could take a unanimous decision like the Zali Khel and Khojal Khel tribes.

On the other hand, the local leader of ANP Muhammad Ayaz Wazir while talking to the media that all the political parties of Lower Waziristan will fully cooperate with the survey team for constructing small dams wherever they choose the site.

It should be noted that the water level in Lower South Waziristan district is falling rapidly day by day

Due to which the entire district needs urgent construction of small dams to avoid drought so that the concerns of the people related to the agriculture sector can be protected.

# Virtual University initiated on spot admissions through Innovative Mobile Bio Bus

City Desk

LAHORE: The Virtual University of Pakistan has initiated a nationwide tour to kickstart on-spot admissions for Fall 2023 through a Mobile Bio Bus. This initiative aims to bring affordable, quality education to far-flung areas of Pakistan, breaking geographical barriers to make education accessible for everyone.

This unique educational endeavor of Virtual University is not only familiarizing students with virtual education system but also providing practical exposure of scientific lab which is fostering a spirit of scientific inquiry among Pakistan's youth. The enthusiasm and amazement on the faces of these young learners were evident as they explored the inner workings of the lab.



The Mobile Bus embarks on an exceptional nationwide tour, covering vast distances from Lahore to the remote areas of South Balochistan and the interior of Sindh. This expedition includes visits to schools, colleges, and various educational institutions in numerous cities, towns, and villages along its route.

The on-spot admission facility, provided through the Mobile Bus, has reduced the time to become part of VU family through processing of applications in one go. Faculty members accompanying the Mobile Bio Lab played a crucial role in these sessions, providing insights into the lab's functions and explaining the significance of the experiments.

This incredible journey is going on and will reach its next destination in the upcoming week at Baluchistan.

# Sheikh community meets in Faisalabad to discuss welfare of the community

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: An important meeting of Sheikh Community Faisalabad held at Shehryar Hotel in which people of the community participated in large numbers. The meeting started with Quranic recitation and Naat-a-Rasool (SAW) In this occasion Muhammad Salman Khalid exchanged his excellent views regarding unity as a whole in all segments of the society. Later, the central leader Sheikh Ishtiaq Rahat presented the manifesto of the community. President Sheikh Community Faisalabad, Sheikh Muhammad Masood, addressed the meeting and reviewed his previous performance, how they can promote the unity and harmony of his community, and welfare projects? How is the work going and what are our future goals? Sheikh Amir Mushtaq and other members also expressed their views. Sheikh Shahid Parvez, president of Al-Kareem Trade Center Factory Area, also participated. Among other members, Sheikh Muhammad Ashfaq, Sheikh Farqan Khalid, Sheikh Muhammad Yasir, Sheikh Usman, Sheikh Umar, Sheikh



Rashid, Shafiq, SM Ayub, Sheikh Faisal Mumtaz, Sheikh Imran Akhtar and

others also participated communicating to lend a hand with everyone to

facilitate the people suffering from financial problems.

# Businesses touch with Threshold Frequency falling common man life. Naseer Vohra

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: The caretaker government has put the whole nation on ventilators. Alhaj Vohra.

According to the reliable sources, it has been illuminated that the inflation rate in Pakistan has reached the highest level of 47.23%.

Disclosing further, the Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra said that the record decline in the value of rupee, continuous increase in petrol prices, increase in sales tax and extreme increase in electricity rates have broken the back of the businessmen like a fish out of water.

He raised a question whether it can be named the economy of Pakistan? He further informed that weekly (short-term) inflation based on Pakistan's Sensi-

tive Price Index (SPI) rose to a phenomenal 47.23% during the week ended September 9 compared to the same period last year. Naseer Yousaf Vohra expressed that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported this through its statistics on Saturday. The country's SPI has been rising steadily since August last year and mostly remains above 40 percent. The inflation rate last year was 42.31 percent on August 18, it showed as 45.5 percent on September 1 and fearfully reached 46.65 percent on March 22 this year. The increase on weekly basis was mainly due to increase in food prices, which as a result, the short-term inflation rate rose by 0.51 percent on a weekly basis, he said & added.

Furthermore Chairman Dr. Mahmood Yusuf, Chairman Power Loom Waheed Khaliq Ramey, Group Chairman Haji Waseem Qadri, Pres-



ident Street No. 7 Haji Imran, Superintendent Haji Zaheer Ahmad Qadri, General Secretary Riaz Ahmed Qadri, Chairman Allami Adeel Yousuf, President Street No. 6 Malik Gulzar Ahmed, General Secretary Sheikh Imran, Chairman Haji Qadeer Ahmed, President Gali No. 5 Haji Saifullah, General Secretary Haji Ehsan Elahi, President Gali No. 4

Haji Ahmed, General Secretary Sheikh Usman, President Pakistan Muslim League Youth Wing Rana Muhammad Asif, President Education Union Rana Abid and city business leaders believe that many of the current high prices Reasons include the ever-higher transportation costs for suppliers including while the government's focus on reducing inflation in the market has not yet yielded positive results. Increase in fuel and electricity rates, withdrawal of subsidies, on the market to increase It is taking drastic measures like fixed exchange rate and high taxation, which we do not accept at all. As long as the Pakistan Army plays its key role, chances of good hopes would come out by standing its side.

Vohra concluded that our Businesses have touched with Threshold Frequency falling common man life.

## Man who shot dead his son arrested

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Police on Friday arrested a man who has shot dead his son over domestic dispute in Kachha area near Burhan interchange in the remits of Hassanabdal Police station on September 2. According to police sources, Shabbir Shah shot dead his son Usman Shah as he was trashing and abusing his mother in his house. The suspect managed to escape from the scene who was subsequently arrested by police and send him behind the bars.

Separately, the same police also busted a three member inter provincial gang involved in robberies and snatching. According to Police the gang identified as Bohla group comprising Tayyub Shahzad, Awal Noor and Ahsan alias Bohla was involved in a number of robberies and snatching in the area. Police recovered looted booty worth Rs 0.70 million and weapons utilized in the various robberies. While Jand Police arrested two suspects involved in stealing transformers from the area and arrested two thieves. Police spokesman said that the suspects identified as Shahnavaz along with Akram Ul Haq stolen an IESCO electricity transformer from Chura Shareef village and was transporting to sale it when they were nabbed by Police and send them behind bars after registration of a case. While Fatehjang Police arrested a man for electricity theft. Police sources said that IESCO team detected that Tufail Ahmed was consuming electricity while getting connection directly from electricity pole. Moreover, Basal Police arrested a man for contracting second marriage without the will of his first wife and getting birth certificate of his son through forgery. The victim Bushra Bibi has reported to Police that she married to Nawab Khan some ten years ago and has no child. She added that her husband contracted marriage against her will and permission secretly in year 2021 and recently his second wife given the birth of a son. She reported that her husband through forgery entered the name of his son in the union council record by showing her as mother. Police registered a case against the accused and launched further investigation.

## Toi Khullah firing between two parties, three People killed & 4 injured. Police

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Saturday, police says, in Toi Khullagh area of South Waziristan Lower district, there was an exchange of fire between the families of Mashad Khan and Shamiran Dottani, in which 3 people were killed and 4 others were injured, including a passerby.

The two families have been feuding for the past 7 years with minor recurrences, and even earlier both the families have killed each other's in Waziristan and Punjab.

Toi Khullah SHO Qutab Khan Dottani says that the armed men of Shah Miran Dottani's family were already sitting in wait, that when the members of Mashad Khan's family were passing by, Shah Miran's family opened fire on him.

Due to which two members of Mashad Khan's family, Naseeb Khan, Mashal Khan, died, while Hikmat and Zahir Shah were injured.

In retaliatory firing, Mashad Khan's men killed Naem of Shah Miran's family and injured one person.

According to SHO Qutab, the feud between the two families had been going on for 7 years on a minor basis, Saturday's incident is an indication of the old rivalry.

"We have started an investigation, and an FIR will be registered as per law," the police said.

However, political and social circles have expressed regret over this incident, local people have expressed deep grief over this sad incident.

Local lawyer Ajmal Wazir Advocate has described this incident as sad and said, as such incidents have occurred in recent days, the Government and administration should take concrete steps to remedy such incidents.

It should be clear that both family's Shah Miran and Mashad Khan are cousins.



## Campaign against electricity theft continues in Attock

Munaza Javed

ATTOCK: A series of raids against power theft underway in district Attock following the Federal and Punjab governments' directions to curb the illegal practice. Talking to APP on Sunday Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza said so far 1567 connections were checked, out of which 1554 were found correct while action was taken against 13 illegal connections with registering multiple FIRs. The DC vowed to continue actions until full results are obtained.



## Soon valley

Munaza Javed

Ahhh, a nostalgic place, a place located in the north-western region of Pakistan, Punjab. This valley consists of beautiful lakes and greenery and is the place where a great name in Urdu literature, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, was born. He was born in Anga, a village in Soon Sakaser. This valley also has a beautiful Sakaser PAF air base, an important base in Pakistan. A beautiful lake in Asia, Uehali Lake, is also present here, which is a tourist attraction point. This valley also has much more ramser sites and a great variety of migratory birds. There are migratory birds that hold attractiveness. The Himalayan Griffon Vulture is a rare species found here. Soon Valley has a great history. Sites include Buddhist stupes and rock carvings in the area of Malakwal. Kanhati Garden is an important tourist site. It is a beautiful place to see and is also an important tourist point. Khadumi is also the most fascinating place in Sakaser, which is present at high altitude. In Khadumi, a beautiful tomb is present, known in the native language as the "khadumi qila, a worth-seeing place. Sultan Mehdi is also a beautiful scenery present in the Soon Valley, in which a beautiful waterfall is present. Chitt village, known as Paris of Soon Valley, is also a nice place. Also in Amb Shareef, a breathtaking place of rich culture in which a long time ago Hindus used to live, many more idols are present. These are much more attractive to tourists. Deap Shareef is a place of beautiful waterfalls and a very charming place for tourists. Sodhi and Phulwari rest houses are just magical. Every corner of this place is a work of art. Nature lovers should definitely visit this place. The culture of this valley is derived from Arab information. Practice includes arranging marriage according to Islam. Ludi is the traditional dance of this valley and marriage ceremonies take place separately for males and females according to Islam. Indeed, every aspect of this valley is attractive. I would highly recommend that a person right now living in Pakistan should definitely visit the Soon Valley once in their lifetime.

(Writer is Student of Department of zoology in University of Sargodha)



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:23 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:35 pm
Maghrib	6:22 pm
Isha	7:47 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
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
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224

# Citizen portal is important tool for citizens' benefit: Dr. Abida Farid



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Multan Dr. Abida Farid has said that the district administration should provide citizen portal service for information and complaints resolution for citizens, provide easy access to government services, and transparency and accountability in management. It is an important tool to promote These digital platforms aligned with modern facilities and requirements help streamline administrative processes and create a more integrated and informed society, he expressed these views yesterday at the Deputy Commissioner Office Multan under the CSO Bridge programme. By inaugurating the Citizen Information Portal for the convenience of the citizens at the district level under the auspices of the Development Organization

On this occasion, Malik Muhammad Sami (Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning) said that it is gratifying that

most social organizations are now making practical efforts to reduce the gap between the common man and the government, in this context, mutual trust and partnership. Governments often provide information and citizen portal services to improve transparency, accessibility, and regional development. These portals are digital platforms that offer citizens various services and information, access to government services, and more. In addition, the Citizen Portal serves as a central hub

Where citizens can access a wide range of government services, project coordinator WHH Akmal Khan said on the occasion that the government uses these portals to share important information with the public, including announcements, news. Citizen portals promote transparency by providing access to government budgets, financial reports, meeting agendas and minutes, which may include updates, emergency alerts and details about upcoming events or community programs. Stay informed about activities

On this occasion, Asif Shahzad (Program Head), Ali Ijaz (Project Coordinator CSO Bridge Program) on behalf of Farmer Development Organization said separately that the Multan administration has taken valuable steps for the social development of the citizens. A district-wide citizen portal service will be a major milestone in this regard, with features for citizens to provide feedback, report issues and communicate directly with local authorities or departments, as well as between the government and citizens. An increase in two-way communication will be possible

In this service, it has been ensured that this portal is accessible for disabled people, on this occasion, Mian Toqeer Talib (Community Mobilization Officer), Madiha Rehman (Capacity Building Officer), Muhammad Asif Iqbal (System Network Administrator DC) O Office) Jawad Amin Qureshi (District Civil Society Network), Yasmin Khakwani, Aamir Shahzad Siddiqui and others were also present.

## Theatre "The Police" were presented on the third day



News Desk

KARACHI: On the third day of the Pakistan Theatre Festival held by the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, Theatre "The Police" was presented in Urdu language. The story written by Slawomir Mrozek has been well directed by Hassam Irfan, while Owais Rehan, Arman Sami, Zain ul Ibad, Sheryl John, Farhan Alam Siddiqui and Farhan Rahim showed the essence of their acting. "The Police" depicts how the police rid the state of crime, where a prisoner's loyalty paves the way to freedom, his conscience awakened as the truth emerges, an exploration of morality and power, the interesting and complex story was highly appreciated by the fans while the studio had a large audience

## Saleha Hassan appointed President of Pakistan Business Forum

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Miss Saleha Hasan appointed president of Pakistan Business Forum Multan District notification issued

The government took immediate steps to establish the Multan Expo Center so that the exports of South Punjab can get a prominent place.

The Pakistan Business Forum has also issued a notification appointing renowned entrepreneur Saleha Hasan as the president of Multan district for the advancement of women in the economic field and close contact with businessmen and furthering the mission of PBF. A copy of the notification has also been sent to Deputy Commissioner Multan. Newly elected President Saleha Hassan while talking to the media said that Multan is the center of South Punjab which is not good for the country's economy to ignore, Pakistan Business Forum Multan. will be the voice of small traders and industry

And the problems of business women and businessmen without discrimination will be resolved with the district administration. It is noteworthy that Multan needs a comprehensive plan to meet its infrastructure and services, especially for the industrial area, and at the same time urged the federal government that the Multan Expo Center Establishment should be expedited

So that South Punjab's exports get a prominent place. Pakistan Business Forum Central Vice Presidents Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad, Jahan Ara Wattoo and Chairman Punjab Muhammad Naseer Malik congratulated Saleha Hasan as President of Multan and expressed this PBF The organizational structure of South Punjab will expand rapidly in Punjab and we will become a strong and neutral voice of traders.



## Pak-Egypt Business Opportunities moot

Islamabad: RCCI President Saqib Rafiq exchanging MOU documents with his counterpart in Egypt at the Pak-Egypt Business Opportunities Conference held in Cairo.



Photo: Spokesman

## Sui Gas Multan launched a crackdown against gas theft: Rashid Ishaq



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Multan has launched a crackdown to prevent gas theft at industrial, commercial and domestic level. With the help of the district police, cases will also be registered against the people involved in gas theft. In this regard, a high-level meeting was held at Distribution Multan Office, which was chaired by General Manager Rashid Ishaq. Deputy Chief Engineer Hussain Zafar, Senior Engineer Zubair Ahmad Khan in charge of Task Force Ghulam Abbas, Deputy Chief Admin Officer Usman Karim Baig, Syed Ahmed Kashif Shah, Saifur Rahman were present in this meeting.

GM Rashid Ishaq said that a nationwide crackdown has been launched against gas thieves. In this connection, vigorous action has also been started in the areas under the distribution Multan office. The circle has been tightened around those who have caused huge losses to the public exchequer by stealing gas at industrial, commercial and domestic levels. In this regard, joint actions will be taken with the police. Gas thieves will not only have their connections disconnected, but now they will also have to face lawsuits

## Caretaker govt made the life of govt employees miserable: Kashif Chaudhry

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Punjab Teachers Union, Punjab Association of Computer Teachers, Punjab SES Teachers Association Multan organized a protest in front of Multan Press Club, which was led by Provincial President Kashif Shahzad Chaudhry, South Punjab President Rana Shahbaz Safdar, District President Malik Bilal Malinhas, Divisional President Ghazafar Abbas Jai, General Secretary PTU District Multan Mukhtar Vance and President Packer District Multan Chaudhry Saber conducted protests in Lahore, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur Hundreds of teachers from different districts of South Punjab participated.

Provincial President Punjab Teachers Union Kashif Shahzad Chaudhry, Ansar Raza Senoq Vice President PTU, Farooq



Sial General Secretary Packer Punjab, Syed Mudasar Hussain President Packer District Lahore, President Punjab Teachers Union South Punjab Rana Shehbaz Safdar, Hafiz Umar Iqbal District President Rahim Yar Khan, District President Multan Malik Bilal Malinhas, District General Secretary Multan Malik Mukhtar venus Mehboob Gul District General Secretary Rahim Yar Khan, Muhammad Mehrab Tehsil President Sadiqabad, Muhammad Adnan Tehsil President Rahim Yar Khan, Zafar Osmani Tehsil

President Khanpur. Under the leadership of Amjad Khan Khattak Tehsil President Liaquatpur, the participants took out a rally from Nawab Shahr Chowk to the Press Club. The central leaders said that the cruel notification of levy encashment, VC, SSE, AEOs perpetuation, cononus, medical, increase in house rent, time scale promotion, pay protection, abolition of STR, privatization and other issues. The struggle will continue until the solution

The caretaker government has made the life of govern-

ment employees miserable through its anti-employee policies from day one. The salaried class has been badly affected by the increasing prices of petrol, electricity, gas and food items. In the protest rally, Punjab Teachers Union (Kashif Chaudhry) District Multan was led by Chairman Rana Umar Farooq, Sumit Nazir Chan, Rana Riaz Hussain, Chaudhry Rizwan Aslam, Malik Khizr Hayat, Ajmal Khan Baloch, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Iqbal Javed, Jam Bashir Ahmad, Mahmoud Khan, Sohail Bhatti, Adeel Hashmi, Abid Kachi

## Delegation of Muslim Hands Pakistan calls on caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi

News Desk

LAHORE: A six member delegation of Muslim Hands Pakistan met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office. Chairman Muslim Hands Pakistan Syed Lakhte Husnain while giving a briefing about welfare activities apprised that the Muslim Hands Pakistan is running 117 schools in Punjab while health and welfare projects of education are being run in different districts of South Punjab.



Similarly market based IT skills have been arranged to drive the youth towards self-reliance. 18 schools of excellence and 35 model schools are being run in Punjab. A principal decision was made during the meeting to hand over the arrangements of 1000 schools to the Muslim Hands Pakistan.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed Secretary Schools Education to settle rules and regulations with the Muslim Hands Pakistan. Mohsin Naqvi directed to give a final shape to the matters regarding MOU between the Punjab government and Muslim Hands Pakistan within one week.

The proposal to hand over the arrangements of orphanages and Dar-ul-Amaan to the Muslim Hands Pakistan was reviewed during the meeting.

CM Mohsin Naqvi highlighted that the quality of education of government schools would be elevated with the cooperation of private sectors and welfare organisations. To upgrade emergencies of big hospitals with the cooperation of Muslim Hands Pakistan would also be reviewed.

CM Mohsin Naqvi assured that the Punjab government would encourage private organisations to bring improvements in the education and health sectors.

Chairman Muslim Hands Pakistan Syed Lakhte Husnain said that we are ready to serve the people in collaboration with the Punjab government. Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, Chairman Muslim Hands Pakistan Syed Lakhte Husnain, Director Programme Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, Syed Javed Gilani, Mian Omer Farooq, Rana Omer and Raja Arsalan Nusrat were also present on the occasion.

## Education is key to transform Pakistan's future: Dr. Shahid Soroya

Amjad Mehmood

RAWALPINDI: Education is a powerful force that has potential to transform lives, empower communities, and drive societal progress. It is a lifelong journey, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every individual has access to quality education tailored to their unique needs and aspirations said Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya while talking at the inauguration ceremony of a UK-based education consul-

tancy firm here at Rawalpindi. He further said education is a fundamental right, and it should be accessible to all, regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or abilities. Further sharing his thoughts about the dynamics of education in the contemporary age, he said new opportunities and challenges are arising constantly in the education sector therefore, we should remain informed about the latest trends, innovations, and global developments in education, and adapt our services accordingly.

He says education plays a pivotal role in the progress of a country and Pakistan can also transform its luck by investing in education. He stressed on the development of long-term sustainable policies for education in Pakistan.

Talking at the ceremony, he said appropriate personalized guidance to students by doing fair assessments of his or her strengths, weaknesses, and dreams is a very important job, and good consultancy firms always provide guidance and



support to help the students in discovering their true potential and choose educational paths that align with their interests and goals. He said BICAS Consultancy has a very good track record of

a hundred percent success rate in processing education visas for various countries including the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Sweden. He congratulated BICAS founder and CEO, Mr. Muhammad Saqib Siddique for the provision of quality services to Pakistani students for nearly two decades.

appropriate guidance to materialize the individuals' dream of higher education from abroad. He said we not only provide support to the students in counseling, admissions, and visa applications but also provide support in foreign countries to students in accommodation and job hunting matters. Chairman Peace Committee, Allama Pir Syed Izhar Bukhari has especially participated in the inauguration ceremony and prayed for the success of the BICAS Rawalpindi branch.

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# Advancing Agricultural Excellence and Sustainability in AJK - II

**Mumtaz Ahmed**

**T**he germination period is a critical determinant of a crop's vigor and early establishment. Starting with the quickest germination times, Akbar 2019 and Pak 2013 take the lead with swift germination in just 20 and 21 days, respectively.

These varieties offer an early start to the growth cycle. Slightly trailing behind is Urooj 2022, Dilkash 2020, MH 2021, Anaj 2017, and Azrec Derra, with germination periods ranging from 22 to 23 days, offering a balanced blend of speed and resilience. Deuram 2021 and Borlaug 2016 display a tad slower germination at 24 and 25 days, emphasizing the need for strategic planting timelines. When it comes to tiller count, Borlaug 2016 and NARC Super emerge with lower tiller counts of 12 and 14 per plant, respectively, requiring careful crop management for optimal results.

Urooj 2022 and Anaj 2017 maintain moderate tiller counts of 14 per plant, providing a stable foundation for yield potential. Akbar 2019 and Pak 2013 follow with robust tiller counts of 15 and 19 per plant, respectively, promising healthy crop development. In the mid-range, Deuram 2021 takes the lead with a remarkable 21 tillers per plant, suggesting the potential for substantial grain yield. Zincol follows closely with a high tiller count of 20, indicative of strong yield prospects. Moving on to

plant height, Akbar 2019 stands out as the shortest variety with a modest stature of 69cm, offering a space-efficient option for cultivation. Urooj 2022 and Anaj 2017 maintain moderate plant heights of 72cm and 75cm, respectively, providing a balance between compact growth and space utilization. Dilkash 2020 and MH 2021 exhibit slightly taller plants at 78cm and 80cm, respectively, suggesting the advantage of vertical growth.

Deuram 2021 and Markaz 2019 require specific planting conditions to accommodate their stature, with heights of 68cm and 78cm, respectively. At the top of the height spectrum, NARC Super and Zincol command towering heights of 87cm and 84cm, respectively, necessitating careful consideration for canopy management. Heading time, a crucial factor in wheat farming, reveals a diverse range of characteristics among these varieties. Markaz 2019 and Akbar 2019 lead with early heading times of 100 and 105 days, respectively, accommodating shorter growing seasons. Urooj 2022, Dilkash 2020, Anaj 2017, and Azrec Derra fall within the moderate range of heading times, ranging from 103 to 110 days, presenting a balanced approach to crop development. Borlaug 2016 and MH 2021 exhibit slightly delayed heading times of 115 days, calling for meticulous crop management to optimize yield. NARC Super and Deuram 2021 showcase late heading times of 117 and 120 days, respectively, necessitating prolonged growing seasons for optimal results. Then the spike length, a crucial

factor influencing wheat yield, reveals a spectrum of possibilities among these wheat varieties. Akbar 2019 showcases the shortest spike length of 7cm, indicating its potential limitations in grain yield compared to varieties with longer spikes. MH 2021 and Anaj 2017 maintain a spike length of 8cm, offering a balance between spike size and other agronomic considerations.

Dilkash 2020 and Urooj 2022 follow closely with a spike length of 9cm, providing the potential for substantial grain yields. Borlaug 2016, Azrec Derra, and Zincol share the same spike length of 10cm, making them strong candidates for high-yield cultivation. Markaz 2019 and Pak 2013 stands out with the longest spike length of 12cm and 13 cm respectively emphasizing its potential for higher yield in regions with longer growing seasons.

The grain count per spike is a critical determinant of wheat yield. Borlaug 2016, with a grain count of 34 per spike, starts the list with a relatively lower count. Akbar 2019 follows with a respectable grain count of 42 per spike, representing a viable but not exceptional choice for wheat cultivation. NARC Super and Pak 2013 share a grain count of 37 per spike, demonstrating yield potential, albeit with disease management considerations. Anaj 2017 maintains a grain count of 37 per spike, providing a reliable foundation for grain production. Dilkash 2020 and MH 2021 achieve good grain counts of 39 and 41 per spike, respectively, offering stable yield prospects. Azrec Derra

and Zincol, both boasting a grain count of 40 per spike, showcase their potential for substantial grain production. Urooj 2022 stands out with an impressive grain count of 60 per spike, indicating its substantial yield potential.

As far as the production per kanal is concerned, the ultimate measure of a wheat variety's performance. Akbar 2019, with a production of 217 kg/kanal, represents a viable but not exceptional choice for wheat cultivation.

Borlaug 2016, with a production of 235.83 kg/kanal, offers potential in areas with lower disease pressure. Pak 2013, with a promising production of 241.67 kg/kanal, holds potential for high-yield cultivation. Anaj 2017, with a production of 245.42 kg/kanal, proves to be a reliable option for wheat cultivation, especially in regions with longer growing seasons. Deuram 2021, despite facing disease challenges, achieves a production of 245.83 kg/kanal, reflecting the need for improved disease resistance.

NARC Super, with a production of 250.33 kg/kanal, showcases its yield potential, contingent upon disease management. Dilkash 2020 achieves a solid production of 250.25 kg/kanal, making it a balanced choice for farmers looking to optimize yield while considering other agronomic factors. Markaz 2019, with a production of 257.83 kg/kanal, positions itself as a strong contender for wheat cultivation, particularly in regions with longer growing seasons.

*To be continued*

## Protection of schools amid intensifying attacks

**W**ith a staggering hike in attacks targeting schools and hospitals, and over seven million refugee children out of school, the UN Secretary-General Saturday called for a new push to defend vulnerable students and teachers worldwide. Marking the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, the UN chief said it was important to defend "havens of education".

"Education is not only a fundamental human right, but a pathway to a better future for every person, and a more peaceful, understanding world," he underscored.

The secretary-general said that around the globe 224 million children and young people are in urgent need of educational support – including 72 million who are out-of-school altogether – because of crises such as armed conflict.

According to a comprehensive report on children and armed conflicts published by the UN chief earlier this year, from January to December 2022, there was a 112 per cent rise in attacks targeting schools and hospitals, with hotspots identified in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Israel, Palestine, Myanmar and Mali.

In Afghanistan, for example, the UN verified a total of 95 attacks on civilian targets, including 72 on schools, it was pointed out.

The report attributed 50 per cent of grave violations to non-state armed groups.

The other half involved government forces, who were primarily responsible for the gravest offences, including the killing and maiming of children, relentless assaults on schools and hospitals, and obstructing humanitarian access.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said on Friday that by the end of 2022, the total number of school-aged refugees globally jumped nearly 50 per cent from 10 million in 2021 to 14.8 million, driven mostly by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Attacks on students, teachers, educational personnel and schools are becoming all too common, cruelly disrupting young learners' education and inflicting untold psychological and physical damage that can last a lifetime," the UN chief said.

One of the clear signs of the education deficit is the startling statistic that 763 million people around the world – adults and youngsters – lack even basic literacy skills, according to UN data.

The Secretary-General urged all countries to ensure the protection of schools, children and teachers at all times, through measures such as the Safe Schools Declaration and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

Through joint efforts, Guterres believes, schools can become "havens of safety and learning for every child, no matter where they live".

## The Lebanese situation



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

## The Antidote for Reviving as a Powerful Nation - II

**T**he conference between the lines emphasized that countering TTP's hateful ideology is not solely the government's responsibility. Local communities, with their intimate knowledge of their regions, are best positioned to lead these efforts. It was heartening to note that people in former FATA, KP province, and northern areas have consistently condemned terrorism, collaborated with law enforcement to prevent terrorist attacks, and developed innovative programs to shield their loved ones from TTP's deadly ideology.

Additionally, the government and law enforcement agencies are actively building expertise to prevent violent extremism. This involves ongoing research and analysis to identify, predict, and preempt new developments. It also entails close collaboration with individuals, communities, and officials on the frontlines, all working tirelessly to counter the threats that Pakistan faces.

Countering violent extremist propaganda and promoting inclusive ideals is a top priority. Efforts must actively challenge the ideologies employed by violent extremists to radicalize and recruit individuals. By confronting justifications for violence and promoting a unifying and inclusive vision of Pakistan's ideals, we can reduce the allure of extremist ideologies.

The conference, mindful of the prevailing geo-strategic environment and the evolving threats to national security, rightly asserted that terrorists, their facilitators, and abettors, acting at the behest of hostile forces seeking to destabilize Pakistan, will face the full might of the state. This clear policy statement was eagerly awaited by the nation, underscoring the importance of resolute action.

In light of the substantial threats facing Pakistan, it is now a national duty and responsibility for every Pakistani to stand united. Whether as individuals or as a society, we must stand shoulder to shoulder with our Army Chief and the brave and professional armed forces. We must provide unwavering support – intellectual, ideological, moral, and material – without doubt or unwarranted criticism.

The threat of terrorism cannot be left solely to the armed

forces to handle. It is a collective responsibility of the entire nation to support them unconditionally and holistically. By standing together, we can strengthen our resolve to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of our beloved Pakistan.

The fourth and equally vital pledge made during the conference was to continue wholehearted support for ongoing efforts aimed at uplifting socioeconomic growth. These efforts are channeled through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which encompasses various sectors, including IT, agriculture, minerals, and defense production.

Under the leadership of the Army Chief, concrete actions have been taken to translate these commitments into reality. A nationwide crackdown on hundi and hawala dealers, illegal money exchangers, and strict rules for formal currency exchange operations have been implemented. This crackdown immediately stabilized the market, leading to a significant drop in the

value of the dollar and gold. The concerted efforts to combat smuggling, hoarding, and despair-inducing narratives, along with tackling corruption and creating an environment conducive to foreign investment, have instilled confidence and stability in the market. Pakistan's economy, poised for growth, is now on a positive trajectory.

In conclusion, Pakistan's 259th Corps Commanders' Conference demonstrated the nation's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism, safeguard national unity, and promote economic stability and growth. It underscored the importance of unity in the face of adversity and collective responsibility in securing Pakistan's future.

With a comprehensive strategy that combines kinetic and long-term solutions, Pakistan is poised to overcome its challenges and emerge stronger than ever before. The nation's resilience and determination are the keys to a brighter future.

*Concluded*

## Destruction of Law Education, Credit to Zakariya University Administration - II

**O**wner of the ghosts' law colleges engaged in registration for students through malpractice and fraud. How will they give useful education to law students? They will only teach methods of lies and fraud in their colleges.

The deterioration of law education standards in Pakistan due to ill practices by the Universities Administrations and certain private law prioritizing profits over quality education is a pressing issue. This decline in educational quality has significant consequences, especially when it comes to producing competent lawyers. This deficiency in legal skills not only hampers individual careers but also impacts the overall legal system's efficacy. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, authorities have introduced new measures to improve law education standards. The implementation of a 5-year LLB program with mandatory entrance tests is a step in the right direction. This initiative aims to raise the bar for aspiring lawyers, ensuring that they receive a more comprehensive and rigorous legal education. The erosion of law education standards in Pakistan due to private colleges and BZU administration is a serious concern, impacting the competence of future lawyers and the overall quality of the legal profession. The issue of law education standards being compromised by private law colleges in Pakistan has been a cause for concern in two decades.

In short JIT point out the staff of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan and owners of 32 private law colleges



**Zain-ul-Abideen Abid**

affiliated with the varsity have committed an "organized fraud" by illegally admitting 14,000 students in their three-year LLB programme. The SC had also put BZU Registrar Sohaib Rashid Khan under suspension in the case for showing negligence after FIA submitted its report to the court. It is worth mentioning here that the FIA, in its report, termed the scandal as 'organized crime' while nominating ex VC BZU Dr Tariq Ansari, Registrar Sohaib Rashid Khan, former Deputy Registrar Allah Ditta, members of registration branch, chairman and members of affiliation committee, treasurer of law colleges in the Rs 459.53 millions scam in fee head by giving admission to more students than allocated seats. In this way the greedy and anti-education elements destroyed the 3-year LL. B program, our youth who instead of attending classes to study did not act with the require integrity they are also responsible.

*Concluded*

# CPEC took Pak-China ties to new heights, says Ms. Pang

*Jamal Shah desires to restart cultural activities at China Culture Center*

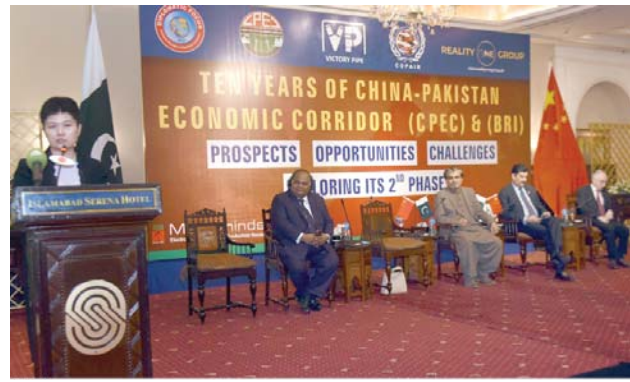
By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of Heritage & Culture Mr. Jamaal Shah appreciated the transformation of China into a modern developed country during the last few decades. Addressing the audience as a chief guest of the event hosted by the Chief Editor of Diplomatic Focus magazine, Mian FazalElahi here at Serena Hotel in Islamabad he highlighted the key features of Pak-China relations and cooperation. Former Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Faisal Karim Kunddi, Ambassadors (R) Masood Khalid, Khalid Mehmood, Syed Zulfikar Gardezi, Former Chairman KPK Investment Board Mr. Daud Butt and Chairperson COPAIR Ms. Amna Malik also attended the event.

The caretaker federal minister said Pak-China should collaborate in all fields of art as there lays huge scope, adding that it will further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two friendly nations. He also expressed his desire to restart cultural activities at the China Culture Center and reinstate the Pak-China cultural exchange program. In this regard, he recalled his work as an artist and as the head of the Pakistan National Council of Arts. The other speakers at the event also expressed their high hopes for the positive results of the connectivity and infrastructure in the near future as was promised by the Pakistani authorities to the people of Pakistan during the early years of the signing of the CPEC agreement in 2013.

The Charge' D Affairs of the Chinese Embassy Ms. Pang Chunxue was determined that the cooperative partnership with Pakistan will be taken to new heights in the second Phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC. Ms. Pang Chunxue was sure that innovations in cooperation would continue in the future. "We will enhance communication between the countries of the region", she said in her keynote address to the participants of a seminar on the completion of 10 years of CPEC. Ms. Pang Chunxue expressed her determination to continue the progress on CPEC in spite of all the challenges and hurdles created in the way by local or international players. "We will start the Green Initiative under the second phase in Pakistan. It includes green investments, green infrastructure, and green development, she said referring to the cooperation in the agricultural sector. Ms. Pang said that CPEC has contributed a lot to the economic and employment sectors of Pakistan. We will continue our work hand in hand with Pakistan. We seek economic integration with our partners. China and Pakistan are holding the next government-level dialogue in October this year. Both countries can reach many new agreements in this session.

Mr. Faisal Karim Kunddi recalled the memories of his visits to China and happily shared that due to the blessing of CPEC infrastructure and road construction, he can travel to his town Dera Ismail Khan from Islamabad within 3 hours rather than 7 hours. Some speakers pointed out the slow pace of the first phase and expected the issues would be solved with efforts from both sides soon. Ambassador (R) Khalid Mehmood said that the second phase should be focused on commerce, agriculture, industry, and science & technology transfer to Pakistan. He emphasized the establishment of Special Economic Zones, especially as envisaged bilaterally at the beginning of the work on CPEC. Khalid Mehmood



has close working experience in Pak-China relations. Ambassador (R) Syed Zulfikar Gardezi praised the work done so far and expressed his optimism about the flagship project of BRI. Lt. Gen (R) Talat Masood, regardless of his old age, attended and spoke by heart on the subject. He mentioned political uncertainty, and security challenges as the main hindrances in the true accomplishment of the idea of CPEC. "We have not seen what we had visualized" he lamented.

He said that our problems and infrastructure could not match the pace required to secure the results as they were planned. He admired the role of the Pakistan Military in providing security and helping the authorities to complete the projects. Lt. Gen (R) Talat Masood has been posted in different high-profile positions regarding security and connectivity with China. He has traveled to China many times. Ambassador (R) Nayla Chohan recommended the second phase should be between Business-to-Business while the first phase was between govt-to-govt. "Unfortunately, CPEC and BRI remained affected by the misunderstandings and misconceptions. There were a lot of apprehensions of the part-

ners in the beginning that were addressed and mitigated to the maximum level, she added. Ms. Chohan cautioned about Sustainable Development Goals achievement in 2030 which seems hard if set targets tied with CPEC are completed. Commodore (R) Babar Bilal Haider recommended the activation of Gwadar port, the main milestone at the path of CPEC where only 1.5 ships are harbored in a month. He referred to the other ports in this region and shared the number of ships that can harbor there.

The speakers highlighted tasks and targets that remained undressed in 10 years of the Pakistan Economic Corridor contrary to the tall claims and long promises of the Pakistan-

governments. Chief Editor of Diplomatic Focus, MianFazalElahi said that the China-Pakistan cooperation project was prominently featured, with a special ceremony dedicated to the distribution of plaques that recognized the outstanding contributions made by these enterprises. This gesture not only celebrated the achievements of the project but also underscored the strong and enduring friendship between the two nations. "This massive infrastructure project under CPEC has significantly improved connectivity between the two nations and is expected to stimulate trade and investment along its route", he added.

Photos By Raja Farid

## High Commission of Malaysia Organizes Merdeka Islamabad Fun Ride 2023



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 9 September 2023, the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, under its Sports and Recreation Club (Kelab STMI) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ladies Association, Malaysia in Islamabad (PERWAKILAN Islamabad), organized the first-ever Merdeka Islamabad Fun Ride 2023. The event was part of a month's long celebrations to commemorate Malaysia's 66th Independence Day on 31 August 2023. Forty (40) participants which

include His Excellency Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia, officials and staff as well as family members of the High Commission participated in the event. Officials from the Defense Office of Indonesian Embassy also took part. The event started at 0800hrs with Madam Amelia Amani Lee, President of PERWAKILAN Islamabad did the flag-off at the Chancery Building of the Malaysian High Commission. Participants cycled from the High Commission to Faisal Mosque. Total

distance covered was 14 kilometres.

In his remarks at the end of the event, Ambassador Azhar commended the efforts of the members of the Kelab STMI in successfully organising the event. The Ambassador emphasized on the importance of such an event to instill a sense of belonging and community-driven program among the Malaysian community in Pakistan. He highlighted that the Merdeka Fun Ride 2023 was one of several special events planned for the Malaysia MADANI Independence

Month Celebrations in Pakistan.

Apart from nurturing the spirit of patriotism among Malaysians in Pakistan, particularly to the younger generations, the event also strengthened further the bond and unity among Malaysian and Pakistani staff members of the High Commission. The inaugural event was a success as evident among the participants with their impromptu cheers of joy and pride. A special thank goes to the Superintendent Police Team for providing security and traffic coverage during the event.

## Covid-19 still a public threat in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Covid-19 has not left us and we are seeing many cases, with some still suffering symptoms from the last attack, known as Long-COVID. This was stated by PROF DR. JAVED AKRAM, of the Akram Medical Complex and Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health & Social Welfare; at the media roundtable, while speaking on "COVID-19 still a public threat and the importance of clinical trials."

Prof Akram further added that due the climate change, global warming and imbalance in environment all over the world including Pakistan viruses can be the biggest threat to human life as the above elements contribute in breeding of different viruses. Pakistan being a nation of 250 Million and with 2.9% annual increase in population has pushed to live in close proximity, which also becomes the cause of increase in communicable diseases.

He also explained different types of vaccines which are being used around the world including Pakistan to fight against various diseases.

Although COVID-19 cases have reduced, but at its peak it claimed 30,000 plus lives and infected more than 1.58 Million people in Pakistan. WHO has not downgraded the threat of COVID, as many variants are still prevalent in different parts of the world including Pakistan. However, in most countries Clinical Research and Trails have played a major role in finding different medicines and vaccines, which have offered patients and the general public medical cover against the



menace of this pandemic. Research and Clinical Trials have also resulted in introduction of medicines which reduce the severity of the disease.

Dr Muhammad Ahmad of Central Park Teaching Hospital and a leading Pulmonologist shared his views about the "Impact of clinical trials on a country and the current clinical trials' misconception." He explained that in Pakistan there is a misconception attached with clinical trials and the medicines being tested; one being that the administration of any trial medicine will make the participant impotent. This is just a myth, there are always strict protocols which are to be followed, most of these are standardized by FDA (US Federal Drug Authority) which is a benchmark for all clinical trials supported in many countries' own rules and procedures e.g. going through different levels of ethics committees.

The participants asked several questions from the speakers, responding to a question Dr Javed Akram explained that thorough research is required to measure the efficacy of any drug according to the climate, food, race and other

factors of any particular country. Both the speakers explained different phases of clinical trials. They also informed that Akram Medical Complex, Central Park Teaching Hospital and National Hospital & Medical Centre are facilitating the general public by offering free COVID-19 Tests to those who are showing relative symptoms, so that there is early detection of the virus as various different variants are still prevalent in Pakistan.

Aazar Ayaz of FINN Partners thanked the media for participating in the roundtable, in his closing remarks he said that this is going to help in disseminating knowledge and facts about clinical trials and will also create awareness among the media and through them in the general public about the importance of clinical trials. Clinical studies are essential for identifying additional approaches to protect our communities against major health threats. The participation of thousands of people in clinical studies was a key factor in the safe and efficient development of vaccines and medicines, as studies strictly adhered to international research ethics protocols.

## BRICS: 'A Rising Power Challenging the Global Order and Expanding Its Influence'

Sidra Tahir

The group of emerging economies known as BRICS makes up more than 40% of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy. It aims to challenge a global order that appears to be dominated by the US and its Western allies.

But what exactly is BRICS, who wants in, and why? The emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China were ascribed the acronym BRIC, in 2001 by a Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs. In 2009, the group was established as an

unofficial Club. Russia was the one to start it. The next year, South Africa joined, adding an "S" to the abbreviation. In terms of both population and economic clout, it became the smallest member.

Dozens of nations from all political spheres seek to be a part of this influential club known as BRICS. According to this year's chair over 40 countries have reportedly shown interest in joining.

Iran has stated that it expects the club to establish a new feasible application process. Brazil and Russia support Saudi Arabia, while Argentina claims that China backs it. Bolivia has

sought to join.

It has switched to the Chinese Yuan in July, claiming that it intends to reduce its reliance on the US dollar for international commerce.

This action fits exactly with BRICS's declared agenda. Algeria says it has submitted an application to join and become a shareholder in the New Development Bank.

Despite, all this the present members are still divided on expansion. In its ongoing dispute with the US over trade and geopolitics, China wants the organisation to grow. Brazil is a bit sceptical and India is undecided, but South Africa

and Russia, which want an end to their diplomatic isolation as a result of the conflict in the Ukraine, are both eager to see the group expand.

Unlike the UN or World Bank, BRICS is not a formal multinational organisation. Each country rotates through a one-year leadership of the group.

The bloc functions by consensus, and its leaders typically meet once a year. The organisation is responsible for around a fifth of global commerce and close to a quarter of the world's GDP. Apart from geopolitics, the organisation's focus areas include economic cooperation,

boosting global commerce, and development.

How to increase the influence of the so-called Global South in multilateral institutions like the UN is one of the most important challenges. BRICS countries only have 15% of the voting rights at the IMF and the World Bank while making up 42% of the global population. According to the IMF, the growth rates of these countries will soon surpass those of the G-7.

BRICS wants to be heard more. And for that reason, it is said that meetings in the upcoming years will be crucial for the future of the BRICS in a multipolar world.



# Currency dealers and transit trade will never allow economy to stabilise

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Sunday that Pakistan's economy cannot be stable in the presence of currency exchange companies and Afghan transit trade.

Many currency dealers provide all kinds of services to the corrupt elements and send the capital collected through plunder out of the country. This sector has become a hotbed for money laundering, he added.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said in a statement issued here today that the freedom given to exchange companies in Pakistan

does not exist anywhere on earth. The developed countries do not dare adopt such a system that a debtor country like ours has adopted, which has shaken the foundations of the country.

He said that goods worth billions of dollars are being smuggled through the Afghan transit trade that has no consumption in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of containers destined for Afghanistan are being emptied in Karachi and other cities, thereby depriving the local industry of its fair share and hitting revenue, he said, adding that many politicians and corrupt elements in almost all institutions are involved in this scam and are

ruining the country to fill their pockets.

Dr. Mughal said that the economy of Afghanistan has become stable. A dollar is available for 80 Afghanis there, while in Pakistan, the dollar has crossed the triple century, so the Afghan government should be asked to import all the goods for their needs through Iran.

If the trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan is restricted and strictly monitored, the local currency will stabilise, the dollar will weaken, and the crisis of flour, sugar, cooking oil, milk, pulses, and other commodities will stop in the country.

It will also reduce the price of many items in Pakistan, including rice, steel bars, cement, urea, etc.



## Meeting

DUBAI: Fazal Amin Yousafzai, Businessman & President The Grand Overseas Club, Dubai, UAE met Mr Omar Alhaj UAE and Hafiz Ur Rehman Businessman. Svetlana Russian Secretary at his office Dubai UAE



# Cut in taxes on real estate sector to attract US\$ 5-6 billion foreign investment-ICCI

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to reduce heavy taxes on the real estate and construction sector that would bring US\$ 5-6 billion foreign investment within a short time and help revive the economy. He said that the business activities of around 70 allied industries are dependent on the real estate and construction sector, so its better growth would boost of the business activities of all allied industries and stimulate the economic growth of the country. He said this while addressing as chief guest at a reception hosted in his honor by the prominent real estate developer Sial Sarfraz. The balloting of plots of his housing project was held and birthday cake of Ahsan Bakhtawari was also cut on the occasion.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the real estate sector is the major source of attracting remittances and foreign investment, however, the imposition of heavy taxes has caused significant decline in foreign remittances and the gap is increasing. He said that this situation has stagnated the business activities in the real estate and construction sector due to which

unemployment is rising. He said that cutting taxes on this sector can immediately attract billions of dollars to the country and revive the economy. He urged that the government should rationalize taxes on this sector, withdraw tax on deemed income on immovable property and create a conducive environment for this sector to spur the economic development of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarfraz Sial said that the overseas Pakistanis are interested in investing in the real estate sector, but heavy taxes are discouraging them. He emphasized that the government should reconsider taxes on this sector and offer more attractive incentives that would boost foreign investment in the country and provide crucial support to the fragile economy. He said that the government can take the country's economy from recession to sustainable development by focusing on the real estate and construction sector.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, Tahir Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Imtiaz, Nasir Chaudhry and a large number of the business community were present in the reception. A Mehfal-e-Qawwali was also held on the occasion.



# MOUs with Egyptian companies will boost Pak-Egypt Trade Relations: RCCI

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The companies from Egypt and Pakistan have signed more than seven MoUs (memorandums of understanding) for mutual cooperation in education, tourism and food sectors during a business opportunities conference held in Cairo. The Pakistan-Egypt Business Opportunities Conference was organized in Cairo, Egypt by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in Cairo.

RCCI president Saqib Rafiq informed that

the purpose of the conference was to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries and it coincided with the ongoing celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Egypt. The MOUs will help in broadening the networking opportunities, exploring possible opportunities for joint ventures and attracting foreign investment in Pakistan.

He added that the minister for Public Business Sector of Egypt Engineer Mahmoud Esmat was the chief guest on the occasion. Head of Egyptian Commercial Services

Yahya El-Wathik Bellah Ahmed, Ambassador Sajid Bilal, Dr. Alaa Ezz Amin, Secretary General of Chamber of Commerce, RCCI top leadership, President Saqib Rafiq, group leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Chairman RIAA Shahraiz Ashraf Malik, former presidents, Executive Committee members, high-ranking government officials, members of the diplomatic community, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of Egypt and a large number of Egyptian businessmen, among others, were also present on the occasion.

## PIDE Conference

# Income tax should be universal and not segmented

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Macro Policy Lab recently hosted the "Fixing Fiscal Policy" Round Table Conference in Islamabad. The event addressed the persistent challenge of fiscal indiscipline in Pakistan and sought to chart a visionary path for the nation's fiscal policy.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Associate Prof. and Chief of Macro-Policy Lab, PIDE said that the Round Table Conference, "Fixing Fiscal Policy," aims to unite policymakers and thought leaders to foster collaboration and develop local solutions in the fiscal framework of Pakistan. By bringing together academia and policymakers, we seek to chart a visionary path of fiscal policy in Pakistan for the future, transcending from short-term approaches and firefighting.

In his opening remarks speaking at the occasion Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, VC PIDE said that three things need to be focused on for the fixation of fiscal policy. Firstly, the role of the government is crucial in ensuring effective fiscal management. Secondly, taxation and expenditure must be carried out in a transparent manner with accountability. This includes how to collect taxes, how to spend them, and where to allocate funds. Lastly, debt management is also an important aspect that requires attention.

Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Principal of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, NUST while speaking at the roundtable meeting said that to address economic challenges, it is important to immediately reset the role of the government from being an active player to a facilitator. This would involve eliminating the current regulation-based regime and transitioning towards a rule-based economy. The use of a regulatory guillotine would help in the elimination of unnecessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs). A rule-based approach, coupled with monitoring and evaluation, would

ensure a more efficient and effective economic system.

Distinguished participants included senior economists, researchers, and fiscal experts from various institutions across the country, such as the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, P&D Baluchistan, QAU, SZABIST, the US Embassy, ADTMA, P&D Punjab, IUI, NUST, and COMSATS.

In the first session titled "Role of Government and Economic Stagnation" while presenting the detailed presentation Muhammad Shaaf Najib, Research Fellow, PIDE said that Interest Payments account for a significant portion of the targeted tax revenue, amounting to 77.5%. The total federal liabilities, including Interest Payments, Pensions, and Grants to provinces, stand at PKR 9512 billion. These liabilities exceed the targeted tax revenue, indicating a lack of a sufficient revenue base to support the functioning of the civil government, subsidies, and development spending. As a result, all development expenditure is entirely financed through debt. The remuneration of civil servants involves a basic salary and significant monetary and non-monetary benefits. The total reward is significantly higher than the base reward stated in the contract. However, the cost to the government for senior civil servants is much higher than the benefits they provide.

In his detailed comments, Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan made a comment on the presentation and stated that "Within the constitutional limits, without improving the NFC Award, we cannot adequately address our fiscal issues

The speakers while commenting on the session, said that the significant government intervention in economic activity/market, both as an active economic agent and through a regulatory regime, has been a prominent feature in the economy. PIDE research suggests that the government has a footprint of over 60% of the GDP and there are more than 200 Federal State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), many of which are loss-making entities. The Privatiza-



tion Commission has been inefficient in dealing with these issues. The government's presence is hindering competition and market growth. On the regulatory front, the large size of the government is evident with over 120 regulatory authorities in Islamabad alone, according to PIDE research. This abundance of registrations, licenses, certifications, and other permissions (RLCOs) has resulted in a high cost of regulatory sludge, which accounts for 45% of the GDP in only 24 activities.

The second session began with the presentation of Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Senior Research Economist, PIDE on "Taxation and Tax Administration". He stated that taxes often take the spotlight in media discussions; however, the tax policy in Pakistan is marred by arbitrary revisions, mini budgets, and IMF conditionalities. Additionally, tax administration inefficiencies require attention. The round table conference aims to explore long-term reforms for a modern tax policy. Consequently, it is evident that tax collection primarily burdens the unprivileged while benefiting the privileged class. The implications of the tax structure include exploitative

tax composition, complex tax principles, excessive withholding regime, high compliance cost, fragmented tax system, and hindered growth, as well as low fiscal resource mobilization. Furthermore, Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio has been declining, indicating a lack of tax efforts, policy, political will, and tax morality.

The speakers said that overall, the federal government relies heavily on indirect taxes, resulting in overwhelming collective revenues. The tax mix is not ideal, and there is a need to reconsider functional assignments and the experience of GST on services. The provincial tax efforts also contribute to this burden on the economy. Indirect taxes, such as customs, federal excise tax, and sales tax, outweigh direct taxes, creating distortions and discriminatory resource allocation. The effective tax to GDP-ratio, which considers compliance cost, scrapping non-economic taxes, and tax expenditure cost, is calculated to be 14.23% for 2019. To address these issues, it is recommended to upgrade both tax policy and authority. The focus is on "Doing Taxes Better" to achieve higher taxes and higher growth. Efforts are being made to improve the

overall tax policy, and a few recommendations have been put forth.

Essentially, we need to work on creating a clean system of documentation. Filing should not be solely based on the rate differential but should be made mandatory for all items. Additionally, income tax should not be segmented; it should be universal and cover agriculture income tax on the sales tax side. Instead of having too many revenues, the withholding tax (WHT) regime needs simplification. The economy would benefit from reducing withholding to improve efficiency. The process of refund adjustment should be made easier, and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) should prioritize streamlining the online refund process to minimize economic costs.

The participants unanimously agreed that the distinction between a filer and a non-filer must be abolished. They advocated for universal tax return filing, simplification, and the establishment of a reasonable threshold. Income tax should be universal and not segmented.

The 3rd and last session was "Pakistan's Debt Management" which started with the presentation of Dr. Haider Ali, Lecturer of Economics at PIDE. He highlighted that Pakistan's debt profile has worsened in recent years with a significant increase in floating debt in recent years. With increasing expenditure, our debt has continued to increase. He identified numerous questions that we need to find answers to devise an efficient debt management policy for the long run such as how much debt is sustainable. What is the prudent composite of debt? And whether we have an effective debt utilization framework in place or not.

Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq Chandna Director General (Debt), Finance Division mentioned that Pakistan's external debt saw an increase in the last decade when we turned to the global bond market to raise foreign reserve funds. The CDNS in recent times has dropped due to various policy decisions such as restricting institutional investment in saving schemes.

# QEAT: Hussain, Junaid put Whites in command against Blues in Lahore derby

**A Sports**

LAHORE: Half-centuries by Hussain Talat and Junaid Ali put Lahore Whites in a commanding position against Lahore Blues, on the first day of play for the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023-2024.

Bowlers Ahmed Bashir, Aamir Jamal and Mohammad Irfan counterattack the batting onslaught to keep the score at bay, while the Whites end the day on 247-7.

Lahore Whites, led by Saad Naseem, won the toss and opted to bowl first. Captain Imran Butt and Umar Siddiq opened the batting for Lahore blues.

However, by lunch, both the openers had lost their wickets. Resuming play after lunch from 69-2, the Imran-led side sought stability in the innings. A 54-run partnership between Usman Salahuddin and Rizwan Hussain helped their cause.

However, the bowling unit kept the Blues' batting line-up on their toes by getting wickets periodically. Ahmed Bashir, Aamir Jamal and Mohammad Irfan each got two wickets. Bowler Bilawal Iqbal also bagged a wicket, at the start of the innings.

A 73-run partnership between Hussain Talat and Junaid Ali helped the Saad-led side into a comfortable position. Half-centuries by both Hussain and Junaid took the pressure off the batting side.



By the end of the day, Lahore Whites had posted a score of 247, having lost seven wickets during the innings thus far.

In the second first-round match of the QEAT, Peshawar won the toss and asked Karachi Whites to bat first, wanting to bowl first on the Abbottabad pitch. Although Sarfaraz-led Karachi did not get to an ideal start, having lost three wickets by lunch.

Peshawar bowlers challenged the batters early on; Muhammad Ilyas taking the wickets of Habibullah and Ahammad Alam and Imran Khan Sr getting the dangerous Omair Bin Yousaf out.

Veterans Khurram Manzoor and Asad

Shafiq produced a magnificent partnership between themselves to keep the batting side ahead of the game. However, Ilyas got Asad out, breaking the solid partnership.

After that, although Karachi could not maintain a steady partnership with Danish Aziz and Khurram both losing their wickets in quick succession, the scorecard did not completely halt.

At the end of the day, Karachi was comfortably at 267-6, with captain Sarfaraz Ahmed at the crease.

A wet outfield at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi delayed the start of the third QEAT match. After

losing the toss, Faisalabad was asked to field first. The batting side got to a steady start; the openers had a 67-run stand between the two.

Even after Ahmed Safi Abdullah got Haseebullah out, effectively breaking the opening stand, Multan did not feel any unease. A following 42-run partnership between Imran Rafiq and opener Zain Abbas kept the score flowing.

Although getting a half-century, Zain too lost his wicket to Ahmed. At the end of the day's play, Multan found themselves at 145-2 after having played 43 overs in the day. Batters Imran and Sharoon Siraj, both batting in 20s, were at the crease by the time play was closed.

Overnight rain in Rawalpindi also delayed the start of the fourth match of the QEAT. After winning the toss, Rawalpindi opted to bowl first. The batting side lost two early wickets, with openers Samiullah and Salman Khan both getting out cheaply.

However, a solid partnership of 137 runs between captain Khushdil Shah and opener Mohammad Usman kept FATA in a strong position. Even though he was denied a century, a brilliant 99 by Usman remained the highlight of the first batting innings. Following his wicket, FATA lost Rehan Afridi cheaply.

By the time play was closed, FATA was 196 for the loss of five wickets after 57 overs. Sameen Gul and Mohammad Wasim Khan remained at the crease.

# Shaheen Afridi presents a gift for Jasprit Bumrah's newborn

**A Sports**

COLOMBO: Pakistan speedster Shaheen Shah Afridi took the internet by storm with his kind gesture towards Jasprit Bumrah on the sidelines of the rain-hit PAK vs IND clash in the ongoing Asia Cup 2023.

Talking to X, formerly Twitter, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared the wholesome interaction of the two rival pacers.

In the video, the left-arm Pakistan pacer can be seen presenting Bumrah with a gift for his newborn baby.

Shaheen Shah Afridi also extended well wishes for the infant while Bumrah expressed gratitude for his kind act.

The highly-anticipated PAK vs IND clash of the ongoing Asia Cup 2023 has been postponed to the reserve day on Monday, due to persistent rain, followed by a wet outfield here.

When the rain intervened, India had raced to 147/2 in 24.1 overs with KL Rahul (17\*) and Virat Kohli (8\*) at the crease.

With no further action possible on Sunday, Rahul and Kohli will resume



India's first innings on the reserve day tomorrow.

Earlier, after being put into bat first in the high-octane PAK vs IND clash, Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill gave India a flying start with a magnificent 121-run partnership.

The pair dominated Pakistan's bowling attack including their pace trio of

Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah.

Both Gill and Sharma, who struggled against the trio in the previous PAK vs IND clash on September 2, made a sensational comeback.

The duo frustrated Pakistan bowlers before Shadab Khan finally struck in his third over, removing Sharma, soon after

he amassed his half-century.

Rohit Sharma smashed six boundaries and four sixes on his way to a brisk 49-ball 56.

Gill, on the other hand, soon followed the footsteps of his captain and walked back to the pavilion in the next over after being outdone by Shaheen Shah Afridi's slower delivery.

He scored a 52-ball 58 which featured 10 boundaries.

Following the back-to-back blows, star batter Virat Kohli and returning KL Rahul batted cautiously amid their unbeaten 24-run partnership for the third wicket before rain interrupted the PAK vs IND clash.

After the dark clouds scattered and the rain finally decided to ease out, the umpires carried out several field inspections and opted not to resume the action due to a wet outfield.

Sri Lankan groundsmen made desperate efforts to dry out the wet areas by using sponges and fans and when they apparently got the situation under control, rain returned and eventually forced the match to be decided on the reserve day.

## High-octane PAK vs IND clash postponed due to persistent rain



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## What will be the revised target for Pakistan if rain washes out first innings?



**A Sports**

COLOMBO: The highly-anticipated PAK vs IND clash in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s was halted due to heavy rainfall, raising the question of the revised target.

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So what will be the revised target for Pakistan if India do not get to bat further?

In case India's innings gets washed out then Pakistan would need to turn on the T20 mode as they may be given a target of 181 in 20 overs.

If Pakistan are given the same overs, then the green shirts will have to chase down 206 runs in 24 overs.

## A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament Semi Finals Will be Played on Monday

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament Semi Final will be played on Monday 11th September (today) at KCCA Stadium.

1st Semi Final! Zone-V Whites vs. Zone-VII Whites at 9.30 am at KCCA Stadium.

2nd Semi Final! Zone-VI Whites vs Zone-VII Blues at 2.00 pm at KCCA Stadium.

The Final of the Tournament will be played on Tuesday at 1.00 pm at KCCA Stadium.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi.

# Pakistan Open Golf Championship ends in triumph with Lahore's Ahmed Baig as champion

The Pakistan Golf Federation endorsed 50th Pakistan Open Golf Championship came to a successful conclusion at the fascinating par-72, Rayhan Hills Golf Course, Bahria, Karachi. This title bearing premier event of the national golf calendar was a competition for the top golf champions of the country and in accordance with its importance the golf arena had been prepared exceedingly well and met the required standards and for this all credit to the inspirational support of the management.

The Pakistan Open Golf Championship was contested over four days from 7th September to 10th September 2023 and while the main professionals and top ranked amateurs fought it out over four rounds, the Senior Professionals and Junior Professionals competed over three rounds.

A game of high quality was witnessed during the four rounds and though the vibrant Ahmed Baig of Lahore sparkled and eclipsed over some very strong adversaries to emerge as the national title winner, noteworthy were the performances of top ranked professionals like M. Shabbir (Islamabad), Matloob Ahmed (Garrison), M. Ashfaq (Airmen Golf Club) Hamza Amin (Islamabad) and Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi).

Ahmed Baig, the leader at the start of the final round on Sunday was not threatened by the final round excellence of invulnerables like M. Shabbir and Matloob Ahmed and as a result of steady play over the final 18 holes emerged highly acclaimed and illustrious. As for details, Ahmed Baig had four rounds scores of 67,65,68 and 73 and a



championship aggregate of 273, fifteen under par. As against him M. Shabbir had four round scores of 68,74,68 and a final days 68 and his aggregate score was 278, ten under par and he lost to Ahmed Baig by a margin of five strokes having reduced the deficit he faced at the start of the final round by five stroke, a commendable effort indeed. Another pre tournament favorite, Matloob Ahmed had admirable scores of 70,68,73 and 69. Overall aggregate was 280, eight under par and position wise he ended up third.

Out of the other high achievers M. Ashfaq (Airmen Golf Club) aggregated 285, three under par, Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi) 287, one under par, Hamza

Amin (Islamabad) 289, one over par and M. Alam (Garrison) 290, two over par. Ashiq Hussain (Multan) finished at 292, four over par. M. Nacem (Peshawar), Asfar Ali (Karachi Port Trust), Akber Mehoze (Gymkhana) and M. Shahzad (Lahore Garrison) were bunched together at a four rounds aggregate score of 293.

The Seniors Professional Event was won by Nisar Hussain (PAF) with three rounds scores of 77,71 and 75 and a total of 223. Raja Iftikhar Hussain (Rawalpindi) was runners up and M. Akram (Gymkhana) came third.

Top performer amongst Junior Professionals was Ashass Amjad of Airmen Golf

Club followed by Sahil Shah (DHA, Karachi) and Shahbaz Ali (Lahore Garrison).

A highly competitive national golf championship that has brought to the fore, the expertise and skills of our flag bearer Ahmed Baig.

At the conclusion of the Championship the prizes were awarded to the performers by Sohail Shams, CEO, United Marine Agencies, Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas, Malik Kamran, Tournament Director. Sohail Shams announced that the champion Ahmed Baig will be a Brand Ambassador for United Marine Agencies and his tour expenses nationally and internationally will be covered by United Marine Agencies.