

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے محمد بن کثیر نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے  
سنان ثوری نے بیان کیا ان سے ابو حازم  
نے اور ان سے اسلم بن سعید ساعی نے  
اللہ نے بیان کیا کہ ہم کھانا اور قبول نماز  
جو کے بعد کیا کرتے تھے۔  
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6279)

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## Armed Forces, CJCSC & Services Chiefs pay glowing tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed

Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed is the shining star of the 1965 War who stood as a leaden wall in front of the enemy and sacrificed his life for the defence of the motherland. Major Raja Aziz Bhatti's 58th martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to defend the motherland.



## Election Commission to decide polls date: PM

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said the Election Commission of Pakistan would decide about the date for the upcoming elections. The prime minister, in an interview with a private television, said the Parliament had passed a law according to which the ECP had the power to announce the date for new elections. (Details on Page 8)

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## Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Christian community calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday.



Photo: Online

# Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan: Caretaker PM

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that all minorities enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and assured them of complete protection of their rights and security. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting

with a delegation of the Christian community that called on him. Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil George and other relevant authorities were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar said that those responsible for the Jaranwala incident would be made an exam-

ple so that such incidents would not occur in future.

He also asked the minorities to give proposals for the resolution of their issues and problems to the government so that the same could be solved.

The caretaker prime minister said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal social, religious and political rights to all

citizens without any racial, caste, creed and ethnic discrimination, adding with due respect to each others' faith, a peaceful and prosperous society could be formed.

He also called upon all the segments of society to play their role in the elimination of extremism.

The delegation welcomed the appointment of Khalil George as

Caretaker Minister for Human Rights.

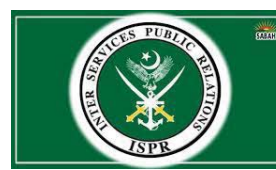
They also thanked the prime minister for visiting and taking immediate measures in the wake of Jaranwala incident.

The delegation included Ijaz August in, a former provincial minister, Asia Ansari, a former Member of the National Assembly, bishops and pastors.

## Soldier embraces martyrdom in IED blast near security forces' vehicle in Peshawar

### News Desk

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army on Monday embraced martyrdom after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded on a vehicle of the Security Forces in general area Warsak of Peshawar District. As per the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the martyr was identified as Lance Naik Abdur Rehman (age 29 years, resident of District Bannu) who embraced, Shahadat, while three soldiers got injured. It added that this cowardly terrorist act also resulted in



injury of three innocent civilians. Combing operation of the area was being carried out in the area to eliminate the terrorists and their facilitators. "Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers as well as valiant civilian brethren, further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

## President Alvi signs price control (Amendment) Bill into law

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday accorded his approval to the Price Control, Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding (Amendment) Bill.

The bill was aimed to further amend the Price Control, Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act 1977. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

President Alvi approved the amendment bill under Article

75 of the Constitution.

According to the bill, any producer, dealer or importer – if aggrieved by an order of a Controller General – may prefer an appeal within three working days of the order to an appellate committee.

"The committee comprises of federal secretary of the division to which business of industries stands allocated and two federal secretaries nominated by the Cabinet Division in case of the Federal Government and an appellate committee comprising of three provincial secretaries including secretary of the department to which business of industries stands allocated" constituted by chief secretary of the province concerned in case of a province or district thereof, as the case may be" the bill stated.

## Deputy chairman NAB submits resignation

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: After Prosecutor General NAB Justice (R) Syed Asghar Haider, Deputy Chairman National Accountability Bureau – Zahir Shah – on Monday also resigned from his office.

Sources revealed that the Deputy Chairman NAB – Zahir Shah – submitted his resignation to Chairman NAB, meanwhile, the reasons for his resignation are still yet to be known.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Director General (DG) National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Zahir Shah has been appointed as the deputy chairman of the accountability watchdog after the slot became vacant follow-

## FBR unearths country's biggest tax fraud worth Rs314 billion

### Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has unearthed the country's biggest tax fraud worth Rs314 billion committed by a fake company, K H & Sons, ARY News reported.

Sources told ARY News that the tax fraud was detected by the Director-General Internal Audit Inland Revenue team. The K H & Sons company only existed on paper and is registered with a benami individual Muhammad Kashif.

The fake company's documents showed it was running the business of iron and steel, whereas, it mentioned addresses of Liaquat Market, Agri Market and M A Jinnah Market.

Sources revealed the name of the fake company was used for different illegal activities. Surprisingly, the FBR has not

yet registered any case against Rs314 billion of tax fraud despite the revelations. Sources said that the accused could flee abroad in case of further delay in the registration of the First Information Report (FIR).

Yesterday, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) arrested four

suspects who were involved in Rs11 billion tax invoices scam.

As per details, FBR foiled a gang of fake/flying sales tax invoice mafia and arrested four suspects allegedly involved in the scam.

The FBR stated that one accused was arrested when filing fake sales tax returns of various dummy firms from his house.

The second accused was arrested from PRAL Call Centre, Islam-

abad who was working as a facilitation officer at PRAL.

Furthermore, the FBR officials also recovered Rs1.6 billion fake output tax data from the accused official PRAL computer. All four accused belong to Karachi.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) decided to launch a countrywide crackdown against tax evasion.

The taxation authority prepared a list of 11,000 persons from major cities including Lahore and Karachi, sources said. The list included industrialists, mill owners, traders, property dealers and wholesalers, according to sources.

The grip will be tightened against tax defaulters, and they will also be arrested, sources said. The FBR's list of tax evaders included people from Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Multan.

## New electricity tariff to be introduced before Oct 31: Energy Minister

### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali announced on Monday that the revised electricity tariff would be introduced before October 31.

While addressing a press conference alongside Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali said the government is taking indiscriminate action against the electricity and gas thieves. "We are making efforts to control everything. We will try to control the electricity tariff and provide low-cost power to industries from October 31. The inflated bills were received due to electricity theft, whereas, the tariff was hiked due to the increase in USD price."

## Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CCoIGCT

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communication, Railways, and Maritime Affairs Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Minister for Commerce, Industries, & Production Mr. Gohjar Ijaz, Minister for Power & Petroleum Mr. Muhammad Ali, Advisor to PM on Finance Dr. Waqar Masood, Advisor to PM on Aviation Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Malik, Advi-

sor to PM on Establishment Mr. Ahad Cheema, SAPM on Maritime Affairs Vice Admiral (R) Iftikhar Ahmad Rao, Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, Chairman KPT and team and other senior officers from Finance Division, Maritime Affairs Division, and KPT attended the meeting.

Ministry of Maritime Affairs submitted the summary regarding out-sourcing of operations



of Bulk and General Cargo Terminal East Wharf at Karachi Port. Secretary Maritime Affairs briefed the meeting

on the process of outsourcing of port terminal and earlier decisions of CCoIGCT in this regard.

The CCoIGCT was apprised about the decisions of the then CCoIGCT taken in the earlier meeting of CCoIGCT held on 09-08-2023 which could not be ratified by the then Cabinet due to its dissolution. CCoIGCT agreed after discussion that recommendations of the above mentioned agenda may be submitted to the current Federal Cabinet for decision / approval.

## Responsible journalism need of the hour: Solangi



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday appreciated the services of court reporters in providing awareness of legal matters and important court decisions to the masses.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Press Association of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which met with him here, the minister said the main objective of the media was to convey correct information to the general public. He stressed that responsible journalism was need of the hour which could help the society move forward in the right direction.

The role of court reporters in journalism, he said, was very important. Court reporting was a technical field and like lawyers, journalists covering court proceedings should be well versed in law, he added.

## Sustainable climate resilient health systems urged: Nadeem Jan

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that there is a need to develop sustainable and climate-resilient health systems in the country. He was presiding over a consultation initiated by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination with the support of the British High Commission. The minister said that the government of Pakistan has developed a framework of action highlighting the agenda and objectives of COP-26. He said that the climate crisis and the health of citizens are interlinked and have many of the same solutions, especially when it comes to strengthening health systems. Implementing the adaptation and mitigation plans will require dedicated financing, acting now is likely to save money and lives in the long term, Dr. Nadeem Jan added. Speaking on the occasion Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Shallwani said that climate change and health are one of the priorities of the Government of Pakistan especially since we faced the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by floods in 2022.

## New Judicial Year

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial presiding over the ceremony of New Judicial Year 2023-24 at Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Election Commission to decide polls date: PM

## Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said the Election Commission of Pakistan would decide about the date for the upcoming elections.

The prime minister, in an interview with a private television, said the Parliament had passed a law according to which the ECP had the power to announce the date for new elections.

Speculations regarding the elections should end which would be held according to the prevalent law, he said, adding, "We have no intention to prolong the tenure of the caretaker government."

He said as a student of the history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to the Quaid-e-Azam for protecting rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from the domination of majority.

After seeing the attitude of bigger states against the minorities, he said, he could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of the Muslims if the Quaid had not secured an independent



state for the Muslims.

He said he admired the Quaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all-inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities.

The prime minister assured that action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established.

"We are taking these actions so that the new government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest."

He said the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) included current military leadership, thus making the Coun-

cil a strong constitutional and legal body which was taking firm actions and implementing decisions.

The caretaker federal and provincial governments had good coordination which was helpful in implementing decisions, he noted.

He said the SIFC was focusing on economic revival and on sectors of agriculture and mineral extraction. However, work would be done on major plans of investment so that they could be at an advanced stage when the next government would take over, he added.

PM Kakar said Pakistan had

multifaceted relations with Afghanistan and had regular discussions with it on issues of trade, terrorism, security and regional connectivity.

Both sides were talking with the realization that neighbours could not be changed, he added.

To a question about rising incidents of terrorism in the country, he said the terrorists had now more latest weapons, night vision goggles and other equipment which had increased their capacity to fight.

However, he made it clear that the terrorists could not take away an inch of territory of Pakistan and the security forces would respond and manage the situation. The state would show its firmness against terrorists as in no condition anyone would be allowed to resort to violence, he stressed.

PM Kakar said there was no restriction on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for taking part in the elections.

Talking about the incidents of May 9, he said miscreants resorted to vandalism and arson, and the whole incidents were reported by the

local and international media. The accused involved in the incidents would be dealt with according to the law of the land, he added.

He said Nawaz Sharif was a thrice elected prime minister and when he would come back to Pakistan he would be treated according to the law.

He clarified that he had no intention to start meetings with the leadership of political parties.

To a question about the foreign policy, he said Pakistan had good relations with all countries, adding China was on the verge of becoming the largest economy of the world and the Western world led by the United States was anxious about it and wanted to contain its influence.

Pakistan had adopted the policy of Look Africa to improve its relations with that continent which had a population of more than a billion people, he informed.

He said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman would visit Pakistan on a mutually agreed time when both sides would be ready to announce projects for investment.

## Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab inspects Multan Nishtar Hospital



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Nishtar Hospital-II in Multan and inspected various parts of the hospital including outdoor, under-construction emergency, waiting area, admin block and radiology department. He also inspected the pharmacy, operation theatres, CT scan, basement, inn and cafe. Secretary C&W and PD Nishtar-II gave a briefing about the project.

While directing the completion of the project without delay,

the CM noted that the Nishtar-II was the dire need of the people of the Multan district and adjoining areas and it would also lessen the load of the Nishtar Hospital. Provincial Ministers, chief secretary, IGP, secretaries and others were also present.

Later, the CM visited the Multan Institute of Kidney Diseases where he inquired the patients and their attendants about the medical facilities provided to them. He also inspected the newly constructed building of DHQ Hospital Multan and directed to functionalize it soon.

## Balochistan Caretaker Minister calls on PM Kakar



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Asif -ur-Rehman on Monday was called on

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Former chief minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan was also present during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

## Torkham border closure: Pakistan asks Afghan authorities to respect its territorial integrity

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Responding to Afghanistan government's statement on the closure of the Torkham border, the Foreign Office (FO) on Monday said that Kabul should respect its territorial integrity and ensure Afghan soil is not used to launch militant attacks in Pakistan.

In a statement, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the statement by the Afghan foreign ministry had "come as a surprise as the interim Afghan authorities know fully well the reasons for the temporary closure" of the border.

Pakistan on Monday said that for the last several decades, it had facilitated Afghan transit trade and would continue to do so, however, it could not allow the misuse of the agreement.

The FO spokesperson said that Pakistan could not accept the construction of any structures by the interim Afghan government inside its territory since those violated its sovereignty.

"On the 6th of September, instead of a peaceful resolution, Afghan troops resorted to indiscriminate firing, targeting Pakistan military posts, damaging the infrastructure at the Torkham Border Terminal, and putting the lives of both Pakistani and Afghan civilians at risk, when they were stopped from erecting such unlawful structures," she commented.

She said that such unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on Pakistani border posts could not be justified under any circumstances.

The spokesperson said that the unprovoked firing by Afghan border security fore-



es invariably emboldened the terrorist elements. These elements are enjoying sanctuaries inside Afghanistan as confirmed by the UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in its latest report, she added.

The spokesperson said that Pakistan had always wished the Afghan border to be a border of peace and amity between the two countries.

"We have welcomed our Afghan brothers and sisters with open arms for decades. Pakistan has continued to exercise restraint and prioritize dialogue in the face of persistent unwarranted provocations by Afghan troops deployed along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border," she remarked.

The spokesperson said that the temporary closures took place only in extreme cases

such as the September 6, 2023 incident on the border or when Afghan soil was used to launch terror attacks inside Pakistan.

She said the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement also included some irrelevant comments and unsolicited advice about Pakistan's economy and foreign trade.

She reiterated that Pakistan stood ready to resolve all bilateral issues and concerns through constructive dialogue so that both countries could reap the dividends of economic connectivity and resultant prosperity.

"We expect the Afghan interim authorities to be mindful of Pakistan's concerns, respect the territorial integrity of Pakistan and ensure that the Afghan territory is not used as a launching pad for terrorist attacks against Pakistan," the spokesperson added.

## Unity Across Continents: Calling for Human Rights in Kashmir: Imam Teslim Afghali

## Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Leadership of the Kashmiri American diaspora, led by the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, and leadership of the African American diaspora led by the Sierra Leone Muslim Jamaat co-hosted an interactive panel discussion under the title of, "Unity Across Continents", calling for Civil Rights Actions at the local and global levels to alleviate the suffering inflicted on the people of Kashmir by the Indian occupation forces during the last 76 years.

Imam Teslim Afghali expressed his appreciation to the leadership of World



Kashmir Awareness Forum for co-hosting Sierra Leone Muslim Jamaat for the Kashmir awareness event. Imam Afghali said 'I believe it will be very interesting interactive discussion this evening. Let me begin by emphasizing the significance of the topic of the discussion this evening. Let us listen to our guests from Kashmiri American community with open mind and give them utmost atten-

tion. As we know that Kashmir dispute is an old issue which began in 1947. Kashmir is known as paradise on earth because of its beauty, natural scenery, snow covered mountains, diverse forestry, historical monuments, handicrafts and local hospitality.

Imam Afghali added that both India and Pakistan have recognized the right of the people of Kashmir to decide their future. It will not be difficult for us coming from African heritage to understand the pain and suffering of our Kashmiri brethren. We are here to discuss various facets of the issue of Kashmir from human rights and cultural perspective and historical context. We want to

foster an understanding among our communities. Recognizing the similarities between African experiences with of Kashmiri American diaspora is essential. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum & Chairman, Kashmir Diaspora coalition and its Board Member Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Professor of the George Washington University expressed their deep gratitude to the host community and its remarkable leadership for hosting the event and showing solidarity with the Kashmiri Muslim community.

## Saudi Infant returns to life after three months in intensive care



## News Desk

RIYADH: Specialized health care extended for 85 days contributed to the safe discharge of a premature baby healthy and without any complications.

Saudi Health said on Sunday, September 10, that physicians at Yanbu General Hospital (western Saudi Arabia) successfully dealt with a high-risk case of premature childbirth. The mother arrived at the hospital emergency suffering from a

lack of fetal fluid with several infections and a medical history of repeated miscarriages.

As a result of her health condition, induced labor was performed, delivering a baby boy weighing only 550 grams at the age of 23 weeks.

The infant was immediately transferred to the newborn intensive care unit, where he was found to have respiratory failure due to incomplete lung development, which required him to be put on a ventilator and given medications.

After 85 days in the hospital, the child was discharged weighing a staggering 1.8 kg. He is healthy and without any complications expected to occur for those in his condition, which usually include brain hemorrhage, retinopathy, and respiratory problems.

## PIA likely to ground more planes amid financial crisis

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airline (PIA) is likely to ground more planes amid the current financial crisis.

As per details, the flight suspension looms on the PIA heads as 15 more aircraft will be grounded if the national airline does not pay the amount within two days.

Sources within the PIA revealed that the PIA government refused to release the funds. On September 2, the international organizations refused to go along with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) due to the country's negative credit rating and dependence on the State Bank for foreign exchange.

Due to the lack of attention from

the government, the national flag carrier is grappling with one of the most severe financial crises in history.

According to the sources, PIA's four Boeing 777 and five Airbus 320 aircraft are feared to be grounded due to its inability to meet financial obligations. Leasing companies have declined to collaborate with PIA, citing concerns about the country's CCC credit rating.

International institutions believe



that PIA's risk exposure increased due to delays in lease payments, and they are concerned that PIA may need approval from the state-owned bank - State Bank of Pakistan - for its international financial transactions, which could erode confidence in the national airline.

# Jamal Shah inaugurates exhibition 'Portraits of Quaid' at PNCA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated a solo exhibition of paintings titled "Portraits of Quaid" to commemorate the 75th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The exhibition was organized by Ali Azmat, a renowned artist in collaboration with ForArtSake curated by Amna I Pataudi and Dr. Rahat Naveed Masood here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).



Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Jamal Shah paid rich tribute to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his vision, untiring hard work, and charismatic leadership to win a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The minister said that Ali Azmat has thematically tried to capture what Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah envisioned for Pakistan. Jamal Shah said "Ali Azmat adds color, aesthetics, and takes up the responsibility to

bring clarity and awareness to the larger political landscape of the country; he has accomplished this feat remarkably well in his works. As you walk from one painting to another, you can see how brilliantly Azmat Ali captures the changing expressions of the Quaid's visage".

He said that the exhibition is a fantastic amalgamation of hyper-realistic paintings and drawings of

Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The minister said, today, there was a need for the nation to emulate the Father of Pakistan's everlasting principles of faith, unity, and discipline to face the current challenges.

Jamal Shah said that the National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached departments would organize more cultural activities including theatre, music, film festivals, and China

Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Caravan. He praised curator Amna I Pataudi, artist Ali Azmat, and ForArt-Sake and said "The art can transform you like nothing else".

Amna I Pataudi said that for the first time, any artist has become the Federal Minister for Culture and added that Jamal Shah being an artist can better understand the issues of the artist's community.

She said the repertoire of expressions is as rich as the colorful strokes of the artist. His works reflect his love for nature, history, and spirituality, as well as his social commentary on contemporary issues. He uses various mediums and techniques, such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, and mixed media, to create his unique style.

The exhibition will remain open for the public till 18th September at the National Art Gallery, PNCA. The show was visited by a large number of people including artists, students, Government officials, press & media, etc. Students also interviewed the artists about their techniques.

## Chief of Ahmadzai Wazir Malik Bismillah Khan died of a heart attack

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Monday at midnight Malik Bismillah Khan Yar Gul Khel, also known as Seelak, the chief of Ahmadzai Wazir tribe in Wana, South Waziristan Lower, died of a heart attack. His funeral prayers were performed in his native village of Sheenwarsak.



The sudden death of Malik Bismillah Khan has saddened the entire Ahmadzai Wazir tribe, Malik Bismillah Khan was fit and healthy till morning.

Family sources say that Malik Bismillah Khan died due to cardiac arrest.

Malik Bismillah Khan was a lovable, sociable and cheerful person, the political and social circles of Wana apart from the tribal elders have expressed great sorrow and grief on his sudden death.

The funeral prayer of Chief Malik Bismillah Khan was performed in his native village of Sheenwarsak, every eye was filled with tears.

The local tribal elders said that Malik Bismillah's death is not only a shock to his family, but the entire of Ahmadzai Wazir Tribe are saddened by his death.

## Eighteen's developer wins award for best foreign real estate investment in Pakistan



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman & CEO of ORA developers, Mr. Naguib Sawiris, received the award for the Best Foreign Real Estate Investment in Pakistan.

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which promotes economic development, strengthens international trade and honors business excellence organised the prestigious 35th RCCI International Achievement Awards 2023 hosted in Cairo, Egypt.

Naguib Sawiris is a visionary real estate and hospitality entrepreneur that has enhanced development potential and morphed the foundation of the industry.

EIGHTEEN housing project is first foreign investment in real estate sector of Pakistan. Eighteen located on the focal point for the twin cities with an extensive footprint, the mixed-residential development spans over a total of 2.7 million square yards, which is themed around an 18-hole championship golf course with ample green spaces and beautiful panoramic views.

## Karachi Toll Plaza firing: Accused Haji Hameed flees to Balochistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The accused in the Karachi Toll Plaza firing case, Haji Hameed along with his family fled to Balochistan after locking his flat in the Bahadurabad area.

The car spotted in the CCTV footage was currently present in Windar city and his last mobile location was also tracked in Balochistan. An attempted murder case was lodged against Hameed at the Mochko police station.

Some people told the investigators that Hameed is aggressive and always ready to fight everyone. They added that he pulled his gun at people to threaten them on minor issues at Fisheries Harbour.

Keamari police decided to nab the accused with the help of the Balochistan police.

Yesterday, a man opened fire on an employee of Karachi Toll Plaza after the latter stopped him from 'travelling in the wrong direction'.

According to details, the incident took place on Saturday, when a man shot and injured an employee at Lucky Toll Plaza after he was stopped from 'travelling in the wrong direction'.

In a CCTV footage - available with ARY News, the employee can be seen stopping a car driver at Toll Plaza.

Following an altercation, the man pulled out a pistol from inside the vehicle and shot at the boy indiscriminately.

Meanwhile, another staff member of the toll plaza tried to break the quarrel but to no avail. The driver can be seen fleeing from scene after injuring the employee.

In a statement, SSP Kemari Arif Aslam Rao said that a case has been registered against the person and the 25-year-old Abrar - who sustained bullet injuries - is out of danger now.

SSP Kemari further said that preliminary investigation revealed that the vehicle is registered in the name of Arsalan Baloch, while further probe into the incident was underway.

# IIUI President's surprise visit at Academic Block & N Students Facilitation Centre

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University (IIU) held a surprise inspection visit at the new academic block and the Students Facilitation Centre established in the light of his vision to facilitate students under one roof on priority and with the use of modern and digitized approach.



On the occasion, the IIUI President directed that the issues of students must be solved not in days but in hours. He said there will be zero tolerance for those officials who will behave inappropriately with the students.

The IIUI President met the students in various sections of the academic block and students facilitation centre, where he listened to their problems and feedback on the new facility. During the visit, respec-

tive Incharges of all the sections apprised the President IIUI about the nature of work and new approach.

He advised the officials to be courteous to the students and they must be guided appropriately. He said

this is the time when new students are inducted who need appropriate guidance and counselling, therefore, these busy days must be more efficient in terms of students facilitation. He opined that there would be zero tolerance policy for the officials who do not adopt professionalism. The IIUI President was also accompanied by director Academics Dr. Muhammad Khan.

The IIUI President passed directions that students must not face any issue regarding the academics related affairs and this must be ensured that they will not visit any other office for their matters. "All the issues must be solved within this facility and it must be a one stop approach without delays" he added.. He advised the staff to be friendly with the students and utilize the advanced gadgets and new system for the students' facilitation with energy.

# Eradication of Smuggling with sacrifices would continue: DG Faiz Ahmad

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: The blood of customs' men and officers is involved in protecting the economic and social borders of the country, Message delivered by the DG Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmed.

According to the details, during July, August and as 07th September 2023, a huge quantity of smuggling goods was seized, disclosed by the Director Asif Abbas Khan.

Furthermore all the officers of Directorate Multan paid tribute to the martyrdom of Sepoy Sardar Khan and other customs martyrs while a team saluted, while praising the efforts of the country's economic and social Boundaries, the blood of Customs jawans and officers is involved in protecting in all respect.



On this occasion Director Asif Abbas Khan, Additional Director Muhammad Mumtaz Ali Raza Chaudhary, Deputy Directors Muhammad Ali Asif and Ali Touqir addressed the Media. Whereas Director Asif Abbas Khan said that Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation Customs Multan has intensified anti-smuggling activities. Under the leadership of Deputy Direc-

tor Atrat Hussain Shah in Regional Office Faisalabad and Deputy Director Ali Touqir in Multan, during the last two months and the current month (July, August and till 07 September 2023), a huge amount of smuggled goods were seized even More than million to billion.

Foreign baggage in baggage (5,540 kg), cigarettes (18,586 sticks), cars, cosmetics, cloth, tires, shopping bags, dry milk, almonds, Chinese salt, cardamom, mobile phones, engines, Rani juice, cream and other goods. 752 million. The value of cases for this year is compared to last fiscal year

(July, August and September). By 2022), there has been an increase of 87%, which is the result of the day and night efforts of the officers and staff. On which the senior officers have praised and encouraged the staff with good words and in the future with more courage and honesty.

# What is the most pressing challenge for Pakistan

Pakistan faces a range of significant challenges, making it difficult to pinpoint a single "most pressing" challenge. However, one of the major challenges Pakistan has been grappling with is socio-economic development. In Pakistan, economic instability is a serious and ongoing problem that has a big impact on the development and well-being of the country. This instability, which is characterized by changes in important economic indicators like inflation, exchange rates, and budget deficits, erodes investor confidence, obstructs sustainable growth, and widens socioeconomic gaps.

generation, and impairs poverty and unemployment. Uncertainty surrounding economic conditions hampers strategic planning and long-term investments for both local and foreign businesses, hindering economic diversification and technological advancement.

Addressing this issue requires comprehensive and sustained efforts. Structural reforms that enhance tax collection, streamline public spending, and promote transparent governance are essential. Strengthening institutions responsible for economic management can improve policy coordination and execution. Additionally, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship can stimulate economic dynamism and resilience.

Overcoming the multifaceted chal-

lenge of economic instability in Pakistan requires a comprehensive strategy that integrates various stakeholders and sectors. Recognizing that this issue cannot be tackled through isolated efforts, a multifaceted approach is imperative to address the complexity and interdependence of economic factors. This strategy should involve government initiatives, active engagement from civil society, participation of the commercial sector, and collaboration with foreign partners. Here's how each of these elements contributes to a holistic solution:

Government Initiatives: The

government plays a central role in economic stability by formulating and implementing policies that address macroeconomic imbalances, fiscal deficits, and inflation. Government efforts can also include providing social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations during economic shocks.

Civil Society Involvement: Civil society organizations have a critical role in advocating for transparency, accountability, and social justice. They can monitor government policies, raise awareness about economic issues, and promote inclu-

sive development. Civil society can serve as a bridge between citizens and policymakers, voicing concerns and advocating for policies that prioritize socio-economic stability and equity.

Commercial Sector Participation: The private sector, including businesses and industries, is a vital driver of economic growth. Engaging the commercial sector involves creating an environment conducive to investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This can be achieved through policy incentives, infrastructure development, and reducing regulatory hurdles. Businesses can also contribute by adopting sustainable practices that promote economic resilience.

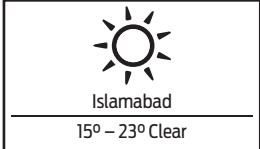
Cooperation with Foreign Partners: Global economic dynamics have a significant impact on national econ-

omies, including Pakistan's. Collaboration with foreign partners, including international financial institutions and trade partners, can provide access to financial resources, technical expertise, and markets. International cooperation can help stabilize exchange rates, attract foreign investment, and facilitate trade, contributing to a more stable economic environment.

In summation, Pakistan's economic instability presents a complex challenge with far-reaching consequences. By endorsing targeted reforms, fortifying institutions, and fostering an environment conducive to investment and growth, Pakistan can strive toward realizing a more secure and prosperous economic future. (Author is real estate developer and joint venture specialist).



Sharoon Arif Sharooni



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:23 am  
Zohr ..... 12:05 pm  
Asr ..... 4:34 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:21 pm  
Isha ..... 7:45 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 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  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service ..... 9204654  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9203883  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9266316  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9217579-80  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 119, 9272249

**Raja Shahid visited the site of the residential colony for journalists**

**Bureau Report**

KOTLI: Director Information and Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation Raja Shahid Hussain Khokhar on Monday visited the site of the residential colony for journalists in Kotli and reviewed the situation before starting security construction to demarcate the allotted space. Director of Information also listened to the local people gathered on the occasion. On the occasion of the visit, member of the Board of Governing of Press Foundation Shaukat Mahmood Khokhar, President District Press Club Yasir Hasan, President Khoi Ratta Press Club Azhar Malik, senior journalist, Ikram Bhatti, Shaukat Qamar, Ghulam Mahmood Jaral, District Information Officer Shaukat Ali were also present. The Director of Information also visited the Deputy Commissioner's office and urged the Deputy Commissioner to take immediate action against the encroachments on the colony site and the ongoing encroachments by the people, on which the Deputy Commissioner ordered removal of the encroachments and action against the encroachers. Issued instructions for filing cases. The Director of Information appreciated the Deputy Commissioner and the staff of the Finance Department for playing an active role in the acquisition of land for the residential colony by the administration. The Director of Information visited the District Press Club where he was warmly welcomed and garlanded on his arrival at the Press Club. The Director of Information also visited the press club building. In the press club, President Press Club Yasir Hasan, Secretary General Press Club Zahid Beg, former Senior Vice President District Press Club Rizwan Qureshi, senior journalist Zulfikar Malik discussed the current journalistic issues.

# PM, Turkmenistan envoy discuss bilateral ties

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The ambassador conveyed the congratulations of the Turkmen leadership to the Prime Minister on his appointment to the august office. The warm wishes were reciprocated by the Prime Minister.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasised that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed excellent brotherly ties and hoped these relations will continue to grow further. He particularly highlighted the need to focus on cooperation in trade, energy, economic connectivity and people to people contacts.

He also underscored the need for early completion of energy and power projects. The Turkmenistan ambassador reaffirmed the desire to cooperate on these



firming the desire to cooperate on these specific initiatives as well as to enhance the overall scope and breadth of bilateral relations.

# Azad Kashmir PM hails Mujahid Awal for his role in Kashmir

**Abdul majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq arrived at Mujahid Manzil and met with the President of the Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan.

The two leaders had a lively discussion on issues of mutual interest, political affairs and the Kashmir issue.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said in view of the rapidly changing conditions in the region, there is a need for an integrated strategy to highlight the Kashmir issue worldwide.

He said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved accord-

ing to the resolutions of the United Nations.

The problem has been unresolved for the past seventy-three years, now there is a need to take concrete steps to solve this prob-



lem.

He said that Mujahid Awal former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was the owner of a visionary personali-

ty and his struggle.

He played an important role in the independence of Kashmir and then in the construction and development of Azad Kashmir.

He said that India will have to withdraw its actions of August 5, then the way will be paved for negotiations. The Indian Army has committed serious violations

of human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

He appreciated the important role of Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan in the politics of Azad Kashmir.

Former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan thanked the Prime Minister for the arrival of Mujahid Manzil and said that the political culture of Azad Kashmir is a torch for all.

He praised the Prime Minister's initiatives for good governance and reiterated his full support to the Prime Minister in highlighting the Kashmir issue.

Chairman Youth Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Sardar Abid Razak and Sahibzada Modudul Hasan Gilani were also present on the occasion.

# Students are the future builders of the nation. Dr. Shahid Mahmood

**Asif Farooq**

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of Allied and EFA Schools Group Corporate Office and Regional Office North Punjab, a function was organized in honor of position holders in the Matriculation Board Examinations on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Personalities were included. The director of Punjab Colleges, the Director, and the Members Board of Governors were also present. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Project Director Allied Schools was the event's chief guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the chief guest appreciated the performance of position holders students and their teachers' hard



work and efforts. He said that these students are the architects of the future of the nation, so the critical responsibility of educational, social, and professional training is imposed on schools and

parents, to which we should be ready all the time. The students of Wifa Schools paid tribute to martyrs and national heroes by presenting songs. Medals and cash prizes were also distributed among

the matric position holders. At the end of the ceremony, certificates of appreciation and awards were given especially to the teachers of Allied and Efa schools and network associates.

# Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA paid a detailed visit to Balochistan



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan in order to inspect and review the progress of various ongoing development projects and the restoration works on flood-affected road infrastructure.

Acting on directions of the Hon'ble Caretaker Prime Minis-

ter Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Secretary Communications along with Member West Zone Mr. Shahid Ihsanullah and his team, made a comprehensive visit to various sites in Balochistan.

Secretary Communications reviewed the developments on already issued instructions regarding expeditious progress on PSDP projects and maintenance schemes including Pinjra Bridge (N-65), Quetta

Western Bypass (N-25), Khuzdar-Kuchlak Dualization (N-25), and Zhob-Kuchlak Dualization projects (N-50).

During his visit to Quetta Western Bypass, he acknowledged the efforts of the contractor and NHA's workforce for the quality and efficiency of work. Moreover, he directed the concerned officers to increase the resources and machinery in order to successfully complete the Bypass within the provided

deadline i.e., 30th November. Similarly, he pointed that restoration work on Pinjra Bridge N-65 shall be completed within the stipulated time of four months.

While expressing his satisfaction on the pace of work, Mr. Khurram Agha stated that it was NHA's top priority to ensure that our highways and motorways were in the best of conditions and always accessible for the people.

# Operation against hoarders and smugglers should be accelerated

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (R) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Monday that the operation against hoarders and smugglers of dollars, oil, sugar, and urea is commendable, but it needs to be accelerated.

If the influential mafia is not eliminated this time, it will destroy the country, he said, adding that the people do not want elections but food and some relief.

Aslam Khan said in a statement issued here today that India has become the fifth largest power in the world while Pakistan has become the fifth largest borrower, and according to the IMF, Pakistan will soon become the fourth largest borrower.

He said that after the crackdown against the criminal currency mafia, people are buying gold, so its trade should be regularised because 100% of the gold in Pakistan is smuggled, due to which no tax is collected from the jewellers.

Almost every politician, every organisation, and people from every sphere of life have contributed to the destruction of the economy, but now the situation has become very dangerous, and inaction or half-hearted action will result in regrets, he observed.

Aslam Khan said that the ruling elite is behind every crisis in the country, but they are never held accountable. India and Bangladesh were already far ahead of Pakistan, but now the conditions in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, and Afghanistan are much better.

Aslam Khan said that the price of sugar and the value of the dollar have decreased significantly due to monitoring at the borders and action within the country, but all the criminals must be brought to justice to improve the confidence of the masses and the business community.

The action against stockpiling, smuggling, and corruption should not be temporary but should be a continuous process, while currency dealers and oil smugglers should be made an example so that the economic conditions improve and the people bring food to the table.

If this does not happen, it will be the beginning of another disaster, which will be unfortunate, he warned.



# PM AJK inaugurated website Department of Energy and Water Resources

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Monday inaugurated the official website Department of Energy and Water Resources. Through the website, users of Azad Kashmir will be able to access new connections, online printing of bills, preparation of schemes, awareness and all other necessary information for the convenience of users. The launch of the website is a revolutionary step by the Electricity Department which will make information easily available to the people of Azad Kashmir. Senior Government Minister Colonel (Retd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Electricity Department Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, Secretary Law Irshad Ahmad Qureshi and other relevant officials were also present on this occasion.

# Shabbir Mirza artistic services will always be remembered: Aasma Butt



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Yesterday, a ceremony was held in Rawalpindi Art Council for the senior actor Shabbir Mirza (Late) under the management of director and producer Aasma Butt. On this occasion, Director Rawalpindi Art Council Waqar Ahmad, Founder Rawalpindi Art Council Naheed Manzoor, Sulaiman Sunny, Shabbir Mirza's family along with artists of twin cities Anjum Habibi, Babar Niazi, Javed Niazi, Noreen Begum, Saeed Anwar, Imran Rushdi, Lala Yar Muhammad, Manawer Khan Afridi, Ali Shan, Noor, Saleem Affendi Shah, Mahmouda Qamar, Rahim Mustafa, Rais Mastana, Haji Azam, Ansar Mehmood, Amjad Chaudhry, Nawaz Ali Hazravi, Raheel Mustafa, Saima Rehman, Aslam Bhatti, Shahid Mirza, Kaleem. Khan, Mehboob Jan, Aamir Zaryab, Mumtaz Khan, Ali, Karan, Sofia and many others participated. At the beginning of the ceremony, the Quran was recited for the late Shabbir Mirza.

Later expressing her thoughts, Aasma Butt said that Shabbir Mirza was a beloved actor who passed away fighting a deadly disease like cancer. Renowned film and television actor Shabbir Mirza worked in many dramas and films. In which dramas like Guest House, Mickey Khadro England, Aghoosh, were very famous among public. Besides being a good actor, he was a very good person. I pay tribute to Shabbir Mirza for his artistic services. May Allah forgive him and give patience to his family. Amen. Naheed Manzoor, the founder of Rawalpindi Art Council, said that if it is not possible to join in happiness, but it is necessary to participate in someone's grief. Shabbir Mirza was a very good artist, I pray for his forgiveness.

# AIOU to celebrate its golden jubilee with full zeal

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will mark 50 years of completion next year. The university has made significant progress in various fields since its inception. Today, AIOU stands as the largest university in the country in terms of the number of students and has successfully achieved its founding goals. More than 4.6 million students have graduated from Allama Iqbal Open University by June 2023. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has decided to celebrate the completion of 50 years of this mega university with full zeal across the country. The university administration has formed various committees which will be responsible for highlighting the historical context of the university, setting up a history corner, and organizing alumni associations, conferences, seminars, and convocations in the main campus and provincial capitals.

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# Chandrayaan-3 v/s Real India

The United States, with its rich history of space exploration, has always had its sights set on the celestial bodies beyond Earth's atmosphere. Among these celestial neighbors, the Moon has held a special place in the hearts of both scientists and dreamers alike. Over the decades, the US has launched several pioneering missions to our lunar neighbor, each contributing to our understanding of the Moon and paving the way for future endeavors.

The US lunar exploration story began with the iconic Apollo program. Launched by NASA in the early 1960s, Apollo aimed to achieve the unthinkable – sending humans to the Moon. After years of meticulous planning and technological innovation, Apollo 11, in July 1969, became the first mission to successfully land humans on the lunar surface. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took those historic first steps, leaving an indelible mark on history with Armstrong's famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The Apollo program continued with several subsequent missions, with a total of six lunar landings occurring between 1969 and 1972. These missions not only provided invaluable scientific data but also inspired generations to come. They demonstrated the United States' commitment to space exploration and its technological prowess during the Space Race with the Soviet Union. While the Apollo program concluded in the early 1970s, the US did not lose interest in the Moon. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of lunar exploration efforts, driven by both NASA and private companies.

One significant endeavor is NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon, including the first woman and the next man. This program seeks not only to revisit the Moon but to establish a sustainable presence there. With plans for lunar landers, the construction of a lunar Gateway space station, and collaborations with international partners, Artemis represents a new chapter in lunar exploration. Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) is another crucial component of NASA's lunar exploration strategy. This initiative enables private companies to transport scientific payloads and technology demonstrations to the Moon, fostering innovation and reducing the cost of lunar missions. The US space industry has witnessed a remarkable transformation, with private companies playing an increasingly significant role in lunar exploration. SpaceX, led by Elon Musk, is developing its Starship spacecraft, which could have lunar exploration capabilities. Blue Origin, founded by Jeff Bezos, is also working on lunar landers, including the Blue Moon, to transport cargo and potentially crew to the Moon. These private companies, along with NASA, have made lunar exploration more accessible, creating a competitive environment that drives innovation and pushes the boundaries of what is possible in space exploration. As we look to the future, US Moon missions hold the promise of exciting scientific discoveries, technological advancements, and international collaborations.

The Moon is not only a destination in itself but also a stepping stone for deeper space exploration, including missions to Mars and beyond. In the coming years, as the US continues its journey back to the Moon and beyond, we can anticipate new breakthroughs, breathtaking discoveries, and a renewed sense of wonder about our place in the cosmos. With the legacy of Apollo guiding us, the United States remains at the forefront of lunar exploration, showing that our thirst for knowledge and exploration knows no bounds. Now come to the other side. According to the available data from the World Bank, the United States of America is currently the world's largest economy, with a GDP of over \$23 trillion in 2021. The United States, often referred to as the land of opportunity, stands as one of the world's most influential economic giants. Its economic prowess is a testament to its entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and a strong commitment to free-market principles. The US economy is remarkably diverse, with a broad range of industries contributing to its wealth. These sectors include technology, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and entertainment, among others. This diversification has allowed the United States to maintain economic stability, even in the face of global economic challenges. Innovation is the lifeblood of the American economy. The United States is home to some of the world's most innovative companies, including tech giants like

Apple, Google, and Microsoft. The country invests heavily in research and development, fostering an environment where startups and established companies alike can push the boundaries of technology and drive economic growth. Small businesses are the backbone of the US economy. They represent a significant portion of the country's GDP and provide jobs to millions of Americans. The entrepreneurial spirit in the United States is fostered by a business-friendly environment, access to venture capital, and a culture that encourages risk-taking. The United States boasts one of the world's largest consumer markets, providing businesses with access to a vast customer base. Additionally, the country's commitment to free trade has allowed it to engage in international commerce, further expanding its economic reach. The US is a member of multiple trade agreements, such as NAFTA (now USMCA) and has extensive trade relationships with countries around the world. The United States has a well-developed and stable financial system, with Wall Street at its heart. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and NASDAQ are among the world's largest and most influential stock exchanges. This financial infrastructure attracts global investors and businesses looking for capital and investment opportunities. The US is renowned for its world-class universities and research institutions. Its workforce benefits from high-quality education and vocational training, which has led to a skilled and adaptable labor force. This well-educated workforce contributes to innovation, productivity, and competitiveness.

*To be Continued*



Analysis  
**Abdul Basit Alvi**

## Sustainable development in Rawalpindi

Today the sixth of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by the United Nations and the district administration.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve, said Julien Harnais, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the federal Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development."

In Mardan, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: women's voice and participation, nutrition, food security, and humanitarian emergency preparedness.

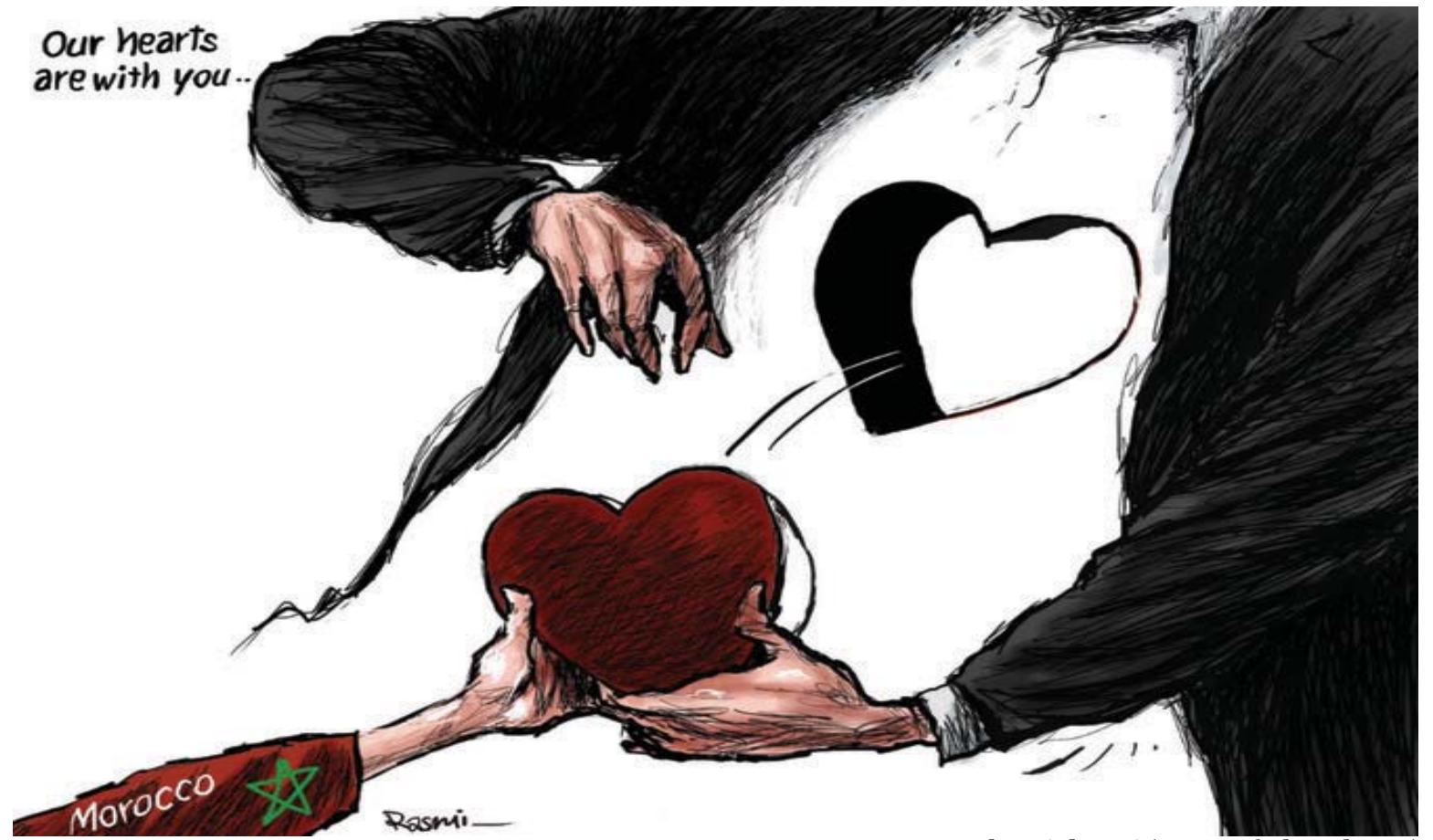
Nearly 100 local leaders — women and men, including youth — participated together with senior Mardan officials, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff.

The 12 dialogues are engaging local leaders around development issues such as access to basic social services; gender equality and women's empowerment; climate change; sustainable, inclusive economic growth and decent work; and governance. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Five SDG dialogues have already taken place in Bahawalpur, Multan and Rawalpindi, Punjab, and in Hyderabad and Sukkur, Sindh.

The dialogues will help inform discussions ahead of the global SDG Summit which the UN is organizing to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, halfway of the 2030 deadline. The Government of Pakistan will participate in the event in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, are 17 objectives designed to help bring about peace and prosperity for people all over the world. They are an urgent call for action by all countries to work together towards ending poverty while improving health and education, reducing inequality, spurring economic growth and tackling climate change.



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

## Chaudhry Wali Joo family of Muzaffarabad – Champion of charity

I may state at the very outset that my objective of this article is not to seek projection of a particular family rather the purpose is that instead of begging from different countries of the world, we should approach the generous and philanthropic personalities of the Pakistani nation. The world is surprised to see our poor plight which is a country with a group of over wealthy people. While a major section of the society falls below the poverty line. The elite is alleged for evasion of payment of their dues most of them stand pitched in the Assemblies and Senate being electables. If one patriotic billionaire of Sri Lanka could restore the financial position of his country, our billionaires could also change the fate and future of Pakistan.

At the same time the families who sacrifice for the nation must be respected and recognized by the society. So the description of Chaudhry Wali Joo family has been selected as an example. Chaudhry Wali Joo was like Chaudhry Zahoor Ellahi of Gujrat whose death was announced by the BBC in their Urdu Service Scriben with the remarks that champion of charity in Pakistan had died. The financial position of Chaudhry Wali Joo in the year 1947 is evident from a cheque number 25661, dated 13-2-1947 amounting to 5000/- rupees in favor of Khawaja Wali Joo Sahib, issued by Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (Kashmir).

It was custom in British rule in India that each respectable person was registered by every Deputy Commissioner as Kursi Nasheen. Similarly in the State of Jammu & Kashmir the Maharaja Hari Singh had also enforced a law whereby respectables and notables of the state were designated and registered as Chaudhry by respective Deputy Commissioner. So, for the city of Muzaffarabad Khawaja Wali Joo had been designated as Chaudhry and thereby he was city father of Muzaffarabad. As such, his family is known as Chaudhry with all the qualities and generosity of Chaudhry Wali Joo. I am going to record and refer the admirable services and character which made Chaudhry Wali Joo prominent.

Once the Maharaja came to Muzaffarabad. The Maharaja had prescribed a costume for participation in the Darbar which was that of his Dogra family which did not suit Islamic teachings. It was pointed out in the Darbar meeting that local Chaudhry Wali Joo was absent. Maharaja ordered to produce him by all means in his Darbar. Accordingly Chaudhry Wali Joo was brought in the meeting and he was physically quite fit. Maharaja asked Chaudhry Wali Joo the reason of his absence. Chaudhry Wali Joo told him that the uniform prescribed for your Darbar does not suit Muslim values therefore he avoided to join the Darbar. The Maharaja declared there and then to discord

the Darbari uniform and all participants were allowed to attend the Darbar in the dress of their choice. This was the devotion of Chaudhry Wali Joo for Islamic teachings.

Another dispute came up when the writer held the assignment of Registrar Cooperative. There was some misappropriation in a cooperative society in which rights of poor members had been usurped. In that case a very close relative of Chaudhry Wali Joo was involved. It was testing position for Chaudhry Wali Joo who too was a member of the society. I was astonished when I recorded the statement of Chaudhry Wali Joo who gave evidence against his close relative who also held very high political position. This was the caliber and character of Chaudhry Wali Joo in matters to truthfulness, integrity and uprightness.

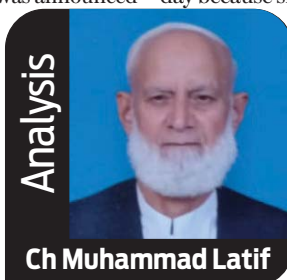
Chaudhry Wali Joo used to distribute ration packages before every Ramadan Sharif for the poor and needy people of the city. Some years ago, my maid servant told that she would not come for duty the next day because she was to get ration from Chaudhry family which would be enough for her family for the month of Ramadan.

The family of Chaudhry Wali Joo has upheld this tradition up to date. The AJK civil secretariat was shifted to new complex in Chatter Domel. But there was no facility of transport for civil servants. The writer being Secretary Services was worried for lower staff. Therefore, Chaudhry Shamas Din son of Chaudry Wali Joowas requested by the writer to extend the facility of pick and drop by his Chaudhry Bus Service as the month of Ramadan was near in the hottest days of June. I was so obliged when Chaudhry Bus was made available to Civil Secretariat free of fare till we arranged new buses out of Benevolent Fund resources.

In 4-field mosque the Masjid committee decided to expand the mosque and replace the roof with lantern. I, being the president of Masjid committee went to cement shop owned by Chaudhry family at Tanga Stand. They promised to send the cement at requisite place. When the construction of mosque was completed the committee contacted the cement shop to send the bill. They replied that total amount had been paid by Chaudhry family and nothing was outstanding against the 4-field mosque.

The purpose of stating a few events of one family of Chaudhry Wali Joo shows that noble people are certainly available in our society, who should be motivated and mobilized and utilize own resources in Pakistan. Our leaders should generate confidence in the public and rectify the problem of trust deficit.

*The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.*



Analysis  
**Ch Muhammad Latif**

## Burden of non-communicable diseases and way forward

Non-communicable diseases are diseases that are not spread through infection or through other people, but are typically caused by unhealthy behaviors. These include heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, kidney and many other diseases. NCDs are the leading causes of deaths worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 74% of all deaths globally. Each year, 17 million people die from NCDs before age of 70, of which 86% are from low- and middle-income countries. The situation in Pakistan is not different. 58% of total deaths in Pakistan are due to NCDs.

According to the World Health Organization, 406,870 people die in Pakistan annually due to heart diseases, that means one person dies after every one and a half minutes. Similarly, according to International Diabetes Federation (IDF Atlas 2021, Pakistan has 3rd highest burden of diabetes worldwide with over 3.3 million people living with diabetes. The rate in which diabetes is increasing, Pakistan has become number one in the world with fastest growth of diabetes. The annual cost to manage diabetes is over 2.6 billion US dollars which is double than the IMF installment we were requesting since long. These non-communicable diseases have become a serious threat to our health and economy. The same is the case with blood pressure, kidney diseases and other diseases. Leading causes of these diseases is our diet. We are not very careful about our food choices. Excessive consumption of fats, salt and sugar leads to heart, diabetes, kidney and many types of cancers. Sugary drinks are major source of free sugar. A small glass of sugary drinks contain 7 to 9 teaspoons of sugar. Fats and sugar are major causes of obesity and obesity is called the mother of all diseases.

Due to the negative health effects of fats, salt

and sugary drinks worldwide, world has taken some very effective policy measures to reduce their consumption. These measures include increasing taxes on these foods, front of pack labeling and warning signs, school food policy and marketing restrictions. More than 106 countries or states in the world have increased taxes on sugary drinks to reduce their consumption. Similarly, various countries are placing warning signs on ultra-processed foods to help people make healthier food choices and reduce the consumption of unhealthy foods.

In Pakistan, Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA) has taken this responsibility. Since last 40 years, PANAHA is advocating its countrymen to adopt a simple lifestyle, avoid excessive consumption of fats, salts and sugar. Today people are more aware of these things than before, but experience proves that if one life can be saved through awareness, thousands of lives can be saved through policy. Keeping this in mind, PANAHA is working with policy makers to develop policies that will reduce the consumption of unhealthy foods. PANAHA did a lot of efforts to combat tobacco use and sugary drinks. In the recent budget, taxes on all sugary drinks and tobacco were increased, which reduced their consumption and is expected to reduce these diseases significantly, but more need to be done. For this, PANAHA is launching a huge campaign against ultra-processed foods in the country, which will involve public awareness as well as working on all the policy options to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy foods. This will be a win-win situation that it will reduce the disease burden, reduce the people miseries and save the expenses incurred on these diseases. This will improve the health and economy of the country. We request the government and civil society to help us in this noble cause.

*Writer is Secretary General in Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA)*



Analysis  
**Sanaullah Ghumman**

## PRCS extends heartfelt condolences to Morocco and vows humanitarian support

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, expressed deep sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the brotherly Moroccan people following the recent catastrophic earthquake.

This devastating event, marked by a 6.8-magnitude earthquake, is the most severe Morocco has witnessed in 120 years. The disaster has resulted in significant loss of life and widespread damage, particularly in Marrakech and surrounding provinces.



Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed

Laghari affirmed PRCS's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Morocco during this time of grief and distress.

He pledged that PRCS would provide all possible cooperation and support for the relief and recovery efforts aimed at assisting the earthquake victims.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have tragically lost their loved ones and with all those affected by this immense tragedy. PRCS is prepared to offer any necessary assistance and support to alleviate suffering and contribute to

the recovery endeavors," stated Chairman Laghari.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed said that PRCS would highly appreciate the guidance from the leadership King of Morocco in facilitating humanitarian aid to the earthquake victims.

PRCS remains dedicated to its mission of providing essential humanitarian assistance and support to those in need, and it stands ready to work closely with the Moroccan authorities and international partners to address the immediate and long-term needs arising from this devastating earthquake.

## Crisis-hit in Pakistan: Understanding the impact on businesses and the path forward



**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: In a landmark event that brought together business leaders, economists, and experts, Pakistan's ongoing economic crisis and its far-reaching impact on businesses took center stage. The discussions at this gathering delved deep into the root causes of Pakistan's economic challenges and explored strategies to navigate a path towards lasting prosperity.

The opening session set the tone by critically analyzing Pakistan's economic crises. Annum Asad Malik, CEO AceBiz informed the participants that this the first event of a 12 event series, that will look into the solutions that the citizens and business leaders can create, and cultivate for a stronger and prosperous Pakistan.

Attendees examined the multifaceted factors contributing to the crisis, and the pressing question of whether Pakistan could emerge from its current predicament within the next five years was addressed. Questions were raised and answered, shedding light on the complexities of the situation.

A panel of distinguished experts guided this session, leading the discussion, Amir Jahangir, CEO of Mishal Pakistan, the Country Partner Institute of the World Economic Forum in Pakistan. Jahangir underscored Pakistan's youthful population as a strategic asset for the future. He discussed the nation's conscious efforts to partner with countries that can leverage its young and dynamic workforce, setting the stage for a bright future. Jahangir shared that Pakistan had a very young population at the time of its creation and independence. The country had almost 32 million people with an average median age of 15 years. Pakistan today has over 250 million people with a median age of 22 years. The next 50 years will be very productive for Pakistan, as Pakistan will be host to one of the youngest and most productive populations in the world.

He further said, that Pakistan is making a conscious decision to partner with nations who can benefit from its young and dynamic population, while the country can provide infrastructure and know-how on technical side. This unique combination has set a very bright future for Pakistan and its new partners.

He further said, Pakistan needs to break the hegemony of the elites and industry cartels. Who have exploited the natural resources and opportunities of the nation for their personal and petty interests.

He further said, policies in Pakistan needs to be transparent, and the leadership should be made accountable, so the competence and merit can prevail.

Ifikhar Taj, President and CEO of ICAP, emphasized the critical importance of taxation as a significant challenge during his address. He highlighted that addressing taxation issues is vital for Pakistan's economic development and sustainability. Dr. Hassan Iqbal, Former Secretary to the Government of Pakistan, raised a key concern regarding policy inconsistency. He underscored the need for greater policy coherence and continuity to drive economic growth and development effectively.

The second session shifted focus to potential solutions for Pakistan's economic challenges and explored the pivotal role of the business community in driving the country toward prosperity. A dynamic panel of experts shared their insights, best practices, and visions for the future of Pakistan's economy. The panelists included Anwar Kabir, Husnain Anjum, and Hassan Farooq. Each panelist brought a wealth of experience in economics and development, offering valuable perspectives and strategies to address Pakistan's economic challenges.

A special session of the event was dedicated to addressing the critical issue of affordable housing in Pakistan, emphasizing the need for solutions that cater to both the rich and the poor. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team from AceBiz worked tirelessly to bring this event to life. Their efforts in logistics, content curation, and coordination were pivotal in making the event a reality. The event was organized in collaboration with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was sponsored by the Alkhadiat Foundations Pakistan and Al Karam City.

The discussions during the event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts to address Pakistan's economic challenges. With a young and dynamic population, Pakistan's future holds immense potential. By harnessing this potential and implementing effective strategies, the nation can embark on a path toward lasting prosperity.

AceBiz Talk Series is dedicated to fostering meaningful dialogues among business leaders, economists, and experts to explore solutions for pressing economic challenges. Through engaging panel discussions and expert insights, AceBiz led by Annum Asad Malik aims to contribute to the growth and development of Pakistan's economy.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Turkmenistan H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov called on Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division today. The meeting served as a platform for fostering bilateral relations and discussing mutual economic interests between the two nations.



Photo: Spokesman

## Biden shakes hands with Stalin at G20 summit in 'historic' encounter

In a historic moment that occurred at the recent G20 summit in India, a Stalin shook hands with a US president for the first time in decades.

However, this was not a reference to the long-dead former Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, but rather M. K. Stalin, the chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu state, who shares a name with the Soviet leader.

M. K. Stalin, born in 1953, was named after Joseph Stalin by his father.

The unique coincidence brought smiles as he greeted US President Joe Biden at the all-vegetarian G20 gala dinner in New Delhi, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also present.

Stalin shared a picture of this handshake on social media, avoiding historical references and simply captioning it as attending the #G20Dinner hosted by the Hon'ble President of India.

The encounter drew attention from users on social media platforms.

## COMSTECH chief to address U. N. General Assembly on science at opening session

**Sohail Anjum Malik**

NEW YORK: It is to share with great pleasure and pride that Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH/Director ICCBS has been invited to address the inaugural session of the 78th United Nations General Assembly Science Summit. This esteemed global event, set to take place in New York from September 12 to 29, 2023, will host an impres-



sive lineup of 1450 speakers across the world, making it a momentous occasion in the realm of science and

diplomacy.

Prof. Choudhary's selection as speaker during the inaugural session of this prestigious event speaks volumes about his outstanding contributions to the field of science and his commitment to advancing global cooperation in scientific endeavors. His address on the opening day of the Science Summit UNGA78 will undoubtedly set the stage for insightful discussions and collaborations that have the poten-

tial to shape the future of science and innovation on a global scale.

This moment of pride not only reflects Prof. Choudhary's exemplary achievements but also underscores the significance of international collaboration in addressing the world's most pressing scientific challenges. We look forward to his inspiring address and the positive impact it will have on the global scientific community at this historic event.

## PM Pham Minh Chinh, President Joe Biden attend Vietnam-US High-level Conference on Investment, Innovation

WVR/VNA: On September 11, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and US President Joe Biden agreed to turn technology, innovation, and investment into a truly new important pillar of the countries' freshly established comprehensive strategic partnership.

They made the consensus during the Vietnam-US High-level Conference on Investment and Innovation in Hanoi, part of the US President's State visit to Vietnam on September 10-11 at the invitation of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong.

Co-chairing the event, Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen Chi Dung and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the upgrade of bilateral ties to the comprehensive strategic partnership for peace, cooperation, and sustainable development during the visit will create new opportunities and potential for the two countries and their enterprises to promote investment cooperation, especially in such fields as innovation.

They suggested enterprises make use on this to enhance cooperation and bring about benefits to not only enterprises but also people of both countries.

Ministries and sectors of the countries will keep provid-



ing optimal conditions for US and Vietnamese enterprises to successfully make investment and do business, engage in sustainable regional and global supply chains, and help generate prosperity for both countries, the officials noted.

During the conference, Vietnamese and US enterprises discussed investment cooperation chances, with a focus on four main areas - technology and innovation, production investment, financial services and financial technology, and trade and services.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Chinh said one of the focuses of President Biden's visit is to promote the technology and innovation-centred development of the Vietnamese econo-

my. He cited Party leader Trong as emphasizing that fostering innovation-oriented economic, trade, and investment cooperation is a stepping stone, a focus, and an impetus for bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister noted that he and the US President agreed to turn technology, innovation, and investment into a truly new important pillar of the countries' comprehensive strategic partnership.

Sharing President Biden's view that innovation is the key to the countries' future, he called on both sides' enterprises to prioritise investment in science-technology and innovation, especially digital transformation, the semiconductor industry, green growth, renewable energy, climate change

fight, and circular economy.

Prime Minister Chinh told the guest that Vietnam has set goals to become a developing country with modern industry and high average income by 2030, and a developed and high-income country by 2045.

Therefore, it determines that science, technology and innovation is one of the main motivations for national development, and its consistent policy is to call for investment and to open markets with all partners and businesses around the world, especially those from the US, he stated.

To create more favourable conditions for enterprises, Vietnam has been focusing on developing human resources, building preferential policies to speed up digital transformation and further develop renewable energy, semiconductor industry, high-tech parks, and innovation and financial centres, participating in the global value chain, and attracting foreign strategic investors.

The Vietnamese Government leader expressed his hope to continue receiving political support from the US Government and President Biden, as well as the US business community's commitments in terms of capital, science and technology



and high-quality human resources training to help Vietnam transform its growth model and restructure the economy towards a green, rapid, sustainable and inclusive direction.

With the stance of "resources originating from thinking and vision, motivation from innovation and creativity, and strength from people and businesses", Chinh said that the Vietnam-US comprehensive strategic partnership represents new thinking, new vision, and new motivation, and create new strength and new values. He proposed both sides cooperate, share, learn from, and

support each other in the spirit of harmonising benefits and sharing risks.

Agreeing with Prime Minister Chinh's opinions, President Biden spoke highly of Vietnam's development achievements in recent times, stressing he believes that it is time for the US and Vietnam to promote relations in all fields to bring about common prosperity.

The two countries and businesses need to work together to consolidate and advance cooperation in the coming time, he stressed.

The US will cooperate and support Vietnam to seize oppor-

tunities and make the most of its potential, he stated, suggesting Vietnam in general and its businesses in particular continue to work closely to promote development in such areas as science-technology, innovation, semiconductor industry, green transformation, climate change response and human resources training, and to participate more deeply in regional and global value chains.

The President emphasised that cooperation and sharing are not only during the times of favourable development, but also those of difficulties and risks.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
45,865.73	46,013.48	
Day's High	Day's Low	
46,174.68	45,678.15	
Index Value	Change	
7,429,593,963	-147.75	
Percentage	Time	
-0.32%	11 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,496.87	+18.68	
Percentage	Time	
+0.25%	11 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,676.39	+99.80	
Percentage	Time	
+0.29%	11 Sept, 1:29 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,467.76	-139.08	
Percentage	Time	
-0.43%	11 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	810.81	818.81
Canadian Dollar	222	224.20
China Yuan	41.79	42.19
Danish Krone	43.74	44.14
Euro	321	324
Hong Kong Dollar	39.15	39.5
Indian Rupee	3.67	3.78
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	988.37	997.37
Malaysian Ringgit	65.72	66.32
New Zealand \$	179.36	181.36
Norwegians Krone	28.83	29.13
Omani Riyal	798.42	806.42
Qatari Riyal	83.54	84.24
Saudi Riyal	78.7	79.5
Singapore Dollar	217	219
Swedish Korona	28.16	28.46
Swiss Franc	341.44	343.94
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	82.2	83
UK Pound Sterling	375.5	379
US Dollar	297.9	300.5

# Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chairs a meeting on Special Technology Zones and Special Economic Zones

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, presided over a meeting to review and rationalize the progress and incentives provided by STZs and SEZs at Finance Division, today.

Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umer Saif, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Advisor to PM on Establishment Mr. Ahad Cheema, Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Law & Justice, Chairman FBR, Chairman STZA, Chairman CDA, and senior officers from Finance, FBR, and STZA attended the meeting.

The committee was apprised about the comparative models of STZs and the progress and challenges of existing STZs and SEZs respectively. Moreover, a comprehensive discussion took place on the incentives currently available within STZs and SEZs,



with a primary focus on enhancing their effectiveness and relevance to the rapidly evolving technological landscape. It was also shared that out of 8 Areas declared as STZs, 5 are fully functional. The meeting also discussed strategies

and policies aimed at fostering innovation, economic growth, and technological advancement through efficient management of STZs and SEZs to attract domestic and foreign investment.

Honorable Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar emphasized the crucial role that STZs and SEZs play in the development and progress of a nation's economy. She emphasized the government's commitment to make Pakistan a hub for technological advancements and economic prosperity.

However, she highlighted that we shall focus more on promoting business friendly environment instead of relying exclusively on tax holidays.

In conclusion, the Minister, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, expressed confidence that the deliberations amongst the participants would result in actionable recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of STZs and SEZs in order to fully utilize the potential of these STZs and SEZs.

## An unreliable power system is a major threat to investment: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that inflation is widening the gulf between the rich and the poor. The middle class has become poor, and the people are suffering under the burden of inflation, which is causing economic and social problems, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community cannot invest or plan for the future due to inflation, so this problem should be solved immediately.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that inflation is a significant cause of economic instability, which is an obstacle to domestic and foreign investment.

He said that unemployment will continue to rise until there is no investment in the country, and the solution to unemployment is to promote technical education.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is a



need to create a strategy to end inflation, in which the first priority should be given to speculation and hoarding while administrative measures should be taken.

Targeted subsidies for poor people should be increased because people can no longer feed themselves. SIFC is an excellent arrangement for prioritising foreign investment under which investors will be

provided with a better environment so that they can provide employment to the people and also transfer technology, he observed.

While other measures are necessary to save the country's economy and attract domestic and foreign investors, it is also necessary to improve the broken energy sector.

The current price of energy and supply disruptions are enough to scare away any investor.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the capacity payments of the power sector, which were 185 billion rupees in 2013, will reach 1600 billion rupees in 2023, while by 2031 these payments will reach 3700 rupees, which will be 75 percent of the electricity bills.

The vast majority of the country's population will not be able to buy electricity due to increasing capacity payments.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to corruption and incompetence, the power sector has been ruined to such an extent that success in this regard is now the only option; otherwise, it will destroy the economy.

## There is a need to use technology and innovation for the agri development: Ahsan Bakhtavawi

**Tariq Khattak**



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavawi has said that there is a need to bring technology and innovation for the development of agriculture in Pakistan and to increase the export of the agricultural sector. Despite being an agricultural country, the annual import of goods worth billions of dollars is regrettable. Cooperation with international agencies and donors should be done for the development of agriculture. He expressed these views while talking to

the head of World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan, Florence Rolle, who met him yesterday along with a delegation. On this occasion, the possibilities of cooperation between the two institutions were discussed.

By adopting technology and innovation we can make Pakistan a food basket. He praised the World Food and Agriculture Organization for the promotion, improvement and problem solving of agriculture. He said that World Food and Agriculture Organization can use the platform of Islamabad Chamber for its activities and seminars.

## OMI Hospital and Jubilee Life Insurance Join Hands

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: OMI Hospital, a renowned healthcare institution based in Karachi, and Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, are pleased to announce their strategic partnership.

Under this partnership, OMI Hospital extends an array of exclusive privileges to Jubilee Health Insurance members, including discounts on Outpatient Services (OPD), Emergency Room (ER) consultations, radiology services, laboratory services, and home collection of specific test samples at reduced rates. Additionally, members will benefit from discounts on medications with home delivery. To access these benefits, members need only present their valid Jubilee Health Card during their visit to OMI Hospital.

Javed Ahmed, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer of Jubilee Life Insurance, expressed, "Jubilee Life Insurance is unwavering in its commitment to enhance the healthcare journey for our esteemed customers, whether through seamless onboarding, facilitation, or strategic partnerships with leading institutions across the country."



to expand our reach, enabling more convenient and streamlined access to the finest medical care for every Jubilee Health cardholder."

It is worth noting that all exclusive discounts offered through this partnership will be applicable at both OMI Hospital campuses: Saddar and DHA.

tegic partnerships with leading institutions across the country.

Kashif Mustafa, Managing Director of OMI Hospital, also shared his perspective on the partnership, stating, "At OMI, our mission is to provide high-quality and affordable healthcare to patients. Through this collaboration with Jubilee Life, we aim

## Marking the World Water Week CCI Pakistan Installs 35th PAANI Plant



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: In a ceremony held at Rescue Headquarters located in Lahore, Mr. Ahmet Kursad Ertin, Regional Director (SAME)-CCI Pakistan (Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Limited) and Dr. Rizwan Naseer Secretary Emergency Services Department, inaugurated a new water filtration plant installed for the local community. The ceremony

was joined by the senior management of the company along with World Wildlife Federation (WWF) and Rescue 1122 officials.

CCI Pakistan, under its flagship CSR Project - PAANI has installed 35 water filtration plants across the country. Each plant has a capacity to produce over 2000 liters of clean drinking water per hour, providing clean drinking water to over one million people per day.

## Amin Baig & Umar Masood Called On Korean Ambassador

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of the capital office & Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President of FPCCI Visited the Embassy of the Republic of South Korea in Islamabad and met the H. E Park Ki jun to present him with a flower bouquet on assuming the Charge as Ambassador in Pakistan on behalf of the President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. During the meeting, they underscored the need for further expanding and promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries for mutual benefit. During the meeting, the issues of e-commerce, the transition to the digital system, and the introduction of Korean high-tech inventions into

the trading system were discussed for further development of trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. New ways of cooperation to increase the volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan & Republic of Korea were also revealed during the exchange of views.

Speaking to Mr Park Ki Jun, the Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea, the Vice President FPCCI Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman said that Pakistan highly valued its multi-dimensional relationship with Korea, encompassing political, economic, scientific, cultural, and people-to-people linkages. He mentioned that Pakistan and Korea had tremendous potential to increase bilateral trade to further strengthen economic relations. He further said that Pakistan



was open for business and investment, and would welcome Korean investment in all sectors of its economy. He informed me that Pakistan offered some of the most exotic mountaineering and religious Buddhist

sites, and would welcome Korean tourists to visit and explore these sites.

Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and Chairman of the capital office, briefed the Ambassador in detail about on various areas related to bilateral trade in Pakistan and said that Pakistan is an attractive country in terms of trade and investment, which provides excellent and profitable business opportunities to foreign investors and traders.

Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI endorsed the Korean Ambassador's proposals for B-to-B meetings, exhibitions, and exchange of trade delegations, saying that their implementation would increase the trade volume between Pakistan and Korea, and boost exports. Pakistan can also benefit from expertise in technology.

## Govt now accords priority to economic diplomacy: Majyd Aziz



**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Majyd Aziz, President Global Compact Network Pakistan (GCPN), stated that Pakistan is now giving high priority to economic diplomacy, and in recent times, this process has been amplified with the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He added that an excellent example of economic diplomacy is the personal initiative and effort of General Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff. His disclosure at a recent meeting that he has convinced friendly countries to invest over \$50 billion is a manifestation of pragmatic economic diplomacy. Majyd Aziz stated this as the keynote speaker on "Role of Diplomacy in Economic Development" organized by SES Diplomatic Network in Karachi.

Majyd Aziz said that while defining the role of diplomacy, it is important to determine whether it is economic diplomacy, commercial diplomacy, or even corporate diplomacy. Usually there is confusion in Embassies and Consulates regarding economic or commercial diplomacy. The issue is that normally the Commercial Consul is not a diplomat but from the bureaucracy and may not be proficient to comprehend business realities. In the past, he has personally witnessed Commercial Consuls performing PRO duties instead of commercial activities. Despite this, commercial diplomacy is also crucial to protect and increase the economic interests of the country.

He added that economic diplomacy is the use of government resources to promote the growth of the nation's economy by increasing trade, attracting foreign direct investments, signing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, etc., and also a tool to promote foreign policy objectives including foreign aid and economic sanctions.

# Asian Games torch relay highlights history, vitality of Jiaxing

Xinhua

HANGZHOU: An 8.8-km torch relay showcased the historical attractions of Jiaxing in east China's Zhejiang Province, marking the third leg of its campaign for the 19th Asian Games on Sunday.

A total of 170 torchbearers participated in Sunday's relay, which began in the morning at Zicheng Heritage Park. Established in 231 AD, Zicheng served as Jiaxing's political, economic, cultural, and military center for many years. The torch, named "Eternal Flame," passed through the city's renowned sites, including Shizhui Ferry, Red Boat on the Southern Lake, and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

As a city rich in history and culture, Jiaxing utilized the torch relay as a platform to showcase its vibrant urban landscape. The lively performances of



its citizens along the route were broadcasted through online live-streaming, further promoting the city's image.

Wang Yilyu, China's badminton mixed doubles champion at the Tokyo Olympics, was the first torchbearer in

Jiaxing. "After receiving the torch, I couldn't calm down for a long time," he said. Wang hopes for more opportunities to contribute to the development of sports in the future.

On Teachers' Day in China on Sunday, the relay concluded with teacher Zhang Xiaoping, also principal of Jiaxing Experimental Primary School. "As an educator, what I hold in my hand is not only a torch but also hope and expectation," she remarked. "Especially on Teachers' Day, I see a tremendous atmosphere here that values culture, ethics, and education," she added.

On Monday, the torch relay will proceed to Shaoxing city in the province. The Hangzhou Asian Games, set to raise the curtain on Sept. 23, is anticipated to be the largest edition ever, with some 12,500 athletes from 45 countries and regions participating.

# Gaza beach volleyball team chase dreams at Hangzhou Games

Xinhua

GAZA: Racing against time, a five-member beach volleyball team from Gaza has been busy training for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

The team, including four athletes and a coach, told Xinhua they spend eight hours a day in order to be able to challenge their competitors in China.

"Even though we know very well that our mission of medalizing in China will not be easy, we are really chasing the honor," Gaza-based player Abdullah Al-Arqa told Xinhua.

The 20-year-old said he had dreamed of representing Palestine in an international tournament since he was a child.

"I started to play volleyball when I was six years old as I used to attend matches with my father, who was the most famous volleyball player in Gaza," he said.

"I saw my first-ever dream of carrying a cup in this sport and I told my father about it. My father encouraged me to go ahead towards my dream and do my best to achieve what I want through playing volleyball."

However, Al-Arqa's path to competing was not smooth, as he was physically very thin.



Moreover, the instable political and economic situation in the Gaza Strip, home to more than 2.3 million people, also dampened his spirits.

"From time to time, I thought I would never reach my goal, mainly because I live in a war-torn area and witnessed four large-scale military operations and scores of military tensions between armed factions," he said.

Yet, he added, "every time we survived death over each

conflict, I felt that it was another message to me that I have to continue my plan and work a lot to reach my dream."

Adopting a healthy lifestyle, Al-Arqa decided to take matters into his own hands and improve his physique through attending sports classes in local gyms.

In 2018, he joined Al-Sadaqa club in Gaza to play with its beach volleyball team and compete with other local teams. In record time, Al-Ar-

qa managed to win many local medals, gaining the title of "comprehensive strategic player."

Officially, Al-Arqa presented Palestine in Arab tournaments and succeeded in taking bronze medals in two competitions held in Qatar in 2022 and 2023.

"I was so proud of myself as well as my team which was born from the suffering," Al-Arqa proudly said. Such Arab competitions helped Al-Arqa and his team to look forward to the

future of success.

"The latest magic win in Qatar encouraged me to make a greater effort to compete in the China Games and raise the Palestinian flag in a country I had always dreamed of visiting someday," he said.

In fact, he explains, China is not only a host country for one of the most international competitions, but is also a country that inspires others to change, improve and develop their lives.

"For many years, I had hoped that my son would compete for international teams in China as I did in 2018 when I participated with my teammate in the Asian Games," Khalid Al-Arqa, Abdullah's father and coach told Xinhua.

"Visiting China positively impacted our playing skills in local stadiums. We learned how to organize ourselves."

The 50-year-old expressed his happiness to represent Palestine for a second time in China, adding that he was hoping to gain more experience through dealing with other players from Asia.

The 19th Asian Games will take place from September 23 to October 8 in China's Zhejiang Province, and will see over 12,000 athletes from all over Asia take part.

# China's Yiwu sports exports up in H1, led by Asian Games

Xinhua

HANGZHOU: Exports of sports products registered a robust growth in the first half (H1) of 2023 in China's small commodities hub of Yiwu, as the approach of 19th Asian Games brings in more overseas orders.

Customs data shows that Yiwu, in east China's Zhejiang Province, exported 3.52 billion yuan (about 488 million U. S. dollars) of sports goods in H1, an increase of 22.5 percent from the same period in the previous year.

With the 19th Asian Games, scheduled from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 in Zhejiang's provincial capital Hangzhou, just around the corner, orders from other Asian countries are mounting.

"We've witnessed a boom in the sales of ball games-related products thanks to the upcoming Asian Games, with a growth rate of more than 30 percent



year on year," said Xiang Lili, who runs a sports equipment store in Yiwu.

According to Xiang, overseas custom-

ers now tend to place smaller orders for higher-quality products, so related companies are investing heavily in

R&D and original designs for high-margin products.

"The Asian Games, to be held in China this year, has also created a sports craze in Pakistan. I'm here to purchase basketballs and other peripheral products, and to seek more cooperation opportunities with Chinese suppliers," said a Pakistani buyer.

Hu Fangjun, general manager of a sports goods manufacturer in Yiwu, also feels the spike in interest around sports. The factory where Hu works can produce more than 1,000 footballs daily, but that still falls far short of demand.

"Our overseas orders will take us up to the end of this year," Hu said, adding that the number of orders from emerging markets has surpassed that from the European and American markets, with the fastest growth registered in regions such as Southeast Asia and South America.

# All-round India humble Pakistan in Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s clash

A Sports

COLOMBO: Virat Kohli and KL Rahul's unbeaten centuries, followed by Kuldeep Yadav's five-fer led India to a massive 228-run victory over Pakistan in the high-octane PAK vs IND clash of the ongoing Asia Cup 2023 on Monday.

Pakistan had a mountain to climb to book their spot in the final of the Asia Cup 2023 as they were set to chase a mammoth 357 against India.

The hosts after getting off to a dismal start, lost wickets at an alarming rate before being bundled out for a paltry 128 in 32 overs and thus India launched their Super 4s campaign with a resounding victory.

Out-of-form opener Fakhar Zaman remained the top-scorer

for Pakistan amid their dismal batting show with a scratchy 27 off 50 deliveries with the help of two boundaries.

After Fakhar, the next-best contributors for Pakistan were Salman Ali Agha and Iftikhar Ahmed, who scored 23 each, followed by their skipper Babar Azam (10).

Besides them, none of their batters could make it to the double figures and Pakistan, consequently could raise 128 for the loss of eight wickets.

Since, their pacers Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah were not fit to bat, Pakistan were deemed bowled out for a skimpy total.

Kuldeep Yadav led the bowling attack for India in the high-octane PAK vs IND clash with a five-wicket haul, which came at the cost of just 25 runs.

Whereas, Hardik Pandya, Shardul Thakur and returning Jasprit Bumrah contributed with one wicket apiece.

Virat Kohli scored a brilliant 122 off 94 balls, laced with nine boundaries and three sixes. He scored his 47th ODI century, second most ODI centuries and completed his 13000 ODI runs, becoming only the fifth player to do so.

Meanwhile, KL Rahul made his return to competitive cricket in style after getting injured during the Indian Premier League in April-May. He scored 111 runs off 106 balls with the help of 12 boundaries and two sixes.

KL Rahul (17\*) and Virat Kohli (8\*) resumed their innings at 147 and continued their domination against Pakistani bowlers on the reserve day after the high-

ly-anticipated PAK vs IND clash was postponed yesterday to the reserve day after persistent rain denied play on Sunday.

Notably, Pakistan entered the ground without their injured ace fast bowler Haris Rauf and was forced to bowl Iftikhar Ahmed, who gave away 52 runs in 5.2 overs.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam put India into bat after winning the toss yesterday 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.

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 yesterday.

They resumed cautiously on the reserve day before shifting gears in the latter overs.

KL Rahul and Virat Kohli knitted a magnificent unbeaten partnership of 233 runs in 194 balls to decimate the Pakistani bowling lineup.

Pakistani star fast bowler Shaheen Afridi picked one wicket and gave away 79 runs in his ten overs, while Shadab Khan picked 1 wicket for 71 runs.

## First Talent Hunt Program by Pakistan Tap Ball Cricket



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A talent hunt was organized at Murree under the auspices of Pakistan Tap Ball Cricket with collaboration of USA Tape Ball Cricket, developing Tape Ball Cricket in Pakistan and providing a platform for Tap Ball Cricket enthusiasts in Pakistan under the President of Pakistan Tape Ball Cricket Mr. Aamir Mehboob.

Aamir Mehboob while talking to Media said that his intention is to gather talented players from Pakistan in one place and make the name of Pakistan known in the world. In this regard, Mr. Aamir Siddiqui, President of USA Tape Ball Cricket based in America, has created a history by providing a platform for Tape Ball Cricket. Aamir Mehboob's next target is to conduct talent hunt on September 20 Mirpur city of Azad Kashmir's.

He says that my dream is that tape ball cricket is played all over the world like hard ball and Pakistani players shine the name of the country and the nation by showing their talents.

## A. S. Natural Stone U-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites and Zone-VI Whites moved into Final of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating their opponents in the Semi Finals at KCCA Stadium. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone.

Summarized Scores: Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-V Whites by 6 Wickets in the First Semi Final in the Morning at KCCA Stadium. Zone-V Whites 83/8 in 20 overs. Own Muhammad 12. Muhammad Hunain (sla) 3/4, Hassan Siddiqui 2/13, Muhammad Ahmed 2/16.

Zone-VII Whites 86/4 in 15.2 overs. Hassan Siddiqui 32, Majeed Ullah 26 not out. M. Muneeb Rafiq 2/18.

In the evening 2nd Semi Final Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-VII Blues by 10 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VII Blues 86/4 in 20 overs. Ejmal Tariq 34, Abdul Hadi Khan 14. Darain Faraz 2/8, Muhammad Usaid 2/22.

Zone-VI Whites 109/0 in 14.4 overs. Abdullah Jawed 64 8x4, Aais Malik 23 both not out.

The Final of the Tournament will be played between Zone-VI Whites and Zone-VII Whites today Tuesday 12th September at 1.00 pm at KCCA Stadium.

## Asia Cup 2023: Haris Rauf ruled out of PAK vs IND clash

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Fast bowler Haris Rauf has been ruled out of the PAK vs IND clash of the ongoing Asia Cup 2023 at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium.

"Haris Rauf will not be bowling any further in the Asia Cup Super 4 match against India as a precautionary measure. He felt a little discomfort in his right flank during the match yesterday," the PCB said in a brief statement.

"He was subsequently taken for a precautionary MRI, which revealed no tear. He is under the observation of the team's medical panel."

Haris Rauf gave away 27 runs in his five wicketless overs against India yesterday before rain played spoilsport.

The highly-anticipated PAK vs IND clash was postponed yesterday to the reserve day after persistent rain denied play on Sunday.

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. They will resume India's first innings today.

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.