

**President Putin shows solidarity with Pakistan**

Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his condolences to President of Pakistan Arif Alvi and PM of Pakistan Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on the terrorist attack in the province of Balochistan. "The killing of people during a religious ceremony has once again highlighted the barbaric, inhumane nature of terrorism. The masterminds of this crime must not escape retribution."



**Petrol price in Pakistan drops by Rs8 per litre for next fortnight**

In a relief to the inflation-weary masses, the caretaker government Saturday dropped the price of petrol for the next fortnight by Rs8, the first time in two-and-a-half-months. Meanwhile, a cut of Rs11 has been announced in the diesel price, after which the new rate of the fuel will be Rs318.18 per litre. New prices of the commodities has taken effect from this midnight.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Mastung blast**

QUETTA: Paramedics and volunteers carry an injured victim of a bomb explosion upon arrival at a hospital in Quetta.



Photo: Spokesman

**Army chief visits Quetta to brief on recent attacks on Shuhadas**



**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Quetta today, where he was briefed on recent terrorist attacks in Mastung and Zhob. The briefing was also attended by Federal Minister of Interior, Chief Minister Balochistan and key Provincial Ministers along with senior civil and military officials. The participants offered Fateha for the Shuhadas of Mastung, Hangu and Zhob incidents. COAS paid rich tribute to the Shuhada and remarked "Such incidents of Terrorism on 12 Rabi' al-Awwal, depicts the ill intent of the Khawarij, who have the backing of State Sponsors of Terrorism. These terrorists and their facilitators, having no link with religion and ideology, are proxies of the enemies of Pakistan and its people. These forces of evil will continue to face full might of the state and security forces backed by a resilient nation. Our operation against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces, Intelligence and Law Enforcement Agencies shall not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country". COAS emphasised "People of Pakistan have rejected terrorists' pseudo ideology and propaganda of their backers and they are fully committed to peace, economic progress & human development which indeed is causing lot of distress to forces of evil in and outside of Pakistan". COAS visited CMH Quetta, where he met the injured and families of Mastung incident who are being provided full medical care by Pakistan Army.

**Experts term Mastung blast heinous design to spread anarchy in country**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The defence analysts have termed the blast in Mastung on Eid Milad-un-Nabi another heinous design of inimical forces to spread anarchy in the country. In a joint statement here, the analysts expressed that the Eid Milad procession near Khalid Mosque in Mastung was attacked by anti-Islam and anti-national elements. They said those who targeted innocent citizens on the holy occasion could neither be Muslims nor Pakistani. "Our eternal enemy who is always looking to harm Paki-

stan wants to divert our and the world's attention from its internal and external problems by doing such terrorist incidents," the Defence Analysts said. Recently, the Indian government and RAW have been directly involved in the killing of Sikhs in Canada, due to which they are being called a terrorist state in the world and are under extreme pressure. It cannot be ignored that giving dollars to TTP, Daesh, etc., to spread unrest in Pakistan, as India has used such lousy tactics many times before, the analysts said. Pakistan has seen irrefutable evidence of terrorism in

Balochistan before - Kulbushan Yadav, the Indian spy has been caught red-handed doing terrorism in Balochistan. "We must remember. TTP, Daesh and Baloch terrorists are the tools of the enemy and operate from Afghanistan and do not miss any opportunity to do any nefarious work for dollars which also supports their cause. We should have no doubt that our eternal enemy is directly or indirectly behind these anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan activities," they maintained. Remembered that on Friday that a series of attacks, including

suicide bombings and a militant raid, killed at least 62 people and injured many more, marking one of the deadliest days the nation has witnessed in recent months. Most of the casualties occurred in Mastung, a volatile district in southwestern Baluchistan province, where a suicide bomber struck a religious procession marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Police and hospital officials said the powerful blast killed at least 53 devotees and wounded dozens of others. Abdul Razaq, the district deputy commissioner, confirmed

the casualties, saying a top police officer was also among the dead. He told reporters that several injured had received severe injuries. In this photo provided by District Police Office, a boy injured in a bomb explosion receives treatment at a hospital, in Mastung near Quetta, Pakistan, Sept. 29, 2023. Pakistani caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti condemned the violence against innocent devotees, saying that "terrorists have no faith or religion."

**Sanjrani, senators extend support to Mastung blast vicims at Quetta hospital**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with a delegation of senators, visited Civil Hospital Quetta to inquire about the well-being of the injured from the Mastung blast. Sanjrani was joined by Senator Zansabullah Bazai, Prince Umar Ahmadzai, and Rukhsana Zuberi during the hospital visit to meet with the blast victims. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani conveyed his contentment with the care provided to the injured. He emphasized that terrorists have no affiliation with Islam or humanity. The attack on the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH) procession is a stark illustration of the terrorists' anti-Islamic stance. Sanjrani also commended the Pakistan Army and security forces for their effective counterterrorism efforts, assuring that victims would receive full assistance. He underscored their shared empathy with the victims and their determination to prevent any disruption of the peace process.

**US support free, fair elections in Pakistan, not any regime change**

**News Desk**

WASHINGTON: Describing Pakistan as a "valued partner", the United States has reiterated that it does not support regime change, and looks forward to free and fair elections in the country. "We do not support regime change," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a firm tone while responding to pointed questions from a Pakistani correspondent at his daily news briefing on Thursday afternoon. In this regard, he pointed out that the United States had repeatedly rejected allegations about regime change in Pakistan. "We support free and fair elections and do not take a position one way or another," the spokesperson said. "And we see Pakistan as a valued partner of the United States with whom we work on a number of issues. "That hasn't changed and it will not change," Miller added. Answering a question regarding a recent protest rally by Pakistani-Americans outside the White House, Miller said that the U. S. Constitution allows the people living here to freely express themselves.

**PTI chief being 'mentally tortured' in Adiala jail: lawyer**

**Web Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former prime minister being 'mentally tortured' in Adiala Jail. As per details, the PTI chief lawyer Naeem Haider Panjotra claimed that the former prime minister is kept in a small room of C-class jail and is not allowed to come out of that room even for a walk. The PTI chief's counsel said that he doubts the quality of food being given to the former prime minister however the plea regarding food is still pending in the court. He questioned the in-camera hearing of cipher case and urged to proceed with the open trial of the case. He said the conviction of PTI chairman in cipher is a part of campaign to keep the former prime minister out of politics. Moreover, the spokesperson maintained, the cipher was still present in its original state in the Foreign Office. "Cipher's presence proves the allegations levelled against the former prime minister [Imran Khan] as baseless," he added. "The then federal cabinet declassified the cipher under its powers", the spokesman noted, claiming that Official Secrets Act cannot be applied in this case.

**LPG prices increased by Rs 20.86 per kg**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has increased the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Rs20.86 per kg. According to OGRA, the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was increased by Rs20.86 per kg after which the LGP price is fixed at Rs 260.98 per kg. Meanwhile, the domestic cylinder rate has been increased by Rs246.15. The new rates of LPG with increased prices will be Rs3,079.64 per domestic cylinder. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan received the first batch of 100,000 metric tons of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Russia. In a message on X (formerly Twitter), the Russian Embassy to Pakistan said that Moscow has delivered the first batch of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the amount of 100 thousand metric tons to Pakistan. The LPG batch entered Pakistan through Iran's Sarakhi Special Economic Zone (SEZ). It added that Pakistan and Russia are holding consultations for the second LPG shipment. In August, it was reported that Pakistan temporarily halted its imports of Russian crude oil as the refining process yielded more furnace oil than petrol, simultaneously, making arrangements of negotiating a long-term agreement with Russia for the import of oil at 'discounted rates'.

**Palestine: condemns terrorist attacks in Pakistan**

**Diplomat Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine condemns in the strongest terms the two bloody terrorist attacks that occurred in Balochistan province and the city of Peshawar in Pakistan today, Friday, resulting in dozens of casualties and injuries. The Ministry affirms that the State of Palestine stands with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its people in confronting terrorism, and affirms its confidence in the ability of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as president, government, and people, to confront terrorism and defeat it. The Ministry extends its deepest and most sincere condolences and sympathy to the friendly Pakistan, President, government, and people of Pakistan and to the families of the victims, and wishes a speedy recovery to the wounded.

**IMF talks for 2nd tranche of loan likely in October end week**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The talks for the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout will likely to be held in the last week of October. "An online meeting of the Federal Board of Revenue was held with the IMF. The officials have told the IMF that Pakistan will not impose a new tax," sources said. "The FBR has been confident to attain the tax recovery target without imposing new tax," sources said. Sources said that the global lender has expressed its satisfaction with performance of the FBR. "The IMF will be informed about economic performance of the country in the first week of October." "Taxation data of the first quarterly of the ongoing fiscal year, July to September, will likely to be shared with the IMF in the next week," sources said. "A plan of crackdown against tax theft has also been shared with the IMF," sources added. It is pertinent to mention here that the development budget is likely to be reduced by Rs 150 to Rs 200 billion amid International Monetary Fund (IMF) pressure.

**SC disposed of 257 cases in a week**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has disposed of 257 cases (excluding CMAs) whereas 204 new cases have been instituted during the period from 25th September 2023 to 30th September 2023. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court remained committed to accelerate disposal of the cases and diminish the backlog. The Hon'ble Judges continued to hear the cases with the aim to minimize the backlog and provide relief to the litigants.

**UK Secretary of State calls PM to condemn terrorist attacks, express solidarity with Pakistan**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday received a telephone call from Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, James Cleverly. The UK foreign secretary condemned the terrorist attacks in Mastung and Hangu and condoled the loss of innocent lives, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



## Milad an-Nabi (SAW)

LAHORE: A large number of the Aashiqan-e-Rasool (SAW) participate in the Milad an-Nabi (SAW) procession on the occasion of the 12 Rabi-ul-Awal on Friday in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## US government shutdown imminent

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The US government looked all but certain to enter a partial shutdown on Sunday as House Republicans and Senate Democrats held to starkly different courses on funding.

The Democratic-majority Senate planned another procedural vote on a stopgap bill to fund the government through Nov. 17, which has been moving forward with broad bipartisan support, which the Republican-controlled House of Representatives has rejected so far.

House Republican lawmakers on Friday blocked their own party's stopgap bill, known as a "continuing resolution" or CR. That bill included multiple conservative policy additions that Democrats opposed, and had no chance of winning the Senate support it would need to become law.

Infighting among Republicans who control the House by a 221-212 margin has pushed

the United States to the brink of its fourth partial shutdown in a decade, as the chamber has been unable to pass legislation that would keep the government open beyond the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees will lack the funding to do their jobs if the two chambers do not send a spending bill for Democratic President Joe Biden to sign into law by 12:01 a.m. (0401 GMT) on Sunday.

Federal agencies have already drawn up detailed plans that spell out what services must continue, like airport screening and border patrols, and what must shut down, like scientific research and nutrition aid to 7 million poor mothers.

Most of the government's 4 million-plus employees would not get paid, whether they were working or not.

House Republicans emerging from a closed-door party meeting on Saturday said they expected to vote for a measure that would ensure that

members of the military, border security and the Federal Aviation Administration were paid during the shutdown. Those would only take effect if the Senate passed it and Biden signed it into law.

"We will vote to keep our troops paid and fully operational," said Representative Darrell Issa.

Some headline Republicans said a shutdown was worth it to achieve their goals.

"I fear the majority of the conference is willing to do anything to avoid the discomfort of a potential government shutdown," Representative Bob Good told reporters. "If we don't have the willingness to say 'no' and the resolve to say 'no,' the Senate and the White House will not accept any spending cuts."

The standoff comes just months after Congress brought the federal government to the brink of defaulting on its \$31.4 trillion debt. The drama has raised worries on Wall Street, where the Moody's ratings

agency has warned it could damage U.S. creditworthiness.

Congress typically passes stopgap spending bills to buy more time to negotiate the detailed legislation that sets funding for federal programs.

This year, a group of Republicans has blocked action in the House as they have pressed to tighten immigration and cut spending below levels agreed to in the debt-ceiling standoff last spring.

On Friday, 21 Republicans joined with Democrats to defeat legislation that reflected those demands, saying the chamber should focus instead on passing detailed spending bills for the full fiscal year, even if it leads to a shutdown in the near term.

That angered other Republicans, who said they had blown an opportunity to advance conservative policies.

"There's a lot of frustration growing with the 21 individuals who chose to vote 'no' on what was a very good plan," Republican Representative Nicole

Malliotakis of New York said on Friday.

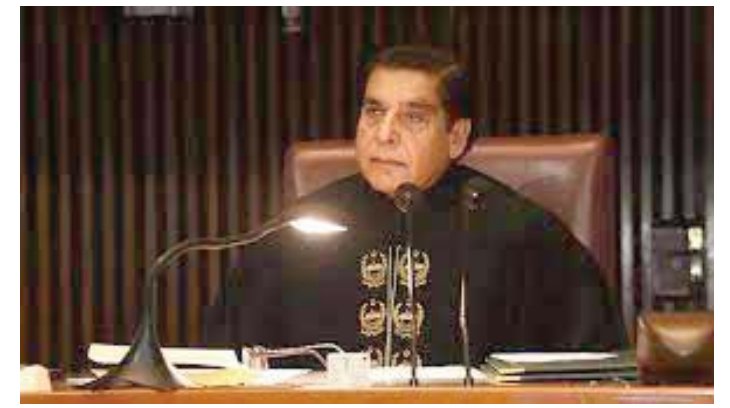
Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Friday the chamber might try to rely on Democrats to help pass a stopgap bill that would continue funding at current levels, even though that could prompt a challenge to his leadership from hardliners.

The Senate is due to hold a procedural vote at 1:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) to extend government funding through Nov. 17. It enjoys wide support from Republicans and Democrats, but the chamber's arcane rules mean that a vote on final passage could be delayed until Tuesday.

Even if that passes, the two chambers would have to resolve their differences before sending any bill to Biden's desk. That could pose another hurdle, as McCarthy said he opposed \$6 billion in Ukraine aid included in the Senate bill.

"We continue to try to find a way out of this," he said on Friday.

## NA speaker condemns Hangu mosque blast



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday strongly condemned the blast in Hangu's mosque and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives.

The Speaker deeply shared their grief and sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the affected families. He directed authorities to provide the best possible medical facilities to those injured as a result

of the blast.

He emphasized that those behind such acts of terrorism are enemies of humanity and have no connection to any religion. He said that terrorism has no place in any religion, and no religion allows its followers to engage in acts of terrorism.

The Speaker highlighted that malicious elements with an agenda to sabotage the country's peace continue to target innocent citizens. He called for unity and resilience against these elements.

## Solangi reiterates govt's commitment to root out terrorism



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday reiterated the government and state's commitment to root out terrorism from the country.

He expressed the commitment while strongly condemning the blast that took place near a 12th Rabiul Avwal procession in Balochistan's Mastung district.

"The very fact that the terrorists

chose to target the celebration of the birth of the prophet (PBUH) and the Friday prayer, martyring dozens of innocent Muslims, proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the beasts causing this carnage have nothing to do with any religion, ideology and morality," he said in a post on the X (formerly Twitter).

"Pakistani state shall crush these bloodletting beasts with the full force and the might of the people of Pakistan. I have no doubt about that," he added.

## Iran strongly condemns Mustang terrorist attack

Diplomat Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Naseer Kanani on Friday strongly condemned Mustang terrorist attack. In a statement issued by the embassy of Iran in Pakistan, Naseer said he "considered the terrorist act against the Pakistani Muslims at the same time as the march and celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH as a clear example of terrorists' distance

from the merciful teachings of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH)." Meanwhile, according to Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) official news agency of Iran, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi condemned the cowardly act of terrorism in the Balochistan of Pakistan and said this blind act has once again shown that the terrorists, with their ignorance and distance from the merciful teachings of Islam, have no other goal than to create divi-



sion among Muslims. According to IRNA Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi, in a message

to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alavi expressed his sympathy with the govern-

ment and people of Pakistan following the terrorist attack in Balochistan's Mastung region, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of innocent people, said: 'The Islamic Republic Iran is resolutely ready to cooperate with Pakistan to fight against any manifestations of terrorism and extremism and wants the international community, especially the Islamic countries, to seriously react to this criminal act and prevent the repetition of such tragic events.'

## Palestinian envoy to Pakistan strongly condemns two terrorist attacks

Diplomat Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on behalf of Embassy Staff, the Palestinian people and its leadership, condemns in the strongest terms the two heinous terrorist attacks which took place during the religious celebration of the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi gatherings in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which resulted in dozens of martyrs as well as many wounded.

We affirm that the State of Palestine stands with the Pakistan and its people in confronting terrorism, and affirms its confidence in the ability of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as its president, gov, people, and army, to confront terrorism and defeat it. We extend our deepest and most sincere condolences and sympathy to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the president, government, people and army, and to the families of the victims, praying to Allah Almighty to have mercy on the martyrs and bless a speedy recovery to the wounded ones.



## PTI lawyer booked for assaulting PML-N Senator on TV Show

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI lawyer, Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, has been booked in a case for physically assaulting Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan during a live TV show.

The incident, which took place on the set of a private television channel, was caught on camera and went viral on social media.

The first information report (FIR) was lodged by Senator Dr.

Afnan Ullah Khan at Islamabad's Aabpara Police Station. In the FIR, he stated that Marwat attacked him during the talk show, where he had been invited as a guest.

The senator alleged that Marwat threatened to kill him and provided evidence of the incident, including videos.

According to the FIR, "During the

heated debate, Sher Afzal Marwat suddenly attacked me and tried to hit me and also threatened that I will face consequences and he will not spare me and gave life threats." Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan also



mentioned that Sher Afzal Marwat posted about the attack on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The scuffle between the two political leaders began with a heated argument and escalated into the use of abusive language.

It eventually led to physical violence, with both Marwat and

the senator pushing, slapping, and punching each other.

The TV show crew had to intervene to separate them.

Both parties confirmed the incident, which was widely shared on social media.

Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan stated that Marwat attacked him and emphasized that he does not believe in violence but is a "soldier of Nawaz Sharif" Marwat, in his response, accused the TV show host of spreading misinformation about the incident and claimed that Senator Afnan Ullah Khan had run away and sought shelter in a nearby room.

The incident has sparked legal controversy, with Senator Afnan Ullah Khan seeking legal action against Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, while Marwat plans to initiate a defamation case and criminal complaint against the senator.

## Regional force secretly supporting terrorist attacks in Pakistan: Chinese Scholar

Spokesman Report

BELJING: For many years, a regional force has always attempted to undermine the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the friendly cooperation between China and Pakistan, thus secretly supporting terrorist organizations to carry out terrorist attacks from time to time.

These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, a Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law in an article published by Asia Pacific Daily.

He said, the two separate blasts that took place in Mastung,

Balochistan

and Hangu in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

have shocked the

whole world and

have been strongly

condemned by the

United Nations and

all peace-loving

countries around

the world.

The Chinese people are deeply shocked, strongly condemning this inhumane behaviour, and would like to express deep grief over loss of the lives and sincere sympathy to their families and the wounded he added.

Prof Cheng remarked that in South Asia, in the 1980s and 1990s, Pakistan's social security situation was quite good, with most development indexes, including the security index, higher than all other countries in South Asia.

However, the foreign invasion of Afghanistan led to flooding of terrorism in South Asia, with Pakistan becoming the biggest victim.

Subsequently, Pakistan's security forces took strong and effective measures to fight terrorism, and the security situation gradually improved year by year.

He opined that there are two main reasons for the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan.

Firstly, Pakistan and Afghanistan have a long common border.

Although after the Afghan Taliban regained power, they repeatedly and explicitly emphasized that terrorists are not allowed to use Afghan territory to engage in terrorist activities against neighboring countries.

However, the interim government

Balochistan

and Hangu in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

have shocked the

whole world and

have been strongly

condemned by the

United Nations and

all peace-loving

countries around

the world.

The Chinese people are deeply shocked, strongly condemning this inhumane behaviour, and would like to express deep grief over loss of the lives and sincere sympathy to their families and the wounded he added.

Prof Cheng remarked that in South Asia, in the 1980s and 1990s, Pakistan's social security situation was quite good, with most development indexes, including the security index, higher than all other countries in South Asia.

However, the foreign invasion of Afghanistan led to flooding of terrorism in South Asia, with Pakistan becoming the biggest victim.

It eventually led to physical violence, with both Marwat and

the senator pushing, slapping, and punching each other.

The TV show crew had to intervene to separate them.

Both parties confirmed the incident, which was widely shared on social media.

Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan stated that Marwat attacked him and emphasized that he does not believe in violence but is a "soldier of Nawaz Sharif" Marwat, in his response, accused the TV show host of spreading misinformation about the incident and claimed that Senator Afnan Ullah Khan had run away and sought shelter in a nearby room.

The incident has sparked legal controversy, with Senator Afnan Ullah Khan seeking legal action against Sher Afzal Khan Marwat, while Marwat plans to initiate a defamation case and criminal complaint against the senator.





# SM Tanveer assures for new Industrial Estate in Chakwal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Industry and Agriculture Minister SM Tanveer said that we have managed the sinking economy of Pakistan in the last few months and we will start a new journey of development and prosperity in the province in the next few months. He said that under the management of Chakwal, Rawalpindi and Islamabad Chambers of Commerce, a new industrial estate will be established at Neela Dulla Interchange in Chakwal, which will usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the area. He said this while addressing the annual dinner hosted by the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Punjab Health Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that he is busy day and night to improve healthcare facilities for the people of Punjab. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, they are adding a new chapter of development in the province



Chakwal Chamber of Commerce President Waqar Bakhtawari demanded the establishment of a new industrial estate at Neela Dulla Interchange. He said that for the promotion of tourism, tourism infrastructure should be improved in Punjab including Chakwal, which will bring beneficial results for the economy. He further demanded that steps should be taken to make inactive dams in Potohar region active

soon. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Bakhtawari said that a new industrial estate is the urgent need of the hour to create new employment opportunities and promote investment in the region and hoped that under the leadership of Minister of Industry and Agriculture of Punjab SM Tanveer, this project will be completed soon.

Vice President FPCCI Qazi Akbar said that under the municipal committee in Chakwal's Chapar Bazaar, the government tenant shopkeepers should be given ownership rights.

Coordinator Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Khawaja Arif demanded to further improve the medical facilities in Chakwal hospital so that the people can get quality treatment facilities.

## Anti-polio drive will continue in Multan Division: Amir Khattak



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak inaugurated anti-polio Campaign by administering polio drops to children in Government Shehbaz Sharif Hospital. The anti-polio campaign will continue from October 2 to October 6. Commissioner Engineer Amir Khattak said that in 393 Union Councils of Multan Division, 10,829 teams will administer polio drops to more than 25 lakh children. In Multan district, 4,380 teams will administer polio drops to 1,000,089 children. 2373 teams will administer polio vaccine to 622,516 children in Vihari district, 2538 teams to 596,792 children in Khanewal, 1538 teams to 374,287 children in Lodhran.

Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the cooperation of parents is indispensable for a polio-free Pakistan. Get your children vaccinated against polio to protect them from lifelong disabilities. Commissioner Multan

Giving a warning, said that strict legal action will be taken against parents who refuse to administer polio drops. Polio camps have also been established at public places including the General Bus Stand. No case of polio has been reported in the division.

## DPO SWL urged policemen to serve the public

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer Farman Ullah Wardag met with the police officers and personnel taking a lower course from Shah Kass Training School on Friday in his office.

On this occasion DPO urged the police officers who completed the training to restore the public's trust in the police by devoting all their energies to public service in their practical life, while uplifting the prestige of the police force with your professional conduct and good morals.

He further said that the main purpose of the police department is to serve the people, to provide life and financial security to the common people in the society and to provide free justice to the people.

So be courteous to people in police stations and police offices and provide them with legal assistance.

DPO said, that legitimate and legal activities of people should not be obstructed, false cases should not be registered.

Addressing the police officers, DPO Farman Ullah said that the police are responsible for protecting the lives and property of the people.

He said, Police officers should make service to the people their motto and perform their duty honestly, and spend all energies in maintaining peace and giving relief to the people, so that the common people can be satisfied with the performance of the police.



## Celebration of Eid Millad Ul Nabi at GU Wensam College Dera

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Gomal University Wensam College and Directorate of Student Affairs organized a Naat-Khowani gathering on the occasion of (PBUH) Eid Milad-ul-Nabi on Friday.

On this occasion, Principal Wensam College Dr. Fateh Khan Suleman Khel, Director of Admission Riaz Ahmed Bettani, Director of Students Affairs Dr. Nafid, Coordinator Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Dr. Sher Kamal, Dr. Ali Zaman, Maulana Mehmood-ul-Hasan Nizami and others were also present.

In the hall of Wensam College, Naat Khowani tied the sky by showering flowers of devotion in honor of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and spiritual scenes were seen everywhere.

Muhammad Zeeshan Jami performed the duties of the stage secretary in the program.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Wensam College Dr. Fateh Khan Suleman Khel said, on the special instructions of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Prof. Dr. Shakib Ullah, this grand and prosperous ceremony is being organized today in celebration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). On this occasion the principle said that the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is a happy occasion for all Muslims in which our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came to this world, and let us become a source of mercy and forgiveness for all Muslims.

Dr. Fateh Khan further said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a torch for all Muslims and by following it we can be successful in this world and the hereafter.

## Procession

ABBOTTABAD: A large number of the Aashiqan-e-Rasool (SAW) participate in the Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) procession on the occasion of the 12 Rabi-ul-Awal on Friday in City.



Photo: Online

# Every Pakistani play his role to move Pakistan towards development: Asad Hamed Khan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Multan ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Pakistan organized a corporate conference in Multan on the theme of creating a sustainable future in uncertain times, in which leading business and intellectual leaders of the country from the corporate sector. Asad Hamed Khan, head of ACCA Pakistan, said that every Pakistani has to play his role to move Pakistan towards development. There is no shortage of talent, just good institutions and a good environment

The conference aims to bring together leaders, experts and professionals from various fields to discuss and reflect on important topics related to sustainability, ethics, leadership, future-ready talent, and digital development. On the topic of playing a role in a comprehensive and



sustainable economic development dialogue, the speakers included Chief Risk Officer Infra Zamin Pakistan Khuro Mumtaz, Member Senate of Pakistan Waleed Iqbal, and Pres-

ident Multan Chamber of Commerce Rashid Iqbal and others. Eminent figures from the field discussed practical guidance, strategies to enable businesses and policy makers to

adopt new technologies and create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship.

The conference also featured a panel discussion on 'Incorporating ESG principles into corporate strategy, challenges and opportunities' with ACCA's more than 247,000 members and 526,000 prospective members worldwide. The world's leading body for professional accountants, using its unrivaled connections across the globe to connect people with the best finance organizations, providing them with a fulfilling career.

ACCA is at the forefront of future-proofing careers with strong partnerships with finance employers and the social sector around the world and an award-winning Professional Insights program., Umar Baig, Adnan Ahmed and other businessmen and people related to accounts also addressed.

# Azad Jammu and Kashmir working on development plan for sustainable development

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi has said that the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government is working on a comprehensive plan to achieve sustainable development goals in the state in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.

Work on poverty alleviation and prosperity projects is in progress across the state.

Providing quality education and health facilities to the majority of the people is the top priority of the government. Modern infrastructure is

being developed in the state to promote economic and social development and reduce unemployment.

Climate change has had an impact on Azad Jammu and Kashmir which is being planned to deal with.

Along with conservation of forests, alternative sources are being provided to the local population to fulfill their needs.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a one-day seminar on the goals of "Dialogue for Sustainable Development" organized by the United Nations of Pakistan at a local hotel here.

On this occasion, United Nations Resident Coordinator MIO SATO and Commission-

er Chaudhry Shaukat Ali also spoke in the seminar.

Najeeb Raja, Principal Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medical College Professor Dr. Faisal Basheer, Chief Engineer Electricity Nazim Jangalati Sheikh Hameed, Former Station Director Radio Muhammad Shakeel, Director P&D Yasir Basheer, United Nations Representative in Pakistan, Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Syed Sabir Hussain, prominent political and business personality Umar Shahzad, officers of various departments, municipal representatives, well-known industrialists, business personalities, representatives of social organizations, civil society, youth students and students, people belonging to different groups of thought participated. Additional Chief Secretary



Additional Chief Secretary

(Development) Fayyaz Ali Abbasi said that poverty, inequality, lack of education, health facilities, any kind of gender discrepancy are the biggest obstacles in the way of sustainable development because poverty, inequality and lack of equal opportunities.

There is no stability and development in the society, due to which the state and the society suffer from various problems.

The United Nations has prepared a comprehensive plan for the sustainable development of developing and developed countries under the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

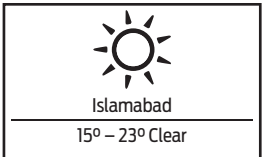
With this comprehensive

plan, an era of social, economic, economic development and prosperity will begin at the global level.

It is a matter of great joy that Azad Jammu and Kashmir is also included in this global plan of sustainable development goals and this plan is being implemented in Azad Jammu and Kashmir as per its spirit.

He said that in order to deal with the lack of medical facilities and food, poverty grows, a plan is ready to provide better medical facilities and good food for the citizens of Azad Kashmir, which is going to be implemented even though sustainable development.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:38 am  
Zohr ..... 11:58 am  
Asr ..... 4:12 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:54 pm  
Isha ..... 7:17 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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883

**AIOU celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: "The life of the Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is an example for the entire humanity, following the good deeds and actions told by the Prophet (PBUH), we can be successful in both worlds," said Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood while addressing the Mehfil Milad ceremony held in AIOU Faisalabad region yesterday. University celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with religious enthusiasm, naats were recited and salutations were paid to the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Religious scholar, Mufti Yamin Qureshi, well-known Naat Khawan, Muhammad Ayub Bhatti and poet Muhammad Tahir Siddiqui paid tribute and gratitude to the Holy Prophet. VC AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that young generation can achieve success in every field by following the Prophet's (Peace be upon him) way of life. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmed Khan, Regional Head AIOU Faisalabad, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Samim and Mufti Yameen Qureshi also addressed the event. They congratulated VC AIOU, Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Regional Head Faisalabad for organizing a prestigious and spiritual gathering of Milad to promote the love of the Prophet.

# A Pakistani makes Chinese calligraphy and paintings into mooncakes

Xinhua

NANCHANG: International student Fahad Kabeer pressed a green dough the size of a ping pong ball in a wooden mold and tapped the mold up and down on the worktop a few times after the dough was shaped into a mooncake. Then the mooncake fell. The motif on it, printed by the mold, turned out to be the Chinese character Fu.

In Chinese, Fu means happiness, good luck, and good wishes. And this one was even more special, as it was selected from a piece of calligraphy by Bada Shanren, a Chinese ink-wash painter born in the 1620s in Nanchang in east China's Jiangxi Province.

"I've been in China for seven years and have spent many Mid-Autumn Festivals. Every year, the school gives us mooncakes, but this is the first time I've ever made

mooncakes with my own hands, and with such a Chinese flavor," said Fahad from Pakistan.

Having studied at the Jiangxi University of Chinese Medicine in Jiangxi for over seven years, Fahad has had many mooncakes, a traditional pastry for the Mid-Autumn Festival, and prefers the type with mixed nuts and dried fruits, but he has always been curious about the story behind the custom.

The friend who brought Fahad to experience the mooncake DIY told him that Chinese people print auspicious designs on mooncakes, which are then shared during the Mid-Autumn Festival, symbolizing that the blessings are also shared with friends and relatives.

In the past, people used to make mooncakes in wooden molds, which carry the very simple thoughts and values of the Chinese people as well as the hopes for a



better life, and combine life with art, and their charm have not diminished through years, added Fahad's friend.

Before turning his handmade mooncakes over to the chef for baking, Fahad

video-called his families in Pakistan. "In my country Pakistan, we don't have the Mid-Autumn Festival, but we have festivals like the Eid al-Fitr, also a family reunion festival," he said.

With a mooncake in his left hand and his mobile in the right, he said to his father: "Dad, this is the mooncake I made just now. I want to share it with you. I wish one day I will make these mooncakes at home, and we all family members will eat together. I miss you all." Besides the character, Fahad noticed that the molds also included the motif of a rabbit.

"This is one of the Mid-Autumn tales of the jade rabbit. The image of a personified rabbit is often seen on Mid-Autumn mooncakes. It is usually pestling medicinal materials," the pastry chef Min Dengbin told Fahad.

The full moon has been the spiritual support of the Chinese during the Mid-Autumn Festival, and in Chinese legends, there was a goddess in the moon palace, who owned a jade rabbit that could pestle medicines, which represents the hope for longevity, Min said.

# For first time in history of Pakistan, students sit for 'International Students Examination'

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: As part of efforts to facilitate access to higher level professional education for every youth, for the first time in the history of Pakistan "International Student Examination" was conducted under the auspices of Istanbul Medi Pol University Turkey and Knight Human Management (KHM) Shalaaan and GL held here on Tuesday. The organization of "International Students Examination" in Pakistan for the first time is a milestone for the promotion of higher education and the people of Pakistan are grateful to the Turkish government, Turkish educational authorities and especially Medipol University Istanbul for their valuable contribution, said KHM head



Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich while addressing the participants. "Students who pass the

International Students Examination, which is called the YOS test in Turkish, become eligible for admission after having passed this test to any university in the world ranking," he added. He said the students who could not get admission in Pakistan due to any reason need not worry as there are a number of Universities in the world which offer them not only admission but also extend scholarships to them. Khalid Nawaz said that in Universities abroad our student not only seeks education but they too exchange experiences with international community of students.

He mentioned that those students who would get top positions in the YOS test would be offered scholarships up to 80 percent.

# AAA Associates announces strategic partnership with valor hospitality partners

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: AAA Associates Announces Strategic Partnership with Valor Hospitality Partners GCC. In a strategic move that underscores its commitment to enhancing the hospitality landscape in Pakistan, AAA Associates has entered into a significant partnership with Valor Hospitality Partners. The collaboration was cemented with the signing of a Hotel Management Agreement (HMA) for a luxurious 5-Star Hotel and Residences situated in the mixed-use development, AAA Octa 2, Karachi. The pivotal signing ceremony took place in Abu Dhabi, graced by the presence of H. E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of Pakistan to the UAE, Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Deputy Head of Mission. Mr Muhammad Omer Munj was representing AAA Associates and Julien Bergue, the co-founder and Managing



Partner of Valour Hospitality Middle East was also presented at the event.

The state-of-the-art property, designed to offer a unique blend of luxury and comfort, will feature 114 opulent rooms and suites, extensive banqueting spaces, an all-day diner, a bar, private dining, a comprehensive wellness and fitness center, and much more. Furthermore, the development will house 314 modern, branded, and serviced residential units.

Both Chairman AAA Associates Sheikh Fawad Bashir and MD AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) expressed their excitement about this venture. "Partnering with a globally recognized entity like Valor Hospitality Partners aligns perfectly with our vision for this landmark project. As we embark on this journey, we are confident

in Valor's capability to bring unmatched hospitality expertise to the table," stated Chairman AAA Associates Sheikh Fawad Bashir.

Highlighting Karachi's significance, MD AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) remarked, "Karachi, being Pakistan's economic nerve center, is poised for an infrastructural evolution. This project promises to be a landmark addition to the city's vibrant business ecosystem and its skyline."

Julien Bergue, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Valor Hospitality Middle East, commented on the venture's potential. "Having established our first foothold in Lahore, we're eager to further our reach in Pakistan. Teaming up with AAA Associates for this illustrious project in Karachi underscores our commitment to delivering unparalleled hospitality experiences in the region."

# 'Art Aur Aata' Theatre was presented by Grips Theatre Group



City Desk

KARACHI: On the 21st day of the ongoing Pakistan Theater Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, the theater play "Art Aur Aata" was presented in Urdu and English by Grips Theater Group in Auditorium I. The writer of the theater was Imran Aslam while the cast of the play was Faiza Qazi, Khalid Anam, Ameer Riaz, Khalifa Sajeeeruddin and Ayesha Shaikh were included. Tributes were paid to Imran Aslam in recognition of his services through the play. President Arts Muhammad Ahmad Shah said in his welcome speech that the idea of holding a theater festival was to pay tribute to our great people like Kamal Ahmad Rizvi, Imran Aslam, Shakespeare and big names of theater. He said that Imran Aslam was our friend, our guru, our mentor, Imran's quality was that he never taught as a teacher, he taught people from five years old to 80 years old as friends, even when Imran fell ill he used to come to my office, apparently people think that Imran used to write for children, he used to write for all the mentally immature, Imran Aslam told how to write news in a bad situation, how to do theater. Ahmad Shah further said that we are also planning a children's theater festival which will last for a whole month. Well-known director and actor Khalid Anam said that the play they are doing today are covering political situations and events. Thank you, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah for working on the theater and giving us the opportunity to present our work here.

# Excellent performance of Multan administration on Prophet's birthday: Anjum



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Member of BIO Pakistan, Chairman SM food Makers and Volka Food International CH. Zulfiqar Ali Anjum said, Undoubtedly, the Multan administration displayed commendable expertise in orchestrating security measures during the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The presence of the Chief Police Officer (CPO) and the Deputy Commissioner AC city, SP city in the field exemplified their dedication to ensuring a secure environment.

Furthermore, the administration's approach to traffic management deserves significant praise. The seamless flow of traffic is a pivotal aspect of any large-scale event, and the administration's efforts in this regard contributed significantly to the overall success of the occasion. Their ability to maintain order on the roads not only eased the commutes of those attending the event but also minimized potential disruptions.

The combined efforts of robust security arrangements and efficient traffic management underscore the Multan administration's commitment to public safety and their ability to execute well-coordinated plans for such important cultural and religious gatherings. It sets a commendable standard for future events of similar magnitude.

# Kashif Anwar lauds success of first year in LCCI

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar on Saturday successfully completed one year of his presidency and pledged to continue his untiring efforts for the cause of trade, industry and economy.

In a statement, LCCI President Kashif Anwar termed his meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Asim Muneer the most important happening during his first year as President LCCI saying that the economic outcomes were unbelievable as dollar flight arrested immediately and stock market witnessed a great boom.

Giving a summarized overview of his performance during a year, Kashif Anwar said that the US Ambassador visited LCCI after a long time. A crucial meeting with the Indian Deputy High Commissioner was also held at LCCI. Besides this, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and trade delegations of various countries including European Union, China, Belgium, Iran, Tunis, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Vietnam, Indonesia, UK also visited LCCI to have detailed deliberations on mutual trade and economic ties.

# Farhat Asif becomes First Pakistani to receive IWF Leadership Fellowship

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Farhat Asif, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) & Co-Founder of the Diplomatic Insight Group has achieved an unprecedented milestone by becoming the first Pakistani woman to be selected for the prestigious 2023-2024 International Women's Forum (IWF) Leadership Fellows class.

Dr. Farhat Asif's selection as a member of the 2023-2024 IWF Leadership Fellows class is a momentous achievement, a testament to her exceptional accomplishments, and her unwavering commitment to

the cause of women's leadership.

Dr. Farhat Asif's extraordinary journey as a peace advocate, diplomat, and scholar has earned her this prestigious recognition.

Her tireless efforts in promoting diplomacy, gender equality, and peacebuilding have transcended borders, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives. As she embarks on this new chapter, the world eagerly anticipates the profound impact she will undoubtedly make on the global stage.

With a career spanning more than 15 years in the domains of diplomacy, foreign policy, public diplomacy, develop-



she has interviewed 20 senators, members of parliament, members of the Canadian and European Parliament, and ambassadors from various countries, including Ambassador Swanee Hunt and the Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Leymah Gbowee, as well as the President of Kosovo.

Dr. Farhat Asif's commitment to positive change has garnered her prestigious accolades, including the N-Peace Award in 2017 under the category of "Campaign for Action" by UNDP Asia Pacific, the Government of Canada, and the Institute for Inclusive Security in Washington DC, USA.

In 2018, she was honored with the Fellowship of the Global Change Leaders Program from the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Furthermore, Dr. Farhat Asif has been bestowed with the esteemed "Public Diplomat" Award by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Her academic prowess is underscored by her Ph. D. in Public Diplomacy from Quaid-I-Azam University, with research areas encompassing foreign policy, international relations, security, and strategic studies.



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

# Journalists' safety in upcoming elections - I

**A**s Pakistan gears up for its general elections, concerns about the safety and freedom of the press have taken center stage. Reporters Without Borders (RSF), in collaboration with prominent journalism advocacy groups, is launching an urgent appeal to the country's political parties contesting in the elections. A diverse array of press clubs, journalist unions, and organizations have signed a joint statement, emphasizing the gravity of the situation and the need for collective action. They are urging these parties to commit to concrete measures aimed at safeguarding press freedom and ensuring the protection of journalists.

According to RSF, Pakistan has witnessed a worsening situation for journalists in the lead-up to the general elections. It is against this backdrop that RSF is calling upon both mainstream and provincial leaders of contesting political parties to include their commitment to defending freedom of expression and journalist safety in their party manifestos.

One of the primary concerns of this joint statement is the high level of impunity for crimes against journalists and media personnel in Pakistan. In fact, Pakistan was one of the five countries chosen for a pilot project of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. A recent report by Freedom Network found that an alarming "96% of journalist killings" in the past decade resulted in no convictions. This impunity places journalists at extreme risk

and deprives Pakistani citizens of their fundamental rights to access information and freedom of expression, which are enshrined in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan under Articles 19 and 19A.

Their concerns with regard to impunity are absolutely valid and vindicated in the UNESCO report, 2023 on the safety of journalists and the media in Pakistan. This report, while painting a grim picture of the situation in the country, found that Pakistan is one of the deadliest countries for journalists in the world, with 97 journalist murders since 1992, and no one convicted of any of these crimes. The report also found that journalists in Pakistan face a wide range of threats and challenges, including arbitrary detention, harassment, and intimidation. The report states that "the impunity for crimes against journalists in Pakistan is a major obstacle to the free and independent practice of journalism."

The appeal was preferred while knowing very well that all political parties irrespective of their bending towards leftist, centralists or rightists already have a dedicated section in their manifestos on safeguarding media freedom.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) declared in its manifesto, "In our commitment to upholding democratic values, the PPP pledges to protect and promote free-

dom of the press. We recognize the vital role that media plays in a democratic society and will actively work to ensure an environment in which journalists can operate freely and without fear. We are committed to enacting and upholding legislation that protects journalists, guarantees access to information, and prevents impunity for crimes against media personnel."

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz group) (PML-N) in its manifesto recognizes the importance of a free press as a cornerstone of democracy; it says, "We are committed to fostering an environment where journalists can work without fear of harassment or violence. We will actively pursue measures to safeguard the independence of media organizations and ensure that laws and regulations protect journalists and their right to report without undue influence."

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) PTI stands for transparency and open access to information. Its manifesto says, "We acknowledge the significance of a free press in holding the government accountable. We will work towards strengthening media institutions and safeguarding the rights of journalists. PTI is committed to promoting press freedom and will take steps to ensure that journalists can perform their duties without any threats

or intimidation."

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rehman group) (JUI-F) in its manifesto declares, "JUI-F believes in democratic values, including the importance of a free and responsible press. We are committed to upholding the rights of journalists and ensuring they can report independently. We will work towards creating an environment where media outlets can operate freely, without undue government interference."

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) declares, "JI recognizes the role of the media as a watchdog in a democratic society. We pledge to protect press freedom and work towards creating an atmosphere where journalists are safe to perform their duties. We will advocate for laws that safeguard media independence and ensure that crimes against journalists are swiftly and justly addressed."

All journalists organization knows very well that the political parties never resort to kinetic use while dealing with media, they may use PEMRA to issue directives to advise media to adhere to the code of conduct but since, every order of the PEMRA is appealable therefore, the media houses immediately get the stay order. The second tactic the government uses is the allocation of advertisements to either punish or reward non compliant media houses or newspapers but they never resort to using aggressive tactics to either silence or intimidate the journalists and the media houses.

*To be continued*

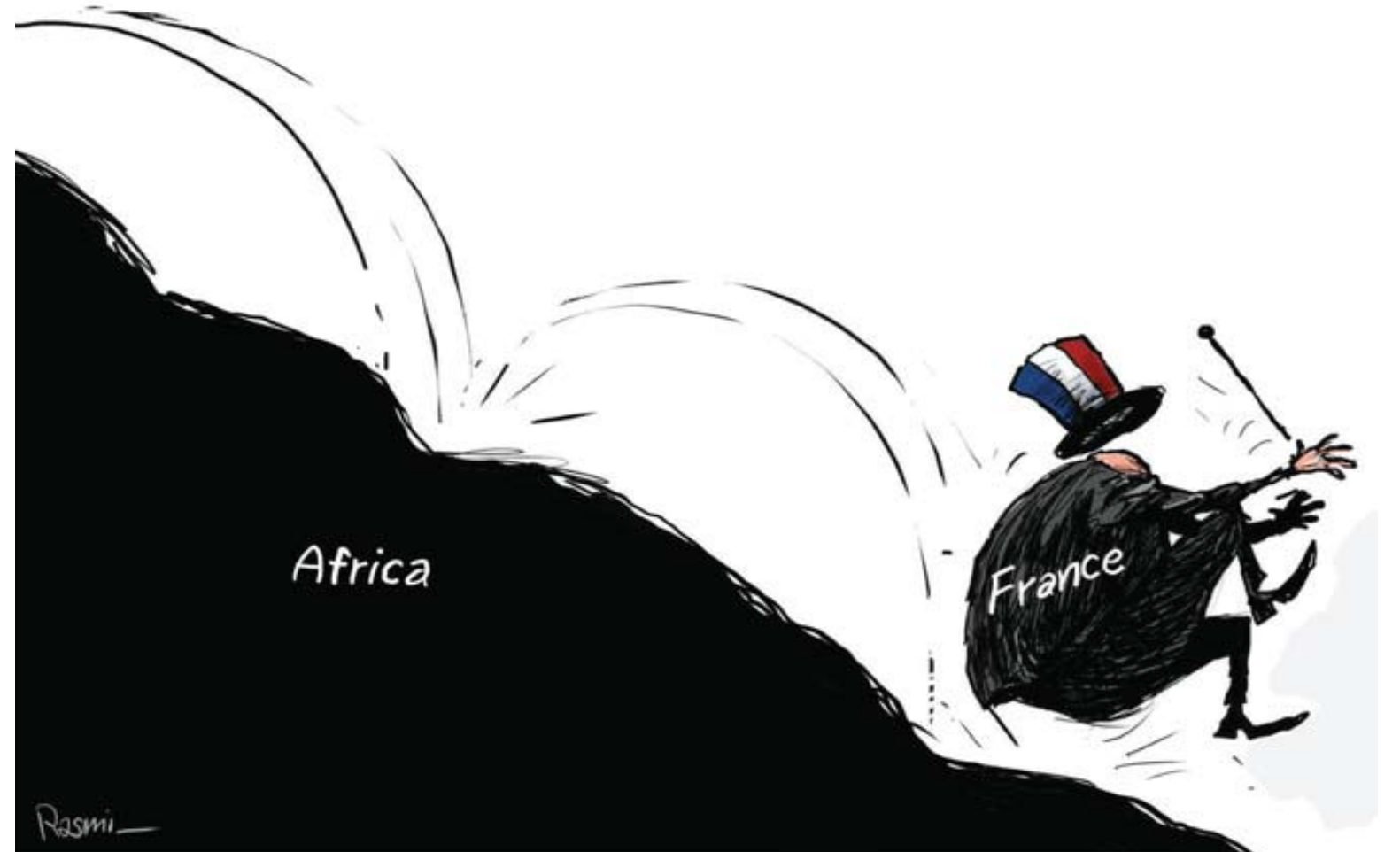


Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebrated with religious zeal and fervor

**M**uslims across the country celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with profound religious fervor and unity on Friday, commemorating the birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The day began with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital, Islamabad, and a 21-gun salute in all provincial capitals, setting the tone for a day of devotion and celebration. In the early hours, following Fajr prayers, special supplications were made in mosques across the nation, with a focus on fostering unity among the Muslim Ummah and praying for the prosperity and progress of the country. This day served as a reminder of the life and teachings of the last messenger, a guiding light for humanity. Throughout the country, special conferences, events, and Mehfil-e-Milad gatherings were organized to pay homage to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The jubilant atmosphere was further enhanced by the vibrant decorations adorning buildings, streets, roads, mosques, and houses, illuminated with colorful lights in honor of this auspicious occasion. The president, addressing the annual Seeratun Nabi (PBUH) Conference here on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH), highlighting the world's pursuit of a morality-based world order, emphasized justice, forgiveness and wealth circulation as the key components for the progress of a country. The president said no country or society could run without the traits of unity, justice and forgiveness. Besides, compassion for the poor and needy was also equally important for a successful society as Quran also taught the same repeatedly. He reiterated moral principles were also unavoidable for a successful economy. President Alvi, who earlier distributed awards among the winners of the writing contest of books on Seeratun Nabi (PBUH) and Naat, said the society needed the motivation to spend their wealth for the welfare of the needy people as had been guided by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as well as other prophets. Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed has said the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) stood as a timeless wisdom. Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) also graced the province of Punjab, including the provincial capital Lahore, where residents decorated their homes and streets with electric lamps, buntings, and green lights. In Peshawar, the main procession, which commenced from Milad Chowk, made its way through traditional routes and culminated at Qissa Khwani Bazaar. The city's bazaars and markets were adorned and lit up, adding to the festive atmosphere. Meanwhile, Karachi witnessed three major processions originating from various parts of the city. Across Sindh province, including the provincial capital Karachi, devotees celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with unwavering religious fervor. The day featured special events, Mehfil-Milad gatherings, processions, and conferences dedicated to paying profound respect to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his inspirational teachings. The city's public and private buildings, streets, roads, mosques, and houses were adorned with colorful lights, illuminating Karachi's spirit. Balochistan also embraced the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi with religious zeal and enthusiasm. A procession of the faithful marched from Saryab Road, following traditional routes, and culminated at Jamiat Rai Road in Quetta city. Religious, political, social organizations, and educational institutions played their part by organizing various programs to commemorate this special occasion. Beyond the borders of Pakistan, Eid Milad-un-Nabi was observed on both sides of the Line Of Control (LOC) with deep religious reverence, underscoring the universal significance of this occasion.



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

## International Day of Older Persons, and the Challenges Faced by Old Pensioners

**I**nternational Day for the Elderly, which is celebrated on October 1st every year, is celebrated as a global reminder of the important challenges facing the world's older people. In 1990, that day began with the United Nations. This day is celebrated to highlight many aspects of the elderly and promote the welfare, dignity, and human rights of the elder persons. As the population, of the elderly is increasing over time. Therefore, with regard to this day, we should fulfill our responsibilities in solving the needs and problems of this important class.

The day is particularly indicative of physical, mental and emotional well-being and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, access to health care, and access to preventive measures and medicines against age-related diseases. It is important that the elderly can live in a good and comfortable environment.

The International Day of Older Persons serves as a platform for advocacy. The day urges governments and organizations to formulate and implement policies that address the unique needs and rights of older people among the society. This includes financial hardship, access to health care, housing, transportation, and social services.

Abuse of the elderly in today's societies is becoming a disturbing phenomenon that is largely ignored or not highlighted. The day emphasizes the need to protect older persons from abuse, be it physical, emotional or financial. It calls attention to the institutions to be vigilant and to create support system programs for those who are at risk. Many seniors today are facing major financial challenges, including a

lack of pensions and long-standing injustices by institutions to older people with years of backlogs in the courts are deeply troubling. Their financial problems, maintaining health, mental problems and limited employment opportunities present severe difficulties. If we bring forward the problems of senior citizens in our country, it is known that the legitimate rights of these helpless people are not paid any attention by the institutions. It should have been that their problems would have been resolved through self-notification by the governments and institutions and these elderly people would not have been given an opportunity to complain or raise their voice. It is very sad to say that these old people have to fight for their rights on their own despite the difficulties. Thousands of elderly people and their widows have passed away from this world, dates upon dates and tracing the paths of justice.

An example is that of the retired employees of Allied Bank, who have been agitating for their rightful rights for the past many years, as in other financial institutions of the country. The said bank's non-payment of pension and benefits to retired employees as per the self-imposed law is a question mark for human rights organizations. It is completely unfair and against the principles of human rights, which have no examples throughout the world. The old, sick, elderly and their widows have resorted to lawyers and courts for the past several years, which have caused great mental anguish and distress for the elderly in this difficult period of inflation. The Peshawar High Court ruled in favor of the retired employees of the bank on 22nd January 2015. On 17th January 2020, the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the decision of the

Peshawar High Court while dismissing the appeal filed by the bank and thus the decision was also issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in favor of retired employees. In February 2018, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan decided to pay a minimum pension of eight thousand rupees. While today the minimum income has become thirty two thousand. It is a matter of thinking, what is the importance of eight thousand rupees in this. The same also being diverted and the bank management are unable to implement any decision. And day by day this financial institution is disrespecting the decisions of the courts by prolonging the matter and considering the decisions of the high courts of the country as garbage. The said bank management is deliberately engaged in harassing the retired senior employees, their widows and their families from their own institution.

Celebrating International Day of Older Persons we must not forget that older people can live prosperous lives with beauty and dignity, enriching our communities and our world along the way, it is important that we protect their rights and remove the obstacles because it is our moral, legal and human duty. This is a ray of hope and very happy to say. "To remove from the mind that cases will now be adjourned, this concept should be considered to be over. Notice on one date will be decided on the next hearing. The trend of taking a date from the Supreme Court will no longer work." It is hoped that the subordinate courts will also be bound by it. The retired senior citizens of Allied Bank request the Government of Pakistan and the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the decisions that have been issued by the courts in their favor should also be implemented soon as these have been delayed for years.

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



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

## Positive effects of crackdown began to emerge

**T**his is not just flattery but reality, that every Pakistani has been compelled to accept that following the directives of the Chief of Army Staff, a crackdown on dollar, hawala/hundi, and border smuggling in the country is yielding better results. The positive results of measures taken to combat dollarization, money laundering, and smuggling in the country are becoming evident. The value of the dollar is continuously decreasing, and the black market for the dollar has largely closed down. It had reached a high of 335 rupees on September 5, but it has now come down to around 290 rupees in just three weeks. There is hope that it may further decrease.

Commerce Minister, Ejaz Gohar, has emphasized that the exchange rate should align with the global real effective exchange rate, and for that, crackdowns and reforms will continue. Reputable and major banks have started applying for licenses after the State Bank allowed banks to establish companies. Similarly, there will be expedited actions against entities involved in money laundering and hawala transactions. These measures aim to curb the illicit activities that have surged since the establishment of such companies in the 1990s.

Pakistan's national currency continued to recoup its value against the greenback (US dollar) on Monday amid a crackdown on dollar hoarding and smuggling that currency dealers have widely credited the country's all-powerful army for spearheading. Currency dealers have attributed the rupee recovery to what they call the "danda," or stick, approach to deal with smugglers and hoarders, as tens of millions of dollars have poured back into Pakistan's inter-

bank and open markets since raids on black market operators began on Sept. 6.

While there have been other attempts to curb the black market when the rupee has been under stress, the latest push came after licensed dealers requested army chief General Asim Munir take action, rather than leave it solely to the civilian caretaker government that was put in place last month to run Pakistan till elections, currently expected to be held early next year. Munir had reportedly promised dealers "transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates."

No doubt since the army chief's intervention and the widespread crackdowns, the currency has recouped its value by Rs16.24 in the interbank market while a major fall was witnessed in the open market where the currency has recouped Rs36 to reach Rs293 against the greenback since September 04, 2023, according to central bank data. It is good news that the rupee was trading at an all-time low of Rs307.10 against the United States Dollar (USD) on September 05, 2023. Since then, it has regained 5.2 percent of its value to close at Rs290.86 in the interbank market last day.

In the previous column, I wrote that the Army Chief's initiative to bring improvement in the economy is a welcome step, aimed at restoring confidence. At this time, the current government does not enjoy the trust of the public, but due to the positive action taken by the COAS the people have acknowledged the efforts of the army leadership. However, the commendable and constructive actions undertaken by the COAS has not gone unnoticed by the politicians. These efforts have earned widespread recognition, and the people of Pakistan have come to appreciate the dedicated leadership.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid



74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

# China has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed

Marryam Siddiq

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Committee on Defense and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that we are proud that China supported Pakistan at a time when no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan. In every difficult period, China stood with Pakistan like a rock. Some forces supported cold war, we reject this thought, China is the only country which never supported aggression. It never built a colony against anyone. Pakistan is lucky that in the case of China it has found an excellent strategic partner.

He said this during the ceremony organized on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of China under the management of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation. On this occasion, Federation President Aasma Butt, Chairman Federation Shujaat Ali, President OCAP Dr Law Jialian Dr La Jielian, Former Member Provincial Assembly and Senior Vice President Rawalpindi City Pakistan Muslim League-N Begum Tahsin Fawad, Muhammad Nasir Khan, Zaidullah Dad, Naeem Pasha, Shaheen Dar, Muhammad Khalid, Umar Shafiq, Mian Majid Ali, Mian Usman, Naeem Khan, Hamza Khan and senior journalists and other guests were present. Nayar Ali, Finance Secretary of National Press Club and Anchor Person of the Federation performed the hosting duties.

Chairman Senate Committee on Defense and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that I



congratulate the President of the Federation Aasma Butt for organizing the event, who is representing the brotherhood between the two countries. On October 1, 1949, China was freed from tyranny. I visited China in 1970 when I was a student of FC College. Where I saw with the efforts made by Mao Zedong and Chuen Lai for their people. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that in 1934, 1000 Chinese people made a long march against the

tyranny. Out of which 25 people survived and made new history. China is the only country that never supported aggression. Pakistan is lucky to have an excellent strategic partner in the form of China. China has supported Pakistan in every difficult period. Be it external pressure, Kashmir issue or the defense of Pakistan. Pakistan is proud of China. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that the world is changing at this time. Allama Iqbal pointed out the rise of China

ninety years ago. The economic and cultural global balance is shifting from East to West. In which Pakistan has an important role. Some forces supported the Cold War but We rejected. We are proud of China that China has invested in CPEC. 600 km long highways, 800 km transmission line and other development projects are part of CPEC. Mao Zedong said that nothing is hard in this world. Therefore, continuous hard work leads to

success. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that there was a time when China was poor, but today China stands in the forefront of developed countries as a global, economic and cultural leader. China has achieved success without any contradiction. The Silk Road is the best effort of Chinese President Xi Jinping, which connects Pakistan, Iran, Middle East, Europe and other countries with each other. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that China's

14-year-old civilisation. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that China will serve as a pillar. During the last ten years, 3000 projects were introduced with the help of 1 trillion dollars, which proved that That China is the bearer of peace in the whole world. Earlier, President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Butt welcomed all the guests. Expressing her views, Aasma Butt said that Pakistan-China friendship

spans seven decades, which is characterized by mutual respect and extensive cooperation in various fields. We deeply appreciate our esteemed friend country China for its positive efforts for Pakistan.

Earlier, the national anthem of Pakistan and China was played at the beginning of the ceremony. Performances involving Pak-China culture were also presented, while a cake-cutting ceremony was held at the end of the event.

## West is testing us' with Ukraine

### FM Sergey Lavrov's interview with TASS News Agency

**Question: My first question is certainly about Ukraine. It is already clear that Ukraine's "counter-offensive" has failed. The Western press increasingly mentions the likelihood of talks as early as this autumn. Do any conditions exist for this?**

Sergey Lavrov: We do not see any President Vladimir Putin, your humble servant, and Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov have commented on this extensively. When starting to circulate provocative rumours like this, the West is obviously testing us for willingness to accept its terms, and they are not particularly subtle about it. They want to take a break for a few months without signing any agreement except a temporary ceasefire in order to gain time and pump more weapons into Ukraine in addition to what has already been sent and is systematically being destroyed by the Russian armed forces. Their logic is the same as it was with the Minsk agreements.

They have confessed after all that no one - Germany, France, let alone Ukraine - intended to implement the Minsk agreements. In 2022, this was stated in plain language by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Former French President Francois Hollande, and former Ukrainian President Petr Poroshenko. They said the agreements were needed to gain time to replenish the Ukrainian regime's military arsenals against the Russian Federation. Had they implemented the Minsk agreements, Ukraine's territorial integrity would have been guaranteed, because this is what the agreements were all about. Territorial integrity would have been restored through the granting of special status to Donbass - the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic. President Vladimir Putin's co-authors with regard to the Minsk agreements openly admitted that they had deceived him. They had no intention of implementing the agreements, and this is why they are to blame for destroying Ukraine's territorial integrity, which they are so solicitous about today.

We see through their plans. We were ready for a settlement not only during the effort to draft the Minsk agreements but also in April 2022, when Ukraine proposed ceasing hostilities and settling the crisis based on providing reciprocal, reliable security guarantees. But this proposal was recalled at the insistence of Washington and London. Today, everyone knows this very well. Therefore, they cannot reproach us for lack of good will. President Putin constantly says as much. In April 2022, when we were ready to sign the agreements, the Ukrainians assured us that they would also put their signatures to them. As a gesture of good will, we suspended combat operations and even redeployed some of our forces. Those who broke off the agreement seized this opportunity.

President Putin has mentioned this as well. We are ready for talks and will consider any realistic proposal. But it is out of the question to impose a ceasefire during talks, because they already used this trick to deceive us once.

As for a likely ending to all of this, we do not see a single meaningful proposal from the West. There have been visits from an African delegation that advocated a peaceful settlement. China, Brazil, and a number of other countries, including Arab League countries, have offered their own proposals based on the sincere desire to help us achieve an agreement, with consideration for the root causes of the crisis, to remove these causes and guarantee security for all parties on equal terms.

Today, the West is hinting at the possibility of talks, while peremptorily claiming for all to hear that "Zelen-

borders, one that has openly declared that its goal is to eradicate all things Russian in Crimea and Novorossia, regions that Russians have developed, improved and settled for centuries. This is the crux of the matter. We see no meaningful shift from the West. The Kiev regime continues behaving as if it were the one to call the tune, while the West keeps saying in chorus: "Not a single word about Ukraine without Ukraine" and "President Zelensky will lay down the terms for talks."

So, it has come full circle. This is an absolute dead end. Either this position reflects the absence of common sense in the heads of those who orchestrate this war against Russia, or their irreparable confidence that they will "defeat" Russia. Neither is a credit to the West, Western diplomacy or Western thinkers.

for the "failed" alliances upon which Armenia had relied for its security and to expand the circle of partners who will ensure that security.

If they are relying on the United States (as indicated by many representatives of the Armenian leadership), perhaps it would make sense to closely examine recent history to see how the United States handled those it sought to bring under its wing in an effort to advance its geopolitical interests in outlying corners of the world. The fate of all those individuals is far from enviable.

**Question: I have a question about Georgia. Direct air travel has been reinstated recently between our countries. Additionally, an executive order on visa-free travel for Georgian citizens has been signed. Do you see the possibility of reestablishing diplomatic relations**

gians have a special place in the history of Russia, the Soviet Union, and our art, culture, and science.

We saw that the current government in Tbilisi is interested in normalising relations, at least in the interests of ordinary citizens. People want to communicate with each other, visit with each other, travel to both countries as tourists, and engage in business that traditionally linked our economic systems.

We have reached an agreement with the Garibashvili government to resume air service and lifted visa requirements for Georgian citizens. Visa-free travel for Russians has been in place for quite some time now. Many of our citizens have used it. The introduction of visa-free travel on a reciprocal basis for Georgian nationals, along with the reestablishment of air service, makes it much easier and more the convenient

Sergey Lavrov: No, just like BRICS as a group of countries is growing stronger and expanding (and will continue to do so) not against anyone but exclusively in the interests of its member states, similarly, the BRICS sports games are designed not to challenge the Olympic movement but to complement it.

Regrettably, due to the position adopted by the IOC President Thomas Bach, this movement is turning into a Western political tool, which is evident. It is much like the World Anti-Doping Agency turned into such a tool and has for years tried to undermine competing athletes from our country on various international platforms grossly abusing anti-doping rules and repeatedly bringing groundless accusations against our great athletes. In the same vein, the International Olympic Committee is currently taking advantage of the situation around Ukraine to grossly violate the Olympic Charter. While barring the majority of our athletes from competitions, they make exceptions for certain sports and age groups in a neutral status, without a flag or anthem, and present it as a remarkable positive step.

Mr Bach has stated multiple times that the Olympic Charter must be respected. But not to this extent, though. His statements come down to the fact that the IOC cannot ignore the developments in Ukraine. For many years, it turned a blind eye to things the West was doing thousands of miles away from its borders and let it slide. For years, Russia warned the international community that NATO was leading the world toward a major war, openly creating military threats on Russia's borders and emboldening a regime trained by Washington to contain Russia and to attack our country. Back then, the International Olympic Committee decided to adopt an inexplicably principled stance that was at odds with its obligations under the Olympic Charter.

Moreover, just recently, Mr Bach talked about the importance of avoiding politicisation of the Olympic Charter. Under this guise, he said the IOC would actively encourage the inclusion of transgender athletes in the Olympic Games. So, they don't see any politics in that? May God be their judge.

Returning to the BRICS Games, they are scheduled to be held in Kazan in June 2024. These competitions are open to athletes from all countries, even unfriendly countries. We don't have unfriendly athletes, citizens, or even countries. There are unfriendly governments that have temporarily come to power in some countries whose people have always had good and friendly relations with us. The games will be open to all athletes in full accordance with the Olympic Charter principles. Let the International Olympic Committee use this information to draw conclusions.



sky's peace formula" is the only basis for a negotiated solution. But this is unrealistic, even for discussion, being an ultimatum, pure and simple. No one in his right mind would promote this ultimatum as a basis for negotiation with no alternative. Unless he wants to break off or prevent talks. This is the situation we have.

Our position remains the same: we are ready to come to terms, taking into account the realities on the ground, and based on our well-known position. It is also imperative to take into account our security interests and prevent the creation of a hostile Nazi regime on our

**Question: I'd like to ask a question about a pressing issue: Armenia. Do you think Armenia may lose Russia?**

Sergey Lavrov: There are quite a few people there who are willing to lose Russia and make new friends. Historically, geographically, and geopolitically, it is not possible to lose Russia in the sense of completely disregarding its interests in the South Caucasus. However, some leaders in Yerevan are expressing such hopes openly.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan mentioned something along those lines in his recent statement when he emphasised the need to compensate

any time soon? Sergey Lavrov: It was not us who severed diplomatic relations. This move was initiated by Mikhail Saakashvili, who, with the support of the United States, took actions against his own citizens and Ossetians (whom he considered his citizens), as well as peacekeepers. When he received a fitting response, he attempted to use anti-Russian actions in order to compensate for his complete political and military failure.

We have never had a negative attitude toward the Georgian people. We genuinely love them, just like we love all the South Caucasus nations. Geor-

to maintain ties. There are more flights, and the geography of direct flights is expanding as well. Trade is on the rise. Many traditional Georgian export items, such as wine, Borjomi mineral water, and more, are popular with Russian consumers.

**Question: President Putin has expressed Russia's readiness to host the BRICS Games in the summer of 2024. Is Russia willing to host athletes only from BRICS countries (as we know, BRICS is expanding), or also from the countries that are planning to join the group? Can these games potentially become an alternative to the Olympics?**



*Dr Shamshad consultation with the financial markets to bring investment through Private Funds*



**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the honorable Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs Chaired a meeting with the Chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), bankers and heads of development finance stated that capital market reforms are critical component of the Caretaker Government's economic revival program. The initiatives are aimed to promote growth and development by harnessing the potential of capital market institutions to diversify sources of financing and exploiting innovative financing modalities.

Bankers and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) agreed on the need for establishment of private equity and venture funds to serve as a catalyst for economic revival. Chairman SECP reinforced SECP's commitment and for creating an enabling regulatory environment. The Finance Minister appreciated SECP's active engagement and encouraged banks and DFIs to set the stage for this collaborative effort and fast track the setting up of the private funds to support industrial development.

Habib Bank Limited, representing a consortium of banks, proposed the establishment of a Climate Resilience (CR) Fund under the SECP Private Fund Regulations, 2015. The DFIs tabled the proposal for setting up a similar fund backed by DFIs. Whereas, Bank AL Falah presented a promising proposal to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Asset Backed Securitization Regulations, 2022 to securitize rupee denominated debt to dollar denomination.

Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar appreciated these initiatives for seeking investments from local financial institutions, institutional investors, government DFIs, and corporates, with the potential to attract foreign capital, particularly from climate and ESG-focused international institutional investors.

She emphasized that the time is of the essence and hectic efforts should be made to bring these propositions to fruition. She underscored that these ground-breaking initiatives will contribute to restoring market confidence and send a clear message to the global market and foreign investors that Pakistan is open for business and poised for economic growth. Moving forward collaboratively there will be an effort to remove the impediments facing the establishment of these Funds.

The meeting concluded with resounding commitment from all participants, including banks and DFIs, to work together for the greater good of Pakistan's economy.

*FBR's systems functioning efficiently to ensure smooth return filing*

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a letter addressed to FBR, the Karachi Tax Bar Association (KTBA) has raised certain issues which either are not related to the return filing for tax year 2023 or these have been already resolved. FBR has been prompt in timely addressing/resolving issues raised by taxpayers and their representatives, including Karachi Tax Bar Association (KTBA). This fact has also been acknowledged in writing by the KTBA/PTBA in their various correspondence with the FBR. It is further clarified that no issue related to system slow down or system outage has so far been reported by anyone this year. This reflects the smooth functioning of return filing application on IRIS 2.0 which was ensured in order to avoid any need for extending the date of returns.

# Huawei's vision for Pakistan's financial services to be fulfilled: Dr. Umar Saif

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif has said that we are committed to creating a secure and efficient digital payment ecosystem, along with Huawei's contribution to Pakistan's ICT infrastructure is a promising step towards a digitally connected future. He said while talking with a high-level delegation led by Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO Huawei. The meeting was discussed the importance of enhancing the digital economy of Pakistan.

Dr. Umar Saif further said that the combination of ICT infrastructure and a robust digital financial ecosystem indeed offers significant benefits like reducing transaction costs, enhancing security, and promoting



financial inclusion. Key stakeholders, including banks, microfinance institutions, fintechs, and telecom compa-

nies, are integral to this progress.

"Technology, as exemplified by Huawei's global efforts in mobile money and fintech solutions, plays a crucial role in advancing financial access and creating new opportunities", Saif added.

Mr. Ravenscroft's VP Huawei Fintech emphasis on regulatory support for innovation is essential for fostering a thriving digital financial landscape, as demonstrated by success stories in Kenya and Ethiopia.

The Huawei team was comprising of senior representatives and sector experts including Mr Ethan Sun CEO Huawei Pakistan, Mr. Ian Ravenscroft, VP Huawei Fintech, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud, Director Subsidiary Board & Deputy CEO and Mr. Yu Shaoning, Director Public Affairs.

## Trading

ISLAMABAD: Vendors are buying fruits from wholesale traders at fruit and vegetables market in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## CCP approves two mergers facilitating FDI inflow

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has given the green light to two mergers, paving the way for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the potential mitigation of Pakistan's gas shortage.

CCP has granted approval to a UAE-based company for the acquisition of two entities engaged in the establishment and operation of an LNG terminal, as well as the import, storage, and distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) in Pakistan.

CCP has processed the two mergers, approving the 100% acquisition of Tabeer Energy (Private) Limited and Tabeer Energy Marketing (Private) Limited (TEMPL) by the UAE-based Bison Energy FZCO.

CCP completed the Phase-1 competition assessments, conducted in accordance with Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010. As the proposed transactions did not raise any competition concerns, the mergers were approved.

As a result of the merger transactions, Bison Energy FZCO has acquired 100% shareholding of Tabeer Energy (Private) Limited and Tabeer Energy Marketing (Private) Limited from Diamond Gas International Japan Co. Limited.

The transaction will result in foreign direct investment in Pakistan and help alleviate the gas shortage.

## ICCI holds its 39th Annual General Meeting

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) held its 39th Annual General Meeting, which was attended by a large number of members. The AGM approved ICCI Audit Report 2022-23 and ICCI Budget 2023-24. The AGM also approved the appointment of ICCI auditors for the year 2023-24.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted the key achievements of his one-year tenure and briefed the participants about the efforts made to solve the important problems of the business community. He said that his major achievement was to organize award ceremonies for the business leaders to recognize their services for the business community and give them respect and honor in society. He said that business role model awards were organized in ICCI in honor of prominent investors of Islamabad, Sardar Muhammad Ilyas Khan and Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, and this practice will be continued in the future. He said that due to the improvement in cotton production, Pakistan is expecting US\$25 billion in exports this year. He said that the establishment of the SIFC through the efforts of the COAS



is a welcome step to encourage investment in the country. He said that bad times have passed and now we are moving towards a bright future.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that he has got another year to serve the business community and vowed that he would work harder to address the major issues and facilitate them in business development. He said that ICCI has signed an MoU for the establishment of an Expo Centre in Islamabad and added that ICCI would organize more exhibitions including exhibition of women entrepreneurs in the coming year to promote business

activities and exports. ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Ahsan Bakhtawari is making great efforts to solve the problems of the business community and hoped that he will deliver up to the expectations of the members in next year. He said that Ahsan Bakhtawari has given a fund of one crore rupees from his own pocket for the development of markets, while one crore rupees will be given by the ICCI and another two crores will be given by other prominent businessmen. In this way, the Chamber will start development works in the markets with 4 crore rupees.

## Pak-GCC, FTA initiates Promising era for trade liberalization



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (Pak-GCC FTA) have initiated a promising era for trade liberalization and economic ties with GCC countries. In a historic moment, the Pakistan-Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (Pak-GCC FTA) was ceremoniously inked on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, a day of great significance, at the GCC Headquarters in Riyadh, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce here Saturday. This ushers in a promising era for trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the GCC member states. Commerce Minister, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi, the Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the General Authority for Foreign Trade of Saudi Arabia. Dr. Gohar Ejaz extended his sincere appreciation for the exceptional leadership demonstrated by Dr. Majid throughout the extensive negotiation process of the FTA. His unwavering commitment ensured that the FTA aligns seamlessly with the shared vision of the GCC and Pakistan.

## Atif Ikram Sheikh nominated as the presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI election

**News Desk**

KARACHI: The Central Core Committee of United Business Group (UBG) and the Founder Group in the Federal Zone have nominated Atif Ikram Sheikh as the presidential candidate in the elections to be held in the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for the next two years 2023-2025.

The United Business Group meeting was held at the residence of Chairman UBG Federal Zone Abdul Rauf Alam.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, Senior Leader Riazuddin Sheikh, Khalid Javed, Ex-President of FPCCI Ghazanfar Bilour, Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, Malik Sohail Hussain, Muhammad

Ijaz Abbasi, Ahmed Chinoy were present in the meeting, Rafiq Alam, Chaudhry Waheeduddin, Mian Mateen Masood, Nasir Qureshi, Arif Yusuf Jiwa, Momin Ali Malik, Chaudhry Zahid Iqbal and others attended while President UBG Zubair Tufail could not attend as he was in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. The Senior Leadership and Core Committee of UBG has nominated Atif Ikram Sheikh as the President of UBG for the FPCCI Election 2023-25.

He thanked the BG leaders and the leadership of the federal zone and said that the situation has started to improve with the crackdown launched by the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir against the corrupt, profiteers and black mafia, the dollar rate is down.

are coming, effective measures are also being

taken to stop smuggling and it is hoped that Pakistan will once again become a strong industrial, commercial and agricultural country.

In the best interest of their business, give suggestions to the government that can be followed to strengthen the country's economy.

Our rulers and leaders of all political parties should work for the stability of the country.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said regarding the FPCCI election that I understand the problems of the business community of Pakistan and our group will provide positive suggestions to the government to reduce their problems.

Abdul Rauf Alam said that by winning the upcoming FPCCI elections and solving the problems of the business community, we are trying to make individual contacts with the voters for the



survival and safety of the federation.

Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir said that The United Business Group Federation will take steps to promote a business-friendly environment by winning the elections to minimize the gap between the government and the Chambers of

Commerce and Industry.

Malik Sohail Hussain said that the business community would extend all support to the government.

Ready to provide, we will also present effective suggestions to the government to reduce inflation.



# QEAT: Batters script Karachi Whites comeback against Lahore Whites

**A Sports**

LAHORE: Ammad Alam, Asad Shafiq and Khurram Manzoor scored centuries and powered Karachi Whites to 432-4 in response to Lahore Whites' 509/9 in the fourth-round match of the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023/24.

A 168-run opening wicket partnership between centurions Khurram Manzoor (110, 248b, 9x4s, 2x6s) and Ammad Alam (102, 158b, 11x4s, 4x6s) helped Karachi Whites post 432 for four in 125 overs against Lahore Whites first innings score of 509 for nine declared.

Asad Shafiq, coming to bat at number four, continued his fine form in the tournament, scoring his second century. He fell to Saad Nasim for 113 off 174, which included 12 boundaries.

Fahad Iqbal was the other notable run-getter for his side, returning undefeated on 60 off 142 balls, hitting four fours.

Leg-spinner Saad was the most successful bowler for his team, grabbing two wickets for 51 runs.

Meanwhile, in another fourth-round QEAT fixture, Rawalpindi were just 13 runs short of the 203-run target set by Faisalabad at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi. This will be Rawalpindi's first win of the tournament.

Resuming their second innings at



the overnight score of 135 for five in 47.2 overs, Faisalabad were dismissed for 234 in 74.4 overs. Abubakar Khan was the only notable batter for Faisalabad, scoring 67 off 160 balls, hitting nine boundaries.

For Rawalpindi, Mohammad Faizan bagged four wickets for 84 and ended up with match figures of nine for 119 in 34 overs.

Chasing 203 to win, Rawalpindi's opening pair of Abdul Faseeh and Zeeshan Malik (26, 62b, 2x4s) provided a solid 61-run start to the innings. After the departure of Zeeshan, Hasan Raza

(22, 32b, 3x4s) joined Abdul and the pair knitted 42 runs for the second wicket.

At stumps, Rawalpindi were 190 for two in 48 overs. Abdul returned undefeated on 99 off 148 balls, smashing 15 fours, while Ashfaq Ahmed remained not out on 40 off 46 balls, which included seven fours. The pair added an unbroken 87 runs for the third wicket.

In the 16th match of the QEAT, Multan's Zahid Mahmood bagged five wickets to dismiss FATA for 348 and also enforced a follow-on, who were dismissed for 348 in 90.2 overs in reply to Multan's first innings score of 529 for

five declared in 111.4 overs.

Right-arm leg-spinner Zahid took five wickets for 135 runs in 28 overs. For FATA, Akif Javed (53 not out, 33b, 2x4s, 6x6s) and Mohammad Sarwar (51, 103b, 6x4s) scored half-centuries.

After being enforced a follow-on, FATA ended the day on 167 for three in 50 overs, still trailing by 14 runs. Salman Khan top-scored for his side with 76 off 153 balls, hitting 12 fours.

Lahore Blues were in a spot of bother in their fourth-round QEAT match against Peshawar when third day's play ended.

Lahore Blues were leading by 123 runs with three second innings wicket remaining. Usman Salahuddin top-scored for Lahore Blues with a 112-ball 44, which included five fours and a six.

For Peshawar, Mohammad Ilyas, Niaz Khan and Sajid Khan bagged two wickets each.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 224 for four, Peshawar were dismissed for 360 in 95.4 overs.

Sajid Khan coming to bat at number eight scored 39 off 62 balls, hitting four boundaries. Niaz Khan, batting at number 10 added a 57-ball 33, which included four boundaries.

For Lahore Blues, Kashif Bhatti bagged four wickets for 59, while Waqas Ahmed took three wickets for 87.

# Qasim Akram leaves for Asian Games in Hangzhou

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Qasim Akram-led Pakistan Shaheens has departed yesterday night for China to feature in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. The T20 format will see Pakistan Shaheens starting their journey from the quarter-final stage, after having directly qualified by virtue of being one of the top four ICC ranked sides in the continent.

The quarter-finals are scheduled to take place on 3 and 4 October, with Pakistan playing their quarter-final on 3 October at Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field in Hangzhou. The semi-finals will take place on 6 October, while the final and the bronze medal match are scheduled to take place on Saturday, 7 October.

Pakistan Shaheens underwent a five-day camp at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore where players, under the guidance of coaches, engaged in training sessions and featured in match scenarios to get ready for the tournament.



The squad includes 15 players of which seven have already represented Pakistan in international cricket. These include Aamir Jamal (2 T20Is), Arshad Iqbal (1 T20I), Asif Ali (21 ODIs, 55 T20Is), Haider Ali (2 ODIs, 33 T20Is), Khushdil Shah (10 ODIs, 24 T20Is), Shahnawaz Dahani (2 ODIs, 11 T20Is)

and Usman Qadir (1 ODI, 23 T20Is)

Captain Qasim Akram said: "It is an honour for me to lead the side in the Asian Games. The players have performed well in the past, winning the ACC Emerging Asia Cup recently and I am looking forward to the same performance from the players in the upcoming games.

"We have a good combination and have undergone rigorous training, preparing for whatever challenges spinning wickets may present. So, we are ready for the challenge.

"This will be our first tour to China, so we will keep things very simple and aim to win matches for the country.

"I will urge the fans to keep supporting the Shaheens side in the Asian Games."

**Pakistan Shaheens squad:**

Qasim Akram (captain), Omair Bin Yousuf (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Arifat Minhas, Arshad Iqbal, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Khushdil Shah, Mirza Tahir Baig, Mubasir Khan, Muhammad Akhlaq (wk), Rohail Nazir (wk), Shahnawaz Dahani, Sufiyan Muqem and Usman Qadir

Player Support Personnel – Shahid Aslam (head coach-cum-manager), Umar Rasheed (bowling coach), Hanif Malik (batting and fielding coach) and Hafiz Naeem ul Rasool (physiotherapist)

# What the future holds for Babar Azam's captaincy

**Sports Desk**

Prolific batter Babar Azam is leading Pakistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and his leadership came under discussion again as the PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf shared his views on whether he would remain captain after the tournament.

Babar Azam's captaincy came under questioning following Pakistan's defeat in the Asia Cup 2023. He was criticized for his approach, bowling options and field settings in the continental tournament.

The cricket fans and former players had lambasted the batter, accusing him of selecting players for the World Championships on the basis of their friendships.



Zaka Ashraf appeared in the ARY News show Bouncer and talked about the country's cricketing affairs and other aspects

of the game.

When asked what was Babar Azam's future as Pakistan captain after the

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, the PCB Chairman said the right-handed batter is a prolific cricketer and was impressed with his skills.

He urged the Pakistan Cricket Team to give their all in their bid for the second 50-over title, adding that the management back home will sit with the skipper and devise a strategy to overcome the shortcomings.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan suffered a setback before the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 began as the Green Shirts lost their warmup game to New Zealand by five wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.

## NUML student wins bronze in Asian Games



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Kishmala Talat, a student of the Media and Communication Studies Department National University of Modern Languages (NUML), clinches a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Women event at the 19th Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. This significant win marked Pakistan's first-ever medal in Shooting at the Asian Games. In a statement issued here on Saturday, the Rector NUML Major General (Retd) Muhammad Jaffar termed this success as a great achievement for the motherland by a student of NUML. He said that it is indeed a matter of pride for the university she belongs. Kashmala has recently received high achievers award and appreciation from the Worthy Rector as she already has the IOC Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Athletes.

## Dale Steyn sends warning to Rohit Sharma

**Web Desk**

Batter Rohit Sharma will lead India in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 at home turf, and South Africa legend Dale Steyn – considered to be one of the country's most decorated pacers – has said that he should look out for Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi in the tournament.

Shaheen Afridi has an impressive record against Rohit Sharma. The left-arm pacer has dismissed India's captain early in the innings on several occasions thanks to his swinging deliveries.

Dale Steyn named his five pacers to look out for in the tournament

while speaking with the International Cricket Council ahead of the 50-overs World Championships.

The former cricketer picked India's Mohammed Siraj as he swings the ball upfront, knocks over key batters and is an important player for the side. The legend's second pick was his countryman Kagiso Rabada as he generates extra bounce and knows Indian conditions well.

Shaheen Afridi was the South Africa legend's third pick. The ex-South Africa cricketer advised Rohit Sharma to watch out and save his stumps from being dismantled by the Pakistan pacer.

Trent Boult of New Zealand was Dale Steyn's choice. The latter said the left-arm pacer can swing the ball early in the innings and predicted him being the leading wicket-taker in the tournament.

Dale Steyn's fifth and final choice was England's Mark Wood. The former cricketer said the right-arm pacer is to be feared as his express pace makes him one of the most feared bowlers currently.

Dale Steyn has 699 international wickets. He has represented the Proteas in the 2007, 2011, and 2015 50-over world cups.

## Asian Games 2023: India thrash Pakistan 10-2 in hockey

India on Saturday battered Pakistan to secure an impressive 10-2 win in hockey in the ongoing Asian Games 2023 being held in Hangzhou, China.

The Men in Blue secured a two-goal lead in the first quarter, courtesy of their skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh who scored one goal each. India dominated the second quarter to double their lead pushing the score to 4-0.

With the match drifting away from their grasp, the Men in Green attempted to bounce back and scored two goals.

However, India continued to find the back of the net and scored three goals followed by three more in the fourth and last quarter leading to an impressive 10-2 victory over Pakistan.

For India, Harmanpreet scored four goals, Varun Kumar two, while Mandeep, Sumit, Shamsheer Singh, and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay scored one each.

Pakistan's Mohammad Sufyan Khan and Waheed Rana Ashraf scored one each for the Green Shirts.

The Men in Green will now face Japan on October 2. Pakistan can still qualify for the semi-finals by drawing the match while Japan must have to win to reach the final four.

Earlier in the tournament, Pakistan in their second pool match triumphed over Bangladesh by securing a 5-2 win.

Before that, the Green Shirts had a thumping start to their journey in the Asian Games as they won 11-0 against Singapore in their opening match.

# Ammad Alam, Asad Shafiq and Khurram Manzoor Score centuries.

**Asim Tanveer**

Karachi Whites Ammad Alam, Asad Shafiq and Khurram Manzoor scored centuries against Lahore Whites on third day of the fourth round match of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24 at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday.

At Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Multan's Zahid Mahmood bagged five wickets to dismiss FATA for 348 and also enforced a follow-on.

Meanwhile, Rawalpindi are just 13 runs short of the 203-run target set by Faisalabad at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi. This will be Rawalpindi's first win of the tournament.

**Faisalabad v Rawalpindi, Pindi Cricket Stadium**

Resuming their second innings at the overnight score of 135 for five in 47.2 overs, Faisalabad were dismissed for 234 in 74.4 overs. Abubakar Khan was

the only notable batter for Faisalabad, scoring 67 off 160 balls, hitting nine boundaries.

For Rawalpindi, Mohammad Faizan bagged four wickets for 84 and ended up with match figures of nine for 119 in 34 overs.

Chasing 203 to win, Rawalpindi opening pair of Abdul Faseeh and Zeeshan Malik (26, 62b, 2x4s) provided a solid 61-run start to the innings. After the departure of Zeeshan, Hasan Raza (22, 32b, 3x4s) joined Abdul and the pair knitted 42 runs for the second wicket.

At stumps, Rawalpindi were 190 for two in 48 overs. Abdul returned undefeated on 99 off 148 balls, smashing 15 fours, while Ashfaq Ahmed remained not out on 40 off 46 balls, which included seven fours. The pair added an unbroken 87 runs for the third wicket.

**FATA v Multan at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi**

A five-wicket haul by Zahid

Mahmood helped Multan enforce a follow-on against FATA, who were dismissed for 348 in 90.2 overs in reply to Multan's first innings score of 529 for five declared in 111.4 overs.

Right-arm leg-spinner Zahid took five wickets for 135 runs in 28 overs. For FATA, Akif Javed (53 not out, 33b, 2x4s, 6x6s) and Mohammad Sarwar (51, 103b, 6x4s) scored half-centuries.

After being enforced a follow-on, FATA ended the day on 167 for three in 50 overs, still trailing by 14 runs. Salman Khan top-scored for his side with 76 off 153 balls, hitting 12 fours.

**Karachi Whites v Lahore Whites at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore**

A 168-run opening wicket partnership between centurions Khurram Manzoor (110, 248b, 9x4s, 2x6s) and Ammad Alam (102, 158b, 11x4s, 4x6s) helped Karachi Whites post 432 for four in 125 overs against Lahore

Whites first innings score of 509 for nine declared.

Asad Shafiq, coming to bat at number four, continued his fine form in the tournament, scoring his second century. He fell to Saad Nasim for 113 off 174, which included 12 boundaries. Fahad Iqbal was the other notable run-getter for his side, returning undefeated on 60 off 142 balls, hitting four fours.

Leg-spinner Saad was the most successful bowler for his team, grabbing two wickets for 51 runs.

**Lahore Blues v Peshawar at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad**

Lahore Blues were in a spot of bother against Peshawar when third day's play ended. Lahore Blues were leading by 123 runs with three second innings wicket remaining. Usman Salahuddin top-scored for Lahore Blues with a 112-ball 44, which included five fours and a six.

For Peshawar, Mohammad Ilyas, Niaz Khan and Sajid Khan bagged two wickets each.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 224 for four, Peshawar were dismissed for 360 in 95.4 overs. Sajid Khan coming to bat at number eight scored 39 off 62 balls, hitting four boundaries. Niaz Khan, batting at number 10 added a 57-ball 33, which included four boundaries.

For Lahore Blues, Kashif Bhatti bagged four wickets for 59, while Waqas Ahmed took three wickets for 87.

Scores in brief (Day three of four):

**Faisalabad v Rawalpindi at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi**

Faisalabad 112 all out, 39.3 overs (Ali Waqas 26; Mohammad Faizan 5-35, Mohammad Awas 3-29) and 234 all out, 74.4 overs (Mohammad Huraire 87, Abu Bakar Khan 67; Mohammad Faizan 4-84, Mohammad

Awas 2-37, Kashif Ali 2-73)

Rawalpindi 144 all out, 56.3 overs (Zeeshan Malik 108; Faheem Ashraf 5-12, Khurram Shahzad 2-46, Mohammad Ali 2-56) and 190-2, 48 overs (Abdul Fasih 99 not out, Ashfaq Ahmed 40 not out)

**FATA v Multan at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi**

Multan 529-5 (declare), 111.4 overs (Zain Abbas 292, Mohammad Basit 150; Sameen Gul 2-75)

FATA 348 all out, 90.2 overs (Rehan Afridi 164, Akif Javed 53 not out, Mohammad Sarwar 51; Zahid Mahmood 5-135, Aamir Yamin 2-52) and 167-3 (follow-on), 50 overs (Salman Khan 76, Niaz Khan 39, Maaz Sadaqat 38; Kashif Bhatti 4-59, Waqas Ahmed 3-87, Shadab Majeed 2-68)

**Karachi Whites v Lahore Whites at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore**

Lahore Whites 509-9 (declare), 137.2 overs (Ali Zaryab 222, Fahad Munir 72, Ahmed Shehzad 65, Saad Nasim 61; Noman Ali 6-162)

Karachi Whites 432-4, 125 overs (Asad Shafiq 113, Khurram Manzoor 110, Ammad Alam 102, Fahad Iqbal 60 not out; Saad Nasim 2-51)

**Lahore Blues v Peshawar at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad**

Lahore Blues 334 all out, 85.1 overs (Hussain Talat 87, Junaid Ali 82, Kashif Bhatti 69; Niaz Khan 3-73, Mohammad Ilyas 3-81, Sajid Khan 2-91) and 149-7, 51 overs (Usman Salahuddin 44; Sajid Khan 2-18, Niaz Khan 2-33, Mohammad Ilyas 2-51)

Peshawar Region 360 all out, 95.4 overs (Sahibzuda Farhan 132, Kamran Gulam 43, Sajid Khan 39, Maaz Sadaqat 38; Kashif Bhatti 4-59, Waqas Ahmed 3-87, Shadab Majeed 2-68)

**Latest: SEP 30, 2023**

Abbottabad secure a win over DM Jamali in the fourth round of Hanif Mohammad Trophy