



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ ہم سے بچی نہیں کھینے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے لیتے ہیں سعد نے بیان کیا، ان سے عقل نے، ان سے ان شہاب نے، ان سے محمد بن نبیر بن مطع نے بیان کیا اور انہیں ان کے والد جبر بن مطع رضی اللہ عنہ نے خبر دی انہوں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا، نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ قطع رحمی کرنے والا جنت میں نہیں جائے گا۔ (بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 5984) Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

## FM Jilani felicitates Chinese counterpart on National Day

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Sunday extended his heartiest felicitations to Foreign Minister Wang Yi and people of China on their National Day. "Today we pay tribute to the rich history, culture, and achievements of this great nation and reiterate the resolve to take China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship to greater heights," the foreign minister posted on X.



## Pakistan greets to Nigeria on their national day

On the occasion of National Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Pakistan extended the heartiest felicitations to the Nigerian people and the government. Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on X handle.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 15, Monday, October 2, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 173 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## 'Eternal Brotherhood-II'

Group photo of Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkey and Uzbekistan Special Forces on the occasion of Multinational Joint Special Forces Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II conducted.



Photo: ISPR

# Multinational Exercise 'Eternal Brotherhood-II' concludes: ISPR

### Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Multinational Joint Special Forces Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II conducted among Special Forces of Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkiye and Uzbekistan

in Counter Terrorism domain has concluded, the military's media wing said on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two-week-long Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II commenced on September 17 in Barotha.

The Corps Commander 11 Corps attended the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest along with the Director General Military Training and General Officer Commanding Special Service Group.

Besides the Exercising troops; officers from the friendly countries also witnessed the Closing Ceremony. The Special Forces of participating countries displayed their professional excellence on the final day.

The exercise was aimed at

further harnessing the historic military-to-military relations amongst brotherly countries and helped nurture joint employment concepts against counter terrorism besides; identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.

## Fazlur Rehman says nation should welcome Nawaz Sharif



### Web Desk

SAHIWAL: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the nation should welcome the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif on his return to Pakistan.

As per details, the JUI-F chief said its be good if the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is returning to Pakistan and the people of Pakistan should welcome him.

Maulana Fazl lambasted the PTI chief saying that he landed the country in an economic crisis meanwhile his cases are in court and the disqualification will confirm that he will stay out of elections.

## Cipher case: FIA files plea seeking in-camera hearing

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday filed a petition in Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking in-camera hearing of bail application of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief in cipher case.

FIA Special Prosecutor Shah Khawar filed the miscellaneous petition, seeking in-camera hearing of bail application. Meanwhile, the high court fixed the miscellaneous application for hearing on Monday.

IHC Chief Justice Aamir Farooq will hear the miscellaneous application.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) will announce its decision on the bail applications of the PTI chief Imran Khan tomorrow (Monday).

The sessions court and anti-terrorism court had previously rejected applications as they were not prop-



erly followed.

In the petitions, the Tehreek-e-Insaf chief filed through counsels, it was requested that the nine pending bail applications be considered by the respective courts as pending. It also urged the court to prevent arrests in these nine cases until the final decisions are made.

A day earlier, the FIA submitted challan of the cipher case in a special court constituted under the official secrets act. PTI chairman and Vice Chairman Shah

Mahmood Qureshi were indicted in the challan.

The FIA pleaded to the court for trial and conviction of the Chairman PTI and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Sources said that former minister and PTI leader Asad Umar has not been named in the list of the accused.

Former principal secretary to the PM Azam Khan has become a strong witness in the FIA's case. His statement under 161 and 164 has also been annexed with the challan, according to sources.

## Traders shutter businesses to mourn Mastung blast victims

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Traders in multiple districts of southwestern Pakistan closed their shops and businesses on Sunday to mourn victims of Friday's suicide blast that killed over 50 in Mastung city.

At least 60 people were killed and 53 were injured on Friday when a suicide blast targeted a gathering in Mastung held to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday.

Two days after the blast, markets and shops in Balochistan's Quetta, Kalat, Mastung, and Khuzdar districts wore a deserted look after traders announced a shutter-down strike to mourn victims of the blast.

"We have been observing shutter-down strikes in Quetta, Mastung, Kalat, and Khuzdar to mourn the people killed in the Mastung blast," Abdul Rahim Kakar, president of the Anjuman e Tajiran Balochistan, the most prominent association of traders in the province, told media.

# Mastung blast: Balochistan govt vows to crush terrorist groups

### Bureau Report

QUETTA: Following a deadly suicide attack in Mastung, Caretaker Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Sunday said that the provincial government would crush the terrorist groups with 'full force'.

"Enough is enough. We will not wait for terrorists to come

and attack... now we will go after them," the caretaker minister said while addressing a press conference in Quetta today.

Responding to a question, Jan Achakzai said that an investigation into Mastung blast was underway and he could not share details of it. However, he vowed, that the government and law enforcement agencies would crush the terrorist

groups with 'full force'. Speaking of the Mastung blast, the minister noted that forensic department of Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) was carrying out an investigation.

"Suicide bomber was between 15 to 17-year-old boy," he claimed, adding that the teams have recovered some organs of the suicide bomber - which according to the

minister has been sent to Lahore for forensic.

Meanwhile, Achakzai also announced that the families of the martyrs would be provided financial assistance. Detailing the financial package, he said every martyr's family would be given Rs1.5 million, Rs0.5m would be distributed to the critically injured and Rs0.2m to the

nominally injured by the provincial government. He further said that the Balochistan government was also in talks with the Centre to improve the package.

The caretaker minister also said that security protocols were being revisited in the wake of the incident and any loopholes would be plugged to ensure no security lapse occurs.

## Xi extends condolences to Pakistani president over bomb attacks

### Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a message of condolence to Pakistani President Arif Alvi over a series of bomb attacks that rocked Pakistan.

In his message, Xi said that he was shocked to learn of the attacks which caused heavy casualties.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, Xi mourned deeply for the fatal victims and conveyed sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and those injured.

Xi emphasized that China



resolutely opposes all forms of terrorism and will continue to firmly support Pakistan's endeavors to maintain national stability and security.

On the same day, Chinese Premier Li Qiang also extended condolences to Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Curbing terrorism: PM Kakar summons apex committee meeting

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has convened National Apex Committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss the law and order situation.

The meeting will be held in Islamabad and would be attended by civil and military top brass.

Overall law and order situation in the country and progress on National Action Plan will be reviewed, said sources.

Heads of intelligence agencies will brief the participants on law and order situation and measures taken to wipe out terrorists.

The huddle will mull over launching a country-wide operation against illegal foreign nationals.

On Saturday, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir reaffirmed that Pakistan armed forces' operation against terrorists would continue unabated and they will not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country, ARY News reported, quoting military's media wing.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations, the Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Quetta today, where he was briefed on recent terrorist attacks in Mastung



and Zhob. The briefing was also attended by Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister Balochistan and key provincial ministers along with senior civil and military officials.

COAS Munir paid rich tribute to martyrs, saying that such terror incidents on 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal, depicts the "ill intent of the Khawarij, who have the backing of state sponsors of terrorism".

He said these terrorists and their facilitators, having no link with religion and ideology, are proxies of the enemies of Pakistan and its people. "These evil forces will continue to face full might of the state and security forces backed by a resilient nation," he vowed.

COAS Munir emphasised that People of Pakistan have rejected terrorists' pseudo ideology and propaganda of their backers and they are fully committed to peace, economic progress and human development which indeed is causing lot of distress to forces of evil in and outside of the country.

## Mianwali: Two terrorists killed, cop martyred in attack on police

### News Desk

MIANWALI: A police cop was martyred after a group of terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrolling Post in Mianwali.



On Friday, the country was rocked by two suicide blasts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Hangu District and Balochistan's Mastung, which caused several casualties and left many others injured.

An exchange of fire took place between the suspects and PHP officials who foiled an attempt of the suspects to enter the building.

The firing left two terrorists dead and PHP head constable Haroon Khan martyred. IG Punjab Police Usman Anwar said the police were on alert after an intelligence report about the attack.

He said two terrorists have been shot dead and identification of the dead is underway.

At least 55 people including a cop died and 100 others sustained injuries when a suicide bomber targeted an Eid-Milad-un Nabi (PBUH) procession in the remote district of Mastung, Balochistan.

Meanwhile, another suicide blast ripped through a mosque in KP's Hangu, leaving five dead - including a policeman - and 12 injured.



## Protesting rally

KARACHI: Workers of Sunni Tehreek Pakistan shouting slogans against terrorists, who were involved in the Mastung bomb blast during a protest rally outside press club, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Turkey says 'terrorist attack' took place in Ankara

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A "terrorist attack" took place near Turkey's parliament in Ankara on Sunday leaving two police officers injured, the interior ministry said.

The ministry said two attackers arrived in a commercial vehicle around 9:30 am (0630 GMT) "in front of the entrance gate of the General Directorate of Security of our Ministry of the Interior, and carried out a bomb attack."

"One of the terrorists blew himself up and the other was neutralised," the ministry added on social media, saying two officers received "minor injuries."

The targeted district is home to several other ministries and the Turkish parliament.



ment, which was due to reopen today with an address from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to Turkish media.

TV channel NTV reported gunfire in the cordoned-off district, where emergency services were in attendance.

The Ankara prosecutor's office said it was opening an investigation and banned access to the area.

Erdogan was set to speak

during this parliamentary year.

For months, Erdogan has been putting pressure on Sweden to take action against Koran desecrations that have strained relations between the two countries.

Finland became NATO's 31st member country in April, after three decades of military non-alignment and in the midst of the war in Ukraine.

The capital Ankara has been the scene of several attacks, particularly during the years 2015 and 2016 — many claimed by the outlawed separatist group the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), or the Islamic State group.

The PKK, which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, is blacklisted as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies.

PKK-affiliated Kurdish militants control most of northeastern Syria.

In October 2015 an attack in front of a central station in Ankara claimed by the Islamic State group killed 109 people.

The most recent bomb attack in Turkey was in a shopping street in Istanbul in November 2022, where six were killed and 81 were injured.

There was no claim of responsibility, but Turkey accused the outlawed PKK of being behind the attack and said it had detained 46 people including a Syrian woman suspected of planting the device.

The bombing took place in the popular shopping street of Istiklal Avenue on a Sunday afternoon.

# Int'l leaders condemn vile terror attack in Turkish capital Ankara

## News Desk

ISTANBUL: World leaders have shown their support for Türkiye and denounced a thwarted terrorist attack in the capital city of Ankara on Sunday morning. During the incident, two police officers sustained minor injuries when one of the two terrorists detonated an explosive device in front of the General Directorate of Security in the city.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama "strongly" condemned the terrorist attack, saying, "It should help many in Europe to better understand and support Türkiye in its fight against terrorism." The Albanian Foreign Ministry and Foreign Minister Igli Hasani also condemned the terrorist attack, expressing full solidarity with Türkiye.

"Saddened to hear about the terrorist attacks in Ankara, Türkiye, but relieved to learn that the intended damage was largely averted by Turkish institutions," said Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti.

The Kosovar Foreign Ministry also condemned the attack, saying it stands "in full solidarity with Türkiye and reject any form of terrorist violence."

Sweden also expressed solidarity with Ankara against the terrorist attack, pledging long-term cooperation with Türkiye in combatting terrorism and wishing the injured a quick and full recovery.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said his country "strongly" condemns the attack.

"We reaffirm our commitment to long-term cooperation with Türkiye in combatting

terrorism and wish for quick and full recovery of the ones injured," he added.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström stated that the country "stands firm in its long-term commitment and partnership" with Türkiye in fighting all forms of terrorism.

"Shocked by the terrorist attack in Ankara, Türkiye, this morning. Strongly condemn this cowardly attempt to inflict injury and death upon the Turkish people," European Council President Charles Michel said on X. He also expressed solidarity with the victims, their families and Türkiye.

The EU has condemned the terrorist attack and expressed solidarity with Türkiye, as well as wishing the injured a speedy recovery, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on X.

"We support Türkiye in its fight against terrorism," noted Oliver Varhelyi, EU commissioner for neighborhood and enlargement, wishing a quick recovery for the injured officers.

Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, head of the EU delegation in Türkiye, also condemned the attack and wished the wounded police officers a speedy recovery. "I am following the developments in Ankara very carefully. The Italian government strongly condemns all forms of terrorism," Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on X, adding that Italy stands in full solidarity with Türkiye.

Nacho Sanchez Amor, a Spanish politician and European Parliament member, was among those who condemned the terrorist attack.

"Appalled by the terrorist

attack in Ankara today... We condemn all forms of terrorism and stand firmly in support of our friend and ally Türkiye in its fight against it," British Ambassador to Türkiye Jill Morris said in a post on X. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also issued a statement condemning the attack.

In a statement, the ministry expressed full solidarity with the Turkish people and government, wishing all injured a speedy recovery.

It reiterated Egypt's rejection of all forms of terrorism and violence that jeopardize stability and intimidate citizens.

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara also issued a statement on X, saying Washington officials "offer our condolences to those injured and wish them a speedy recovery. We stand in solidarity

## Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Ankara: Caretaker PM



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said that Pakistan strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack in Ankara and expressed solidarity with Türkiye. On his X handle, the prime minister said "We stand in complete solidarity with our Turkish brothers and sisters in the fight

against the scourge of terrorism. I have no doubt that under the dynamic leadership of my brother (President Recep Tayyip Erdogan), the resolute Turkish nation will emerge ever stronger from this challenge."

Separately, in a press release shared by PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister extended sympathies of the Pakistani nation to the people of brotherly country Türkiye. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

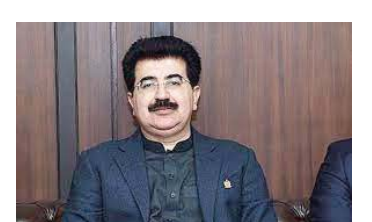
According to Turkey's government officials on Sunday two terrorists carried out an attack in front of interior ministry buildings in Ankara, one died in the explosion and the other was neutralised.

## Sanjrani condemns terrorist attack in Ankara

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday strongly condemned the reprehensible terrorist attack in Ankara, Türkiye. In a statement, he said, "In this moment of shared sorrow, Pakistan extends its deepest sympathies to the bereaved families." The Chairman emphasized that terrorism knows no borders, but Pakistan is determined to defeat it.

"Standing hand in hand with our Turkish brothers and sisters, we



affirm our commitment to a world free from such senseless violence," he said. He called for unity to defeat and said, "Let this tragedy unite us in our collective pursuit of peace. Our hearts mourn, but our resolve strengthens."

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan joins hands for resilient, sustainable urban planning



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan join hands for a climate resilient and sustainable urban planning keeping in view the real challenges faced by the region. Both the countries have joined hands during a meeting between Caretaker Planning Minister for Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and Chairman State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Azerbaijan Anar Guliyev, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The minister is on an official visit to the Second Azerbaijan National Urban Forum and Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2023, themed "Resilient cities as a driving force of economic development and fighting inequalities." During the meeting, Pakistan's Caretaker Planning Minister highlighted the recently launched Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) for Pakistan Floods 2022 which is playing a vital role in making a resilient infrastructure. It is noted that since Flood 2022, the Planning Ministry has been approving climate resilient development projects while directing the provinces to follow it strictly.

Pakistan's two provinces Sindh and Balochistan were badly hit by the flood affected 33 million people. However, Pakistan successfully coped with the situation with the help of the international community.

reconstruction efforts undertaken by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture in conflict affected areas of Azerbaijan.

The Planning Minister appreciated the government of Azerbaijan for conducting a successful Second National Urban Forum which plays a vital role in the reconstruction of destroyed cities with the theme of "Resilient cities as a driving force of economic development and fighting inequalities." During the meeting, Pakistan's Caretaker Planning Minister highlighted the recently launched Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) for Pakistan Floods 2022 which is playing a vital role in making a resilient infrastructure. It is noted that since Flood 2022, the Planning Ministry has been approving climate resilient development projects while directing the provinces to follow it strictly.

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## Nawaz's return to usher in journey of new development, says Maryam

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz said on Sunday that Nawaz Sharif's return would lead to a journey of development.

Speaking at the political gathering, Maryam emphasised that the PML-N leader was returning to help the nation through any issues it may be facing. He will usher in a new period of development, peace, and employment for the youth as well as end inflation in the country.

She added that Nawaz will strengthen the nation's ailing economy and put an end to the threat of terrorism. On October 21, the populace will demonstrate that Nawaz Sharif alone is the leader.



"The PML-N's objectives are the improvement of society and the system," she added.

She said, "those responsible for his previous expulsions are now being held as examples, and the people of Pakistan are eagerly preparing to receive him back."

Ms Nawaz reiterated that Nawaz Sharif was returning with revived strength, and "October 21 symbolizes hope, development, peace, employ-

ment, and the potential end of inflation in Pakistan.

She acknowledged the challenges he faced including political rivalries, false charges, and detention, which have taken a toll on his political career.

Earlier, she said she headed a meeting of the PML-N's youth volunteers and consultation regarding the reception of PML-N's supremo.

At the event she added that Nawaz Sharif would restore Pakistan's economy and end terrorism after his return to the country.

"The reform of the system and the welfare of the people is the goal of Nawaz Sharif and he will save the people from inflation with the PML-N to start a new era of employment, peace and development for the youth and workers," she maintained.

## Iran slams normalisation with Israel as 'reactionary'

### AFP

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday denounced any attempts by regional countries to normalise relations with its arch-enemy Israel as "reactionary and regressive".

The remarks came amid ongoing US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia to establish formal ties, with the United States saying on Friday that the two countries are moving towards the outline of a deal.

"Normalising relations with the Zionist regime is a reactionary and regressive move by any government in the Islamic world," Raisi said during an international Islamic conference held in Tehran.

An Israeli delegation is expected in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, days after the



first official visit by an Israeli minister to the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia also sent a delegation to the occupied West Bank on Wednesday for the first time in three decades in a bid to reassure the Palestinians ahead of the prospective deal.

Raisi on Sunday further labelled any normalisation attempt as the "foreigners' desire", while stating that "surrender and compromise" regarding Israel were not on the table.

"The only option for all the fighters in the occupied land and the Islamic

world is to resist and stand against the enemies," he said, reiterating Iran's position that Jerusalem must be "liberated".

In 1967 Israel occupied and then annexed east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians see as the future capital of their proposed state.

An agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia would follow the US-brokered Abraham Accords which saw Israel establish diplomatic relations in 2020 with three Arab countries.

Last month, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, Raisi said any "relationships between regional countries and the Zionist regime would be a stab in the back of the Palestinians."

Iran and Saudi Arabia, two regional powerhouses, resumed relations, severed since 2016, under a China-brokered deal announced in March.



# Punjab govt busts illegal organ trade gang

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said the gang involved in the illegal transplantation of human organs has been arrested along with its ringleader.

Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, the Punjab caretaker chief



minister said that Dr Fawad was the

leader of the illegal kidney transplantation gang.

Naqvi said Dr Fawad's entire gang had been arrested, there was a group of eight people who were doing the illegal operations.

The illegal operations were being undertaken in Lahore, Taxila and Azad Kashmir, where 328 people had

removed their kidneys.

The CM said the gang used to charge 30 lakh rupees for a transplant and charged Rs10 million per case from people in foreign countries.

There was a lot of pressure on the police after the arrest of these people, if necessary, the case will be handed over to FIA, he said.

## Awareness Walk

LAHORE: Traffic wardens take a part of Autism Awareness Walk at Liberty Chowk in Provincial Capital, organized by Traffic Police.



Photo: Online

# Welfare Waziristan Foundation elects new office-bearers

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The inaugural function of Welfare Waziristan Foundation was held at Rehmania Public High School Sholam, on Sunday a private educational institution.

A large number of local Ullams, political alliances, tribal elders and youths participated in function.

On this occasion, prominent businessman Taj Mohammad Wazir said that welfare institutions play the role of backbone in the society.

He said that when the government neglects the welfare of the people, these institutions become the support of the people living in the society, and these welfare organizations are the beauty of society.

He said that they perform their services for the betterment of the country and the nation along with fulfilling



the state responsibilities.

Whether a country is backward or developed, the presence of these institutions is important.

He said, the presence of welfare institutions paves the way for the development of the country and the nation.

This is the reason why numerous welfare organizations are working even in developed regions like Europe.

He further said that when the government fails to solve these problems, these welfare organizations come forward to offer their services.

Many welfare organizations within Waziristan are rendering their services for the betterment of the area, which include WAWA, WEWA, BAWA, ZAWA and other welfare organizations, they are all highly appreciated and respected organizations for us.

He said that we hope that the Welfare Waziristan Foundation will also support other organizations like the poor people of Waziristan.

On this occasion, a well-known Maulana Naik Muhammad Wazir, a said that the welfare organiza-

tion is playing its full role for the betterment of the area. Which is a welcome thing.

Welfare Waziristan Foundation also formed a consensus cabinet, the bodies were elected Maulana Shams Uddin Chairman, Maulana Muhammad Qasim President, Qari Amin Ullah General Secretary.

In the rest of the cabinet, Aziz Ullah Deputy Secretary, Abdul Haq Finance Secretary, Ali Khan Deputy Finance Secretary, Dr. Muhammad Zahid Press Secretary and Maulana Abdul Latif Deputy Press Secretary were elected.

Maulana Shams Uddin Wazir, Chairman and all cabinet members of Welfare Waziristan Foundation, said while explaining the aims and objectives of the Foundation, that the first two important tasks will be focused on, the bodies include education and health.

## Krishan Sagar elected board member of Pakistan Freelancers Association

**News desk**



KARACHI: Big news for the minority community, Chief Coordinator of Pakistan Hindu Council, Krishan Sagar has been elected as a board member of Pakistan Freelancers Association (PAFLA), Rotary International has nominated him as Co-Chairman of the Interfaith Committee. Chief Coordinator of Pakistan Hindu Council Krishan Sagar is very popular in Karachi's diplomatic circles, he was recently considered for nomination of Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs in the Caretaker Government. There are events, Krishan Sagar is interested for bringing the youth together on one platform.

Krishan Sagar always stands firm in religious harmony, he celebrates the colorful celebrations of Ramadan, Eid Milad-ul-Nabi, Ashura Day, Christmas, Diwali, he respects every religion and always respects his homeland Pakistan and its people.

## Muttahida Millad Council a Peaceful Protest Against Terrorist Attack in Mastung



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Under the auspices of the Muttahida Milad Council, a peaceful protest was held to show solidarity with the lovers of the Prophet who were martyred in the Mastung tragedy and against brutal terrorism. Speaking on this occasion, President Mirza Arshad-ul-Qadri and Secretary General Rao Muhammad Arif Rizvi said that the attack on those who recite Durood in Mastung is the worst example of brutal terrorism. Milad-ul-Nabi processions are organized in the form of peace walk in every corner of the country.

But those who detonate bombs on peaceful people are not only enemies of humanity but also enemies of the state, whose destruction is very important. Terrorists cannot stop the Milad celebrations through such cowardly acts. Lovers in a backward area like Balochistan, celebration of the birth of our beloved Prophet in the form of a procession reflects the thought that the lovers of the Prophet send the message of peace wherever they live, we will continue the mission of Mastung martyrs and next year will be even more enthusiastic. The speakers said that the foundations of this country include the blood of those who recite Durood.

## Group of beggars masquerading as Umrah pilgrims offloaded



**News Desk**

MULTAN: As many as 16 alleged beggars were offloaded by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from the Saudi Arabia-bound flight at Multan airport.

The beggars were travelling to the Saudi Arabia in the guise of Umrah pilgrims. The group of beggars had 11 women, four men and a child and they were traveling on Umrah visas.

The passengers confessed during the immigration process that they were going to visit the holy land to seek alms.

According to the FIA officials, the beggars had an agreement that they would have to give half of their earnings to the travel agents involved in their arrangements.

All the 16 passengers were arrested by the FIA Multan circle for further interrogation and legal action.

It merits mention here that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development told the Senate Committee on Overseas Pakistanis that a large number of beggars are trafficked abroad through illegal channels.

The ministry said that 90 percent of beggars apprehended in foreign countries belong to Pakistan.

"Both the Iraqi and Saudi ambassadors have reported overcrowded jails due to these arrests," the ministry said.

## SKANS introduced such a facility in Pakistan a milestone in the field of accountancy education

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Habibullah Baig Principal of Multan SKANS School of Accountancy (SKANS) has said that we have introduced such a facility in Pakistan which is a milestone in the field of accountancy education. Provide education according to the modern requirements. We are engaged in the cultivation of generations through various digital apps.

We have innovated according to the requirements of the present time by including digital book online programs in our curriculum, he said while addressing an information seminar for the students of (CAF) Kiev yesterday.

From the seminar, expert teachers of account, Kashif Adeel, Yusuf Siddiqui and Arslan Arif have said that Skans School of Accountancy is the unique institution of its kind whose reputation and standards are increasing with each passing day and today it is the largest in Pakistan. It has become a center of account education under the leadership of Principal Habibullah.

# Protesters protest in Abbaspur against unjustified increase in electricity bills

**Bureau Report**

ABBASPUR: Two activists, Sardar Mudassar Imtiaz and Amanatullah Kashmiri, active in the protest movement against the unnecessary increase in electricity bills in Azad Kashmir, were arrested by the police late on Friday and Saturday night and The citizens of Abbaspur came to condemn the raids on the houses.

At 10:00 a.m., a big rally was held from Abbaspur bridge in which Anjuman-e-Tajran, workers of all political parties, social activists, youth leaders participated.

The participants of the rally chanted Takbeer Allahu Akbar, we do not accept the rules of oppression, withdraw the increase in electricity bill, withdraw the illegal taxes, After releasing them immediately, they patrolled the streets of the city shouting loud slogans and



as soon as they reached Bavli Bazar, the president of Anjuman-e-Tajran Sardar Muhammad Hayat Khan, Fayyaz Khan Chaudhry Muhammad Ishaq and other hidden leaders also joined the rally. The enthusiastic participants of the rally reached Milad Chowk and went out.

There, the President of Anju-

man-e-Tajran Sardar Muhammad Hayat Khan wanted to send a delegation consisting of all the district councilors and chairmen to negotiate with the administration, but the rally participants protested in front of the police station.

The people, uncontrollable with emotions, did not listen to Sardar Muhammad Hayat

Khan and other leaders and were surprised to walk to the police station.

Therefore, the leader had to change his decision in view of the strong emotions of the people and from here, a procession consisting of thousands of people went to Abbaspur Police Station. K Main reached the gate where the leaders controlled the angry people at the gate with great difficulty.

On this occasion Sardar Safer Alam Khan also participated in the dharna.

Due to the unexpected reaction of the people, DSP Ms. Jabeen Kausar reached Abbaspur, all district councilors and chairmen, former president Sardar Muhammad Fayyaz Khan, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

Senior leader Sardar Muhammad Yusuf Chaghatai Vice Chairman Awami Action Committee Sardar Hafeez

Chaghatai Haji Khawaja Shaukat Iqbal and other delegations also held talks with the Assistant Commissioner in very unfavorable conditions but they were told that the current changing and painful situation will lead to a meeting of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Whatever the decision is, it will be implemented. Therefore, after the failure of negotiations, the President of Anjuman-e-Tajran Sardar Muhammad Hayat Khan, District Councilors Sardar Faisal Naseem, Raja Zafar Iqbal Kayani, Chaudhry Jameel Ahmed, Sardar Munsif Khan, Chaudhry Rizwan Yasin Gulshan, Chairman Town Chaudhry Muhammad Shiraz, Malik Asad Khan Syed Nasir Shah, Raja Muhammad Rafiq, Sardar Junaid Kabir Chaghatai, and other leaders announced an indefinite dharna in front of the Assistant Commissioner's office.

# CTD killed two terrorists and one police officer martyr, CTD Says

**Asim Tanveer**

MIANWALI: Kundal Punjab Highway Patrolling Post in a daring operation assisted by the Counter Terrorism Department Punjab, successfully thwarted an attack by 12/15 terrorists last night at approximately 23:45 hours. During the intense operation, Head Constable Haroon tragically lost his life while displaying exceptional bravery. Multiple terrorists sustained injuries, and following a thorough area search conducted by Counter Terrorism Department personnel, two terrorist bodies were discovered. The operation concluded at 07:45 hours this morning, and it resulted in the recovery of two deceased terrorists. One of the terrorists has been positively identified as Zubair Nawaz, brother of Arshad Nawaz, the Ameer of TTP Tipu Group of Lakki Marwat, with the aid of a comprehensive database and local intelligence. Zubair Nawaz was a high-priority individual on the

most-wanted lists in both Punjab and KPK provinces due to his involvement in the killings of police officers, Shia community members, dacoities, and extortion activities.

The second terrorist, Muhammad Khan, has been identified as a dedicated member of the group who proved to be even more dangerous than Zubair. His identification was achieved through exhaustive efforts, including assistance from NADRA, various intelligence agencies, and advanced software utilized by the Counter Terrorism Department.

Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar have told that this operation is a testament to the unwavering commitment and bravery of our security forces and reaffirms our collective determination to ensure the safety and security of our citizens. We remain resolute in our fight against terrorism, and such acts of terror will not deter our pursuit of peace and justice.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:39 am  
Zohr ..... 11:58 am  
Asr ..... 4:11 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:53 pm  
Isha ..... 7:16 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

**28th AGM of Pakistan Engineering Council held**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) was held on 1st October 23 in Quetta on Sunday. A large number of engineers from all over Pakistan participated in the moot. A sizeable number of young engineers from every corner of Balochistan also showed up for the meeting.

The meeting presided over by Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council Engr Najeeb Haroon was graced by Balochistan Governor Malik Wali Khan Kakar, Minister for Education Qadir buzdar Minister information Jan Achakzai former mister Science and technology Changaiz Jamaali and Senator Ruksana Zubari.

Engr Najeeb Haroon shared the performance of the Council during the last two years. He said over 2500 young engineers have been inducted in the industry under the Graduate Internship Program launched by the council. He further said this program would continue in the future.

Talking about the issue of technologists, he said all three sections of engineering such as engineers, technologists and technicians have their separate domains. They shall continue playing their part in the development of the country.

He informed the moot of the performance of the Committees of the Council working in various sector.

Malik Wali Khan Kakar, Governor Balochistan said he was happy to see such a congregation of engineers in his province. We can make best use of engineers for Balochistan. We appreciate their expertise.

# Ensuring rights of deserving individuals, government's top priority: Dr Amjad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ensuring the rights of deserving individuals is the government's top priority because serving suffering humanity is a significant form of worship.

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Amjad Saqib expressed these views while talking to APP at the Dynamic Registration Centre in Gulshan-e-Ravi on Saturday. Dr. Amjad Saqib mentioned that his visit to the Dynamic Registration Centre had made him aware of women's issues.

These issues constitute an important responsibility of our national existence. "Taking care of these ladies, who are the heart of their families, is essential," he said.

He emphasized the need to increase the number of registered women in the Benazir Income Support Program to ensure that no deserving woman is left behind. Dr. Amjad Saqib noted that many people in our society are living in dire conditions.

"They eat one day and have nothing for the next day.

Providing assistance to these deserving individuals can significantly improve their lives," he said. Dr. Amjad Saqib also highlighted that when the funds from the BISP become part of the income of the poor, many of their financial issues are resolved.

He instructed the staff to treat the women who have come for assistance with kindness and respect, as this is a significant responsibility for all of them, and by helping them, they can earn their prayers.

He added that any discrepancies in cash transfers should be rectified so that these people can manage their financial matters promptly. If rich people take responsibility for the welfare of the 9.3 million deserving individuals, poverty in the country can significantly decrease.

Earlier, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program, Dr.

Amjad Saqib was briefed by Director-General Nadim Alam Butt about the ongoing programs under the Benazir Income Support Program, including Benazir Kafalat, Benazir Talimi scholarships, and Benazir Nashonuma Program.



These programs are benefiting 9.3 million people nationwide.

He also mentioned that in Punjab, 4.14 million deserving women have been given a three-month stipend, with Rs 9,000 disbursed every three months to each deserving woman.

In Punjab, there are 157 Dynamic Registration Centres operational, he said. Dr. Amjad Saqib was also informed that the children of deserving women are provided with separate educational grants.

Primary school boys receive Rs 1,500,

while girls receive Rs 2,000 each every three months.

Secondary school boys receive Rs 2,500, and girls receive Rs 3,000 each every three months.

Similarly, higher secondary school boys receive Rs 3,500, and girls receive Rs 4,000 each every three months.

He mentioned that 6.8 million children in Punjab are registered under educational programs, including 3.5 million boys and 3.3 million girls.

Regarding the Nashonuma program, he stated that this program is operational in 26 districts with 72 centres, and 71,350 women are registered.

Pregnant women receive an additional Rs 2,000 every three months, and after delivery, Rs 2,000 are provided in case of a boy and Rs 2,500 in case of a girl.

Dr. Amjad Saqib also met with women who had come to the Dynamic Registration Centre and personally listened to their issues.

He instructed the staff to prioritize the resolution of women's issues at the foundation level to prevent them from facing any difficulties.

## Women empowerment

GILGIT: Skilled women are embroidering bed sheets and pillows for sale at the Women's Market.



Photo: APP

## 22nd Young Leaders Conference Empowers Future Change-Makers with "NEXT IS NOW"



City Desk

KARACHI: The Young Leaders Conference (YLC), a premier platform for nurturing leadership potential and inspiring change, wrapped up its highly anticipated event today with the theme "NEXT IS NOW." The conference brought together a diverse group of young leaders, visionaries, and change-makers who gathered to explore, learn, and connect with the aim of shaping a better future.

Under the able guidance of YLC Champ Ali Haider, the conference showcased an array of thought-provoking sessions, interactive discussions, and keynote addresses aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The day's agenda began with an energetic "Wake, Shake, and Get Ready" session to set the tone for the day. This was followed by a delightful breakfast, providing participants with the fuel they needed to kickstart the day's activities.

The highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Ali Haider himself, titled "It's Now! Next is Now!" He encouraged participants to embrace the theme of the conference and become proactive leaders who bring about meaningful transformation.

Asma Yusuf, in her keynote, explored "The Power of Sustainability," emphasizing practical steps for daily sustainability. Asma shared practical tips for incorporating sustainability into daily life, highlighting that even small steps can make a significant difference in building a sustainable tomorrow.

## Caretakers mull imposing wealth tax on moveable assets

ISLAMABAD/ KARACHI: The caretaker government is mulling amending the taxation regime for retail, agriculture, and real estate sectors and imposing a wealth tax on moveable assets, reported The News citing sources.

"The caretaker government has plans for materialising the FBR's tax collection target of Rs9.2 trillion and increase tax-to-GDP ratio to 15%, equivalent to Rs13 trillion, over the next two years," sources told the publication.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Revival (CCER) was informed that the government is considering amendments to the taxation regime for retail, agriculture, and real estate sectors and imposing a wealth tax on moveable assets.

The government is also mulling taking back the exemptions given on three major taxes to the influential segments and powerful lobbies to the tune of Rs1.3 trillion per annum. The taxation plan is being considered by both the federal and provincial governments, keeping in view the fiscal arrangements enshrined in the 1973 Constitution.

# Government has failed in handling Mastung tragedy: Jamaat Ahlesunnat

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat Ahlesunnat Pakistan Central Nazim-e-Ala Pir Muhammad Khalid Sultan-ul-Qadri Sarvi has said that the Mastung tragedy has taken place due to the total incompetence, negligence and incompetence of the government, the interim governments and the administration have failed to fulfill their responsibilities. have failed, such a big tragedy has happened and the Qiyaama Saghri has broken on Ghulam Mustafa (peace be upon him), but it has not reached the ears of the governor and chief minister of Balochistan.

Which we strongly condemn, if the government showed traditional laziness and did not take action for the survivors of the martyrs including those injured, then on Thursday, October 5th, on behalf of Ittehad Ahlesunnat Balochistan and Jamaat Ahlesunnat Pakistan, we protested all over Pakistan.

will give a call and on Friday protest meetings, processions and rallies will be taken out all over Pakistan and in such a case the current interim government will be responsible for all kinds of situations.



Naib Nazim Ala 1) Pir Syed Shabbir Hussain Shah Geelani (Provincial Ameer of Jamaat Ahlesunnat Pakistan) Syed Qadeer Hussain Shah Kazmi (Divisional Ameer) Rawalpindi Division, Sahibzada Muhammad Usman Ghani (Divisional Najim Aleah) Jamaat Ahlesunnat Rawalpindi Division, Pir Muhammad Gulzar Naqshbandi (Member) Central Majlis Shuri Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat Pakistan) Allama Qari Muhammad Aslam Ziai (Divisional Nazeem Ala Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat Pakistan (ICT) Raja Riazat Hussain Naqshbandi (Nazim-Ala) Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat District Islamabad, Madani Khalifa Ahmad Hasan Hashmi (Ameer

Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat Pakistan) Federal While holding a press conference along with Area Islamabad, Central Nazim-e-Ala Pir Muhammad Khalid Sultan-ul-Qadri Sarvi and others said that at this time Pakistan is standing at a very important crossroads, Pakistan's internal and external enemies are constantly plotting against Pakistan, especially For example, one of our neighboring countries is conspiring against Pakistan all the time to undermine the peace and order of Pakistan.

We strongly condemn all such internal and external conspiratorial elements, is involved in this conspiracy, our government immediately joins its forces with it

# Pink Eye Infection (conjunctivitis)

Ansharah Farooq

Conjunctivitis is a commonly encountered condition in ophthalmology clinics throughout the world. In the management of suspected cases of conjunctivitis, alarming signs for more serious intraocular conditions, such as severe pain, decreased vision and painful pupillary reaction.

Conjunctivitis is characterized by inflammation and swelling of the conjunctival tissue, accompanied by engorgement of the blood vessels, ocular discharge and pain. Conjunctivitis-often called "pink eye" is inflammation of the conjunctiva from infection or allergies. Your eyes are red and swollen (inflamed), and sometimes they have a sticky discharge. You can have conjunctivitis in one or both eyes. Some types of pink eye are very contagious (easi-

ly spread from person to person), but many others are not. Conjunctivitis can be caused by a virus, bacteria or by allergies. Bacterial and viral conjunctivitis are easily spread from one another. Allergic conjunctivitis is not contagious.

Viral conjunctivitis is the most common type of conjunctivitis. This type of pink eye is very contagious and often spreads through schools and other crowded places. It usually causes burning, red eyes with a watery discharge. Viral conjunctivitis is usually caused by the same virus that causes runny nose and sore throat in people with common cold.

Bacterial conjunctivitis is also very contagious. An infection from bacteria causes this form of pink eye. With bacterial conjunctivitis, you have sore, red eyes with a lot of sticky pus in the eye. Some bacterial infections, however, may cause little or no discharge. Sometimes the bacteria that cause pink eye are the

same that cause strep throat.

Allergic conjunctivitis is a type of pink eye that comes from an allergic reaction to pollen, animals, cigarette smoke, pool chlorine, car fumes or something else in the environment. It is not contagious. Allergic pink eye makes your eyes very itchy, red and watery and eyelids may get puffy.

Bacterial and viral conjunctivitis can be quite contagious. The most common ways to get the contagious form of pink eye include: Direct contact with an infected person's bodily fluids, usually through hand-to-eye contact. Spread of the infection from bacteria living in the person's own nose and sinuses. Not cleaning contact lenses properly. Using poorly fitting contact lenses or decorative contacts are risks as well.

Pink eye infection symptoms may include: the feeling that something is in your eye or a gritty sensation in your eyes, red eyes, burning eyes, itchy eyes,

painful eyes, watery eyes, puffy eyelids, blurry or hazy vision, being extra sensitive to light, lots of mucus, pus or thick yellow discharge from your eye. There can be so much that your eyelashes stick together.

Treating with pink eye usually depends on the type of conjunctivitis you have: There is no specific treatment for conjunctivitis caused by most viruses. Your body fights the viruses on its own. Placing a cool, wet washcloth on your eyes can help make them feel more comfortable. If your pink eye is caused by a bacterial infection, your ophthalmologist may prescribe antibiotic eye drops. If your conjunctivitis is due to allergies, you might be told to use certain eye drops to help with the itchiness and puffiness.

Conjunctivitis usually goes away on its own within 1-2 weeks. If your symptoms last longer than that, you should see your ophthalmologist. Viral and

bacterial conjunctivitis can spread from one another. Follow some tips so you will not infect other or re-infect yourself. Use a clean towel or tissue each time you wipe your face and eyes. Wash your hands very often. Always wash your hands before and after you eat, when you go to bathroom or after you sneeze or cough. Try not to touch your eyes. If you do, wash your hands right away. Bacteria can live in makeup and this can cause pink eye and even a dangerous infection of the cornea. Do not use eye makeup while your eyes are infected. Replace your makeup while your eye infection.

More than 80% of all acute cases of conjunctivitis are reported to be diagnosed by non-ophthalmologists including internists, family medicine physicians, pediatricians and nurse practitioners. This imposes a great economic burden to the healthcare system and occupies a great proportion of the office

visits in many medical specialties. It has been reported that nearly 60% of all patients with acute conjunctivitis receive antibiotic eye drops; and the vast majority receive their prescription from a non-ophthalmologist physician. For example, 68% of patients who visited a physician at an emergency room received antibiotic eye drops while this figure dropped to 36% for those who saw an ophthalmologist. Interestingly, patients from a higher socioeconomic status more likely to receive and fill a prescription for their conjunctivitis.

In September 2023, there was an occurrence of conjunctivitis, commonly referred to as pink eye, in multiple cities across Pakistan. The outbreak initially began in Karachi and subsequently extended to Lahore, eventually reaching Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Writer is Student of law in University of Sargodha



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
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 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
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 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**  
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

# Positive aspects of US Ambassador visit to GB and Indian baseless propaganda

The relationship between the United States and Pakistan has been marked mutual cooperation and respect over the years. One of the fundamental aspects of this relationship has been US assistance to Pakistan, which has played a pivotal role in addressing a range of challenges, from economic development and education to counterterrorism efforts.

The United States and Pakistan's partnership dates back to Pakistan's creation in 1947. During the Cold War, Pakistan emerged as a significant ally in the region due to its strategic location and support for US efforts against the spread of communism. This alliance resulted in substantial military and economic assistance to Pakistan. The partnership between the US and Pakistan gained renewed importance after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Pakistan became a crucial partner in the global war on terror, assisting the US in various ways, including providing logistical support, intelligence sharing, and facilitating the US-led coalition's operations in neighboring Afghanistan. In return, Pakistan received substantial assistance from the US, both in military and economic forms. A consider-

able portion of US aid to Pakistan has been allocated for counterterrorism efforts. The United States has provided military assistance to enhance Pakistan's capacity to combat militant groups, such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, operating within its borders. This cooperation has led to several successes, including the capture of high-value targets and the dismantling of terrorist networks. US economic assistance to Pakistan has played a pivotal role in promoting stability and development in the region. US-funded programs have targeted various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture. These investments have not only improved the living conditions of millions of Pakistanis but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable economic growth. One of the key areas of US assistance has been in education and healthcare. The United States has supported initiatives aimed at improving access to quality education and healthcare services for Pakistan's citizens. Scholarships, school construction, and healthcare facilities have been among the tangi-

ble outcomes of this collaboration. US aid has also been instrumental in funding critical infrastructure projects in Pakistan, including the development of transportation networks, energy generation facilities, and water resource management. These investments have contributed to Pakistan's economic development and improved the quality of life for its people.

The U. S. and Pakistan have worked together for almost 75 years on issues that are important to both nations, including energy, economic growth, peace and inclusion, education, and health. USAID's current country development cooperation strategy for Pakistan focuses on fostering a more stable, peaceful and prosperous country. To achieve this, USAID is partnering with the Government of Pakistan to expand the writ of government along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, promote more peaceful communities in key areas, increase private-sector led, inclusive economic growth and strengthen global health security capacities. This work directly supports

Pakistan's development aspirations, as outlined in Pakistan Vision 2025, and its journey towards sustainable, self-reliant growth and development. US is currently assisting Pakistan in several projects including Merit and Need Based Scholarship Program, Sindh Basic Education Project, U. S. Pakistan Science & Technology Cooperative Program, Women's Hostel Project, Centers for Advanced Studies Program, Improving Education Quality etc.

In addition to long-term development assistance, the United States has consistently provided humanitarian aid to Pakistan during times of crisis. This support has been vital in responding to natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, as well as addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Looking ahead, the future of US aid to Pakistan will be influenced by evolving geopolitical dynamics, regional stability, and security concerns. As Afghanistan undergoes significant changes, Pakistan's role in the region will remain vital to US interests. US assistance to Pakistan has played a pivotal role in shaping the bilateral relationship between the two countries. This partnership remains crucial for addressing regional security challenges, fostering economic development, and promot-



Analysis **Abdul Basit Alvi**

## Use of antibiotics, steroids in conjunctivitis can affect eyesight

Experts on Sunday warned people to avoid indiscriminate use of antibiotics and steroids to treat 'conjunctivitis', commonly known as pink-eye allergy, and advised them to avoid self-medication, as it may complicate the ailment or even damage the cornea.

Noted eye surgeon Dr. Intzar Hussain Butt shared his recommendations with the media, urging affected individuals to use prescribed eye drops, cold water, and tissues for eye cleansing.

Dr. Butt explained that conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane, known as the conjunctiva, which lines the eyelid and covers the eyeball.

He emphasized the importance of avoiding physical contact with infected individuals and refraining from sharing personal items such as handkerchiefs, pillows, and makeup.

Dr. Butt also advised the patients to wear sunglasses and take leave from their official or private duties for a few days. He warned against self-medication and gatherings and recommended frequent hand-washing with soap.

Noted senior ophthalmologist and former vice chancellor of King Edward Medical University Prof Dr Asad Aslam says that symptoms of bacterial conjunctivitis include redness, streaking, swelling, itching, or burning in the eyes.

Dr. Asad Aslam said that precautionary measures were crucial to preventing the spread of the disease. He advised that due to a lack of awareness, every year thousands of cases of conjunctivitis are reported in hospitals across Pakistan, adding, especially in the months of summer and spring. Citizens should significantly lower their risk of transmitting the virus by practicing good personal hygiene and avoiding sharing items, he warned.

Replying to a query, Dr Asad Aslam said that steroids and homemade remedies sometimes provide immediate relief to patients but could cause more damage in the long run. He said people should avoid close contact with individuals who have conjunctivitis or any other eye infection.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Health Department reported over 1000 cases in Lahore hospitals' outpatient departments in the past 24 hours. Dr. Bushra from Services Hospital stated that 50 per cent of patients in the outpatient department were being treated for the infection.

Dr. Bushra emphasised the importance of precautionary measures and recommended the use of eye drops. She advised affected individuals to maintain stringent hygiene practices, including keeping their personal items separate from others.



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

## Child Soldiering: A Lost Childhood in Conflict Zones

Fatyma Mazhar

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, children were made to participate and were used as soldiers by the Taliban against the Soviet forces. A UN study said that the number of these child soldiers increased from 200,000 to 300,000 from 1980 to 2002. A grave and deeply disturbing violation of human rights is using children as soldiers. It's regarded as among the worst types of abusing and exploiting children. This issue of the use of child soldiers has become widespread in no time. Child soldiers have become a very important instrument of military forces especially across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and are also playing a crucial role in the Middle East. It is important to note here that these child soldiers are recruited by the rebel forces and not by the state. Some important conflicts that involve child-soldiers include the Liberian conflict, Angolan conflict and Sudanese civil war. The main method through which children are recruited is their abduction. Thousands of children die and suffer every year because of child soldiering and become victims of terrorism. It further creates a generation of violent adults. Since 1975, Africa has had the greatest number of child soldiers. According to some activists, poverty plays a key role in recruitment. One explanation could be that conflicts lead to extreme shortages of food and many people suffer and therefore, the poverty rates increase. Another factor that

plays a role in the recruitment of child soldiers is that many children come from broken families or a disrupted family background and hence are vulnerable to recruitment. They are promised food and shelter and other necessities in turn for their recruitment and hence being naive, the children get themselves recruited. Moreover, the children participating in war are provided with arms that are easy enough for them to handle. These weapons are also very inexpensive, light in weight and small in size. Also, the recruitment of child soldiers is linked to the fact that the children found in IDP or refugee camps are very large in number and vulnerable to recruitment. As a result, about 59% of the population of Liberia went for refugee camps but they were not guaranteed safety there. Children had to witness the horrific atrocities of war. Moreover, children were abducted and recruited to be used since the very start of the war. They were forced to join and were told that if they did not join the war, their families would be killed. Some of the children were used to protect the ministers while some were also made part of other Liberian armed factions. The children used as soldiers were under the age of 18 and some even as small as eight or nine years old. The opposition and the government forces, both, used children which included boys as well as girls. They were denied protection and safety in the refugee camps and many children were recruited again as well. The areas close to the borders of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea were the places from where

they were recruited in high numbers. The IDP children were very vulnerable as they had no protection in their camps and hence, could be recruited and abducted very easily. A camp called Plunkor camp is infamous for the forcible child recruitment. Role of international organizations and NGOs is very important when addressing this serious issue. For the release of child soldiers, their psychosocial support, and the promotion of their rehabilitation and reintegration, UNICEF works with governments and other partners. The recruitment and use of child soldiers are prohibited by the Paris Principles and Commitments, a set of non-binding principles and commitments. Moreover, war crimes, such as the enlistment and use of children as soldiers, are prosecuted by the ICC. Through its efforts, these of child soldiers is discouraged, and those responsible are held accountable. For instance, the ICC has issued arrest warrants for those connected to the Lord's Resistance Army of Uganda's recruitment of child soldiers. In the end, ending the use of child soldiers is not only a noble goal, but also a crucial step towards a world that is more just and peaceful. Let's keep in mind the countless children who have endured suffering and make a commitment to effect change so that no child's future is tarnished by the atrocities of war. Together, we can make a world where kids are dreamers, scholars, and peacemakers rather than soldiers.

*Writer is pursuing bachelor in International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad.*

## Journalists' Safety in upcoming Elections II

Question arises who in Pakistan uses violence, intimidation, bomb blast and assassination attempts to silence the journalists or media houses. The answer is not very difficult. All those organizations, terrorists, criminals and mafias which have the means and reasons to do so. These elements the world over use similar tactics to silence or intimidate the journalists and media houses. They use physical violence that can include beatings, torture, and even murder. In some cases, journalists and media workers are targeted with acid attacks or other forms of disfigurement. They threatened the media persons with violence against themselves, their families, or their friends. They may also be threatened with economic ruin or other forms of harm. They may be sued for defamation, sedition, terrorism or other crimes. They may also be arrested and detained on false charges. They may also be subjected to cyber attacks where their websites may be targeted with cyberattacks, such as denial-of-service attacks or hacking. Terrorist, criminal and mafia groups may pressure businesses to boycott or withdraw advertising from media outlets that are critical of them. They may also threaten to target the businesses themselves.

One or all such tactics have also been employed in Pakistan which are well documented by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reports on Pakistan, published in 2022 and 2023. The CPJ report for 2022 recorded that; at least 50 journalists were in prison in Pakistan on charges such as sedition and defamation in 2022. Journalists were repeatedly harassed and attacked amid political unrest in May 2022. Pakistani journalists abroad face terrorism investigations at home. The offices of Geo News, ARY News, and Samaa TV were set on fire by supporters of Khan's PTI party. The CPJ report also highlights the impunity that perpetrators of attacks against journalists enjoy in Pakistan. In 2022, no one was convicted of any of the 97 journalist murders that have taken place in Pakistan since 1992.

This issue of gagging the media both by the state and

non-state actors is deep rooted and anchored in fear of the truth and intolerance of diversity of opinion and views which is the hallmark of any political dispensation. Addressing this fear necessitates a comprehensive strategy.

Ensuring the safety and security of journalists and media houses is paramount for preserving democracy and upholding the fundamental principles of freedom of expression. To achieve this, governments should enact and enforce protective legislation that specifically shields journalists from threats and attacks. These laws should be complemented by mechanisms for reporting threats, specialized units within law enforcement agencies, and campaigns that raise public awareness and promote tolerance for diverse viewpoints.

Training and capacity-building initiatives for journalists and media personnel are crucial, as is the protection of freedom of information laws. International cooperation and civil society engagement play pivotal roles in advocating for journalist rights and holding both governments and media organizations accountable. Legal reforms should be pursued to prevent the misuse of laws that can stifle media freedom, ensuring that a free press can thrive within a secure environment.

The importance of these practices lies in their role as guardians of democracy, enabling journalists to fulfill their critical role as watchdogs and informers of the public. Additionally, they ensure the public's access to reliable information, uphold human rights, bolster a nation's international reputation, and contribute to conflict resolution efforts. Ultimately, these measures collectively foster an environment in which journalists can report without fear, allowing press freedom to flourish as an essential pillar of democratic societies.

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



Analysis **Qamar Bashir**



# Saudi Arabia takes bold steps to safeguard architectural heritage

News Desk

MAKKAH: The preservation of cultural heritage is of the utmost importance in the Kingdom, and the Saudi Heritage Commission is taking significant steps to protect and promote the country's architectural treasures.

With the recent nomination of 50,000 urban heritage assets for registration, these sites will be added to the Architectural Heritage Register, joining the already registered 3,400 sites.

This collaborative effort, in accordance with the antiquities and urban heritage system, aims to utilize modern technologies to register, categorize, and encode these assets. This initiative not only preserves architectural heritage but also fosters community involvement and paves the way for future development plans.

Salma Hawsawi, a professor of ancient history at King Saud University, said that the Saudi Heritage Commission is currently implementing projects aimed at preserving architectural heritage.

One of these projects is focused on registering urban sites found in all 13

administrative regions of the Kingdom in the Architectural Heritage Register.

Hawsawi said: "This endeavor involves active participation from local communities and encompasses a wide range of structures, including villages, neighborhoods, towers, fortresses, ancient temples, castles, walls, and mosques. These sites possess a rich historical and cultural significance, reflecting the unique aesthetic value created by humanity since ancient times.

Salma Hawsawi, a professor of ancient history at King Saud University, (Supplied)

"Each region of the Kingdom possesses its own distinct architectural heritage, setting it apart from others. This diversity can be attributed to the varied terrains found throughout the country, which influenced the choice of construction materials. The embellishments adorning the facades, doors, and windows of buildings were inspired by the local environment.

"The coastal communities, for instance, incorporated gypsum and wood into their architecture and decorations. Mountain communities, known

for their physical strength, utilized their abilities to carve houses and graves into the mountains. Numerous pieces of evidence support this notion, as caves scattered across the Kingdom are adorned with drawings and inscriptions that depict the rich history of these communities."

He added: "Due to the significance of architectural heritage and its close connection to culture, heritage, and identity, the Saudi Heritage Commission initiated a project with the objective of gradually registering 50,000 sites into the Architectural Heritage Register.

"The process consists of several stages. First, an extensive search and discovery of gold market, curbing on oil and dollar smuggling and establishment of proof of fund requirement for imports is also pivotal. These concerted efforts aim not only to curb illegal money transfers but also to encourage the utilization of legitimate channels for remittances, ultimately contributing to the bolstering of Pakistan's foreign reserves.

"The third stage involves the registration of the sites, during which the data is carefully examined and validated. Subsequently, the fourth stage focuses on classifying the sites according to the standards set by the commission. Finally, in the fifth and final stage, a code is assigned to each site and plaques are installed to validate their authenticity

and historical significance."



Hawsawi highlighted the project's aim of preserving cultural heritage and having it listed in the national register

as a step toward potential inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

He added: "This registration holds political, economic, and social dimen-

sions, as it strengthens international relations, diversifies the national economy, reduces unemployment, and enhances the overall standard of living."

## Depleting foreign reserves posing serious financial threat to Pakistan

As the State Bank of Pakistan reported that the nation's overall foreign reserves amounted to \$13,079.1 million. Pakistan's foreign reserve levels have experienced a downward trend in recent months due to a number of contributing factors. These include fiscal deficits, trade imbalances, inappropriate government spending, reduced remittances from overseas Pakistani citizens, an increase in debt obligations, and inefficiencies within the public sector organisations.

Low foreign reserves can put a country in a challenging position in the global markets, making it difficult to finance essential imports and maintain exchange rate stability. Several elements play a pivotal role in corroding Pakistan's foreign reserves. To begin with, the underground black market trading of USD has considerably drained the nation's precious foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, the persistent issue of widespread smuggling of oil and gold has compounded the problem by diverting foreign currency away from official channels. Additionally, while import restrictions were initially implemented to safeguard foreign exchange, they have, on occasion, inad-

vertently increased the growth of informal networks and illicit black-market transactions. Not only these, the discrepancy between interbank and open market exchange rates has created arbitrage opportunities, enticing Pakistani expatriates to utilize unofficial remittance channels, thereby intensifying the pressure on the country's foreign reserve position.

Rashid Ashraf, the CEO of ACE Money Transfer, a regulated remittance provider playing a vital role into bringing much needed inflows of remittances to Pakistan, says, "While the framework for addressing the challenges related to foreign reserves depletion exists, the essence of the solution is rooted in the effective enforcement and realization of existing policies and laws, which has been hampered by various underlying issues that the nation faces."

To safeguard Pakistan's foreign reserves, a multifaceted strategy is imperative. Firstly, there is a pressing need to tighten border security. This involves the integration of advanced surveillance technology and infrastructure at border crossings to detect and deter smuggling activities effectively. Additionally, collaboration with higher authorities must be strengthened to facilitate the sharing of intelligence and coordinate operations, ensuring a

unified front in addressing this issue. Simultaneously, efforts to combat smuggling must be intensified, with the imposition of stricter penalties and the launch of public awareness campaigns to clarify the inherent risks of engaging in illicit trade. To enhance the integrity of imports, the introduction of a proof-of-funds requirement at ports is vital to verify their legitimacy. Moreover, airports should escalate surveillance measures to efficiently combat smuggling and other financial crimes, while the public should be incentivized to report any such activities they come across.

"The black money entering Pakistan through illegal channels, has now captured a significant share of remittances that could have entered the country through legitimate channels. The country's high demand for black money, driven by motives such as tax evasion, corruption, and illegal activities, continues to drive the flow of illicit funds through these unofficial channels," says Rashid Ashraf.

To enhance foreign remittances, the key strategy involves leveraging official banking channels, which play a pivotal role as the first line of defense. Banks should conduct regular reviews of their clients, emphasizing a risk-based approach rationalising their

transactional activities with sources of income. Moreover, clients identified as lacking sufficient adherence to regulations should face the possibility of account termination and reporting to law enforcement and revenue agencies. Besides this, regularization of gold market, curbing on oil and dollar smuggling and establishment of proof of fund requirement for imports is also pivotal. These concerted efforts aim not only to curb illegal money transfers but also to encourage the utilization of legitimate channels for remittances, ultimately contributing to the bolstering of Pakistan's foreign reserves.

These strategic initiatives, if successfully implemented, hold the potential to create a more conducive environment for international trade and investment in Pakistan, likely leading to increased exports and foreign investments, thereby protecting the country's foreign reserves. These measures, specifically designed to curb smuggling, boost legitimate imports, and encourage remittances, could yield a remarkable surge in annual revenue compared to the current financial landscape. Such an infusion of funds would not only strengthen Pakistan's foreign reserves but also significantly contribute to overall economic stability and growth.

## Mian Amjad Farzand, British businessmen hail 'humble' Pakistani community



Arif Chaudhry

Prominent British businessmen Atta brothers Kamran Atta Khan and Usman Atta Khan came from Pakistan to Manchester in honor of Chief Executive of Lucky Irani Circus and former Chairman of Producers Association, Mian Amjad Farzand and prominent Norwegian business socio-political personality Chaudhry Shamoon. Had dinner at Mazah (Ex-Royal Nawab) Restaurant. And Mian Amjad Farzand received a warm welcome on coming to the hall., Shahbaz Sarwar, Chief Executive Mian Tariq of Mazah Restaurant-Amjad Iqbal-Ashfaq Taj-Chaudhry Adeel-Chaudhry Bilal of Manchester Cash and Carry-Dr. Hamid Khan, Haji Abdul Ghaffar, Chaudhry Tariq, Mian Arshad, NADRA Service Manager Syed Imran Haider The participation of Dr. Liaqat Malik, Solicitor Bilal Babar. The special guest Mian Amjad Farzand welcomed the loving community living in the UK. The Pakistani community will always be remembered for its active role in the British economy. The Pakistani community should invest in the motherland, for that the government of Pakistan should provide facilities. Chaudhry Shamoon said that coming to Britain felt like we were in Pakistan. The undying love of the community is enviable. The host Kamran Atta thanked the guests and said that Mian Amjad has a brotherly relationship with Farzand he told us about investing in Pakistan and keeping the young generation in harmony with each other. Solicitor Bilal Babar said that the Pakistani nation is very intelligent and resilient and is playing a significant role in all spheres of life. Prominent journalist Tahir Chaudhry said that Mian Amjad Farzand informed us in detail about Pakistan. Rana Abdul Sattar and Dr. Liaqat Malik also welcomed Mian Amjad Farzand on his arrival in Britain. The guests were entertained with the famous dishes of the restaurant

## Inclusion to European Union: Erdogan says Turkey 'no longer expects anything'



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed his frustration with the European Union, saying that Turkey "no longer expects anything" from the EU after being kept waiting for 40 years.

"We have kept all the promises we have made to the EU but they have kept almost none of theirs," Erdogan said before an inaugural session of parliament.

He firmly stated that he would not accept any new demands or conditions regarding Turkey's accession to the EU. Erdogan's dissatisfaction also stems from a recent judgment by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which condemned Turkey for convicting a teacher in connection with the 2016 attempted coup.

Erdogan said Sunday that the "decision of the ECHR was the straw that broke the camel's back."

"[Turkey] will not turn back in its fight against this band of traitors," he said.

The ECHR ruled that the teacher's rights had been violated, potentially setting a precedent for numerous similar cases pending before the court.

Turkey has accused a group led by the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen of orchestrating the failed coup and using a messaging app called ByLock for coordination. Erdogan asserted that the ECHR's decision was a breaking point and reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to its fight against the alleged coup plotters.

## Who is Mohamed Muizzu, Maldives's pro-China president-elect?

MALE, MALDIVES: Pro-China candidate Mohamed Muizzu won Saturday's presidential election in the Maldives, a result set to once again upend the archipelago's relationship with traditional benefactor India.

Muizzu, 45, helms a party that presided over an influx of Chinese loans when it last held power in the atoll nation, better known for its luxury beach resorts and celebrity tourists.

He won 54.06 percent of the vote in the run-off contest, prompting incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to concede defeat shortly before midnight.

"Congratulations to president-elect Muizzu," Solih wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "I also congratulate the people who have shown a peaceful and democratic process."

Muizzu made a brief appearance outside his party's campaign headquarters to urge supporters not to celebrate until Sunday morning, when campaign restrictions officially come to an end.

Solih, 61, will serve as caretaker president until his successor is inaugurated on November 17.

The result upends Solih's efforts to revert the country's diplomatic posture back towards New Delhi since taking office five years ago.

Muizzu played a pivotal role in an earlier government's development program, bankrolled in part by financial largesse from China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

He told a meeting with Chinese Communist Party officials last year that his party's return to office would "script a further chapter of strong ties between our two countries."

The Maldives sits in a strategically vital position in the middle of the Indian Ocean, astride one of the world's busiest east-west shipping lanes.



Abdulla Yameen, borrowed heavily from China for construction projects and spurned India.

Solih was elected in 2018 on the back of discontent with Yameen's increasingly autocratic rule, accusing him of pushing the country into a Chinese debt trap.

Yameen's turn toward Beijing had also alarmed New Delhi, which shares concerns with the United States and its allies about China's growing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean.

India is a member of the strategic Quad alliance alongside the United States, Australia and Japan. But Solih's restoration of the Maldives' traditional posture itself proved controversial, with many in the archipelago disapproving of India's outsized political and economic clout.

Muizzu has vowed to free Yameen, currently serving an 11-year sentence for corruption on the same prison island where he had jailed many of his political opponents during his tenure.

In his brief appearance Saturday, Muizzu urged the outgoing president to use his executive power and transfer Yameen to house arrest.



China," Cheng said. "China has been very deeply involved in financing a lot of infrastructure growth. But there are problems there too in that Maldives has a very considerable debt owed to China, some of which are due in a couple of years," he added.

Muizzu's election success hinged on a sustained campaign against India's outsized political and economic clout in the Maldives.

New Delhi has a history of entanglements with affairs in Maldives, including the deployment of soldiers to thwart a 1988 coup attempt. Its influence has been a periodic source of resentment in the Muslim-majority nation.

The Maldives sits in a strategically vital position in the middle of the Indian Ocean, astride one of the world's busiest east-west shipping lanes.

Solih was elected in 2018 on the back of discontent with Yameen's increasingly controversial rule — many political opponents were locked up in the same prison where the former president is now behind bars — accusing him of pushing the country into a Chinese debt trap.

Yameen's turn towards Beijing had also alarmed New Delhi, which shares concerns with the United States and its allies about China's growing assertiveness in the Indian Ocean.

India is a member of the strategic Quad alliance alongside the US, Australia and Japan.



Peoples spend less than 20% of food budget on protein-rich diets



**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The 'Right To Protein' initiative of the U. S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) introduced the 'Pakistan Protein Perception Study 2023'. The nation-wide survey conducted by YouGov assessed citizens' knowledge, behaviour, and perceptions about protein foods in Pakistan. The study highlights the practical challenges that pose as a barrier to adequate protein consumption in Pakistan. Majority of the Pakistanis are unaware of their ideal daily protein requirements and lack basic knowledge of protein rich foods.

The Pakistan Protein Perception Study found that majority of the respondents spend only between 10-20% of their monthly food budgets on food sources that are rich in protein, which is the most essential macronutrient for human bodies. Over 60% citizens surveyed agree that lack of protein affects their overall health, and that unhealthy lifestyle choices contribute significantly to their protein deficiency. Misinformation about protein consumption was also found to be rampant, with 46% respondents wrongly believing that high consumption of protein leads to weight gain and 45% stating that controlling calories is more important than consuming protein. Less than 50% of respondents felt they were consuming less than half of the required amount of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins and over 40% incorrectly classified fruits, vegetables, and whole grain cereals to be 'high protein' foods.

Speaking about the study, Deeba Giannoulis, Regional Head, U. S. Soy Marketing & Sustainability, SAASSA, U. S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) said, "USSEC is a big advocate of food and nutrition security in the region. The 'Pakistan Protein Perception Study' brings forth the perspectives and priorities for the citizens, aiming to identify strategies for combating protein energy malnutrition and advocating reforms to bolster protein production and consumption. These could encompass measures such as improving accessibility to quality animal feed to lower costs of high-protein foods, exploring alternative sources of protein-rich foods, and raising overall public awareness of the critical role that protein plays in nutritional well-being and therefore nutrition security of the nation."

**PHMA new body calls for giving boost to value-added textile exports**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) has elected Nahid Abbas and Farrukh Iqbal unopposed as central chairman and zonal chairman of the north zone respectively for the year 2023-24. In the same way Amanullah Khan and Khawaja Musharaf Iqbal were elected unopposed as senior vice chairman and vice chairman of the Association's north zone for the next year.

According to a press release issued here on Saturday, the PHMA executive committee, in its meeting held here today, also approved the results of the elections.

The new central chairman Nahid Abbas, addressing the meeting, called for giving a boost to the export sector by adopting diversified marketing techniques and extending practical support to the industry, and asked the knitwear and garment exporters to prepare themselves for meeting the global challenges so that exports could be enhanced by fully exploiting new opportunities.

**PAEI to organize grand expo on 'Hotel Supply and Hospitality' in Jeddah**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas along with Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition met Chairman Ibrahim Bakhsh and Mijidi Bakhsh Director International Sales of Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference in Jeddah. Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry in collaboration with Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference in Saudi Arabia is organizing a grand expo on "Hotel Supply and Hospitality" in Jeddah from 5th to 7th February 2024 at Hilden Jeddah Hotel.

In this expo, companies associated with the hotel sector from all over the world will be a part of this

exhibition. Chairman Khurshid Barlas said during the conversation that this expo will provide awareness about hospitality and facilities. From the expo, the Pakistani hotel industry will get information and awareness about the continuous growth of international standard hotels and the latest facilities. The expo will further improve Pakistan-Saudi relations.

This in turn can help improve tourism and economy in Pak-Saudi Arabia. Holding the Expo will be an important milestone in Pak-Saudi relations. Finally, Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas is presenting the shield to Ibrahim Bakhsh, Chairman of Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference.



**Scrap for sale**

KARACHI: A view of vendors' displayed scrap for selling purpose alongside a road at U.P Moor, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

**Ever-increasing cost of production real threat to businesses: PIAF**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for businesses, as ever-increasing cost of production is the real threat to the economy amidst frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar.

PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that constant hike in power tariff has pushed the electricity prices higher and added to the already soaring cost of trade and industry. He asked the government to shut down all expensive oil-based power plants to ensure availability of cheaper energy for consumers. He condemned the government for shifting power distribution companies' inefficiencies burden to the consumers by jacking up the tariff under the guise of Fuel Charges Adjustment.

He observed that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses.

With a view to deal with fiscal challenges he asked the economic managers to work



on the three-way strategy by implementing short-term goals that will help to keep generating resources for smooth fiscal operations, medium-term goals where they should focus on financial inclusion, documenting the economy by designing a system where all businesses can be registered and properly document their income including collection of sales tax, initiating the process of privatization as well as improving governance by introducing reforms in each sector. As a long-term goal, the country must focus on improving its

human capital, and revamping IT sectors by extending facilities and providing all the requisite supports. In the same way, we also need to work on designing a comprehensive and proactive strategy to tackle challenges related to strengthening border security and implementing effective and comprehensive Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing measures holding accountable and taking to task all those who are involved in illegitimate activities, undermining both our economy and national interests.

The PIAF Chairman stated that the significant jump in electricity prices and hike in gas tariffs to meet the IMF condition will put additional burden of billions of rupee on consumers. He observed that it is unfortunate that the authorities in all governments continued to approve billions of rupees' additional burden on consumers through a direct tariff increase and an indirect increase through the withdrawal of subsidies given to exporters and farmers earlier.

He said that the government liquidity and external vulnerability risks are elevated and there remain considerable risks around its ability to secure required financing to fully meet its needs for the next few years.

**RWMC adopts zero-waste policy to make Rawalpindi Clean: Saqib Rafiq**



**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) has adopted a zero-waste policy and cleanliness plan to make Rawalpindi City clean. The operation teams were determined to maintain the beauty of the City, and officers had been appointed to ensure the cleanliness at recreational places, parks, bus stands, major roads, intersections, and other important places across the City. The company was utilising all resources to maintain cleanliness across the city.

This was informed by President RCCI and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq during a meeting with the delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The delegation was headed by President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.

The ICCI delegation and leadership hailed the appointment of Saqib Rafiq as the Chairman of the RWMC and expressed their resolve that the non-political appointment has been made in the RWMC.

A great responsibility is also imposed, it is hoped that Saqib Rafiq will fulfill the expectations of the business community and make Rawalpindi a model city through better sanitation and cleanliness

arrangements. On this occasion, a committee consisting of members of RCCI and ICCI was also formed in which three members from both chambers were represented.

The aim of the committee was to provide the maximum facilities to be provided to the business community and members of the twin city and the coordination will be strengthened.

Suggestions were also shared in the meeting regarding generating of energy from waste, recycling, elimination of smog, anti-dengue campaign and keeping the environment clean.

On this occasion, Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Saroosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents and Executive members were also present.

The ICCI delegation included Senior Vice President Fahad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam Zafar, Zafar Bakhtawari, Khalid Javed, Ijaz Abbasi, former President Atif Ikram, Khalid Chaudhry, M. Saif, Chaudhry Naeem, Faizan Shahzad, Zahid Iqbal Chaudhry (Vehari Chamber), women members Parveen Khan, Munizeh Majid were included.

**Pakistan's Cyber Landscape: Responsible Online Behavior and Compliance with Local Laws**

**Muhammad Farooq**

In today's world, the internet is like a superhighway, and our every act, even due to ignorance or lack of knowledge of cyber laws can lead to legal troubles, financial losses, privacy violations, and damage to reputation of the individuals as well as on a national level. Internet also comes with certain rules which varies from country to country and defines the do's and don'ts of internet regarding uploading, sharing and creation of content. With increased use of internet, it is essential to educate ourselves about existing cyber laws to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. In Pakistan the main statute which deals the online content or crimes committed through internet

is Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) which covers Blasphemy, Immoral/Indecent, Electronic Fraud, Anti-State, Sectarian, Hate Speech, Anti-Judiciary etc.

Fighting Against Hate Speech: Why It Matters

PECA section 11 deals with hate speech related content and criminalizes any online content which advances or is likely to advance inter-faith, sectarian or racial hatred. The purpose of criminalizing online hate speech is about making the internet a respectful place for everyone. Understanding and following PECA section 11 is crucial because it will not only help protect people from harm but will make the cyber space of Pakistan a welcoming and tolerant space. Any content uploaded or forwarded

in violation to this section can have serious consequences for the uploader/creator, including imprisonment for up to (03) three years or a fine of up to (01) one million rupees, or both.

Honoring Our Diverse Faiths and Upholding the Sanctity of Islam

In a culturally rich and diverse nation like Pakistan, where individuals embrace a myriad of religious beliefs and sects, it is of paramount importance to extend our respect towards them.

PECA Section 37 also deals with offenses related to the glory of Islam, especially in cases of blasphemy. Being responsible online means respecting what others hold dear, especially when it comes to religion. By promoting harmony among different faiths and not hurting anyone's religious feel-



ings online, we can make the internet a more inclusive, safer and tolerant place.

Protecting Pakistan's Integrity: Your Role as a Responsible Digital Citizen

Using internet responsibly is important for avoiding legal consequences as every act online becomes your digi-

tal foot print and can be traced by law enforcing agencies. Under Section 37 of PECA, actions that could harm the state's online presence include the sovereignty, integrity, or defense of Pakistan. Understanding and adhering to this rule is not just a legal obligation, it is a way of showing your

commitment to being a responsible digital citizen. By following this provision, you play a vital role in safeguarding the interests and online security of our nation. However, it is essential to be aware that breaking this rule by engaging in online activities that pose a threat to Pakistan's integrity and security can lead to significant legal consequences.

In conclusion, public awareness regarding compliance of local laws about online content is a collective responsibility. Online spaces should be safe, respectful, and inclusive for everyone. By understanding and adhering to these provisions, we can create a safer, secured and respectful online environment for individuals and a society as a whole where everyone can use technology freely and for useful purposes.



PCB Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 23-24

# Sarfraz Ahmed's unbeaten double century: Successes of Lahore Blues and Rawalpindi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In the fourth round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, Rawalpindi defeated Faisalabad by 7 wickets.

Peshawar defeated Lahore Blues by 3 wickets. The match between Multan and FATA was drawn. The match between Karachi Whites and Lahore Whites also failed to produce a result.

The highlight of today's game was Karachi Whites captain Sarfraz Ahmed's brilliant unbeaten double century against Lahore Whites.

Karachi Whites scored 784 runs for 5 wickets in their first innings at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore.

Captain Sarfraz Ahmed scored 200 runs on the balls while batting brilliantly and did not get out. His innings included twenty four fours and one six.

This is Sarfraz Ahmed's second century in this Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, apart from this he has also scored two half-centuries.



Ramiz Aziz also batted well and scored 151 runs with the help of fifteen fours and two sixes and was not out.

Sarfraz Ahmed and Ramiz Aziz added 351 runs in an unbeaten sixth wicket partnership.

Before him Imad Alam, Khurram

Manzoor and Asad Shafiq also scored centuries.

Lahore Whites scored 509 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in their first innings.

In Abbottabad, Peshawar Region beat Lahore Blues by 3 wickets. On the fourth day of the match, Lahore Blues

team was bowled out for 215 runs in the second innings, thus Peshawar needed to score 190 runs to win, they achieved the required score with the loss of seven wickets. Kamran Ghulam scored 50 runs.

The match between FATA and Multan was drawn at the Shoaib Akhtar Stadium in Rawalpindi. FATA scored 336 runs in the second innings after being forced to follow on and had 9 out. Muhammad Irfan scored 84 runs with the help of ten fours and two sixes. Salman Khan played an innings of 76 runs with the help of twelve fours.

Rawalpindi defeated Faisalabad by 7 wickets at Pindi Stadium. Rawalpindi was given a target of 203 runs to win and at the end of play on the third day they scored 190 runs in their second innings with 2 out. Today they reached the required score by losing one more wicket. Abdul Faseeh completed his century. He scored 109 runs with the help of 17 fours and was not out. Ashfaq Ahmed was dismissed with 40 runs.

# Abdul Faseeh's ton powers Rawalpindi to their first win in QEAT 2023/24

A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Abdul Faseeh's unbeaten century led Rawalpindi Region to their first win of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023/24 season by defeating Faisalabad by seven wickets in the fourth round match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Rawalpindi successfully chased down the 204-run target set by Faisalabad on the back of an unbeaten 109 by 24-year-old Abdul Faseeh, featuring 17 boundaries.

Resuming their second innings at the overnight score of 190 for two in 48 overs, it took 7.3 more overs for Rawalpindi to achieve the target, losing Ashfaq Ahmed's wicket in the process, who was dismissed by Mohammad Ali for 40 off 49 balls, hitting seven fours.

Meanwhile, in another fourth-round QEAT fixture, Sarfraz Ahmed struck an unbeaten double century in a drawn game between Karachi Whites and Lahore Whites at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Sarfraz Ahmed's marathon innings combined with Rameez Aziz's unbeat-



en 151 on the fourth day allowed Karachi Whites to put a huge 784 runs on the scoreboard in reply to Lahore Whites' first innings score of 509 for nine declared in 137.2 overs.

Resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 432 for four in 125 overs, an unbroken 351-run partnership between Sarfraz and Rameez for

the sixth wicket was the highlight of the day. Sarfraz scored an unbeaten 200 off 236 balls, which included 24 fours and a six, while Rameez scored an undefeated 151 off 264 balls, hitting 15 fours and two sixes.

Peshawar were led to their second win in the ongoing season of QEAT after defeating Lahore Blues by three

wickets at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a modest 190-run for victory, Peshawar lost seven wickets in the process and achieved the target in the 63rd over. For the winning team, Kamran Ghulam top-scored with a 99-ball 50, hitting five boundaries. Isra-rullah was another notable run-scorer, scoring 30 off 78 balls, which included three fours.

Kashif Bhatti and Waqas Ahmed bagged two wickets each for Lahore Blues.

Earlier, Lahore Blues were dismissed for 215 in 68.2 overs, after resuming their second innings at the overnight score of 149 for seven.

In the 16th match of the QEAT, FATA played out a drawn game against Multan after being enforced a follow-on at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi.

FATA after being enforced a follow-on were 336 for nine in 128.3 overs when stumps were drawn. Mohammad Irfan Khan was the notable run-getter for the side, scoring 84 off 177 balls, hitting 10 fours and two sixes.

# Shadab Khan aims to perform at ICC World Cup 2023 with a 'new mindset'

A Sports

HYDERABAD: All-rounder Shadab Khan has expressed hope to regain his form and perform with a 'new mindset' in the ICC World Cup 2023, scheduled to be played from October 5 to November 19.

Shadab Khan, during a press conference before Pakistan's practice session in Hyderabad, expressed his wish to give his best for Pakistan in the World Cup 2023 and put Asia Cup 2023 memories in the past.

"I admit I haven't been in good form lately, and it drained me mentally as I was playing continuously but could not perform at my best," said Shadab Khan. "However, the past is in the past. The rest I got has made me feel better and I hope

to perform at my best during the World Cup for my team with a new mindset."

Shadab Khan had a forgettable stint at the Asia Cup 2023 as he only managed to pick six wickets in five games at an average of 40.83, while with the bat, he scored a meagre 13 runs from five outings.

Shadab Khan also backed teammate and opening batter Fakhar Zaman, who also struggled during the Asia Cup, scoring 65 runs in the four innings at an average of 16.25.

"Fakhar Zaman is a world-class player, although he is not been consistent this year, but he is an impact player. We have complete faith in his abilities and we believe that he will help Pakistan win matches in the World Cup," he added.

He also stressed the fact that fitness and bowling are key to winning the



mega-event in India.

"World Cup 2023 is a long tournament and we have experienced a few injury scares during Asia Cup, that is why fitness will be key for all the teams during the tournament," he said.

"Considering the conditions, it will be a challenge to stop the flow of runs and take wickets here, so whoever bowls well will win the World Cup," he added.

Pakistan team is scheduled to face Australia in their second warm-up match on October 3, at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, before kicking off their ICC World Cup 2023 campaign with the match against Netherlands on October 6 at the same venue.

Pakistan lost their first warm-up match against New Zealand by five wickets as New Zealand batters chased down a mammoth 346 total with 38 balls to spare.

**Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023**

Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, M Wasim Jnr, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha.

# Pakistan Shaheens squad reaches Hangzhou to partake in Asian Games 2023

Sports Desk

HANGZHOU: Pakistan Shaheens on Sunday touched down in Hangzhou, China to participate in the men's cricket competition of Asian Games 2023.

Qasim Akram-led Pakistan Shaheens will rest today before taking part in the training session tomorrow afternoon to prepare for the 19th Asian Games.

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).

Pakistan Shaheens' captain Qasim Akram, ahead of his team's departure for the Asian Games 2023, termed it an honour to lead the side in the event while expressing hope that his players would continue to perform for the team.

"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," stated Qasim Akram.

"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 for Asian Games 2023:

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

## California Cricket Foundation holds 13th Annual U-19 tournament at TV One

Sports Desk

CALIFORNIA: It was 13th extravaganza organized by California Cricket Foundation headed by the dynamic, ever vigilant and vibrant Imran Ashraf who was able to get 24 teams from all over USA and also a Show-Biz team from Pakistan with Ex Pakistan Captain Sarfraz Ahmad as mentor. Sarfraz remained the focus of attention with lloyd of fans around. As a mentor he was very popular among his team members. This three day event generated lot of excitement and fun. The spirit, enthusiasm and seriousness made this tournament look like an International gala. It was a fantastic and unique experience describing the event on various platforms including TV One USA showing it live. Mustajab Khan who introduced himself as Junior Hasan Jalil shared the mike and did a fine job. It was pleasure to meet many TV stars who were always surrounded by their fans. Meeting Kamran Jeelani was a real pleasure as I was a great fan of his celebrated father Qurban Jeelani. It was a great outing and I enjoyed every moment of it. well done Imran Ashraf and CCF, CCF, California Cricket Foundation is doing wonders by contributing toward many projects. They collected around one hundred fifty thousand dollars in the fund raising dinner on the eve of this grand event.



## Aun Abbas hits ton in A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to Brilliant Century by Aun Abbas 122 runs Zone-IV Blues defeated Zone-V Blues by 162 runs in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone. Summarized Scores:

Zone-IV Blues beat Zone-V by 162 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-IV Blues 285/6 in 46 overs

Aun Abbas 109 with the help of 9 fours and 1 six, Hamza Awan 45, Ejaz uddin 26, Muhammad Mehdi 25. Majid Ali (sla) 3/43.

Zone-V Blues 123 allout in 32 overs. Majid Ali 26. Hafiz Ahmed Musfir (rls) 4/33, Ejaz uddin (ob) 3/17, Syed Rayyan Ali 2/25

In the second match at Young Fighter Ground Zone-III Whites beat Zone-I Blues by 127 runs. Zone-III Whites 216 all out in 45 overs. Sahil Raj 39, Ahad ALI 36, M. Hassan Yaqoob 26, Umer Khan Barki 26. Hasan Khan (sla) 4/21, M. Sami Ansari 2/49, S. Shayan ul Hassan 2/49.

Zone-I Blues 89 all out in 25.2 overs. Sahil Nisar 37 not out. Khawaja M. Basit (lmf) 3/24, Ali Akbar (rlb) 2/4, Asadullah Khan (rlb) 2/13.



## Real Madrid crush Girona to reclaim top spot in La Liga

A Sports

GIRONA: Real Madrid jumped to the top of the La Liga 2023/24 points table after thumping second-ranked Girona 3-0 at Estadi Montilivi on Saturday.

Girona started the game on song with three attempts within the first ten minutes. However, they were unable to take the lead before Real Madrid turned the game around and gained an advantage over the home side as they managed to score in the 17th minute through a pass from Bellingham to Joselu, who turned it in past goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga.

The visitors did not wait much and extended their lead to 2-0 four minutes later when Aurelien Tchouameni headed in from a corner. Girona failed to make a comeback after that and Real Madrid sealed the victory with a third goal in the 71st minute as Jude Bellingham, fired in a volley during a counter-attack.

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Jude Bellingham has scored six goals in the ongoing La Liga season after arriving from Borussia Dortmund in the summer following a huge transfer deal.

The only negative for Real Madrid in this match was that defender Nacho was sent off for an ugly high tackle on Portu, who went off injured towards the end of the match.

In other La Liga fixtures, Real Sociedad outclassed Athletic Club with a thumping 3-0 victory at Anoeta Stadium, which helped them jump to the fourth spot in the ongoing season, while Getafe and Villarreal settled for a goalless draw.

Robin Le Normand opened the scoring for Real Sociedad in the 30th minute before Takefusa Kubo extended their lead three minutes into the second half.