



### Pakistan calls India's occupation of Kashmir 'worst manifestation' of colonialism

Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan has called on the U. N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes. (Details on Page 8)



### Arshad Nadeem withdraws from the Asian Games 2023

Star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem on Tuesday withdrew from the javelin throw final event of the ongoing Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. Arshad Nadeem decided not to participate in the final due to the recurring pain in his previously injured leg. He suffered an injury during training, and the MRI reports identified the recurrence of the old injury consequently ruling him out of the Asian Games. (Details on Page 7)

## NAP Meeting



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Apex Committee on National Action Plan in on Tuesday.

# NAP apex body decides to expel illegal foreign residents

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Apex Committee of the National Action Plan on Tuesday, resolving to expel illegal foreign residents from the country and take strict action against their businesses and properties, constituted a task force to scrutinize and do away with fake identity cards and business activities.

The committee, which met under Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, also decided to widen the scope of ongoing action against illegal activities like drug smuggling,

hoarding, smuggling of currency and eatables, illegal money transfer and power theft, a PM Office press release said.

Attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, relevant federal ministers, provincial chief ministers and heads of civil and military law enforcement agencies, the Apex Committee decided that movement at the border would be subject to the passport and visa, in order to document the processes.

The task force that would work under the Interior Ministry would help scrutinize the

fake identity cards, businesses and properties in order to get rid of the same.

The participants of the meeting reviewed the internal security situation in the country with a view to overcome the challenges durably.

They resolved that despite all odds, the government would ensure the implementation of the Constitution and the law as per the public aspirations.

The forum reiterated that the use of force was only the state's mandate and no individual or group would be allowed to use the same. Besides, there was no

room for armed political organizations or groups and the people involved in such activities would be dealt with strictly.

In the meeting, it was also highlighted that Islam was a religion of peace and the state would never allow anyone to interpret the religion just to serve its own political interests.

The rights and religious freedom of the minorities were the components of Islam and Constitution of Pakistan and the state would ensure their provision.

The Apex Committee stressed that those spreading propagand

da and disinformation, should be dealt with strictly under cyber laws.

The participants were informed that technical procedures were being devised for the awareness and implementation of the laws, which were being promulgated keeping in view the observance of the law and the convenience of the people.

The forum reiterated its resolve that the principles of faith, unity and discipline would be followed in the true spirit and tireless efforts would continue for the development of the country.

## Govt asks all illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan by Nov 1

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government on Tuesday set a November 1 deadline for illegal immigrants to leave the country or else face deportation.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad following the apex committee meeting, the caretaker interior minister Sarfraz Bugti clarified that the immigrants have been given a deadline of November 1 to leave the country.

Bugti further said that a task force has also been constituted which will take action against illegal immigrants. "Pakistan is the only country permitting entry of people even without a passport," the minister declared.

The interior minister further explained that the assets owned by illegal immigrants would be confiscated.

# Fiscal reforms are critical for economic stability, sustainable growth in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy slowed sharply in FY23 with real GDP estimated to have contracted by 0.6%. According to the World Bank's latest Pakistan Development Update: Restoring Fiscal Sustainability, released today, the decline in economic activity reflects the cumulation of domestic and external shocks including the floods of 2022, government restrictions on imports and capital flows, domestic political uncertainty, surging world commodity prices, and tighter global financing.

The previous fiscal year ended with significant pressure on domestic prices, fiscal and external accounts and exchange rate, and loss of investor confidence. The difficult economic conditions along with record high energy and food prices, lower incomes, and the loss of crops and livestock due to the 2022 floods, have significantly increased poverty. The poverty headcount is estimated

to have reached 39.4% in FY23, with 12.5 million more Pakistanis falling below the Lower-Middle Income Country poverty threshold (US\$3.65/day 2017 PPP per capita) relative to 34.2% in FY22.

"Careful economic management and deep structural reforms will be required to ensure macroeconomic stability and growth," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "With inflation at record highs, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance human development investments and climate adaptation, it is imperative that critical reforms are undertaken to build the fiscal space and public means to invest into inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development."

Without a sharp fiscal adjustment and decisive implementation of broad-based reforms, Pakistan's economy will remain vulnerable to domestic and external shocks. Predicated on the robust imple-

mentation of the IMF Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), new external financing and continued fiscal restraint, real GDP growth is projected to recover to 1.7% in FY24 and 2.4% in FY25. Economic growth is therefore expected to remain below potential over the medium term with some improvements in investment and exports.

According to the report, limited easing of import restrictions thanks to new external inflows will widen the current account deficit in the near term and weaker currency and higher domestic energy prices will maintain inflationary pressures. While the primary deficit is expected to narrow as fiscal consolidation takes hold, the overall fiscal deficit will decline only marginally due to substantially higher interest payments. The economic outlook is subject to extremely high downside risks, including liquidity challenges to service debt payments, ongoing political uncertainty, and external shocks.

## Nawaz's legal team ready to secure protective bail: Sanaullah

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday asserted that the legal team of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has made all the preparations regarding the party supremo Nawaz Sharif's protective bail.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the former minister said that PML-N supremo's case was based on facts, adding that since this case holds no weight, it's unlikely that "we won't get relief".

"The people of Pakistan are waiting to welcome their leader Nawaz Sharif. He's coming to Lahore and will address the public at Minar-e-Pakistan. They will hear Nawaz live and the media will cover it throughout," Rana Sanaullah added.

## Caretaker Finance Minister calls on Prime Minister

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Ministry of Finance, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

## Illegal immigrants may leave Pakistan within 28 days: Solangi

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday categorically stated that all illegal immigrants, residing in Pakistan, would have to leave the country within 28 days.

"All illegal immigrants have 28 days to leave Pakistan," said the minister in a post on X formerly Twitter.

The decision regarding the illegal immigrants was taken in the National Apex Committee which met earlier in the day.

## Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf Appointed As Chief of the Naval Staff

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The President of Pakistan has been pleased to appoint Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf Hi (M) T Bt as Chief of the Naval Staff and promoted him to the rank of Admiral. His promotion to the rank of Admiral will be effective from the date of assuming Command of Pakistan Navy scheduled on 7 Oct 23.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf will succeed Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi who will relinquish the Command of Pakistan Navy. The Change of Command ceremony will be held at Islamabad.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989 and he was awarded Quaid-e-Azam Gold Medal on successful completion of initial naval training at Germany and Pakistan.

During his illustrious naval career, the Flag Officer has served on various Command and Staff appointments. His rich Command experience of over 10 years include; Commanding Officer of a Gun Boat, a Mine Hunter, three Destroyers and Command of 25th & 18th Destroyer Squadrons. Besides, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf remained Commandant of Pakistan Naval Academy and had the honour to Command Pakistan Navy Fleet. His distinguished Staff appointments include Fleet Operations Officer at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Captain Training at HQ Flag Officer Sea Training, Chief Staff Officer to Task Force-151 at HQ NAVCENT Bahrain, Deputy President National Defence University, Naval Secretary, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Admin), Director General C4I, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Personnel) and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations). Presently, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf is serving as Chief of Staff at Naval Headquarters.

The Flag officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad, Naval Staff College USA and Royal College of Defence Studies UK.

## Khaqan Abbasi meets Nawaz Sharif, discusses 'political situation'

**Spokesman Report**

LONDON: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday held a meeting with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and discussed country's 'political situation'.

Talking to journalists after meeting in London, the former premier said that he had an association with Nawaz Sharif for the last 35 years. "I and Nawaz Sharif exchanged views on the country's political situation," he added.

"There is a dire need to compensate for the injustices that happened with Nawaz Sharif," Shahid Khaqan Abbasi added.

Expressing his thoughts in line with welcoming PML-N supremo, Abbasi said, "I don't believe in welcoming. I was not part of the meeting that consulted on the return of Nawaz Sharif."

Responding to a question regarding May 9 events, Abbasi said that it was up to the government to bring the responsible of the May 9 mayhem to justice.

# 10 terrorists killed in Tank IBO: ISPR

**Adam Khan Wazir**

RAWALPINDI: 10 terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Pezu area of Tank district, killing

10 terrorists.

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and targeted killing of innocent citizens," it said.

The ISPR further stated that sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

"Locals of the area appreciat-



ed the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the military's statement added.

Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, after

the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November.

Last month, at least three terrorists were killed by security forces in an operation carried out in Tirah valley of Khyber district.

According to ISPR, three terrorists, including a commander, were killed in a fierce exchange of fire with security forces.

"The security forces conducted

an operation in the Tirah area of Khyber district following a tip-off about the presence of terrorists.

"This led to a heavy exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces. As a result, three terrorists, including Commander Kifayat alias Toor Adnan, were killed," the ISPR said in a statement.

The commander was reportedly involved in attacks on civilians and security forces.

## Convocation

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation ceremony of the dentistry and nursing departments of the Foundation University School of Health Science (FUSH) on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## SC adjourns hearing on law clipping CJP's powers till Oct 9

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A full court bench — headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa — on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act till October 9.

Headed by CJP Isa, the bench comprised Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

After assuming charge as the chief justice, CJP Isa had ordered the hearing to be live streamed and had implicitly vacated the April 13 suspension of the enforcement of the SC Practice and Procedure Act.

CJP Isa initiated the hearing by discussing the implications of the law, especially its impact on the chief justice and the two senior-most judges of the apex court. He expressed concern



on the centralization of powers within senior judges.

“On one hand, the CJP’s powers, if not being limited, are being reduced. On the other, the same powers are being distributed among senior judges,” he said.

The CJP also highlighted the law’s implications for future chief justices and senior judges.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Isa urged the lawyers present to focus their arguments on the points relevant to the case. With a backlog of cases in the Supreme Court, Justice Isa hoped to conclude the case as quickly as possible, encouraging lawyers to submit a detailed response to the court if they wished to expand on their arguments.

“We want to try to conclude

[the case] today.”

Lawyer Akram Chaudhry kickstarted his arguments by examining the opening paragraph of the Act, positing that it suggested the law was enacted for a specific purpose.

However, Chief Justice Isa interjected to clarify whether this was explicitly stated in the law or if it was the lawyer’s interpretation. Justice Isa discouraged putting words into the statute that did not exist and advised the attorney to divulge his impressions rather than assuming the law’s intent.

“Let’s not put words in a statute which don’t exist. If that is your impression, then say so,” he remarked.

The lawyer preceded his argument by exploring Section 3 of the Act, in which a commit-

tee of judges would constitute a bench to handle matters of public importance. He argued that the clause encroached on the legal framework, gathering renewed attention on the Act’s implications for judicial independence.

He further argued the amendments to empowerment rights that enable the SC to entertain public interest litigation, present under Article 183 of the Constitution, can only be executed with a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

“In a parliamentary system, parliament and the executive are one, the same phenomenon in the Constitution. They have a nexus amongst themselves,” he said.

He further said that the law’s passage from a “truncated” Parliament now raises constitutional and legitimacy issues.

At one point, the lawyer argued that the enactment of the Act “totally denies the Constitution itself.” “This suggests that the Supreme Court’s role is to declare the law as ultra vires — beyond the powers allowable under the Constitution,” he said.

During the hearing, Justice Muneeb Akhtar said that the question at hand was of legislative competence.

Justice Akhtar said that the technical term used in constitutional law, for when the legislature tries to make a law beyond its competence, was a “fraud on the constitution”.

He also examined Section 7 of the SC Act, which outlines the timeline of interim relief applications, and questions were raised regarding the Parliament’s authority in dictating the SC’s meticulous operational processes.

At one point, however, CJP Isa highlighted the repetition of arguments, and the deadline to conclude the case at the end of the day.

Justice Ijazul Ahsan then went on to say that the Act essentially constitutes a constitutional amendment and thus requires a procedure that Parliament has not implemented, undermining the validity of the Act’s formation.

Justice Athar Minallah said that in his opinion, the law simply secures and ensures access to justice, including controls on the chief justice’s power. At this, Chaudhry said that legislation affected the independence of the judiciary and also completely regulated the internal workings of the court. “Parliament had acted beyond its mandate,” he said.

## ECP plans to invite int’l observers for upcoming general elections

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday penned down a letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), seeking to invite international observers for upcoming general elections.

In the letter to Foreign Office, the election commission said that it wanted to invite international observers under section 238 of the Election Act.

“The ECP ensures the participation of international observers for the transparency of the general elections”, the letter stated, urging the Foreign Office to provide the list of organisations of foreign observers.

The letter noted that Secretary election commission has summoned a meeting regarding the participation of observers in polls. “The Foreign Office will be informed about the meeting”, it added.

The decision to international observers was taken at a meeting of the Commission in Islamabad with Chief Election Commissioner Sikanar Sultan Raja in the chair.

It was also decided to expedite process of cases of those interna-



tional observers who have already made request to observe the electoral process.

The Commission also directed to convene Inter Ministerial Meeting on 16th of this month in which a course of action will be decided on this issue.

The Election Commission accorded approval to the code of conduct for International Observers and also allowed to publish it on priority basis.

Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024.

“The final delimitation list will be published on November 30,” said ECP, adding that general elections will be held in the last week of January 2024 following the 54-day election schedule.

The electoral body was under immense pressure from the political parties regarding the announcement of the election date.

## Police Constable Shabbir drowns trying to rescue woman at canal

### Asif Siddiqi

GUJRANWALA: Constable Shabbir of the Mandi Bahauddin police embraced martyrdom while trying to rescue a woman in a fast-moving canal.

Mandi Bahauddin Police Constable Shabbir was drowned in a fast-moving canal trying to save a woman’s life. Police said that the brave constable was trying to save the woman from being drowned who jumped into the canal to commit suicide.

Due to Shabbir’s brave move, the woman was rescued, however, the cop was drowned.

RPO Dr Haider Ashraf and Commissioner Naveed Haider visited the scene and met the cop’s relatives.

RPO Ashraf issued directives to expedite the rescue operation to find the constable. The commission said Constable Shabbir set an example of bravery by sacrificing his own life to save humanity.

In May, a brave doctor saved the



life of a boy who was drowning in the Kotri Barrage Hyderabad.

Dr Matiur Rahman who is posted in Liaquat Medical University Hospital, risked his own life and saved the life of a youth who was drowning in Kotri Barrage.

He said that many people gathered when they saw the boy drowning but no one tried to save him. He stopped his car and jumped from the Kotri Barrage bridge to save the youth’s life.

After seeing his bravery the staff of Kotri Barrage also helped him. The doctor said that when he jumped in the water the youth was taking his last breaths but he saved him. He added that the man was 35 years old and he was immediately shifted to hospital for the first aid.

## Ambassador Amna participates in Mehfil-e-Milad

### Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Anna Baloch, participated in a heartwarming Mehfil-e-Milad organized by the vibrant Pakistani Community at Jamia Islamia, Mollenbeak Brussels today.

The event was marked by recitations of Holy Quran, naats and speeches highlighting the different aspects of the life and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Ambassador Anna Baloch, members of the Pakistani

community, religious scholars, students of Jamia and officials of the Embassy participated in the event.

Ulema’s in their remarks dilated upon the various aspects of the life (Seerat un Nabi) of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and offered duas for the wellbeing of the Muslim Ummah.

Ambassador Anna Baloch in her address, stated that the Holy Prophet (PBUH)’s entire life is an excellent model for all of us to emulate. By following Prophet Muhammad’s teachings of tolerance, peace, compassion, perseverance, humility, honesty, and gener-



osity, we could achieve success both in this world and hereafter.

Furthermore, Ambassador

life.

Drawing attention to Bibi Fatima (R. A), the beloved daughter of the Holy Prophet, Ambassador Baloch praised her unwavering commitment to social justice, compassion, and knowledge. She emphasized that Bibi Fatima (R.A.) served as an exceptional role model for Muslim women, exemplifying strength, resilience, and devotion to family and community.

Ambassador distributed prizes and certificates amongst the students who successfully completed their courses at Jamia Islamia Mollenbeak.

## Cipher case: Law ministry issues notification to hold Imran’s trial in Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law on Tuesday issued a notification to hold Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan’s trial in Adiala jail in the cipher case.

The notification was issued after special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law, asking it to issue a notification to hold the hearing of the cipher case in the Rawalpindi prison due to security concerns.

In the notification, the law ministry said it did not have an objection to holding the PTI chief’s trial in Adiala jail. A day earlier, the special court established under the Official Secrets Act summoned jailed PTI Chair-

man Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on October 4 in the cipher case. Judge Zulqarnain had directed the superintendent of Adiala jail to present the PTI leaders before the court on October 4 (tomorrow).

In a letter today, sources told Geo News that the special court judge sought the law ministry’s opinion on holding the PTI chief’s trial in court or at Rawalpindi’s prison in view of security concerns.

The judge said the special court intended to hold trial in the Adiala jail and asked the law ministry to issue appropriate notification for the hearing of the case scheduled to be held tomorrow, the sources added.

## Pakistan calls India’s occupation of Kashmir ‘worst manifestation’ of colonialism

### News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Describing India’s occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the “worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism,” Pakistan has called on the U. N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and Kashmiri people’s wishes.

Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, Ambassador Mumir Akram told the General Assembly’s Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee that there are still peoples who are denied the right to self-determination, “most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine.” The right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, the Pakistani envoy said, was explicitly recognized in UNSC resolution 47 and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the

final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said, adding that under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties are obliged to implement these resolutions.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram also said that durable peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the two-state solution and the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, with the pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

On Kashmir, the Pakistani envoy said that for 75 years, through force and fraud, India has avoided the implementation of UN resolutions, and since 1989, it’s “brutal” campaign of repression killed 100,000 Kashmiris.

Since 5 August 2019, he said, India has taken “unilateral and illegal steps”

to annex occupied Kashmir in what its leaders have termed as a “Final Solution”.

“Resolution 122 (1957) of the Security Council provides that unilateral measures to determine the future shape and affiliation of the entire state or any part thereof, would not constitute a disposition of the state”, Ambassador Akram said, adding that consequently all unilateral actions taken by India on and after 5 August 2019 are not only illegal, but, ipso facto, null and void. “Kashmir today is the most densely occupied place in the world, with more than 900,000 Indian occupation troops deployed there who have perpetrated a vicious campaign of extrajudicial killings in fake encounters and so-called ‘cordon and search’ operations; abduction and enforced disappearances of 13,000 young Kashmiri boys; collective punishments, destroying and burning entire villages and urban neighbourhoods,” he said.



“In a classic settler-colonial project, India is seeking to convert occupied Kashmir from a Muslim-majority state to a Hindu-majority territory,” the Pakistani envoy said, pointing out that over 3.4 million fake domicile certificates have been issued to Hindus from across India.

“The land and properties of Kash-

mir are also being confiscated for military and official use,” he told the committee.

India’s brutal campaign, he said, is turbo-charged by the ideology of ‘Hindutva’, which asserts the religious and ethnic supremacy of Hindus and hate against Muslims.

“This has led the organization –

Genocide Watch – to warn of the possibility of genocide in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and, indeed, against Muslims within India itself.

Underscoring that the resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is essential to achieve durable peace in South Asia, Ambassador Akram said the onus is on India to create conditions for a dialogue towards its settlement.

To that end, he said, India must stop its human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir; halt and reverse the process of demographic change there; and rescind the illegal and unilateral measures imposed on and after 5 August 2019.

“The United Nations and all its Member States are bound by the Charter to promote a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people,” the Pakistani envoy said in conclusion.

# Former PM says recent terrorism is result of PM Sharif's policies

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the recent terrorism is the result of the previous government's policies. Mian Nawaz Sharif is a politician and every politician should get level playing field. Level playing field does not mean to work against the national interests but to allow those responsible for May 9 to participate in the election. In the manifesto of the People's Party, education and health have been given first priority. According to the details, former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while talking to the media said that when I became the Prime Minister, terrorism and extremism were on the rise.

We also talked to the tribes, when there was no other option, all the political parties came together to make a National Action Plan. It was in the National Action Plan that neither our land will be used for others nor the land of others will be used for us. According to the National Action Plan, peace



was restored by military operations and later the refugees of these areas were settled back in their areas. People's Party is against terrorism and we will not allow the face of Pakistan to be damaged. He said that all politicians should get a level playing field but it does not mean that those responsible for May 9 who speak against the interests of Pakistan should be allowed to participate in the election.

In response to a question on the poli-

tics of reconciliation and the recent statements of party chairman Bilawal Bhutto, the former prime minister said that in the last meeting of the supreme executive committee of the People's Party, the participants have entrusted all the powers to Asif Ali Zardari. He will take all the steps and decisions to eliminate all reservations of the People's Party. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani congratulated the university administration for completing and making

the university project operational in a short period of time. He said that this university will create new educational opportunities for the people of South Punjab.) Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the recent terrorism is the result of the previous government's policies.

Mian Nawaz Sharif is a politician and every politician should get level playing field. Level playing field does not mean to work against the national interests but to allow those responsible for May 9 to participate in the election. In the manifesto of the People's Party, education and health have been given first priority.

According to the details, former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while talking to the media said that when I became the Prime Minister, terrorism and extremism were on the rise. We also talked to the tribes, when there was no other option, all the political parties came together to make a National Action Plan. It was in the National Action Plan that our land will not be used for others.



AJK Secretary Sports Ms. Midhat Shehzad chairing high level meeting to review youth Sports policy at Muzaffarabad.

## 'Take holistic view of current issues': PM AJK

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while urging the masses to take a holistic view of the current issues, has said that all that they need to realize was that the government has fulfilled the masses' demand by suspending notification of increase in Electricity prices. The PM said this while talking to different delegations that called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the notification has been formally suspended, additional charges imposed on the electricity bills have been withdrawn and the bills have now been issued at the old rates. He said that instead of creating anarchy in the state, social media activists should guide people on national issues. He said that there would be zero tolerance against lawbreakers. "Administration will only take action against those who take the law into their hands", he said, adding that peaceful protest was everyone's right but taking law into hands and paralyzing the state cannot be allowed. The Prime Minister said that the people of Azad Kashmir were highly educated. "They should think for themselves that if they refuse to pay electricity bills then how will the system of the state work", he said, adding that Electricity infrastructure costs billions of rupees to the government. He said that Azad Kashmir has lower electricity rates as compared to Pakistan. He said that all possible measures were being taken to offer maximum subsidy to power consumers. "We are trying to provide maximum relief to people", he said. Referring to his government's austerity drive, he said that the expenses of the Prime Minister House have been greatly reduced. He said that taxpayers' money would be spent on the welfare of the people. "No one will be allowed to waste taxpayers money", he said.

## PC, FC, Rangers deployment in AJK no solution: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan President Muslim Conference underlining urgency of keeping prices at reasonable level particularly electricity and flour crisis he has said that deployment of FC, PC or Rangers was not the right answer to anti-inflation sentiments of the people across the liberated territory. Addressing Monday evening party workers meeting in assembly hostel Muzaffarabad he warned that any apolitical move in AJK would adversely affect morale of the people in the ongoing Kashmir movement in India-held Kashmir.

AJK is ideologically and politically Kashmir movement linked unit; no step should be taken to impair the political vision and process in the AJK territory. FC, PC, Rangers deployment in this political unit is not a solution, he cautioned.

He reiterated that political objective of Kashmiris to make Kashmir as Pakistan would not be allowed to be mauled by any group of narrow interests. He demanded broadening the political base of AJK by full force activation of the Kashmir movement linked process. AJK ministers should be assigned to tour their constituencies after allotting them their portfolios, he stressed. Meeting attendees included Secretary General Mehrun Nisa, Chief Organizer Saqib Majeed Raja, seniors Syed Afaq Shah, Shamim Ali Malik, Mahar Abbasi, Raja Rafiqat Hussain, Salim Awan and others.

## An awareness session was conducted at the Iqra University North Campus

City Desk

KARACHI: Dengue Fever is an infection spread by mosquitoes, and it requires intense social efforts for prevention. Providing accurate information about dengue prevention can significantly reduce the number of dengue cases in Sindh. These thoughts were expressed by Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Deputy Director General of the Vector Borne Diseases Sindh Department of Health, during a "Dengue Awareness" session held at the Iqra University North Campus.

He stated that dengue symptoms include fever, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, and a decrease in white blood cells. It is crucial to act on the precautionary measures issued by the Sindh Health Department to effectively control diseases like dengue and prevent their rapid spread.

Professor Syed Ali Raza, Director Campus Iqra University North Campus, emphasized the importance of education in public health, promoting awareness, and encouraging students to actively participate in safeguarding the health of the community. He mentioned that the Health Sciences department of Iqra University North Campus would continue to organize awareness sessions, seminars, and workshops in the future to educate young Students so that they are well-prepared to face any health challenges in the future.

## Protest

MUZAFFARABAD: Women along with their kids demonstration against price hike and electricity increase in capital AJK.



# Accounts Office SWL facing difficulties in payment of salaries

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The previous government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had announced the division of South Waziristan into two districts.

One district was named as Lower Waziristan and the other as Upper Waziristan. However, due to the slowness of the process of bifurcation, further problems started to arise, and due to which District Accounts Office staff are not ready to work in their district.

While, unfortunately, the District Accountant Officer of



Lower South Waziristan Israr Khan is preferring to work in Tank District, 160 km away, instead of Wana SWL.

Where they are working and dealing with treasury

and office affairs along with their staff, on the one hand, other government employees including the police are facing serious difficulties due to the District Accounts Officer

sitting away in Tank district.

On the other hand, contractors and common people have also faced difficulties, and apart from this, the police department official or any other government officer is not only forced to travel 160 km to district tank to get their work done, but they also have to spend thousands of rupees.

In this regard, when the question was put before the District Accounts Officer, why is he preferring to sit in another district tank instead of his own district, Lower South Waziristan?

So, in reply, he said that due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, we are sitting here because we have not received the proper provision of the System Application and Products Program (SAP) from the office of the Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said, that because we are dealing with office affairs from another district tank instead of our own district. He also said that there is also a big problem of lack of staff for us, we don't have an editor with us, that he sign and seal a check.

# Smuggling draining the economy of the country: Saqib Zafar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar has said that smuggling was draining the economy of the country and strict measures are required to stop it.

He has directed the administration to launch a crack down against the mafia involved in smuggling of Iranian oil and other commodities.

He also asked to cooperate with Mepeco authorities to make the ongoing campaign to control power theft a successful.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting at the commissioner's office on the occasion of his visit to Dera Ghazi Khan.

All the Administrative Secretaries of South Punjab participated in the meeting.

Commissioner DG Khan Dr. Nasir Mehmood and Deputy Commissioner Maher Shahid Zaman Lak briefed

the meeting.

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab urged the officers to perform their duties honestly to improve good governance and service delivery and to make public service their motto.

He said municipal services be improved, the campaign for cleanliness in the city be launched, the campaign "Gaon Chamkain Ge" be made a success and while the price control magistrates be mobilized to ensure the availability of essential commodities at fixed rates. He said lack of interest and negligence on part of officer will not be tolerated.

Earlier, he visited Cardiology Institute and DG Khan Teaching Hospital.

He Administered polio drops to the children. He also reviewed the work of the under construction Mother and Child Hospital.

He inquired about the health of patients in the Cardiology Institute and Teaching Hospital and asked



about the treatment facilities provided by hospitals.

He also reviewed the machinery

purchased for Cardialog Hospital.

On this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Rtd) Saqib Zafar was told in a briefing that 66 crore rupees are being spent on the construction of Mother and Child Hospital DG Khan which will be completed by May next year.

It was informed in the briefing that the cardiology institute covering 44 kanal area has been activated and the treatment of patients has been started.

The Secretary Primary and Secondary Health South Punjab briefed the ACS South Punjab about Polio Campaign and said a target of covering 76 lakh 68 thousand 481 children was set in South Punjab and 31307 teams are in the field pertaining on 61093 workers.

He told that during the current polio campaign, 25 lakh 77 thousand 649 children will be administered polio drops in Dera Ghazi Khan division.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr .....4:40 am  
Zohr .....11:57 am  
Asr .....4:09 pm  
Maghrib .....5:50 pm  
Isha .....7:13 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 .....555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

*ICCICG to plan crash test series for 9th grade students*

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: ICC Ghauri Garden Campus has planned crash test series for class 9th. The syllabus of all subjects is divided into four parts. The crash test series will start from the last week of October. The four tests should be completed by 30 January 2024. Pre-board exams will be taken in February. These decisions were taken by Director General Career Group of Institutions Prof. Muhammad Aamir after consulting the teachers. Chairman Career Group of Institutions Javed Intizar, Principal Afraz Abbasi were also present on this occasion. Prof. Mohammad Amir said that the students with less than 80% attendance and less than 50% marks in the October crash test will be sent to private admissions. Group A and Group B will be formed based on the results of the October test. Group A will give crash test series. While group B chapter wise test schedule will be released. In the meeting, commitment to take top positions in federal board. Earlier, Javed Antizar told the ninth and eleventh grade students the formula of self-motivation to set the target in the tests, achieve and give the best results in the Federal Board, saying that the tests in the educational marathon race. Better results in the Federal Board come only by improving record...

# Govt. to improve education standard for holistic development and economic growth

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Madad Ali Sindh, Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training said that the government is working to improve the state of education in the country in order to ensure holistic development and better economic growth. He said that education is the basic right of every child and an important tool for the progress and development of any nation and human resource development through better education is the central pillar of the government's policy. He said this while addressing as chief guest the interuniversity business plan competition organized by ICCI in collaboration with universities.

Madad Ali Sindh said that the government has formulated the first ever National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy, which aims to cater to the needs of industrial sector

by adding value to human capital through imparting requisite training and skills. He lauded the initiative of ICCI for organizing the business plan competition among university students that has provided them a good opportunity to show their innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial skills. He said that his ministry is ready to collaborate with ICCI in various initiatives to upscale the education sector in order to produce trained and skilled manpower for business and industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the purpose of organizing the business plan competition among university students is to provide them a good platform to present their innovative business ideas and get the attention of investors for their commercialization. He stressed that the government should take solid



measures to create a conducive environment for innovators and start-ups and focus on fostering a culture of entrepreneurship in the country in order to turn around the economy and achieve

sustainable economic growth. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that due to the falling standard of education in the public schools, the people prefer to send their children to private schools and

stressed that improving the education standard of public schools should be the top priority of the government to educate the nation and achieve better development. He said that a model

school in Islamabad should be handed over to ICCI to make it a role model for other public schools.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the industry is facing the shortage of skilled workers to improve industrial productivity and stressed for close academia-industry linkages to produce demand-driven students for industry.

The students of COMSATS, Riphah University, Institute of Space Technology, Capital University of Science & Technology, HITEC University Taxila, National University of Science & Technology, NUST Business School, Quaid-e-Azam University, International Islamic University Islamabad, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University and Fatima Jinnah Women University participated in the business plan competition. Adnan Mukhtar, Convener, ICCI HEC Committee coordinated with the universities to organize the competition.

## Preparation for winter

ISLAMABAD: People are buying blankets from vendor at weekly Tuesday Market at Sector H-9, during preparation ahead of winters in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Radio Pakistan turned down the President's orders

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Despite the clear instructions of the President of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Alvi, the management of Radio Pakistan is reluctant to give the commutation amount to the pensioner's. Radio Pakistan has not paid the gratuity amount to the employees who retired after 1st January two thousand twenty (2020). First Federal Ombudsman and later the President of Pakistan gave instructions to Radio Pakistan to pay the dues to the employees as soon as possible, but the Director General of Radio Pakistan is refusing to pay this amount using various pretext so. The employees say that they have to deal with the marriage of children and other similar issues, but the organization is not paying them their money's. On the other hands, the Director General of Radio Pakistan is doing things that have nothing to do with the development of the organization.

Meanwhile, during these three and a half year's, many retired employees have lost their lives while waiting for commutation. The employees say that the commutation, besides, they have not been given recent increase in pensioner's. Similarly, the regular employees of the institution are also suffering from various problems. The employees have appealed to the President of Pakistan and the Federal Ombudsman to make their decisions implemented by the management of Radio Pakistan and to monitor it by an organization like NAB.

## Haseeb Shabir elected as a Chairman of Hotels and Restaurants Committee

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Famous businessman and chairman of All Pakistan Hotel and Restaurants Association KPK Khawaja Muhammad Haseeb Shabir was elected as the chairman of the hotels and restaurants committee of Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries. On this occasion, CEO Dubai. Hotel Qisa Khawani Bazar Peshawar Mr. Haseeb Shabbir said that I am very grateful to the leader Peshawar Chamber, former provincial minister Honorable Malik Mehar Elahi and Peshawar Chamber President Malik Salman Elahi for trusting me and entrusting me with this responsibility.

InshaAllah, I will serve my business community wholeheartedly while fulfilling the dignity of my profession and position and Under the patronage of President of the Peshawar Chamber Malik Salman Elahi, I will try my best to solve the problems of small traders & the problems of my Hotel & Restaurants industry As Chairman Committee Peshawar Chamber today I feel proud to be associated with this organization and I give the credit of all my success to Peshawar Chamber.



## Dawlance exports Refrigerator-Designs for Singer Bangladesh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dawlance is the leading manufacturer of home appliances in Pakistan and a wholly owned subsidiary of Arcelik - the second-largest technology producer of Europe. Dawlance has recently completed a Design Export project to provide Research and development services to Singer - the market leader of home appliances in Bangladesh, which is also a subsidiary of Arcelik.

Since Bangladesh and Pakistan have similar industrial and economic conditions, this project will play a vital role in the mutual cooperation and growth of the two countries. As Dawlance aimed to provide the



designs of four different refrigerators to Singer in Bangladesh, each model is enriched with different technologies like; Low Voltage Stabilization (LVS), Soft Door-Closing, Odor Filter, Nutrilock (Enhance Vitamins inside Crisper box), Freshology (Keeping Fruits & Vegetable fresh for 20 Days), Inverter Technology, and Quick-Cool Technology. This project has been assessed at a substantial value

of 2.6 million US Dollars, yielding an impressive revenue of 186,000 US Dollars for Dawlance Pakistan. The project's duration was 80 weeks, with 7,465 Man-hours. Dawlance was selected to design products for Bangladesh because it has great expertise in static refrigerator design. Dawlance products are trusted to meet the specific needs of customers in South Asia and show robust performance in harsh weather conditions while conserving electricity in this energy-starved region. Dawlance has been granted more projects of a similar nature in future because it is considered as a technological hub for static-type refrigerators in the South Asia region.

## Foundation University Islamabad holds convocation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The convocation ceremony 2023 of Foundation University Islamabad (FUI) for Foundation University College of Dentistry (BDS) and Foundation University College of Nursing BSN, BSN-PRN of Session 2019 - 2022, Batches Spring 2019 & 2021 was held on 3rd October, 2023 in Jinnah Auditorium, Foundation University School of Health Sciences in the presence of the honorable chief guest, Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The ceremony was also graced by Maj Gen Nadeem Ahmed Rana HI (M), Commandant Armed Forces Institute of Dentistry, Rawalpindi as Guest of Honour, Major General Nasir Dilawar Shah, HI (M), (R) Rector Foundation University Islamabad and Maj Gen Imran Fazal HI (M) (R), Director Foundation University School of Health Sciences.

A total of 107 degrees were awarded. For academic excellence, 11 gold medals were awarded to first position



holders, 08 silver medals were awarded to second position holders, 11 graduates were awarded certificate of distinction while 29 graduates were given merit certificates.

Director Foundation University School of Health Sciences presented the annual report. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Jawad Amin Khan, President Pakistan Nursing

& Midwifery Council, for increasing the number of BSN seats from 50 to 100. He congratulated the graduating students, who received various medals, distinctions, and certificates for their academic achievements. He also appreciated the alumni, who have entered into national and international postgraduate programs, and are serving as competent healthcare providers

and academicians. He advised graduates to not consider their success as the destination, but take it as an important milestone, and a launchpad on your journey of excellence and achievement in your profession, and in life and lastly he wished all the graduates very best of luck.

The chief guest, Dr. Arif Alvi, addressed the audience and praised the efforts of Foundation University for providing quality education and training to the dental and nursing professionals. He emphasized on the fact that you all are graduates now and it is your responsibility to remain humble and devoted throughout your career and become an empathetic human being in order to achieve excellence. He also advised to be respectful to your parents because it would not have been possible without their support and struggle. In the end, he wished graduates success and happiness in their future endeavors.

The ceremony concluded with Rector FUI presenting the University plaque to Guest of Honour.

## Ministry of Finance demands immediate notice of the negligence of the MCB management

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The leadership of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association and International Human Rights said that there are about 850 pensioners of Pakistan Railways in Muslim Commercial Bank Dhok Mingtal. Biometric was not done in September despite going to the bank branch repeatedly. Due to non-registration in the account, there is a fear that all accounts will be dormant after September. Which is condemned in strong words. The State Bank of Pakistan and the Ministry of Finance demand immediate notice of the negligence of the management of the Muslim Commercial Bank Dhok Mingtal branch. If the pensioners do not get their pension on time, there will be a massive protest against that one Bank branch.

An emergency meeting of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Aslam Adil Butt. In which all central leadership participated through video link. Aurangzeb Tanoli, Central Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association and other officials were present on this occasion. Who strongly condemned the unfair and cruel treatment of the railway pensioners by the Muslim Commercial Bank (Dhok Mingtal Branch Code 1020). Officials said that MCB Bank has committed a flagrant violation of the orders issued by the State Bank of Pakistan and the Ministry of Finance. There is not even a shaded area available for pensioners to sit in Muslim Commercial Bank Dhok Mingtal and there is no arrangement for drinking water. They said that According to the instructions of the State Bank of Pakistan, all banks are required to conduct biometrics of all pensioners in March and September every year. Ask for life certificate from those whose fingerprints are not available, and none marriage certificates from widows. But MCB Bank does not do biometrics in charge of the branch, instead they ask for life certificate and life and marriage certificate from widows. Which is a clear violation of the law.

Aurangzeb Tanoli, Central Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that this matter was flagged several times but no positive progress could be made. About 850 pensioners of Pakistan Railways have their accounts in this branch. Biometrics were not done in September despite going to the bank branch repeatedly And said to come in October for Biometric. Collected the life and marriage certificate but did not register it in their account. Because of which, after the passing of September, everyone's accounts can be blocked.

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# China's Remarkable 74-Year Economic Odyssey: From Inception to Innovation

As the People's Republic of China embarks on its 74th anniversary celebration, it pledges an unwavering commitment to ushering in a new era of economic openness. Focused on achieving high-quality, innovative, coordinated, and environmentally conscious development, China's vision for 2023 marks a pivotal milestone in its economic journey.

In the words of President Xi Jinping, the fifth-generation leader, this year symbolizes the unlocking of China's market for further modernization. This strategic endeavor seeks to align domestic and international imperatives while seamlessly integrating development with security considerations. Over the past seven decades, especially during the four transformative decades of reform under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the nation has achieved remarkable social stability and economic growth. Actually the China's economic transformation is from a humble beginning to 'Global Leadership.'

Moreover, China's steadfast dedication to green development resonates with global concerns. In addressing humanity's shared challenges, the nation has witnessed significant growth in new energy vehicles, wind power capacity, and charging stations. Additionally, China's installed renewable energy capacity has now surpassed that of coal, with wind power ranking as the world's leading source for 13 consecutive years and solar PV power maintaining its lead for eight consecutive years.

Foreign investment in China continues to surge, with 24,000 new foreign-invested companies established in the first half of this year, reflecting a notable

35.7% year-on-year increase. Notably, Tesla's Shanghai Super Factory played a pivotal role in the company's global deliveries, producing an electric car every 40 seconds.

It is worth noting China's commitment to BRICS' cooperation, emphasizing its readiness to collaborate with fellow BRICS partners in line with the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation. This new phase of China's economic journey signifies a pivotal moment, not just for the nation but for the global economic landscape.

A Glance at China's Remarkable 74-Year Journey

On October 1, 1949, the establishment of the People's Republic of China marked a historic moment. The Chinese people, who had endured war and suffering, finally stood tall again, astonishing the world.

Reflecting on these 74 years, we witness China's evolution from the early days of independence when it grappled with severe economic backwardness and societal desolation to the prosperity achieved after 44 years of reform and development. Progress has been profound in science, technology, economy, culture, social development, stability, national unity, and border defense.

Today, the Chinese people enjoy peace and prosperity, and neighboring nations appreciate the unity and progress exhibited by China. The government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a close partner, especially welcome China's development, recognizing the shared

history of struggle.

Pakistanis are deeply impressed by China's determination and unity in building a prosperous, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and modern socialist country. As China celebrates its 74th birthday, Pakistan joins in extending its warmest wishes.

economic integration.

As the CPEC and other BRI projects inch closer to completion, China's ascent on the world stage becomes increasingly apparent. Unlike traditional superpowers that have relied on military might to assert dominance, China is charting a different course—one characterized by economic prowess and cooperation. The completion of these grand projects signifies a significant shift in the global power landscape, with China poised to lead not through force, but through its ability to foster economic growth, innovation, and connectivity.

Crucially, China's journey toward this future is not a solitary one. It is marked by partnerships with nations that share its vision for inclusive development. Pakistan stands as one of the most significant allies in this endeavor. The collaborative spirit between China and Pakistan has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and advancing these transformative projects.

Amidst opposition from certain quarters, often driven by competing interests and outdated paradigms, China remains steadfast in its pursuit of these humanitarian goals. The world is witnessing a paradigm shift in global affairs as China takes bold strides towards a brighter future for all nations involved in the BRI and beyond. The emphasis on economic cooperation and development resonates as a beacon of hope in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.

*(The writer of the article is Secretary General of Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, and a Senior Media Consultant) syeed.gilani@gmail.com*



Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

### China's Role in Global Development

China spearheads monumental projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aimed at benefiting the entire world. The BRI aims to connect Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America through a vast network of roads and sea lanes, representing a significant portion of the world's growth and population.

China's commitment to cooperation in the BRI includes policy alignment, infrastructure development, and open trade, with extensive investments from both public and private Chinese institutions. Despite opposition from some Western countries, China remains steadfast in its vision to unite the world through economic competition rather than conflict.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a cornerstone of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), represents a colossal endeavor that stretches across 2,442 kilometers. It spans from the bustling Gwadar port on the coast of Pakistan to the resource-rich region of Xinjiang in China. This ambitious corridor is a testament to China's unwavering commitment to modern development and global



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

## Special Education Drive Launches in Punjab

Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi officially launched the special education admission campaign and initiated the distribution of assistive devices for special children at a local hotel. In his address, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed gratitude towards all those involved in serving special children, emphasizing that it is both a religious and worldly obligation to care for them. He pledged unwavering commitment to the Department of Special Education, assuring prompt approval of all special education projects.

Highlighting the expansion of special centers in areas like Johar Town, Chief Minister Naqvi reaffirmed that endeavors for special children will be undertaken as acts of duty and devotion. Reflecting on his visit to the Government Pilot School on Wahdat Road, he expressed personal dismay at the situation. The school, housing 1650 students, had only 60 appointed teachers, with 35 on Election Commission duty and the rest on leave. A mere 10 to 15 teachers were left to educate the vast student population, leading to a concerning decline in quality. Chief Minister Naqvi asserted that the responsibility for rectifying these conditions lies with the administration, not the children.

He called attention to the collective responsibility of the education department, its secretary, and the minister to ensure quality education and improve school conditions. Notable figures like Akhtar Rasool, Qari Sadaqat Ali, General Zaheer, General Bilal, and General Naveed Anjum had all attended the Pilot School on Wahdat Road, which, Chief Minister Naqvi lamented, had been grievously neglected.

Condemning the water quality, Chief Minister Naqvi stated that children were being subjected to harm in the name of drinking water. He uncovered a distressing revelation: students were facing an impending exam on Islamic Studies without having received any prior education. Books and notebooks lay untouched, as there was no one to teach. Students reported that when teachers did attend class, they were often preoccupied with their mobile phones or dozing off.

Chief Minister Naqvi addressed the media's role in the state of the Pilot School on Wahdat Road, urging them to amplify such crucial issues. He underscored that in seven years, not a single teacher had been appointed for 11th and 12th classes, a testament to the dire condition of the entire education department. With over half a million employees in the education sector, Chief Minister Naqvi questioned whether schools unable to function adequately should remain open.

Acknowledging the need for proactive efforts, Chief Minister Naqvi regretfully noted that it took eight months to uncover the dire state of this school. He concluded the event by presenting wheelchairs, hearing aids, and white canes to special children, while also awarding medals and prizes to exceptional students in both academics and sports. Chief Minister Naqvi took the time to inspect stalls featuring handicrafts, paintings, and clothing crafted by the special children. Notable speakers included Anisa Qabore from Global Partnership and the Secretary of Special Education, with Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Mansoor Qadir, Azfar Ali Nasir, and Commissioner Lahore in attendance.

## Positive aspects of US Ambassador Visit to GB and Indian Baseless Propaganda - III

Social media has undoubtedly revolutionized the way we communicate and interact with others. It has bridged geographical gaps, enhanced information sharing, and created unique opportunities. However, it is crucial to be aware of the potential pitfalls such as privacy concerns, cyberbullying, addiction, the spread of misinformation, and productivity loss. By understanding and mitigating these risks, individuals can make the most out of social media while maintaining a healthy balance in their lives. Singaporean writer Jess C Scott writes that "the people are the sheep and the media are the shepherds".

In some countries, certain websites or social media platforms may be blocked or restricted by the government. By selecting a VPN server in a different country, users can bypass these censorship measures and freely access the blocked content. When choosing a VPN service, it is essential to consider its server locations. The more extensive the network of servers in various countries, the more options you have to change your location. Additionally, the quality and speed of the servers, as well as the security protocols employed, play a crucial role in selecting the right VPN provider. However, it is worth mentioning that while VPNs offer an additional layer of security and privacy, they are not foolproof. Users must be aware of potential vulnerabilities,

such as DNS or IP leaks, which could reveal their true location. It is recommended to choose a reputable VPN service that regularly updates its security measures and provides a robust privacy policy. PTA also issued a statement about this incident on their official Twitter account. According to PTA "Reference news circulating on social media and certain section of news media that Twitter has blocked access to the Government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan and changed the region's location to parts of India, PTA would like to clarify that the matter has been thoroughly investigated and no such problem has been found, as being circulated in the media. After detailed on-ground testing, it appears that any sporadic issues encountered are limited to very few iOS devices, affecting a small number of users. These incidents are not significant and do not reflect a widespread problem."

The handling of this issue and peak of happiness in Indian media is also in front of us. Reportedly, a video clip was also shared on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor which depicted a map showing the entire UT of J&K as part of India. The map included Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir which clearly shows the evil intentions of our enemies. Readers, The incident of Gilgit's Twitter issue clearly shows that how Anti State elements misuse social media to spread the false and baseless propaganda whereas if we

explore the facts we come to know that reality is always quite opposite to such false propaganda. The same things were also seen here in the case of US Ambassador's visit to GB. India and its media were also extra active and they highlighted the visit quite negatively. Indian were shocked when US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti highlighted, post Bloom's visit to GB, that if foreign diplomats in India could visit Kashmir for G20 event, so can his counterpart in Pak. Indian media is hyping US Ambassador's visit as a provocation. The real intent remains diverting attention of Indian audience away from embarrassment caused by Canadian revelations of RAW's involvement in target killings in foreign countries. The malicious intentions of India behind its propaganda are also to divert the World's attention from Human rights violations against minorities and Kashmiris. US and Pakistan relationships are based on mutual cooperation and respect. Pakistan is also much important for US and the world as the terrorism is not completely eliminated from the planet. Pakistan also has strategic importance in the region and it's not possible for the world to ignore us. Due to recent developments and hard work of civil and military leadership, the day is not so far when we will be transformed into one of an emerging economy of the world. The real faces of India and Anti State elements are in front of the world as lie has no base. The recent visit of US Ambassador to GB was just to assist in the economic development of our country by acknowledging our sovereignty and dignity as an independent nation.



Abdul Basit Alvi

## Afghan-India Honeymoon is over - II

Subsequently, Pakistan took a series of steps to support the Taliban Interim government in consolidating its authority in Afghanistan following the U. S. evacuation in 2021. Pakistan extended substantial economic assistance to the Taliban government, including essential supplies like food, fuel, and medicine. This support played a crucial role in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and helped the Taliban maintain basic services for the Afghan population. Pakistan also actively advocated for the Taliban on the international stage, encouraging other countries to recognize the Taliban government and offer assistance. These diplomatic efforts improved the Taliban's standing within the international community.

Ironically, while Pakistan succeeded in minimizing Indian influence in Afghanistan through its support for the Taliban, its expectations from the Taliban in terms of addressing cross-border terrorism have not been fully met. Pakistan had hoped that the Taliban would take concrete measures to prevent cross-border terrorism, but this has led to disappointment.

According to a United Nations report, there are more than 5,000 hardcore TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) terrorists based within Afghanistan. These individuals have been granted the freedom to launch attacks inside Pakistan with impunity. This situation has given rise to a sudden increase in the number of militant groups operating from Afghanistan, some of which enjoy support, or at the very least, tolerance from the new government in Kabul.

Regrettably, terrorism originating from Afghan soil and involving Afghan nationals who are residing illegally in Pakistan is not limited to aiding and abetting terrorists. These individuals are also engaged in smuggling essential commodities such as wheat, flour, sugar, oil, and foreign currency. This illegal activity has had a detrimental impact on Pakistan's law and order situation and has strained its financial and economic stability.

In response to these challenges and in an effort to protect its own interests, Pakistan has implemented

a series of measures. These actions include tightening border controls, cracking down on smugglers, as well as individuals involved in hawala and Hundi transactions. Additionally, Pakistan has taken steps to address the issue of Afghan nationals who were residing illegally within its borders, utilizing its public services, while simultaneously adopting an anti-state stance.

Furthermore, Pakistan has observed a continued flow of support to Baluch ethnic separatist groups, which seek either greater autonomy or outright independence for their homeland. This ongoing support to separatist movements presents an additional security concern for Pakistan.

Pakistan's approach toward Afghanistan remains pragmatic, aiming to engage with the Afghan Taliban in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner. Pakistan seeks to avoid direct confrontation and is committed to persuading the Interim Afghan Government to exercise its influence over the TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) to prevent them from launching terrorist attacks from Afghan soil.

Pakistan recognizes the potential counterproductive consequences of engaging in direct conflict with the Interim Afghan Government. Such a scenario could divert the energy of various jihadist groups in Afghanistan toward Pakistan, making it crucial for Pakistan to exercise strategic patience. A key element of this approach is Pakistan's insistence on not entering into direct negotiations with the TTP but instead continuing to pressure the Interim Afghan Government to disarm and treat them as terrorists and criminals.

This pragmatic stance reflects Pakistan's efforts to navigate the complex regional dynamics and security challenges posed by developments in Afghanistan while pursuing a diplomatic and strategic approach.

*The author is the former Press Secretary of the Embassy 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)*



Qamar Bashir

# ISSI launches Special Report on 'Human Security Through Development'

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a Special Report on "Human Security through Development" today.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik. Other discussants included: Ambassador Shaqat Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG, SDPI; Ms. Aisha Khan, Executive Director, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change; Dr. Aliya Khan, Former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, QAU, and Mr. Faheem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist, NSD.

In his address, Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Malik emphasized the evolving geopolitical landscape worldwide, where human security challenges manifest uniquely in various countries. He underscored the importance of aligning human security goals with Pakistan's national capabilities

to transform them into tangible realities. The Chairman stressed the necessity of making policy adjustments to advance development goals and objectives, stressing that every element of national power must contribute to the nation's development efforts. He emphasized the critical role of nurturing a skilled human resource base to effectively address challenges to national progress.

In his welcome remarks, Director-General ISSI Ambassador Sohaih Mahmood emphasized the significance of the Special Report as a valuable addition to the ongoing discourse on human security in Pakistan. He noted that while traditional security concerns are vital, they often fall short in addressing the increasingly accentuating non-traditional security threats and challenges. Ambassador Sohaih Mahmood pointed out that Pakistan's National Security Policy (NSP) has rightly prioritized human security as part of comprehensive national security framework, recognizing the numerous securi-



ty challenges that have impeded the country's progress towards sustainable development.

In her remarks, Director Neelum Nigar highlighted the significance of the CSP report for policymakers, practitioners, and academics, emphasizing its focus on the critical aspects of human

security and development within Pakistan. She underscored the diverse backgrounds of the contributors, which enriched the report with a wealth of insights and perspectives on the subject of human security.

In the panel discussion session, Ambassador Kakakhel who

is also one of the contributors to the report, emphasized the significance of human security for Pakistan. Ambassador Kakakhel recalled the pioneering role played by Pakistan's eminent economist Dr. Mehbubul Haq in accentuating the concept of human security in the glob-

al discourse. Ms. Aisha Khan emphasized the unpredictability of today's world, where new human security challenges emerge continuously. She commended the report for its comprehensive coverage, particularly its in-depth exploration of the climate change challenges confronting Pakistan.

Dr. Aliya Khan, in her remarks on the report, highlighted the diminishing emphasis on economic development in the discourse on human security in Pakistan. She stressed that in approaching this subject, it is essential to recognize the inter-sectionalities of human security, human development and economic society and to prepare accordingly.

Mr. Faheem Sardar, in his comments, highlighted that Pakistan's National Security Policy (NSP) places human security at its core. He noted that Pakistan has been severely impacted by terrorism, resulting in approximately 0.5 trillion dollars in damages since 2002, which has hindered its efforts

to address human security challenges effectively. Mr. Faheem Sardar emphasized the interconnection between human security and peace, underscoring the vital role that peace plays in ensuring the well-being and security of the population.

In his vote of thanks, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood commended the CSP report as a laudable endeavor in highlighting the issue of human security. He noted that the global concept of security has evolved, shifting its focus towards non-traditional security issues. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood specifically highlighted climate change as one of the most substantial threats to human security in Pakistan and emphasized the urgency of addressing it.

The launch was attended by a cross-section of people, including academics, practitioners, former and current Pakistani diplomats and officials, experts from think-tanks, students, and members of the diplomatic corps based in Islamabad.

## OPPO, Jazz, and NUST 5G Research Lab: A Triumphant Trio Paving the Way for Innovation in Pakistan

### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, a global leader renowned for its cutting-edge technology and innovation, is thrilled to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital communications company, and the prestigious National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) 5G Research Lab. This alliance marks a historic moment in Pakistan's technological landscape, solidifying OPPO's commitment to driving innovation and spearheading technological advancements in the country.

This strategic partnership signifies OPPO's unwavering dedication to delivering state-of-the-art devices and pioneering technologies, allowing consumers to embrace the future today. By collaborating with NUST's esteemed 5G Research Lab, OPPO is poised to explore new horizons in the realm of 5G technology, ensuring Pakistan's promi-



nent position in the global technological revolution.

The synergy between OPPO, Jazz, and NUST promises to be transformative, as these entities share a deep commitment to pushing the boundaries of technologi-

cal excellence. By pooling their resources and expertise, OPPO, Jazz, and NUST aim to accelerate the development and deployment of 5G technology in Pakistan, ushering in an era of unparalleled connectivity and transformative experi-

ences for consumers.

George Long, CEO-OPPO Pakistan, Authorized Exclusive Distributor, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating "We're excited to partner with NUST's 5G Research Lab, a renowned institution at the forefront of technology. This collaboration aligns perfectly with OPPO's mission to deliver cutting-edge devices and drive tech progress in Pakistan. We anticipate a fruitful partnership that benefits our brand and advances the 5G ecosystem in the region."

Jazz NUST 5G Innovation Lab holds immense promise for shaping the future of telecommunications in Pakistan. With some of the brightest minds and advanced equipment, this institution is poised to pioneer innovative advancements in 5G technology, benefitting Pakistan's citizens. OPPO's collaboration underscores its commitment to being at the forefront of these transformative developments.

## Khalid Jamali's calls on Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Andrey Rudenko



### News Desk

MOSCOW: Pakistan's new Ambassador to Russian Federation HE Mr. Muhammad Khalid Jamali called on Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Andrey Rudenko to present a copy of his credentials at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting Ambassador Jamali stated that he was honored and delighted to lead the embassy of Pakistan in Russia at a time when the relations between the two countries were on a steady positive trajectory.

Ambassador Jamali conveyed that developing excellent relations with the Russian Federation was one of the priorities of Pakistan's foreign policy and shared that during his farewell meeting with President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi the latter had instructed him to strengthen bilateral relations with Russia. Ambassador Jamali resolved to build on the positive momentum in the bilateral relations in order to expand cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

## AIOU organizes National Seerat Conference

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is dedicatedly working to spread the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) and, in that context, the university is hosting a National Seerat conference in the third week of this month. This conference is being organized jointly by the Seerat Chair of the University, the Department of Seerat Studies, AIOU and the Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority, as per the special directives of the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi. A large number of Seerat writers, researchers, teachers and students from all over the country will participate in the conference.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, while thanking the Federal Minister of Education, Madad Ali Sindhvi, for entrusting him with the responsibility of organizing the Seerat Conference, said that the AIOU has always taken the initiative in this national and religious cause, and we have started the preparations for organizing the Seerat Conference with devotion. He said that organizing a Seerat Conference is a religious obligation. Dr. Nasir added that the university is spreading the message of tolerance, forgiveness, brotherhood and patriotism in the light of the teachings of the Holy Prophet through such educational activities for the betterment of society.

## PRCS Inaugurates Cutting-Edge Biosafety Level-III Laboratory at National Headquarters

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant stride towards enhancing public health services and reinforcing disaster response capabilities, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, officially inaugurated a cutting-edge Biosafety Level-III (BSL-III) laboratory at the PRCS National Headquarters today. This advanced facility, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, is poised to offer a diverse range of laboratory tests to the public at significantly discounted rates, underscoring PRCS's steadfast commitment to community service.

The ceremony was attended by Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, Secretary General of PRCS, as well as delegations and officers from the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Turkish Red Crescent, German Red Cross, Norwe-



gian Red Cross, and PRCS staff.

Adhering to stringent specifications set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international benchmarks, the PRCS PCR Lab with BSL-III standards sets a new standard for laboratory safety. Chairman Sardar-

Shahid Ahmed Laghari underscored the pivotal role this facility will play in mitigating health-related risks associated with handling infectious agents, toxins, and biological hazards. The laboratory's strategic design aims to enhance safety operations and culti-

vate an environmental culture crucial for effective responses to pandemics and epidemics.

During the inauguration, Chairman Laghari remarked, "The commencement of this cutting-edge BSL-III laboratory marks a significant milestone in our continuous efforts to serve the community and fortify our disaster response capabilities. By offering PCR testing at reduced rates, we not only make advanced diagnostics more accessible but also contribute to the overall health resilience of our nation."

This laboratory stands as a testament to PRCS's unwavering dedication to leading in disaster management and response. Collaborating with various international societies, PRCS has played a pivotal role in mitigating the impact of disasters and natural calamities. The addition of the PCR testing facility strategically enhances the organization's capabilities.

## Pearson Pakistan and British Council hosted an informative Forum for partner-school Principals

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pearson Pakistan and British Council held the "Principals' Forum" to facilitate Pearson's partner schools and their learners by showcasing their inspirational experiences, their learning journey and delivery of Pearson Edexcel qualifications.

This event was an opportunity to dive deeper into knowing and understanding the variety of academic opportunities and resources available to students at these partner schools. The forum provided an insight into the latest Pearson Edexcel news, an exciting preview of onscreen mocks service, onscreen assess-

ment roadmap, 9-1 grading and a closer look at International GCSE and International A Levels modular qualifications, and British Council's valuable contribution as an exam delivery partner facilitating exams across the country.

The event was attended by Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director, Pearson School Qualifications Pearson Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan, and Turkey, Harriet Gardner, Regional Exams Director, South Asia, and Amanda Ingram, Exams Director, Pakistan, British Council alongside Pearson Edexcel partner schools' leadership and Principals.

Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director,

Pearson School Qualifications Pearson Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan, and Turkey delivered a keynote presentation on "Preparing students for their future, with Pearson Edexcel qualifications". She said "It's great to see so many schools in Pakistan starting to see the value in our offer of International GCSEs and International A Levels. Our Principals' Forum will enable school leaders to get to grips with our qualifications in more detail and hear about our unique and innovative services, including access to scripts and onscreen assessment".

Harriet Gardner Regional Exams Director, South Asia, British Council said that, "We

are pleased to be working with Pearson Edexcel in Pakistan. Our collaboration supports young people to get academic content that leads to globally recognised qualifications. We at the British Council are committed to helping young people gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives, including through the access that these qualifications provide them."

Ghousia Naveed, Head of School, Beaconhouse School System (BSS) AECHS Campus delivered a session about their adoption of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Onscreen Assessment programme, piloted by five campuses under the MoU



between Beaconhouse School Systems and Pearson Edexcel. She further said that we at Beaconhouse AECHS campus look forward enthusiastically to start this quality journey with Pearson Edexcel by providing our students with a huge oppor-

tunity to excel in their learning expedition effectively."

Waleed Mushtaq, CEO, Roots International Schools & Colleges, shared his testimonial and insights about the adoption of Pearson Edexcel International GCSE and iPrimary qualifica-

tions across their schools.

Asma Saleem, General Manager, Department of International Qualifications, Curriculum & Assessments - The Millennium Education, delivered a session on the value of Pearson Edexcel Early Years and iPrimary qualifications across their campuses.

The event was a success as participants left with insight and greater comprehension of the academic tools at their disposal to enhance the education quality for learners at their institute because Pearson Pakistan and British Council were able to effectively arrange and conduct this forum.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
46,756.80	46,627.08	
Day's High	Day's Low	
46,820.71	46,670.78	
Index Value	Change	
5,001,340,683	+129.72	
Percentage	Time	
+0.28%	3 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,470.16	-40.56	
Percentage	Time	
-0.54%	3 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,070.66	-362.69	
Percentage	Time	
-1.08%	3 Oct, 1:12 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
31,237.94	-521.94	
Percentage	Time	
-1.64%	30 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181	183
Bahrain Dinar	765.1	773.1
Canadian Dollar	211	213
China Yuan	39.62	40.02
Danish Krone	40.79	41.19
Euro	302	305
Hong Kong Dollar	36.74	37.09
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.63	1.71
Kuwaiti Dinar	930	939
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	172.52	174.52
Norwegian Krone	26.92	27.22
Omani Riyal	748.22	756.22
Qatari Riyal	79.03	79.73
Saudi Riyal	75.25	76
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	26.34	26.64
Swiss Franc	314.22	316.72
Thai Bhat	7.87	8.02
U.A.E Dirham	79.25	80
UK Pound Sterling	351.5	355
US Dollar	283.7	286.5

# Minister reviews seed sector prospects, says 'we will keep moving forward'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chaired a meeting on Seed System of Pakistan and reviewed its challenges and future prospects at Islamabad. The meeting was attended by all the main stakeholders of Seed Sector from all over Pakistan. The country Chief of The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Pakistan presented the salient points of the recently launched documents on National Seed Sector: Prospects and Challenges. The report highlighted that the regulatory system in Pakistan is improving but due to weak enforcement it



is unable to attract foreign companies in the seed sector. Moreover, the national breeders' intellectual property right is being pirated. The Seed Amendment Act of 2015 liberalized the seed sector resulted in mushroom growth of domestic private seed companies. The exten-

sive consultation was carried out to streamline the seed sector by using advanced genomic technologies as well as of IT system for transparency. The Ministry of National Food Security & Research has already launched Trace & Track System in wheat crop which is from farm to farmer.

Dr. Kausar Malik said that government is committed to uplift agro based industry in the country as solution of all our economic woes lies in the development of agriculture sector. He further said that there is need of uniform regulatory regime across all crop varieties to encourage & improve seed system in Pakistan. It has been observed that poor seed quality and widespread sale of unapproved varieties result-

ing in the low yield. Currently, there is large gap of 66% between supply and demand of certified seeds in the country. We should also develop a National Seed Policy, strategy, and a plan for implementation to get long term positive results with consensus. The public-private dialogue are necessary to optimize the seed supply system. The increase in public sector investment and incentivize private sector to invest in R&D will bring good result for the industry. The meeting also discussed the issues related to biotech seeds and resolved to settle this in compliance of national and international rules. Moreover, the principle of history of safe use will also be included in the approval process.

## Carrefour Pakistan Celebrates 14 Years of Excellence

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, celebrates 14 years of excellence in serving the Pakistani community. The ongoing anniversary discount offers will remain available until October 25th, and they are a tribute to the trust and loyalty of Carrefour's valued customers, who have been an integral part of this remarkable growth journey. Carrefour is offering unbeatable discounts, emphasizing its commitment to ensuring affordability and unparalleled customer satisfaction.

The anniversary festivities began with a special cake cutting ceremony, signifying the joyous occasion. Adding to the celebratory spirit of the event, the chief guest for the ceremony was the renowned cricketer, Shahid Afridi, who also launched his drink brand, exclusively available at Carrefour stores.

Umer Lodhi, the Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, stated, "Our 14 years in Pakistan have been a journey of tremendous growth and customer satisfaction. We have converted millions of shoppers into



loyal customers by consistently creating exceptional shopping experiences. Carrefour is now synonymous with providing unmatched value for money and variety to customers in Pakistan, and we are committed to continuing this legacy through our anniversary campaign."

Shahid Afridi expressed his delight in

being a part of Carrefour's anniversary celebrations, stating, "It's truly an honour to be here on this special occasion, celebrating 14 years of Carrefour in Pakistan. Carrefour continues to stand strong, offering immense discounts and maintaining top-notch quality products for its customers."

## Chairman PARC vows to improve crop productivity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) recommended 04 new sunflower hybrids, 03 Mustard varieties/hybrids and 1 variety of each soybean, rapeseed, groundnut while 2 varieties of sugarcane for commercial cultivation in the potential ecologies.

The VEC meeting on Oilseed & Sugar Crops was held on Monday, the October 2, 2023 in the Committee Room of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Hqs. Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member (PSD)/Chairman (VEC) and attended by the committee members belonging to various public and private sector organizations and policy makers.

In the meeting, 21 proposals for Soybean, Canola, Rapeseed, Mustard, Sunflower, Groundnut, and Sesame candidate varieties/hybrids as well as 04 proposals of sugarcane were assessed. After thorough evaluation and discussion, the committee recommended 4 new sunflower hybrids, 3 Mustard varieties/hybrids, 1 variety each



of soybean, rapeseed and groundnut while 2 varieties of sugarcane for potential ecologies.

During the opening remarks, before the formal VEC meeting, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders being undertaken for uplifting the crops' productivity in general and oilseeds in particular.

He also highlighted the importance of public-private partnership and urged the stakeholders to work in close collaboration for achieving the import substitution in edible oil.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Chair to all the members for their contribution and participation in this very important meeting.

## LCCI VP urges govt action to unlock Pakistan's Export potential amidst B2B challenges

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a compelling statement, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt has highlighted Pakistan's immense export potential while shedding light on the critical challenges faced by Pakistani businessmen in attending exhibitions importers' countries and conducting vital B2B meetings with EU and US counterparts. Adnan has called upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prioritise the business community's needs, echoing the sentiments of countless entrepreneurs and exporters who have to wait for around three months in queues before the offices of courier companies for B2B meetings' appointments with counterparts.

Adnan Khalid Butt, the LCCI VP has sounded a clarion call to the Pakistani government, urging them to recognise

and address the obstacles faced by the business community in their quest to tap into Pakistan's export potential. His concerns are particularly focused on the difficulties Pakistani businessmen encounter when attempting to schedule appointments with international importers, especially from the European Union (EU) countries and the United States which is a kitchen of world's production.

Moreover, Adnan asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for what he perceives as a lack of urgency in addressing these pressing concerns.

He asserted that the ministry's inaction and apparent disregard for the business community's needs are causing Pakistan to miss out on a golden opportunity to double its export figures.

In light of these concerns, it is imperative for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government to take immedi-

ate action. Prioritizing the needs of the business community by streamlining appointment processes and reducing waiting times for B2B meetings can significantly boost Pakistan's exports. This, in turn, can lead to economic growth, job creation, and increased foreign exchange earnings for the nation.

The LCCI VP's impassioned plea serves as a wake-up call for the authorities to recognise the immense potential that lies within Pakistan's business community. Their support and swift action to address these issues could be the catalyst needed to propel Pakistan's exports to new heights, strengthening the country's economic footing on the global stage. The onus now lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government to respond positively and prioritise the business community's interests, unlocking a brighter economic future for Pakistan.

## Cotton arrivals cross five million bales, marking a 71% year-on-year growth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A milestone in Pakistan's cotton sector was reached as cotton arrivals for the year 2023 exceeded expectations, demonstrating remarkable growth in production.

Cotton arrivals as of September 30, 2023, soared to an impressive 5.0 million bales, representing an astounding 71% year-on-year growth. This accomplishment is a testament to the resilience and dedication of Pakistan's farmers in overcoming the challenges posed by last year's devastating floods.

Key Yield Figures:

- Pakistan: 5.0 million bales, reflecting a remarkable 71% year-on-year increase.

- Punjab: 2.1 million bales, registering a commendable 34% year-on-year growth.

- Sindh: 3.0 million bales, achieving an outstanding 113% year-on-year surge.

To recall, the cotton production sector faced a substantial setback last

year, experiencing a 34% year-on-year decline due to the massive flooding that affected the country. However, this year's outstanding performance has not only surpassed the previous year's figures but also exceeded expectations.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Commerce, expressed his optimism for the cotton sector, stating, "Cotton arrivals crossing the 5 million bales mark on October 1, 2023, is a momentous achievement for Pakistan. Last year, our total crop was 5 million bales, and this year, we are anticipating a bumper crop of 12 million bales. This remarkable growth showcases the dedication and hard work of our farmers and the resilience of our cotton industry."

The Ministry of Commerce remains committed to supporting and promoting the cotton sector in Pakistan, recognizing its indispensable role in the country's economic development and global competitiveness."

## Caretaker Sindh Interior Minister Visits FPCCI

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that, during his visit to FPCCI Head Office in Karachi on Tuesday, Brig. Haris Nawaz (Retd.), caretaker provincial interior minister for Sindh, has assured that his ministry will strive to improve the law & order situation in the province quickly; grabbed precious lands of the business community will be freed; safe city project for Karachi will be completed in under 2 years; street crime will be curtailed to the minimum possible level; menace of narcotics will be taken head on and an active liaison will be set up with trade & industry to make Karachi drive growth for the entire country.

Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the business community should be taken on board through formation of an effective committee between the representatives of the ministry and business community.

Mr. Shaikat Omerson, VP FPCCI, demanded that CPLC should be fully reactivated to promote community policing.

Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, maintained that people who do not need security or those who can afford their own security should immediately be made to surrender their police security with immediate effect.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI and Mr. Abdul Wahab G. M also highlight issues for the city and need immediate attention of the caretaker interior minister.

Brig. Haris Nawaz (Retd.), caretaker provincial interior minister for Sindh, assured a number of steps would be taken with full resolve: (i) government is fully committed to make Karachi a business-friendly city (ii) economic & commercial activities will be provided with the required security protection which is missing swiftly (iii) Karachi will be once again enabled to drive growth in the entire country (iv) raids will continue on drug peddlers and our educational institutions will be secured (v) crackdown on illegal dollar trading will continue (vi) smuggling will be stopped at every level (vii) elections will be held as and when announced by the election commission in a peaceful environment.



ISLAMABAD: While giving a press conference at National Press Club Islamabad, Blue World City Chairman Chaudhry Saad Nazir and CEO Chaudhry Naeem Ejaz said that Blue World City is located in the controlled area of FATA.

## SECP continues crack down on illegal loan apps

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As part of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) crackdown on illegal loan apps, it has been observed that some operators have started launching their illegal loan apps through Android Package Kit (APK) files, by using alternative channels such as websites, WhatsApp, etc. instead of uploading them on Google and Apple Play stores.

The general public is cautioned that illegal apps available through channels other than the App Store pose serious risks to the users, including fraud, misuse of personal information, blackmailing, harassment, etc. SECP, THEREFORE, WARNS THE GENERAL PUBLIC NOT TO

As part of SECP's surveillance activities, seven illegal

apps marketed on various websites have been identified and action has been initiated in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The shift in illicit app distribution technique is the consequence of actions against illegal lending apps initiated by SECP, in partnership with Google, FIA, and

PTA, which resulted in the removal of 120 illegal apps from the Google and Apple App stores.

An updated list of illegal apps has been placed on SECP's website for public information and the general public is advised to download only SECP's approved personal loan apps, available on SECP's website.



# Arshad Nadeem withdraws from the Asian Games 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem on Tuesday withdrew from the javelin throw final event of the ongoing Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.

Arshad Nadeem decided not to participate in the final due to the recurring pain in his previously injured leg. He suffered an injury during training, and the MRI reports identified the recurrence of the old injury consequently ruling him out of the Asian Games.

The final of the javelin throw event of the Asian Games 2023 is scheduled to be played tomorrow.

Arshad Nadeem is already having a roller coaster of a year as he made history in August by clinching a silver medal, at the World Athletics Championship. This was Pakistan's first-ever medal in the tournament's history.

Arshad Nadeem secured the silver with his best throw in his third attempt which went at a distance of 87.82 meters.



Arshad started things slowly with a 74.80m throw in his first attempt, however, he made a sounding comeback with an 82.81m throw in his second attempt.

His aforementioned third throw, proved to be his best in the season, going as far as 87.82 meters, while his fourth attempt could only go at 87.12m.

His fifth and sixth attempts failed to breach Neeraj Chopra's 88.17-meter mark, hence settling for a silver.

Prior to that, Arshad Nadeem secured his place for the final of the World Athletics Championship in Budapest, as well as, the Paris Olympics in 2024 in the qualifying round of the World Athletics Championship.

Arshad Nadeem started off the qualifying round of the javelin throw event with a 70.63m throw in his first attempt, while in his second attempt, he threw his javelin at a distance of 81.53 meters.

However, the Automatic qualifying mark for the final of the World Athletics Championship was 83 meters, while the benchmark for the Paris Olympics was 85.50 meters.

Arshad Nadeem breached both benchmarks in his third attempt with an amazing 86.79-meter throw, consequently qualifying for both events.

It is worth mentioning that Arshad Nadeem was declared fit for the World Athletics Championship earlier this month by the medical board, after being ruled out of the Asian Athletics Championship, due to an injury to his left knee.



Hyderabad: Group photo of FPS SHAHEEN and FPS SULTAN cricket teams Hyderabad along with Coaches Nadim Khan and Wasim Iqbal Rajput during T-10 match organized by FPS.

## Pakistan cricket team has ability to win World Cup 2023



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Leading Cricket Organizer. Umpire and Cricket coach Fayaz Bhatti has said that Pakistan cricket team has the ability to win the World Cricket Cup 2023 because Pakistan has a prominent place in the list of number one teams in the world, has a world class batsman, bowler and a captain like Babar Azam whose abilities the world is aware of. In a statement, he said that Pakistan is a former world champion and is a strong team that can turn the tide of the match at any time. When our team takes the field against the great teams of the cricket world, raise the flags of success

He further said that Chairman Cricket Board and Chief Selector of Pakistan Cricket Team Inzamam-ul-Haq, Pakistan's famous cricketer, wicket-keeper batsman Sarfaraz Ahmed. Fast bowler Mohammad Amir and

Imran Qadir should have been given a chance to participate in the World Cup Played in India

Fayaz Bhatti Said The Indian government is not issuing visas to Pakistani cricket fans and journalists, on which sports journalists and cricket fans are raising their voices. He said that like Australia, England and India, Pakistan will compete hard by reaching the semi-finals and will reminisce about the 92 World Cup So they will win the World Cup and the prayers of the nation are with their team.

## BCCI slammed for dirty seats in Hyderabad stadium



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan are chasing a daunting 352-run target set by Australia in the fixture.

The social media were filled with discussion about fixture with netizens predicting which side would win and which players will stand out in the game. However, netizens shared pictures of the unsanitary seating arrangements for the spectators at the venue. The visual showed the seats covered with bird waste.

The management came under severe criticism from social media over the arrangements. Here is what they said.

It is pertinent to mention that Hyderabad will host three official ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixtures. The matches scheduled to be played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium are:

Pakistan vs the Netherlands (October 6)  
The Netherlands vs New Zealand (October 9)  
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka (October 10)

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 will be staged in India from October 5th till November 14. Reigning champions England will take on the 2015 and 2019 finalists New Zealand in the opening game at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

Apart from Ahmedabad and Hyderabad, the matches will be staged in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamshala, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, and Pune.

# Babar's 90 not enough as Australia edge Pakistan to seal World Cup warm-up

A Sports

HYDERABAD: Fifties from Iftikhar Ahmed, Babar Azam and Mohammad Nawaz were not enough as five-time champions Australia edged out Pakistan by 14 runs in the warm-up match to boost their preparations for the ICC World Cup 2023.

Set to chase a daunting total of 352, Pakistan narrowly missed pulling off a confidence-boosting victory as they were bundled out on 337 in response.

Pakistan got off to a dismal start to the pursuit as they lost four wickets with just 83 runs on the board in the 15th over.

Following the slump, Pakistan's regular captain Babar Azam joined Iftikhar Ahmed in the middle and the pair launched an astonishing recovery.

Babar and Iftikhar put together brisk 144 runs, the majority of which, however, came against part-time bowlers like Marnus Labuschagne, David Warner and Steve Smith.

The pair dominated the part-time bowlers and had put Pakistan in command before Labuschagne broke the stand by dismissing Iftikhar, who scored 83 in 85 balls, hitting six boundaries and four sixes.

Babar, on the other hand, put on a brief partnership with Salman Ali Agha before opting to retire by the end of the 36th over.

He remained the top-scorer for Pakistan



stan with a quickfire 90 which came off 59 balls and laced with 11 boundaries and two sixes.

Following Babar's departure, Australia brought in their main bowlers and piled up pressure on the Pakistan batting tail, which crumbled and yielded wickets at regular intervals, resulting in the Green Shirts being bowled out in the 48th over.

Marnus Labuschagne led the bowling attack for Australia with three wickets, followed by Pat Cummins and Mitchell Marsh with two each while Sean Abbott and Glenn Maxwell made one scalp each.

Australian batters justified the decision of their captain Pat Cummins to bowl first as they made the most of the batting-friendly pitch to pile up a massive total in their last warm-up fixture before they take on hosts India in the campaign opener on Sunday.

Australia's opening pair of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh scripted a solid start to their innings as they dominated the Pakistan bowlers amid their brisk 83-run partnership.

Australian openers appeared to be heading towards the 100-run mark before Usama Mir pulled things back as he removed both set batters in his successive overs to mark Pakistan's comeback.

Warner scored a 33-ball 48, hitting

four boundaries and three sixes while Marsh played a cautious 31-run knock.

With the scoreboard reading 92/2 in 14.1 overs, experienced batter Steve Smith joined forces with Marnus Labuschagne and the duo kept Australia in command with a vital third-wicket partnership.

Smith (27) and Labuschagne (40) carried the momentum and added 59 runs to the total before they both fell in consecutive overs as Australia slipped to 153/4 in the 25th over.

Pakistan bowlers were looking confident to make a comeback after back-to-back success but Glenn Maxwell, coming out to at number six, launched an astounding counterattack.

The all-rounder smashed four boundaries and six sixes on his way to top score for Australia with a 71-ball 77 before finally perishing in the 41st over with 255 runs on the board.

He also stitched a magnificent 83-run partnership with Cameron Green, who, alongside Josh Inglis, added vital runs for Australia at the backend and returned with an unbeaten half-century.

Green scored 50 not out in 40 balls while Inglis fell just shy of his half-century as he scored 48 off just 30 deliveries.

Usama Mir was the pick among the bowlers for Pakistan, claiming 2/31 in his five while Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz picked one each.

# Aamer Jamal's blitz powers Pakistan Shaheens to Asian Games semi-final

Sports Desk

HANGZHOU: Aamer Jamal's blistering 41 off 16, followed by a combined bowling effort by spin bowlers helped Pakistan Shaheens qualify for the Asian Games 2023 semi-finals after thumping Hong Kong by 68 runs in the quarter-final match at Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field on Tuesday.

After being put into bat first, Pakistan put 160 on the board, courtesy of Aamer Jamal's fiery batting display at death.

In the second innings, the Qasim Akram-led spin attack proved too difficult a task for the Hong Kong batters who folded for 92 runs in 18.5 overs.

Nizakat Khan won the toss for Hong Kong and elected to field first. After a bumpy start to the innings, Pakistan



eventually ended with a solid total of 160, owing to Aamer's extraordinary hitting in

the final overs of the innings.

Coming to bat in the 17th over, Aamer took only 16 balls to score 41 runs, including four maximums and two boundaries.

Earlier in the innings, veteran Asif Ali and debutant Arafat Minhas stitched a partnership of 36 runs from 26 balls for the seventh wicket. Asif (25, 21b, 1x4, 2x6s) and Arafat (25, 16b, 2x4s, 2x6s) were the second-highest scorers after Aamer.

Hong Kong had an impressive day with the ball; Ayush Shukla ended the innings with four wickets and Mohammad Ghazanfar grabbed three wickets.

In turn, Pakistan spinners rose to the occasion, allowing the side to completely command the game. The Hong Kong batters fell victim to the web Arafat, Sufiyan Mueem, Qasim Akram and Khushdil Shah spun around them.

# Gurbaz's ton powers Afghanistan to thump Sri Lanka in World Cup warm-up

A Sports

GUWAHATI: Rahmanullah Gurbaz's century, paired up with Rahmat Shah's 93 propelled Afghanistan to a resounding six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the warm-up fixture of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Chasing a revised target of 257 in 42 overs, Afghanistan comfortably knocked off the runs with 23 balls to spare.

Afghanistan, however, had a contrasting start to their pursuit as they lost opener Ibrahim Zadran (7) with just 19 runs on the board in 6.4 overs.

Gurbaz then partnered with Rahmat Shah and the pair launched an astounding recovery

by adding a mammoth 212 runs for the second wicket.

The opener got to his century in the process while Shah was seven short of the milestone before both opted to retire by the end of the 32nd over.

Gurbaz top-scored with 119 in 92 deliveries with the help of eight boundaries and nine sixes while Shah hit 93 off 82 balls. His innings featured 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Najibullah Zadran (15) and Azmatullah Omarzai (14) then put together a match-winning 27-run partnership, steering Afghanistan to a morale-boosting victory.

Put into bat first, Sri Lanka could register 294 runs on the board despite a marathon

158-run knock by their stand-in skipper Kusal Mendis.

Sri Lanka got off to a below-par start to their innings as their openers raised a brisk 30-run stand before Mujeeb Ur Rahman got rid of Dimuth Karunaratne (8) in the sixth over.

Coming out to bat at number three, Mendis joined Pathum Nissanka (30) at the crease and the pair knitted a 52-run stand before the latter perished in the 13th over.

Following the slump, Mendis found subtle support in the form of Sadeera Samarawickrama and the duo anchored the innings with a brilliant 158-run partnership.

Mendis majorly dominated

the third-wicket partnership and notched up the 150-run mark before he opted to retire out when Sri Lanka were 240/2 in 30 overs.

He remained the top-scorer for Sri Lanka with a quickfire 87-ball 158 which featured 19 boundaries and nine sixes.

Following his departure, Sri Lanka began to lose wickets at an alarming rate before consequently bowled out for 294 in the 47th over.

Samarawickrama remained the next notable run-getter for Sri Lanka with a 54-ball 39 which included four boundaries.

Mohammad Nabi led the bowling attack for Afghanistan with 4/44 in his eight overs



while Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Azmatullah Omarzai, Abdul Rahman and Rashid Khan struck out a batter apiece. Meanwhile, Tuesday's third

warm-up fixture of the ICC World Cup 2023 between hosts India and Netherlands was abandoned without a ball bowled.

For the unversed, India's previous warm-up fixture against England was also washed out without a ball bowled.