



## World Bank's South Asia Practice Manager for Energy meets with Federal Minister of Privatisation

Simon Stolp, South Asia Practice Manager for Energy at the World Bank, and his team met with Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad, the Federal Minister of Privatisation in Islamabad. The primary focus was to discuss the government's agenda for privatization, with a specific emphasis... (Details on Page 6)

**DAYS REMAINING**

# 19

## Only 19 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 19 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

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## Call on

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Babet, Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces, calling on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters on Wednesday.



# Chief of Staff Qatar Armed Forces visits Air Headquarters

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation, led by Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today.

During the meeting, evolving regional security and geo-strategic environment, avenues of defence cooperation in the field of technology sharing and development alongside key areas of mutual interest were discussed.

On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented him guard of honour following which he was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Pakistan

Air Force.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of his vision concerning PAF's modernization drive to further augment current operational capability necessitated in contemporary hybrid warfare especially in Artificial Intelligence, Niche technologies, Cyber and Space domains. He also discussed about various ongoing projects of Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare. Appreciating the participation of Qatar Air Force contingent in Exercise Indus Shield at an operational air

base of PAF, the Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy historic and unprecedented brotherly relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation and training domains.

The Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces, praised the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. He also appreciated the dynamic efforts of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in steering PAF towards modernization. Both sides concurred to further optimize the existing military ties between the two countries, with a specific focus on advanced tactical training, emerging technol-

ogies and strengthening operational competencies especially in the spheres of electronic warfare and cyber technology. The dignitaries also discussed the potential for joint military exercises and exchange programs with an aim to facilitate the exchange of expertise, enhancing interoperability and fostering closer ties between Air Forces of both the brotherly countries. The Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces also visited different installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, including PAF's National ISR and Integrated Air Operations Centre (NIAOC) and PAF's Cyber Command.

Later, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military), which is the

highest Non-Operational Military Award, upon Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet at a momentous ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad. The recognition applauds the unparalleled commitment of the Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces to strengthening bilateral military ties and his dynamic role in advancing relations between Pakistan and Qatar.

The meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, PAF and Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces, serves as a testament to the commitment between the Armed Forces of both the countries in working together to address common challenges and the willingness to further strengthen their bilateral ties in the realms of defence and military cooperation.

# SOEs running into losses add to economic woes: PM



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the country was facing financial problems and those state-owned enterprises (SOEs) which had been incurring losses, were adding to these economic woes. The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting over the affair of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The meeting was given a detailed briefing over the different issues of PIA. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad, Adviser to PM Ahad Cheema and other relevant authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. SOEs running into losses add to economic woes: PM During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his concerns over the delayed

decision making with regard to issues of PIA. He stressed upon expediting the privatization process of PIA and other SOEs running into losses, adding that their losses could not be met with the public tax money. The caretaker prime minister said that reforms in the aviation sector could bring better facilities to the public. Transparency in the privations process should be ensured, he emphasised, adding fixing of responsibility for the losses was requisite so that necessary steps should be taken to avoid further losses. The meeting was apprised of the progress on the financial situation of PIA and its privatization process. All the hurdles in its privatization process were removed, it was further added. The prime minister directed for accelerating privatization of the national flag carrier to avoid further burden on the national exchequer.

# Dr. Shamshad Akhtar meets with Morocco Central Bank Chief

### News Desk

MOROCCO: Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, held a meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Morocco today, as part of her official visit to Morocco in conjunction with the annual meetings

of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). During the meeting, the two financial leaders engaged in substantive discussions, exploring avenues of economic cooperation and exchange of invaluable insights on economic matters of mutual interest, underlining the significance of global financial collaboration.

# How a secretive Hamas commander masterminded Al-Aqsa Flood

### Reuters

GAZA: Israel calls last week's devastating attack by Hamas its 9/11 moment. The secretive mastermind behind the assault, Palestinian fighter Mohammed Deif, calls it Al Aqsa Flood.

The phrase Israel's most wanted man used in an audio tape broadcast as Hamas fired thousands of rockets out of the Gaza strip on Saturday signalled the attack was payback for Israeli raids at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

It was in May 2021, after a raid on Islam's third holiest site that enraged the Arab and Muslim world, when Mohammed Deif began planning the operation that has killed more than 1,200 people in Israel, according to a source close to Hamas in Gaza.

"It was triggered by scenes and footage of Israel storming Al Aqsa mosque during Ramadan, beating worshippers, attacking them, dragging elderly and young men out of the mosque," the source said. "All this fuelled and ignited the anger."

That storming of the mosque compound, long a flashpoint for violence over matters of sovereignty and religion in Jerusalem, helped set off 11 days of fighting between Israel and Hamas.

More than two years on, Saturday's assault, the worst



breach in Israeli defences since the 1973 Arab-Israeli conflict, pushed Israel to declare war and launch retaliatory strikes on Gaza that had killed more than 800 people by Tuesday.

A survivor of seven Israeli assassination attempts, the most recent in 2021, Deif rarely speaks and never appears in public. So when Hamas's TV channel announced he was about to speak on Saturday, Palestinians knew something significant was afoot.

"Today the rage of Al Aqsa, the rage of our people and nation is exploding. Our mujahedeen (fighters), today is your day to make this criminal understand that his time has ended," Deif said in the recording.

There are only three images of Mohammed Deif: one in his 20s, another of him masked, and an image of his shadow, which was used when the audio tape was broadcast.

The whereabouts of Deif are unknown, though he is most likely in Gaza in the maze of tunnels under the enclave. An Israeli security source said Deif was directly involved in the planning and operational aspects of the attack.

# Palestinians in Gaza say Israeli bombardment feels like new 'Nakba'

### Reuters

GAZA: Palestinians in Gaza say Israeli bombardment has been so heavy they feel they are living their own "Nakba," the Arabic word for catastrophe that refers to the 1948 war of Israel's creation that led to their mass dispossession.

Israel on Tuesday pounded the Gaza Strip with the fiercest air strikes in its 75-year conflict with the Palestinians, leaving Gazans like Ples-tia Alaqaad, 22, running for their lives.

"The situation is crazy - literally no place is safe. I've personally evacuated three times since yesterday," said Alaqaad, who has been filming personal accounts of life under bombardment and posting them on her Instagram page.

After her apartment block was hit, she took refuge in a friend's home but then got a call it would be targeted too. After a brief stay in a hospital, where she charged her phone, she headed to another home to take shelter with journalists.

"Only yesterday I understood what my grandpa,



may he rest in peace, told me about 1948 and the Nakba. When I used to hear the stories about it, I didn't understand," she said via video call from a home in Gaza where she and others were seeking refuge from bombardment after the surprise Hamas attack on Israel.

"I'm 22 years old - and yesterday I understood the Nakba completely." More than seven decades after the Nakba, Palestinians still lament the calamity that resulted in their displacement and blocked their dreams of statehood.

In the war surrounding Israel's founding, some 700,000 Palestinians, half the Arab population of what was British-ruled Palestine, fled or were driven from their homes, and have been denied return. Many ended up in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria as well as in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

# SC Practice and Procedure Act declared legal

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has declared Practice and Procedure Act, 2023 legal.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa pronounced the short order, which was reserved earlier by a 15-member full-court bench after all respondents concluded their arguments.

The chief justice said that ten members of the full court bench out of 15 had declared the legislation passed by the Parliament with reference to the powers of the Chief Justice as correct.

The CJP said that the full court has declared the petitions filed against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023 as inadmissible by majority opinion.

He said that Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Syed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Ayesha A. Malik did not agree with the opinion of 10 judges of the Supreme Court.

The hearing is being broadcast live on state-run PTV, allowing the nation to witness the proceedings and the arguments presented by the lawyers.

The chief justice-led full bench comprises 15 judges - Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul

Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayeed Mazahar 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 is hearing the case. Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan in presenting his arguments before the court as all the petitioners, including the political parties, have completed their arguments.

Opposing the petitions, the AGP said Article 191 of the Constitution of Pakistan, allows the Parliament to legislate. The SC (Practice and Procedure) Act is not meant to snub the independence of the judiciary.

No article can take back the right to legislate from the Parliament, he added.

"The fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 14, 20, 22 and 28 are exercised in accordance with the law," Awan said, addressing judges of the apex court.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa in his remarks said that Parliament has trust in the judiciary so as the judiciary.

He said attempts to create differences among the Judiciary and Parliament should not be made. Neither the Parliament nor the Supreme Court consider each other enemies, the chief justice said.

At the previous hearing, Chief Justice Isa observed that Parliament must not be hampered from doing something good merely because it lacks a two-thirds majority.

The legislation limits the powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo motu notice and to constitute benches on his own. It gives the power of taking suo motu notice to a three-member committee comprising the chief justice and two senior most judges of the court.

SC practice and Procedure Act also aims to have transparent proceedings in the apex court and includes the right to appeal.

The PDM government had on April 10 passed the bill in the joint session of parliament after President Arif Alvi had returned the bill.

## Media briefing

ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Mr. Fawad Hassan Fawad, Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization briefing the media on Federal Cabinet decisions on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

## President stresses upon role of mosques in social development, imparting education to children

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed upon the effective role of mosques and pulpits in imparting education to children, besides preaching on social issues through Islamic teachings.

The president chaired a meeting on the role of the mosques and the pulpits in social development, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and provincial ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Relevant provincial secretaries, including from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and chief secretary of Gilgit Baltistan were also present.



The president observed that mosques and pulpits were the source of imparting education and local connectivity and played an important role in the social training and formulation of Islamic society.

Providing education to 27 million out of school children

was a huge challenge and for this purpose thousands of schools were required, he said, adding that about 250,000 mosques across the country could be used for increasing literacy rate.

The president suggested that during the Fajar and

Zuhar timings, children could be taught religious education, latest skills and education in mosques. He also called upon ulema, khateeb and religious seminaries to play their role for the social reforms, eradication of social evils like back-biting, intolerance and

fake news.

Increasing population, women's rights, interfaith harmony and promotion of tolerance were the significant social issues, he added. Commending the role of ulema, mosques and pulpits during Coronavirus pandemic, he said they created public awareness. The president opined that ulema could also create awareness in the society about different issues like diseases, malnutrition and mental and physical weakness.

The social linkages would be further strengthened with intensifying of religious, educational and social activities, he observed. During the meeting, the participants also presented different proposals regarding role of ulema on various important national and social subjects.

## Federal Govt sets production targets for Rabi season 2023-24

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A High-Powered Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA)'s meeting for Rabi Season (2023-24) is held on 11th October, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research at Auditorium, P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. Mr. S. M. Tanveer, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab, Mr. Asif Rafiq, Minister for Agriculture Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

Major General Shahid Nazeeq, DG, LIMS attended the meeting. The meeting had participants from Provincial Agriculture Departments, State Bank of Pakistan, ZTBL, National Fertilizer Development Center (NFDC), Pakistan Meteorological Department, Indus River System Authority and senior officers of the M/o National Food Security & Research, Chairman PARC and heads of Ministry's attached departments viz., Agriculture Policy Institute, Federal Seed Certification & Registration

Department, Pakistan Oilseed Department, Department of Plant Protection, Federal Water Management Cell and Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) also participated in the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the performance of the Kharif Crops (2023-24) and Production Plan for Rabi Crops (2023-24). The Committee also discussed the situation of inputs for Rabi Crops (2023-24). The Committee was informed that Cotton

production for 2023-24 is provisional estimated at 11.5 million bales from an area of 2.4 million hectares showing a bumper increase of 126.6% in production over the last year. Rice production for 2023-24 is provisional estimated at 8.64 million tons from an area of 3.35 million hectares showing an increase of 12.7% and 18% in area and production respectively over the last year. Mung bean production for 2023-24 is estimated at 143.6 thousand tons from an area of 198 thousand hectares showing

a decrease of 9.2% in area however, an increase of 6.4% in production over the last year. Mash for 2023-24 is estimated at 5.28 thousand tons from an area of 7.36 thousand hectares showing an increase of 12.95% and 24.65% in area and production respectively over the last year. The Chillies production for 2023-24 is estimated at 1.36 thousand tons from an area of 122.1 thousand hectares showing an increase of 1.4% and 2.3% in area and production respectively over the last year.

## ATC orders to release Sanam Javed Khan, other PTI activists

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) ordered to release Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed Khan and other party activists in May 9 violence case.

As per details, the anti-terrorism court accepted the bail pleas of Sanam Javed Khan and other PTI leaders including Afshan Tariq, Ali Hassan, Umair and Faisal Akhtar.

The bail pleas were accepted against surety bonds worth Rs 0.1 million each. The bail plea of PTI leader Robina Jameel was rejected by ATC.

Prior to this, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) women activists were re-arrested moments after release from

Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

As per details, policewomen force arrested the PTI activists and took them from Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore. The re-arrest came after the PTI women activists were released from jail but their families refused to take them home as they were fearing the re-arrest.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) had ordered to release Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed Khan and other party activists in Jinnah House attack case.

The court approved the bail pleas of PTI activists Sanam Javed Khan, Robina Jameel, Afshan Tariq, Ashma Shuja, Shah Bano, Faisal Akhtar, Qasim, Ali Hasan and Hussain Qadri.

## Shehbaz Sharif, Maulana Fazl agrees to move forward with 'consultation'

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday agreed to move forward with 'consultation and cooperation'.

According to details, the JUI-F head met former prime minister at the latter's residence in Model Town, Lahore and discussed the country's overall situation, including upcoming general elections.

During the meeting, the two politicians agreed to move forward with 'consultation and cooperation', saying that the



crises being faced by the country can only be dealt together. Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Maulana Fazlur for 'contributing' to saving Pakistan from bankruptcy in 16 months of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) tenure.

"During the 16 months, all political parties only thought of saving the state not the politics", the PML-N president said, adding that only consultation

and cooperation can bring Pakistan out of crises.

He expressed hope that the political and democratic system will be strengthened after the return of PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, Maulana Fazlur Rehman termed Nawaz Sharif's return a 'good news' for Pakistan. "The truth has been exposed that Nawaz Sharif was targeted for political revenge", he noted.

"Nawaz Sharif and his family were unjustly persecuted and this will remain a dark chapter in country's history," Fazlur Rehman said, adding that calling political leaders 'thieves' was a game of political engineering.

## Chief Justice AJK Supreme Court called on President Sultan

## Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court Raja Saeed Akram called on President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry

here today. During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual interest, including strengthening of state institutions, the judiciary and providing the provision of speedy justice to the people.

## Teachers are true architects of society: PM AJK



## Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while hailing the role of teachers in nation building, has said that teachers were the real heroes and true architects of society. While talking to a teachers' delegation that called on him here today, the PM said that the responsibility of the refinement of society rests on the shoulders of teachers who serve as key actors in shaping the future of the nation by nurturing young minds, imparting knowledge and unlocking intellectual potential. Describing teaching as a prophetic profession,

he said that teachers must play their proactive role to improve the standard and quality of education in the region. "Teachers must perform their duties honestly, give hundred percent results, and make sure that the future of children is bright", he said.

He said that the government was cognizant of the problems being faced by the teaching community. He assured the delegation that in addition to teachers' promotions, all their problems would be solved on a priority basis. "A cabinet committee has been constituted to solve the problems of teachers", the PM said, adding that suspended teachers would be reinstated. The government, he said, would ensure the protection of peoples' rights as per the constitution and law of the land. "I will continue to fight for the constitutional rights of the people of Azad Kashmir", he said, adding that when we talk about our legitimate rights we must not forget our duties and obligations towards the state. In order to improve the overall performance of government offices and departments, the PM said that biometric attendance has been made compulsory in schools, colleges and other government institutions.

## ECP should hold free, on time polls rather working on minus Khan formula: PTI

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson reminded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) its legal and constitutional role to hold free, fair and transparent elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe instead of working on the malicious minus Imran Khan agenda.

PTI spokesperson strongly reacted to the electoral watchdog's extraordinary eagerness and enthusiasm to speedily decide the politically-motivated, fabricated and false cases against PTI Chairman and said that the nation would not accept any unlawful and unconstitutional decision and action of the commission against Imran Khan come what may.

He said that the PTI strongly rejected the electoral body's all unconstitutional and illegal attempts to make Imran Khan a target of retribution and to minus him from politics.

PTI spokesperson went on to say that the ECP was playing a main stooge role in deviating from the constitution and murder of democracy in the country.

He recalled that the electoral watchdog's prejudice against PTI and Chairman Imran Khan was evident



from its unconstitutional and partisan actions during the last 17 months.

PTI spokesperson underlined that the electoral body's sole constitutional responsibility was to conduct free, fair and transparent elections within the constitutionally defined deadline; however the commission miserably failed in fulfilling its constitutional role in this regard.

PTI Spokesperson revealed that since they could not get the desired results in the concocted Toshakhana case, the ECP wanted to achieve the goals by implicating Imran Khan in the futile contempt of the commission case.

However, he made it clear that PTI neither scared of such unconstitutional and immoral tactics based on political vendetta and prejudice before nor would petrified now.

PTI spokesperson declared that PTI would never accept any illegal and unconstitutional decision or action of ECP against party chairman come what may.

## Chairperson BISP conducts surprise visit to Benazir One Window Center

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, made an unannounced visit to the Benazir One Window Center in Islamabad today. During this visit, he was accompanied by Mr. Naveed Akbar, Director General National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER).

The purpose of the visit was to personally inspect the operations and interaction with the beneficiaries present at Benazir One Window Center. Dr. Amjad Saqib was given a comprehensive brief by staff of One Window Center about its functions and operations.

The Benazir One Window Center is a unique initiative that brings together multiple organizations, including BISP, NADRA, PPAF, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Akhuwat, and HBL, under one roof. This consolidated approach streamlines and enhances the efficiency of services offered to beneficiaries.

At the One Window Center, beneficiaries can access services related to registration in BISP, eligibility assessment, enrollment of their children in



the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif program, and benefits from the Benazir Nashonuma Programme. On average, the center serves approximately 200 to 500 women beneficiaries daily.

During his visit, Dr. Amjad Saqib took the time to engage with beneficiaries who were there for registration and to receive their stipends under the Benazir Kafaalat program. He displayed a keen interest in understanding the challenges and issues faced by beneficiaries and inquired how BISP's financial support has positively impacted their lives and their families.

Dr. Amjad Saqib also conducted an inspection of the facilities and arrangements at the center, paying close attention to cleanliness, access to drinking water, and suitable shaded areas for beneficiaries waiting for their turn.

# Transit agreement has ruined the economy of Pakistan, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that anti-smuggling operations should be expedited and influential transit mafia should be arrested to end the crisis engulfing the country.

The transit agreement has been destroying the economy for decades; therefore, it should be revisited in the national interest, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government is discouraging unnecessary imports and taking action against the currency smugglers to save foreign exchange, but on the other hand, the transit mafia continues to inflict heavy losses on the country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the latest data indicates that the Afghan transit trade cargo

has increased by 39%, which is very alarming.

The transit mafia is active on both sides of the border and includes influential people from both countries. The transit trade agreement that has been going on for years has ruined Pakistan's economy, he added.

The business leader said that according to the customs data, 74316 containers went from Pakistan to Afghanistan in 2022, while in 2023 this number increased to 102886. According to the data, goods worth four billion dollars were transported in 2022, while in 2023 they reached 6.7 billion dollars.

However, it is also an open secret that many containers have other goods than those shown by importers and that many containers are emptied in Pakistani markets instead of going to Afghanistan.

All the wrongdoings are done with the connivance of the black sheep of the concerned departments, and if anyone raises his voice against them,



his life is made miserable, he informed.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the conditions for industrialization in Pakistan are already unfavourable, and even if smuggling is reduced, industrialists will continue to become property dealers.

Investment in the industrial sector in the country is considered a total loss, therefore the government has to suffer a huge loss in terms of revenue,

while the number of unemployed is increasing due to a lack of investment in the industry.

He said that after several decades, the country has launched effective anti-trafficking efforts as the survival of the country is at stake. Borders are being monitored, transportation of smuggled goods is being discouraged, and other measures are also in progress.

Apart from these measures, action is also needed against the powerful transit mafia that smuggles these items, and action is also required against those who sell them.

There are markets all over the country where smuggled goods are being sold openly and without any fear of law.

A complete ban on transit trade may require the strictest administrative action against those who destroy the domestic economy by benefiting from such agreements. He said that the economy must be fully documented to permanently remedy this evil.

# World Post Day celebrations and Stamp Exhibition inaugurated at Women University Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice-Chancellor the Women University, Multan Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha said that the Postal Department is the guardian of cultural traditions. It is inevitable to expose our youth to this culture of ancient times. In this regard, to celebrate this day holds an significant importance. She said we will also collaborate and sign MoU with Pakistan Post office Pakistan regarding their services in future. She expressed these views while addressing an event organized in collaboration with Directorate Students Affairs, Department of Mass Communication Women University Multan and GPO Multan in connection with the World Post Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Postmaster General South Punjab Zulfiqar Husnain, Chief Postmaster Multan Faiza Khalid Rao said that there is a



well-organized network of postal department in every corner of the country which is very efficient and fast. Through this active network, Pakistan Post is entrusting the trust of

customers at a very low cost. The eminent educationist, writer and historian Prof Dr. Hameed Raza Siddiqui said that the importance of Postal services cannot be denied

even in modern times. Manager Express Post Ishaq Baloch informed the participants about the services of Pakistan Post briefing about the UMS, EMS, EMO other services. Registrar

Women University Prof Dr. Mamoon Khan and Social Leader Executive Member APWA Mrs. Tahira Najam said that people had a lot of commitment to the Postal Department in the past, which needs to be restored in today's era. DSA Dr. Adeela Saeed Shahid Yusuf, Ticket Collector Muhammad Tayyab, Ms. Sadia Talib, Qaria Amna Irshad, Amna Aziz, Ms. Anam Zehra, Muhammad Rizwan, Ali Hussain Baloch, social leader Qari Muhammad Abdullah and others were present on this occasion. The program was hosted by Deputy Director Media and Publications Ms Sadia Talib while faculty members of Department of Mass Communication were members of organizing team. On this occasion, debate competition were also held in Urdu and English regarding Postal Service, in which students from different departments participated.

# 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.

He further said that until the provi-

sion vision of the System Application Products Program (SAP) comes from the AG office, we will continue to run office affairs from here.

On the other hand, Ayaz Wazir, a senior leader of Awami National Party, while talking to the media, said that after establishing a separate district of Lower South Waziristan of the provincial government, there is no justification for the District Accounts Officer to sit in another tank district.

Ayaz Wazir said that it is the biggest regret that the accounts officer of one district is sitting in another district to deal with office matters, so why doesn't it come here? The caretaker provincial government is treating us like a stepmother.

# 18th Biennial Conference of Pakistan Physiological Society concludes at KMU

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The 18th Biennial Conference of the Pakistan Physiological Society concluded in collaboration with Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar, Khyber Girls Medical College Peshawar and Rehman Medical College Peshawar. The concluding session of the conference was held in Dr. Hafizullah Auditorium KMU, where Pro-Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Rubina Nazli was the chief guest.

It is worth mentioning that the nationwide conference of the Pakistan Physiological Society is held every two years in different cities of the country. This year the conference was jointly organized by KMU, KGMC, and RMC. More than 500 delegates from all over Pakistan participated in the conference,



whereas 13 national and international physiologists discussed various topics in the conference.

As well as another highlight of the conference was the presentation of more than 80 research papers by faculty, postgraduate, and undergraduate

students. More than 30 posters and models were specially presented by junior participants in the conference. Prizes were also distributed among the first 3 position holders in these events. In addition, more than 250 scholars and faculty members were trained

in hands-on techniques through 12 pre-conference workshops.

Addressing the closing ceremony as a chief guest, Prof. Dr. Rubina Nazli, Pro-vice chancellor of KMU, praised the organizing committee for organizing this wonderful conference and hoped that such activities would be held regularly in the future as well. She said that gathering of more than five hundred physiologists from all over the country under one roof for three days will open new ways of development in this important field of medicine.

In the end, the chief organizer of the conference and director of IBMS Dr. Inayat Shah, besides thanking the participants, especially the guests who came from far away, announced the organization of the BMedCon2023 conference to be organized by IBMS in November this year. #

## Dream City dispute issue resolved in Kaira House



Correspondent

LALA MUSA: Dream City dispute issue resolved in Kaira House Members of Aftab Ashraf Gondal's Exemplary Committee Syed Ziaullah Shah Advocate Malik Muhammad Shabir Awan Khan Muhammad Aslam Kaleem Geelani came to Kaira House along with Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira and on this occasion of apologizing for the character of the Kaira family, all kinds of grudges will end.

Speaking on this occasion Syed Ziaullah Shah Advocate said that I and the entire committee are heartily happy that this matter has been resolved amicably. And I apologize to Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira on behalf of the entire Kharian city, why his character was killed by the people of Kharian, which is condemnable. Ahmad Qureshi Aamir Mushtaq Shani Kamran Ali Butt and Usman Aziz Qadri B were present.

## Full action has been taken against peddlers and hoarders: Rana Rizwan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Acting Commissioner Captain Retired Rana Rizwan Qadir has said that on the direction of the Punjab government, full action has been taken against peddlers and hoarders, in this regard 64 peddlers have been arrested by conducting 16,000 inspections in 10 days. He expressed this while presiding over the meeting of Price Control Magistrates yesterday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Faizan Ahmad Riaz and Assistant Commissioners attended the meeting. Acting Commissioner Captain Retired Rana Rizwan Qadir while addressing the meeting said that the sale and 16 cases have also been registered by imposing a fine of more than 9 lakhs on hoarding

Which helped in controlling the artificial inflation. He said that the price control magistrates should implement the official rates and lay hands on the big crocodiles and impose fines. Relief can be given to the people. Acting Commissioner Captain Retired Rana Rizwan Qadir said that strict inspection of grain markets and general markets is being done on the instructions of the Punjab government. He also gave a detailed briefing on the performance

## American instead of calling Hamas a terrorist should call Israel a terrorist country: Khawaja Sulaiman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Central Chairman of Tajran Pakistan Central Organization Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, South Punjab President Sheikh Javed Akhtar, President Battery Association and General Secretary Anjuman Tajran Kalma Chowk, Nawab Shahr Dera Ada Khawaja Talal Siddiqui, Chairman of Multan division Fahad Ishaq Sangi, Haji Nadeem Qureshi, Senior Deputy of South Punjab, Rana Muhammad Hashim, President of Al Makkah Plaza Chongli No. 14, Mirza Naem Baig, General Secretary of Multan, Mudassar Raja, Co-ordinator of Anjuman Adhitan Punjab Ghala Mandi Multan, have said that the American Instead of calling Hamas a terrorist, President Joe Biden should call Israel a terrorist country, which is trying to destroy the peace of the Muslim Ummah alongside Israel.

And the oppression and brutality on the oppressed Palestinians has come to an end, the day is not far when Palestine is free and the name and target of Israel will be erased from the page. Standing by the side of those who are struggling for their freedom and independence in the true sense, he further said that the Muslim Ummah should completely boycott Israeli products and completely terminate trade and diplomatic relations with it.

## Nawaz Sharif's journey back to Pakistan begins — after 4 years of exile

Nawaz has left London for Saudi Arabia for Umrah, after which he will reside in Dubai for three days and then fly to Pakistan in a chartered plane on October 21 to address a gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan, where he will chalk out his agenda ahead of next elections.



As Nawaz left Avenfield flats ending his exile, he was seen off by his staff, family members, and party workers.

He is accompanied on the Saudi visit by his close friend Mian Nasir Janjua, aide Waqar Ahmed, Karim Yousaf, and a few others. Janjua, the owner of MIDJAC company, spent nearly three years in exile in London with Nawaz and returned to Pakistan just a few months ago.

The PML-N supremo will reach Saudi Arabia for Umrah on Wednesday. He will stay in the kingdom for a week during which he will hold important meetings. He will arrive in Dubai on October 17.

The flight carrying Nawaz to Pakistan will have the name "Umeed-e-Pakistan", which can carry approximately 150 passengers. "The booking has been made and all arrangements are in place," said a source. Nawaz, along with party members and journalists, is scheduled to leave Dubai for Pakistan on October 21.

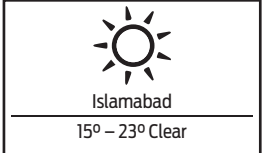
The special flight will land in Islamabad from Dubai before proceeding to Lahore, where Nawaz will address the gathering arranged by his party faithful.

Meanwhile, PML-N senior leader Ishaq Dar said there is no chance of Nawaz being arrested on return to Pakistan.

He said that transit bail and protective bail would be obtained from the court. "Nawaz Sharif will follow the standard legal procedures."

He said that PML-N's narrative will be focusing on the economy. Dar said: "Recovery of the economy is the best revenge."

The former prime minister arrived in London nearly four years ago in November 2019 in an air ambulance to seek medical treatment for multiple diseases after he was allowed to leave Pakistan by the Lahore High Court.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:46 am  
Zohr ..... 11:55 am  
Asr ..... 3:59 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:40 pm  
Isha ..... 7:02 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

**Dawlance Inaugurates its 400th Touch-Point for Consumers**



**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: In continuation of its commitment to deliver the highest quality of services, Dawlance – the technology-leading enterprise in Pakistan's Home-Appliances industry, has now inaugurated its 400th Touch Point, at its Lahore Service Center. This is a big milestone in the expansion of Dawlance's largest network of customer service all over the country.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance – Mr. Umar Ahsan Khan – stated: "It is a delightful moment for us, to promise easier accessibility, wider outreach and a higher level of customer care. Such robust investments also reflect the progressive vision of our global parent company – Arcelik, which is the second-largest manufacturer in Europe, based in Turkey. With our focus on excellence and after-sales service, Dawlance always exceeds the customers' expectations and evolving needs."

The complete range of Dawlance home appliances includes: Refrigerators, Deep-Freezers, washing machines, Dishwashers, Cooking Range and smaller kitchen appliances, with the same quality promised by the products from Turkey and the developed world. In recent years, Dawlance is also focused on exporting its quality products to other countries.

Since its acquisition in 2016, Arcelik has invested more than 36 Million Euros in this wholly-owned subsidiary – Dawlance, to inspire higher productivity and quality, through research and development. Every employee of this progressive enterprise is inspired to ensure compliance with global standards and best practices, at every level of operations.

# Embassy of UAE and Islamabad Diagnostic Centre collaborate for Breast Cancer Awareness Session

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of The United Arab Emirates and Islamabad Diagnostic Centre joined hands to host an essential Breast Cancer Awareness Session for Embassy personnel. Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq, Consultant Radiologist and representative of Islamabad Diagnostic Centre, delivered an insightful presentation at the Embassy's premises in the Diplomatic Enclave. The session focused on key aspects of Breast Cancer Awareness, the significance of early screening, and preventive measures.

Breast cancer remains a global health concern, underscoring the importance of raising awareness about early detection and prevention. Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq, a distinguished Consultant Radiologist, presented the latest advancements in breast cancer research, highlighted the importance of regular screenings, and discussed lifestyle practices for reducing the risk of breast cancer.

The collaborative effort between The

Embassy of The United Arab Emirates and Islamabad Diagnostic Centre demonstrates a shared commitment to public health and wellness. Embassy personnel, including His Excellency Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi, the Ambassador of The United Arab Emirates, actively participated in the session. Expressing gratitude, His Excellency Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi commended Islamabad Diagnostic Centre for their valuable contribution to the Breast Cancer Awareness Session, acknowledging Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq's expertise. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting a culture of health and wellness within the embassy community and beyond.

The joint initiative reflects a commitment to community well-being and underscores the collective responsibility of organizations to contribute to impactful public health campaigns.

About The Embassy of The United Arab Emirates: The Embassy of The United Arab Emirates in Islamabad



plays a pivotal role in fostering diplomatic ties between the UAE and Pakistan. Committed to community engagement and collaboration, the embassy actively participates in initiatives that contribute

to the well-being of its members. About Islamabad Diagnostic Centre: Islamabad Diagnostic Centre is a leading healthcare institution dedicated to providing advanced diagnostic

and imaging services. Committed to excellence and innovation, IDC aims to contribute to the well-being of the community by offering state-of-the-art medical diagnostics.

# S&P Global Pakistan receives multiple recognitions at the Best Place to Work Awards

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: S&P Global Pakistan has been recognised as one of Pakistan's top four companies to work for in the 'Overall Best Place to Work Category' which analyzed more than 300 companies. It also won the prestigious Best Place to Work recognition, Best Place to Work in the IT Services Industry, and Best Leaders Award. This reaffirms S&P Global Pakistan's commitment to building an inclusive and equitable culture that promotes its core values of discovery, partnership, and integrity.

Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director, S&P Global Pakistan, said, "I am delighted that S&P



Global Pakistan has received three awards and has emerged as a top contender in the Best of the Best Award category. The collaborative work culture has also contributed to the

company's success in attracting and retaining top talent. As we celebrate our success today, we look forward to further enhancing our workplace initiatives to ensure that

our people always remain at the heart of the organisation's success."

S&P Global's 'People First' philosophy enables them to place significant emphasis on well-being, offering initiatives that include flexible work arrangements, comprehensive healthcare coverage, skill development platforms, and mentorship programs. Under their recently launched People 10.0 policy, the organization has introduced a wide range of initiatives to support both the physical and mental health of their people, including wellness rooms and programs, paid parental leaves, and an interactive DEI learning & development platform, among others.

# Telenor Microfinance Bank Wins CFA Award for Gender Diversity

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Telenor Microfinance Bank (TMB), operator of Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform, easypaisa, has been honored with "Recognizing Gender Diversity at Workplace Award 2023" at the 20th Annual Excellence Awards by CFA Society Pakistan. This award is a testament to the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity, celebrating diversity, and empowering voices within its workplace.

The Recognizing Gender Diversity at Workplace Award is a prestigious recognition bestowed upon organizations



that have demonstrated exceptional dedication to promoting gender diversity and inclusion in their workforce. TMB's efforts in this regard have been

acknowledged by the CFA Society Pakistan, a member society of the global organization of finance and investment professionals, CFA Insti-

tute. The award was received at the 20th Annual Excellence Awards ceremony in Karachi, which celebrated outstanding performances of financial institutions, corporates, and professionals over the past year.

Sharing his thoughts on the achievement, Kashif Ahmed, Acting CEO & President, Telenor Microfinance Bank/easypaisa, expressed his gratitude, saying, "It is a moment of great pride for us to receive an award for gender diversity at workplace. This award is a testament to our unwavering dedication to fostering an inclusive workplace environment that values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.

# PTCL Group awarded the 'Best Place to Work in Technology & Telecom Sector'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has bagged the coveted 'Best Place to Work in Technology & Telecom Sector' award for its exemplary workplace culture and standards of employee satisfaction. The awards were held by Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM) and Engage Consulting.

PTCL Group's victory reflects the success of its initiative to transform its workplace culture. Over these years, the Group has undertaken profound initiatives to foster a progressive workplace, strongly grounded in diversity, inclusivity, equality, with personal and professional development. The company offers competitive remunerations, performance incentives, active mentorship, work-life balance, and mental and physical well-being to promote employee satisfaction.

Women and employees with special needs enjoy exclusive facilities, along with equal opportunities for growth and career advancement. The state-of-the-art infra-



structure and modern office facilities provide a comfortable and peaceful work environment, while strict disciplinary and work ethics codes protect all employees equally and transparently.

Group Chief People Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Shoaib Baig stated, "Embracing the award, PTCL Group stands tall in the industry. We're bold, unyielding, and hungry for success as we conquer every challenge in our path. With robust plans in telecom

and digital tech, we're on the lookout for top notch talent as we believe in expressing talent and adding value to our dynamic and inclusive environment, where potential knows no bounds."

The awards are a benchmark for recognizing the best companies to work for in Pakistan. PTCL Group being honoured in the list of winners is a testament to its commitment towards its positive organizational culture as well as the community at large.

# FFC ranks FIRST amongst TOP 25 Listed Companies of PSX consecutively for 13th time

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) instituted Top 25 Companies Award in 1994 to acknowledge the performance of the top companies. By the Grace of Allah Almighty, since then FFC is amongst Top 25 Companies of PSX.



FFC has once again been ranked FIRST for 13th consecutive time amongst the TOP 25 Listed Companies for the Year 2022.

The award recognizes the production competence, excellent financial and managerial performance of listed companies and provides them with a powerful marketing tool.

# Faysal Bank to offer State Life Window Takaful Operations at its branches: Agreement Signed



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a recent ceremony hosted at the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) Head Office – Window Takaful Operations of SLIC formalized a Distribution Agreement with Faysal Bank Limited (FBL). The agreement signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Yousaf Hussain, President and CEO of FBL, and Mr. Shoaib Javed Hussain, CEO of SLIC. Mr. Ahmed Anwar Hemani, Head of Institutional Sales & Wealth Management of FBL, and Mr. Tariq Saeed Chaudhry, Chief Takaful Officer of SLIC, signed the agreement while Mr. Jaudat Hussain, Head of Retail Banking FBL, and Mr. Muhammad Izqar Khan Executive Director of SLIC and senior officials from both organizations were also present.

This Distribution Agreement signifies that State Life's Takaful product, particularly the State Life Tayyab Takaful Endowment Plan, will now be accessible to all FBL customers at every FBL branch across the country.

Mr. Yousuf Hussain, the CEO of FBL, stated at the ceremony, "Our partnership with State Life for their Takaful Endowment Plan is, in fact, an important addition to our long list of initiatives. Moreover, this Agreement will provide yet another benefit to our valued customers who are an integral part of our rapidly growing Bank.

# 2-Day Int'l moot on Social Science kicks off at NUML



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: First 2-day International Conference on Social Sciences (ICoSS-2023) with the theme "Reconsidering Social Sciences Paradigms for Global Citizenship & Sustainable Development" organized by the faculty of social sciences, kicked off at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Wednesday. The chief guest of the inaugural session was caretaker federal minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mr. Aneeq Ahmed, while Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University was the keynote speaker. The Rector NUML Major General (Retd) Muhammad Jaffar, Director General NUML Brig Shahzad Munir, Pro Rectors, Deans, Directors, guest speakers, faculty members and students also attended the session.

Speaking on the occasion federal minister Aneeq Ahmed said that according to Quran seeking knowledge is obligatory for Muslims and it is time to differentiate knowledge and information. Human psychology is the main topic of the Quran, and the Quran encourages self-reflection, mindfulness, and self-control. He said that we are facing many issues, and we can only tackle those with knowledge. Minister was of the view that Islam teaches its followers, a peaceful coexistence with other societies and it is our duty to follow the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad SAWW.

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# The Role of ISPR, ISI, and MI in addressing internal and external threats - I

**Abdul Basit Alvi**

In the contemporary world, which is characterized by global interconnectivity and information-driven dynamics, the functions performed by military intelligence and public relations (PR) have undergone substantial evolution. To ensure a nation's national security and to cultivate a positive global image, the coordination between military intelligence and PR is of paramount importance.

Public relations revolves around the management of a country's reputation, both domestically and internationally. An adeptly designed PR strategy has the capacity to mold how a nation is perceived by its citizens and the international community. It plays a pivotal role in diplomacy, commerce, and foreign policy. In times of crises, such as natural disasters or geopolitical conflicts, PR professionals become indispensable for effective communication. They ensure the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the public, steer the narrative, and orchestrate humanitarian responses. This, in turn, contributes to the preservation of stability and national cohesion during turbulent periods. Additionally, public relations plays a significant role in advancing a nation's soft power. Through avenues like cultural diplomacy, educational exchange initiatives, and endeavors such as international aid and developmental projects, PR can cultivate positive diplomatic relationships with other nations and amplify a country's global influence.

On the other hand, military intelligence serves as the linchpin of a nation's apparatus for national security. It encompasses the gathering, analysis, and dissemination of information pertaining to potential threats, whether they originate from within the country or externally. The primary objective of military intelligence is to equip decision-makers with actionable insights to craft effective defense strategies and counter looming threats. An essential facet of military intelligence is its role in combating terrorism and insurgency.

Intelligence agencies diligently monitor extremist groups, their activities, and their sources of funding. This intelligence is pivotal for the planning and execution of counterterrorism operations, safeguarding civilians, and upholding law and order. Military intelligence agencies are also at the forefront of identifying and mitigating espionage threats, whether they emanate from adversarial governments or non-state actors. In the contemporary digital age, these agencies are additionally entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the nation's cyber infrastructure, shielding it from cyberattacks and information warfare.

In summary, the roles of ISPR, ISI, and MI have undergone transformation to encompass the management of a nation's reputation and the safeguarding of its national security interests. These agencies work in synergy to address internal and external threats, thereby ensuring the nation's well-being and its standing on the global stage.

The collaboration between military intelligence and public relations (PR) becomes evident through strategic communication. Precise and timely intelligence information serves as the foundation for PR professionals to craft effective messaging during military operations, crises, or diplomatic negotiations. This ensures that the government's actions are portrayed positively and aligned with the country's strategic goals. During critical moments, such as crises, the synergy between military intelligence and PR becomes indispensable. While military intelligence agencies provide real-time information regarding threats or disaster situations, PR experts oversee the flow of communication, address public concerns, and ensure that essential information reaches affected populations. Striking a delicate balance between national security and transparency is essential. The cooperation between military intelligence and PR aids in maintaining this balance by safeguarding sensitive information while simultaneously keeping the public informed within the confines of national security.

The Directorate-General for Military Intelligence, commonly referred to as "Military Intelligence" (MI), serves as the intelligence branch of the Pakistan Army and is headquartered at the Army GHQ in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. MI operates in coordination with the Air Intelligence (AI) of the Pakistan Air Force and the Naval Intelligence (NI) of the Paki-

stan Navy, reporting to the DG MI. All officers and enlisted personnel serving in MI are drawn from the Army. MI stands as one of Pakistan's five principal intelligence services and is entrusted with tasks such as monitoring the military capabilities of adversaries, conducting counter-espionage operations, identifying and neutralizing sleeper cells and foreign agents, and closely monitoring the activities of Pakistani Army officers. Notably, officers and soldiers of MI often appear in civilian attire. MI is led by a Major General from the Pakistan Army, holding a two-star rank, who serves as its head.

ISI poses a significant challenge to both our internal and external adversaries. This agency is tasked with the collection, processing, and analysis of information pertaining to Pakistan's security interests from across the globe. The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is a source of immense pride due to its invaluable contributions to Pakistan. Established in 1948, this branch of the Pakistan Army assumes a vital national role in gathering intelligence to ensure the country's security.

ISI ranks among the world's premier intelligence agencies, renowned for its professionalism, efficiency, and well-organized structure. Within the Pakistan Army, ISI functions as an integral and discreet force, playing a pivotal role behind the scenes in safeguarding the nation. Similar to intelligence agencies worldwide, ISI is dedicated to countering potential internal and external threats. It serves as the vigilant eyes and ears of the state, tirelessly protecting Pakistan's national interests and its people.

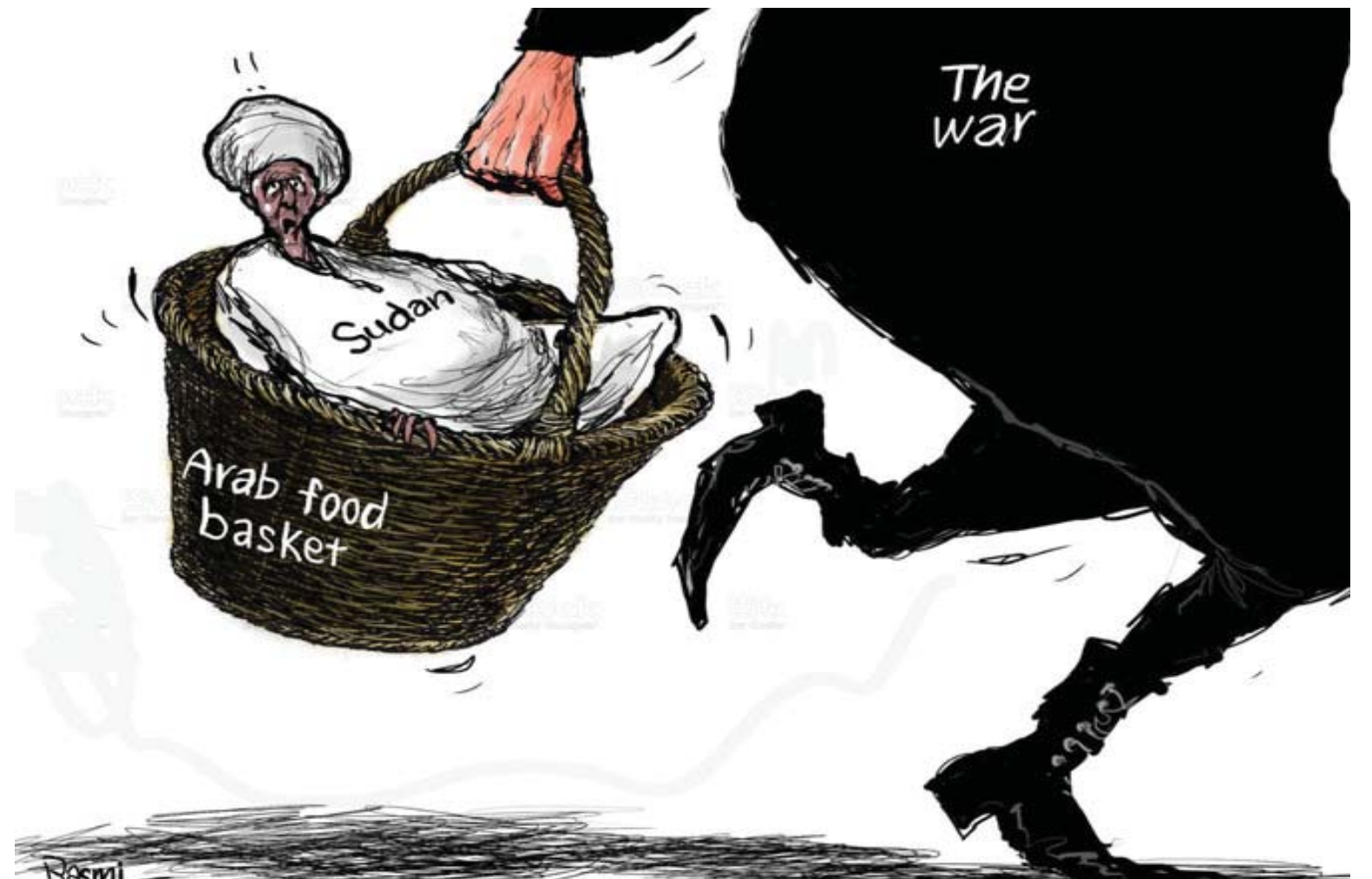
*To be continued*



**Abdul Basit Alvi**

## OIC's special envoy visit AJK

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef M Al-Dobeay on Wednesday demanded India to reverse its illegal and unilateral action of changing the autonomous status of J&K and grant the people of the valley their due rights. In a joint press stakeout along with Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the visiting OIC envoy said the OIC would continue to support Kashmiris for their right to self-determination. The OIC's Special Envoy is in Pakistan and will also visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir to undertake a first-hand assessment of the human rights and the humanitarian situation in the valley. Yousef Al-Dobeay expressed concern over the illegal and unilateral actions taken by India on August 5, 2019, that turned the Kashmiris into a marginalized minority. He said his visit to AJ&K was about getting knowledge about the factual and on-ground situation in the valley ahead of the upcoming 15th OIC Islamic Summit to be held in Gambia this December. He mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir was an old agenda at the platform of OIC, where the organization from time to time strongly condemned the human rights situation in the Indian-held Kashmir. The OIC envoy recalled that the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that met on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of J&K. He said the meeting also expressed deep concern over the persistent curbs on the fundamental rights and freedom of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The OIC envoy appreciated the government of Pakistan in highlighting the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the international fora and expressed the OIC's resolve of its continued support to the cause. Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi said the meeting with the OIC envoy focused on a comprehensive discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the ongoing human rights violations committed by India in IIOJK. He said the OIC envoy will visit the Line of Control (LoC) where he will receive a briefing on the on-ground situation. He would also interact with the Kashmiri representatives to gain a better understanding of their plight, he added. The foreign secretary mentioned that OIC's Special Envoy on Jammu & Kashmir was tasked with a significant mission. "He serves as a vital bridge with the OIC General Secretariat, OIC mechanisms like the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and Islamic Development Bank, OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir, broader membership of the OIC, other regional and international organizations and the international community, on matters relating to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, he added. He said the curbs on fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people remained persistent. He pointed out that the entire Hurriyat political leadership – the genuine voice of the Kashmiri people – had been arbitrarily incarcerated for the past several years. The total number of detained political activists and human rights defenders comes to around 4,000, he added. He mentioned that the Indian authorities had sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik, who was awarded a life sentence, last year. Another Kashmiri leader, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, has spent over half of his 70 years' life in jails, he added. "India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 have opened a new chapter of oppression. The ultimate aim of these steps is to convert Kashmiris into a disempowered minority in their own land," he said. He said Pakistan expressed gratitude to OIC for its profound support to the Kashmiri people through its resolutions demanding a lasting solution to the J&K dispute. The OIC Special Envoy Yousef M Al-Dobeay is visiting the region under the OIC Plan of Action on Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, he visited the region in November 2021 accompanying the OIC Secretary General and in March 2020.



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

## SIFC—another hallmark after CPEC

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a significant, sincere and feasible effort to invite investment from our friendly countries, which will enhance economic activity on the one hand and at the same time bring close people to people relationship. At present we have ideal friendship with Saudi Arabia, Turkiya and China.

The SIFC is a civil-military joint initiative. Therefore, it has taken rapid decisions in holding several meetings and concluding agreements with friendly nations. From inception it has commenced its activities as a mission, as a mandate for targeted investment.

In its top level five meetings, so far held, mostly attended among others, by the Army Chief in person, who is in fact a kingpin in controlling course of smuggling, dollars, menace of terrorism, above all he has rightly realize the explosive danger of Afghani nationals hidden in Pakistan, misguided by our enemies, the lurking mechanism of economic devastation by illegal Afghani residents in Pakistan.

A thorough presentation has been delivered elucidating SIFC's multifaceted role as a single window platform dedicated to facilitating potential investors from friendly nations.

It has been highlighted in meetings so far held with foreign business dignitaries that Pakistan recognizes the importance of providing attractive tax incentives with concession in revise visa policy through SIFC platform. These measures are aimed at ensuring that investment in Pakistan from friendly countries are not only lucrative but also efficient, contributing to thriving business enterprises. Our most reliable brother country Turkiya has sent delegation to examine the facilities and sureties guaranteed under the auspices of SIFC. Japanese delegation has also visited Pakistan to evaluate the facilities offered

by SIFC. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to cooperate in IT sector.

Notwithstanding the fertile efforts undertaken under the umbrella of SIFC, it should also be seriously contemplated as to why, after all, such admirable efforts were strangled and foiled in the past. The PIA, a monopolistic institution, a symbol of shining Pakistan, has been destroyed. Nobody cared that when the institution is going in loss, the facility of free trips local and abroad, to its staff should be stopped. The WAPDA underwent tremendous line losses due to inefficiency of the staff, still nobody stopped free supply of electricity to its staff costing annually \$2 billion rupees. Railways going in loss but free ticket to staff is being enjoyed.

Another woeful factor is the princely attitude of the Administrative Civil Service which also enjoys the powers of a magistrate. They are highly decorated, full of prestige and protocol, a symbol of colonial rule. Why did they fail to control smuggling, price hike, hoarding, street crimes etc. They enjoy flag which demands police guards under flag rules. A major chunk of police force is deployed for this service and the public at large is being looted in the open streets.

They occupy, in addition to their cadre posts, ex-cadre post of technical departments which practice not only reserves in injustice to the promotion rights of the technical cadres but also the developments schemes are not completed in time due to their inefficiency and funds are lapsed. It is also a bitter fact the Administrative Service has badly failed to control their lowest tier of service namely the Patwari who is a cause of major part of litigation before the courts.

The head of services in provinces is the chief secretary, who is mostly taken from the Administrative Service and he is mostly inclined to this group and he fails to dispense justice to other group of service. In Azad Kashmir, as an exam-

ple, the District Management Group has occupied 18 posts of secretary to government out of 23 total posts. The Chief Secretary, under the Rules of Business 1985, is supposed to maintain equilibrium among all classes of civil service. The DMG has also occupied all posts of decision making offices like the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and Secretary Services. The deplorable position of AJK government governance is apparent from the fact that constitutional institution of Public Service Commission has been lying vacant for several months.

How commendable projects are sabotaged should also be checked. The government granted increased in salaries upto 30% with full knowledge that they had no funds to finance liabilities. Now to sabotage the CPEC and SIFC, the government has ordered the freeze of salary and pension of all employees. This decision goes against the interest of bureaucracy which is the only instrument to execute and implement the projects. If they are disgruntled their performance will be impaired.

In the recent past, the NAB sent behind the bars jem officers of the bureaucracy who were later acquitted from all charges after going through the turmoil. The NAB crippled the initiative of bureaucracy. Chief Justice (Retired) Saqib Nisar humiliated a District and Sessions Judge, a Revenue Commissioner, a Vice Chancellor was in chains for granting admission to students, he humiliated a Medical Doctor of international fame who had volunteered from USA for service in his homeland Pakistan. These events demoralize the bureaucracy. The results of such events is that only 3% candidates have qualified the examination of Central Superior Services of Pakistan due to lack of attraction in civil service. Justice demands to withdraw the undue perks and restore the due rights including the morale of bureaucracy.

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

## Is there any probability of World War 3? - I

**Saman Sarfaraz**

U p till when Hamas will fight? Can fierce Israel Palestine War give rise to World War 3? Are Israel Palestine's ongoing obnoxious Clashes confined to Israel and Palestine only? Which one of these is right and which one is wrong? Whether Israel will vanish away from earth or Palestine? These are some inevitable questions. Ranging from Oslo Accord to the Camp David agreement, peaceful negotiations took place from time to time. Among Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and UAE. Notwithstanding, Israel Palestine's wars starting from Arab-Israeli War (1948) till today has never stopped. It is not a mere a territorial conflict between two rather it is fulfilling the Samuel P. Huntington's arguments of war "The Clash of Civilizations". Indeed religion is the major bone of contention between Israel and Palestine. From Palestinian point of view Israel has crossed there line by restricting Muslims from offering prayers. Moreover, illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has deteriorated the situation. Other reasons were Geopolitical changes taking place in the Middle East, prevailing threat to Ibrahim Mosque and Israel's internal protests against the judicial system. Hamas has carried out an unprecedented attack on Israel by launching thousands of rockets within a short span of time. Everyone is foreseeing two different blocks forming in Israel Palestine conflict. Western World and the Muslim world, Western world is condemning initiation of fight from Hamas, by considering Palestinians terrorist they continuously are infavor of Israelis. On the flip side, for Muslims Palestinians are freedomfighters merely fighting for their existence and snatching territory.

If you look at scenarios of World War 1 and 2, the conclusion can be easily made about formation of two different blocks then initiation of a full-fledged bloody war. As far as the aforementioned contemporary scenario is concerned, if Israel Palestine conflict remains spreading it can acquire the status of full-fledged World War. Joe Biden initially proclaimed US's stance firmly by standing on Israel's side, this didn't stop there USA has sent its Naval Fleet to support Israel by providing fighter jets and other armaments. A warning from US and Israeli Along with this UK, France, India, Germany and Canada have raised a strong voice against Hamas's confrontation on Israel land, air and sea. USA has sent its biggest naval fleet towards Israel that contains nukes, F35 Fighter jets and other advanced weapons. Antithetically, countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Spain, Ireland, Turkey and Lebanon are openly supporting Palestine. Iran has celebrated the attack on Israel, additionally, it is giving free oil and medical camps to Palestinians. Lebanon's Hezbollah, backed by Iran has attacked Israel from the Northern side. Afghanistan, although hit by a catastrophic earthquake, still found a passage from Iran or nearby to destroy Israel. However, Saudi Arabia has supported Israel by warning Israel against provocations, although, two weeks ago Israeli Communications Minister officially visited The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has restraint both parties for further exacerbation of the Israel Palestine clash. Although some of Muslim states aren't explicitly raising voice against Israel because of their vested interests, they do support the ideology of Palestinian Freedom fighters in disguise. Iran, Afghanistan and Lebanon and Jordan are active players in the Middle East as far as the Israel Palestine conflict is concerned.

*To be continued*

# ISSI hosts Roundtable discussion with Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion with Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay, Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for Jammu and Kashmir/ Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs.

Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director ISC in his introductory remarks welcomed the delegation and highlighted OIC's consistent support to Pakistan's stance on Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said OIC has always raised a strong voice for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Other participants included Mr. Ghulam Muhammad

Safi, Former Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC); Ms. Farzana Raqoob, former Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Affairs; Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, former Ambassador of Pakistan and Vice Chairman of Academics IPS; Advocate Nasir Qadri, Chairman of Legal Forum for Kashmir; Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Member, APHC; and academics and young university students.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood warmly welcomed the delegation and emphasized how Pakistan has been playing a crucial role as a founding member of OIC.

Expressing deep concern

over the current Palestinian situation, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stressed that Palestine and Kashmir were two of the oldest disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Both disputes related to the inalienable right of self-determination. And both remain unresolved due to the obstinacy of the occupying powers. He added that the OIC had consistently and unequivocally supported the Kashmiri right to self-determination as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Special Envoy Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay underlined that there was a dire need to raise awareness regarding the Jammu and Kashmir dispute that concerns Muslims around

the world.

He reaffirmed OIC's abiding support for the Kashmir cause and added that the OIC had never supported India's illegal actions in the occupied territory. He reiterated OIC's demand that the steps taken by the Indian government on 5 August 2019 be reversed.

Ambassador Yousef added that Pakistan was looked at as a leading country in the Muslim world and it had played a pivotal role in securing the UN resolution on combating Islamophobia.

Chairman BoG ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded the session while appreciating the OIC's historical and steadfast support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



## Call on

ISLAMABAD: The Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Salem Hamad Eqail Al-Nabet, along with the members of his delegation, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## British High Commissioner Jane Marriott celebrates 40th anniversary of Chevening scholarships

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Some of the 2,000 Chevening alumni from across Pakistan have been brought together to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the UK's flagship higher education scholarship.

At a special reception hosted by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE, scholars and fellows who have benefitted from the scheme paid tribute to the 'life-changing' programme.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "It has been a privilege to host so many brilliant minds working in different sectors, united by their shared Chevening story. Days like today showcase the true value of Chevening – the journey does not stop on the completion of studies. Over 40 years, we



have developed a global network of over 50,000 alumni, many of whom play key leadership roles in their countries."

Chief data and strategy officer Jazz, Ali Naseer said "It's been 25 years since my Chevening year, but it remains a pivotal moment for me. It showed me various ways to aid Pakistan's growth. Even outside the public sector, I believe my efforts still make a significant impact."

Health management expert, Dr Huma Qureshi

said "Chevening helped me combine management and clinical expertise, enhancing performance in the health field. Thank you, Chevening!"

Applications for Chevening scholarships to study in the UK are open between 12 September and 7 November 2023 – applications can be made on the Chevening website www.chevening.org. The scholarships are fully funded, including fees, flights, visas, accommodation and some spending money.

# Astana hosts 21st Session of Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

**Spokesman Report**

Astana Astana hosted the 21st Session of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Religious leaders and their representatives from 23 countries discussed the progress in implementing the Declaration of the Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. The Session also approved the Development Concept of the Congress for 2023-2033, prepared on the instructions of the Head of State. This round table at the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation gathered representatives of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Shintoism and other religions, as well as international organizations.

Opening the Session, Maulen Ashimbayev, Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chairman of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, read out the address of the President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the Session participants. The Head of State noted that over the two decades, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions has significantly facilitated the interfaith peace and harmony, promoted ideas of tolerance and mutual support, and helped to address major global challenges.

"The platform voices ide-

as and proposals aimed at peace-keeping, fostering dialogue and culture of mutual respect and cooperation. In lights of the current difficult international situation, the importance of values such as morality, kindness, and humanism is growing. To overcome the fundamental challenges facing humanity, it is important to develop a new international security system. To that end, we need to join global efforts advocating peace and stability. In contemporary conditions, spiritual leaders can play a major role. I am confident that the world's religious leaders will work together to contribute to the resolution of global issues facing humanity. These and other important issues will be discussed at today's Session of the Secretariat. I am confident that the Session will be meaningful and fruitful," the welcoming address states.

In his remarks, Maulen Ashimbayev, Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chairman of the Secretariat of the Congress, also emphasized the uniqueness of this dialogue platform. He noted that the format of the Congress, as an open and honest interfaith dialogue with the participation of reputable political and public figures, and heads of international organizations, allows us to comprehensively consider pressing issues of global development and to call for the resolution of conflicts and



disputes based on mutual respect and understanding. The Speaker also noted the Congress contribution to mitigating a "clash of civilizations" and conflicts on religious grounds. Maulen Ashimbayev emphasized that spiritual and moral values, and culture of tolerance and dialogue, should be the unshakable pillars of the contemporary society. They should underpin the new world order and are reflected in the outcome Declaration of the Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

"President of our country Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly that Kazakhstan promotes interreligious and interfaith dialogue as an integral

element of a culture of peace and harmony. We are concerned by the actions of provocateurs, who are trying to manipulate the religious beliefs for self-serving purposes. Burning sacred scriptures and insulting religious symbols is vandalism that incites hostility between peoples and religions. Such inadmissible and barbaric actions, as the Head of State noted, have nothing to do with freedom of speech. These values can provide peace and a solid foundation for a new world order. The role of leaders of world and traditional religions in this process is very important," the Speaker of the Senate stressed.

During the Session, the participants approved the Development Concept of the Congress for

2023-2033, prepared on instructions of the President. The document is aimed at deepening the cooperation of the Congress with UN agencies and other credible international entities to expand the circle of partners and the geography of the forum's activities.

"The Concept offers an updated vision of the development of our forum for the coming years. The key novelty in the draft Concept is the expansion of the mission of our Congress. World religious leaders, united, could make a significant contribution to overcoming the global problems of the modern world – poverty, inequality, and disintegration. The can contribute to the cessation of wars and

conflicts, and spread a culture of dialogue and mutual respect. The Concept outlines the mechanisms for promoting the Congress' mission at a new stage. It is proposed to introduce the institute of Goodwill Ambassadors of the Congress. It is planned to hold a Forum of Young Religious Leaders. The Concept should lay a clear vector for the dynamic development of our forum for the coming years," said Maulen Ashimbayev, as he dwelled on the key areas of development of the Congress outlined in the Concept.

Religious leaders noted the special importance of the work of the Kazakhstan Congress during their speeches. The importance of combining the efforts of religious and political leaders to achieve mutual understanding and harmony between religions and cultures was emphasized. The spiritual leaders also focused on the scale of the issues raised within the framework of the Congress aimed at fulfilling the common mission of all participants of the Congress – maintaining peace and interfaith harmony.

In addition, during the meeting, the ceremony of awarding the participants of the Secretariat meeting with state awards of the Republic of Kazakhstan and commemorative medals of the Congress took place. Thus, for his contribution to the formation and development of this dialogue platform, the Order of Dostyk II degree was awarded to the Chair-

man of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, Sheikh-Ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, and a number of participants were also awarded Shapagat medals and Honorary Medals of the Congress.

Following the meeting, its participants adopted a communique in which its participants noted the successful 20-year activity and the important creative role of the Congress, and also supported the idea of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the need to create a new global movement for peace in order to build a solid system of international security and overcome acute challenges and problems. In particular, it was noted that a significant step in the practical implementation of this idea is the Initiative on World Unity for Just Peace and Harmony, put forward by Kazakhstan as Chairman of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The meeting participants also decided to hold the next XXII meeting of the Congress Secretariat in autumn 2024 in Astana.

On the same day, a solemn ceremony was held to extinguish the anniversary postage stamp, specially issued on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Issued in a circulation of 10 thousand pieces, it will be added to the philatelic catalogs of the world.

# American Business Council Extends a Warm Welcome to U. S. Consul General City Desk

KARACHI: The American Business Council Pakistan (ABC) hosted an exclusive welcome and CEO Roundtable session on

"Diplomacy and Business Relations: US Support to Pakistan's Business and Economic Environment" for U. S. Consul General Conrad Tribble and his team in Karachi.

The Executive Committee of ABC, along with about 20 CEOs and senior

management of ABC's member companies, were in attendance.

Mr. Jamshed Safdar, President of the American Business Council Pakistan, kicked off the event with a warm welcome address. "We are honored to host U. S. Consul General Conrad Tribble and his team. Their presence underscores the importance of strengthening ties between American businesses and U. S. Consulate Karachi. Today's session

promises to be a catalyst for valuable partnerships and shared opportunities."

Following Mr. Safdar's remarks, U. S. Consul General Conrad Tribble spoke about the important relationship between the United States and Pakistan. "Pakistan is a key partner for the United States, and events like these provide us with a platform to connect, share perspectives, and explore avenues for mutual growth. I am excited to engage

with the American business community and look forward to building stronger bonds between our nations."

The United States has been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years and is Pakistan's largest export market, with potential for further growth. In 2021, the United States imported nearly \$5.3 billion in Pakistani goods—more than Pakistan's second and third largest countries of export combined. Overall,



U. S.-Pakistan trade stood at over \$9 billion in 2022, up from \$6.8 billion in 2020.

The highlight of the event was a dynamic question-and-answer session,

affording ABC member companies a unique opportunity to engage directly with the Consul General and his team. The evening concluded with a convivial Hi Tea.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
48,474.54	48,140.27	
Day's High	Day's Low	
48,516.64	48,208.30	
Index Value	Change	
8,174,256,412	+334.27	
Percentage	Time	
+0.69%	11 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,620.03	-8.18	
Percentage	Time	
-0.11%	11 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,622.32	-116.98	
Percentage	Time	
-0.35%	11 Oct, 1:46 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
31,936.51	+189.98	
Percentage	Time	
+0.60%	11 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177
Bahrain Dinar	745.2	753.2
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.56	38.96
Danish Krone	39.9	40.3
Euro	290.1	293
Hong Kong Dollar	35.83	36.18
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.53	915.53
Malaysian Ringgit	59.23	59.83
New Zealand \$	169.29	171.29
Norwegians Krone	25.95	26.25
Omani Riyal	727.78	735.78
Qatari Riyal	76.98	77.68
Saudi Riyal	73	73.7
Singapore Dollar	201	203
Swedish Korona	25.8	26.1
Swiss Franc	309.97	312.47
Thai Bhat	7.66	7.81
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	345.6	349
US Dollar	276.5	279.25

# World Bank's South Asia Practice Manager for Energy meets with Federal Minister of Privatisation

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Simon Stolp, South Asia Practice Manager for Energy at the World Bank, and his team met with Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad, the Federal Minister of Privatisation in Islamabad. The primary focus was to discuss the government's agenda for privatization, with a specific emphasis on the performance of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) in Pakistan's power sector.

Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad explained the government's privatization agenda, taking into account legal mandate of the Caretaker Government, with the aim of assisting struggling DISCOs and reducing the government's financial burden through private sector investments. The Minister also stressed the need for a two step strategy for privatisation of DISCOs, potentially involving a concessional model of management control with subsequent divestment strategy. Discussions with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) regarding a concession model for DISCOs were highlighted.

The Minister of Privatisation conveyed that



he was actively engaged in discussions with the Minister of Energy to create a structured time-line for the divestment of DISCOs, beginning with concession agreements. Both ministers

mutually agreed that this approach represented the most suitable path forward. The Federal Minister also highlighted the current public opinion favouring privatization as a means to alleviate the financial burden on the national exchequer.

Mr. Stolp reiterated the World Bank's commitment to supporting different aspects of this transaction in the long term, emphasising the importance of a well-structured transaction template for DISCOs. The World Bank's team of energy specialists pledged to present a template forum the most suitable mode of privatization for DISCOs to Ministers of Energy and Privatisation within a week. This template would be refined with expert opinions to support ongoing power sector reform efforts.

This meeting signifies a united effort to reform and privatise Pakistan's power sector, with the primary goal of addressing financial challenges faced by DISCOs while promoting economic growth and long-term sustainability. The commitment to this endeavour is strong, with careful consideration given to every aspect to ensure its success.

## Success of Gems and Jewellery Show 2024 Can Boost Our Exports: FPCCI-TDAP

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: The Core Committee meeting on Gems and Jewelry Show 2024 was held at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad yesterday led by Mr. Umar Masudur Rahman Vice President FPCCI. The meeting was attended by Mr. Saqib Rafiq President Rawalpindi Chamber, Petron Chief APCEA Haji Mamoor Khan, Chairman Syed Minhaj ud Din Bacha, Chairman Mining Association, Farukh Alvi, RCCI Members Akhtar Amin, Muhammad Fayaz Qureshi, member Islamabad CCI Ayesha Asif, and Trade Development Authority Islamabad representatives Ishaq Shinwari and Moin Ahmed.

Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI said that he believed the Gems and Jewelry Show 2024 would go a long way to showcasing gemstones in the international market. He appreciated the role of TDAP Islamabad to bring all related trade bodies on our platform under the patronage of TDAP and FPCCI to organize a befitting show to attract foreign buyers. The Gems expo will be jointly organized by TDAP & FPCCI, ICCI, RCCI, APCEA, PAGJTEA, PGMA.

During the meeting, the participants also appreciated the role of FPCCI and Trade Development Authority while presenting



various suggestions regarding the success of the show and increase exports of this sector.

Mr. Saqib Rafiq President Rawalpindi Chamber, Petron Chief APCEA Haji Mamoor Khan, Chairman syed Minhaj ud Din Bacha, Chairman Mining Association, Farukh Alvi, RCCI Members Akhtar Amin, Muhammad Fayaz Qureshi, member Islamabad CCI Ayesha Asif, and TDAP representatives Ishaq Shinwari said that Pakistan's gemstone and jewelry sector is currently suffering due to low exports, undergoing a massive fall in the last five years. In 2016-17, the exports of the industry stood at \$5.8 million, down 99% compared with \$921.8 million in 2011-12.

"With the help of foreign investment and machinery, we can increase our gemstone and jewelry exports to \$5 billion in just 3 years, Pakistan have the finest craftsmanship and other Countries have technology. Together, we can promote exports of the industry."

The Participation of the meeting said that we believe on working jointly with the private sector to boost our country's export and assured that TDAP Islamabad will facilitate the business community of KP Province and Gilgit Baltistan. He shared various proposals for necessary collaboration with FPCCI to push the trade and economic activities to boost the exports.

## Fakt Exhibitions All Set to Host '3P - Plas, Print, Pack, Pakistan'

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Fakt Exhibitions is all set for the forthcoming inauguration of the "3P - Plas, Print, Pack, Pakistan" - International Exhibition for the Plastic, Printing & Packaging Industry, set to take place at the Karachi Expo Centre.

The grand inauguration ceremony will occur on the 12th of October, 2023, at 11:30 am in Karachi Expo Centre's Hall # 5. The event will be graced by the presence of distinguished personalities, including H. E. Eng. Sami Abdullah Salim Alkhanjari, Consul General of The Sultanate of Oman, Mr. Mujahid Ali Shaikh, Chairman of the Flexible Packaging Association of Converters of Pakistan, and

Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO of Fakt Exhibitions, alongside other renowned industry professionals.

This pioneering and the largest industry exhibition will bring together over 250 exhibitors from 15 countries, including Austria, China, Germany, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, the UAE, and more. These exhibitors will showcase their cutting-edge machinery and industry innovations.

3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan promises to be a significant gathering for the plastic, printing, and packaging industry, offering a unique platform for industry leaders, professionals, and enthusiasts to explore the latest advancements in the field.

## PTA-SECP sign MoU to promote mutual cooperation



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize mechanism for information sharing and cooperation between both regulators.

The MoU was signed by Director General PTA, Mr. Muddasir Naveed and Executive Director SECP, Ms. Khalida Habib, at a ceremony held at SECP Head Office in Islamabad. Chairman PTA, Maj Gen (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman; Chairman SECP, Mr. Akif Saeed; Commissioner SECP, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi; Member Compliance and Enforcement PTA, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar and senior officers from both organizations were in attendance.

The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the PTA and SECP in various areas of mutual interest, encompassing a wide spectrum of initiatives and objectives, including: realization of a digital society to contribute towards Government of Pakistan's "Vision 2025"; e-Governance initiatives; exchange of information, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - ICTs as contributor/enabler to achieve respective targets; policy and regulatory input on areas of common interest, business processes efficiency, cybersecurity, data management and capacity building etc.

Chairman PTA, Maj Gen (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, speaking at the occasion, emphasized the potential for both organizations to harness their collective strengths in order to elevate Pakistan's digital landscape. He highlighted PTA's successful cross-sector collaborations with various government bodies and private entities.

## Former PPMA chairman takes immense pride in building school for children

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Former chairman of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA) and noted businessman, Dr Kaiser Waheed, has said that he and his extended family take immense pride in their association with the philanthropic cause of donating money for building and running a charitable school in an underprivileged rural area of Mirpur Sakro town situated some 85 kilometres away from Karachi.

Dr Waheed was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the 164th charitable school of the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) to be built in a Mirpur Sakro village and to be named after his late father Shaikh Mohammad Anwer Maggoon. The construc-

tion of the school is likely to be completed in one year and in the initial phase, it will enroll over 200 children belonging to the underprivileged families living in the nearby rural areas. An underprivileged villager of the area, Shafi Mohammad Samejo, while sensing the importance of education for the area children, donated some 0.75 acres of his farmland to build the school.

Tanveer Shah Shirazi, representing the famous Shirazi clan of Thatta, said that he felt immense pride in the fact that a less-privileged villager of the area while in total disregard for his personal gains had donated his land for building a school in the village.

GCT Trustee, Saad Zia, said the affluent sections of society should follow in the footsteps of

the noble villager of Mirpur Sakro who despite an utter lack of financial resources for his own family had donated his land for building a school in the village.

GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, expressed gratitude to notables of Mirpur Sakro's rural areas for extending all-out support to his non-profit to build a school in the area.

He said the GCT while working in partnership with its partners, sponsors, and donors would actively continue with its drive to enrol out-of-school children in the rural parts of Sindh.

Notables of Mirpur Sakro who spoke on the occasion including Saleem Qamar thanked GCT and former PPMA chairman for building a new educational facility in a backward part of their native town.



## ICCI for re-activation of SME Bank to promote SME sector

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has said that the government should re-activate the SME Bank to provide easy financing options to the SME sector as its winding up would deprive SMEs of the affordable credit facility. He said that already SMEs are facing great problems in getting credit from banks as the SME sector in Pakistan receives only 6-7% of the private sector financing as compared to 25% in Bangladesh and 18% in India. He said that the closure of SME Bank would create more hurdles for SMEs in expansion and growth. He said this while talking to a delegation of employees' unions that called on him led by Zahoor Awan, Chair-

man, Pakistan Workers Federation's Steering Committee. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman (Central) Employers Federation of Pakistan, President SME Bank Employees Union, President Punjab Bank Employees Union, President Zarai Taraqati Bank Employees Union, President State Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union were in the delegation. Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI & Secretary General UBJ Pakistan and Mehfooz Elahi former President ICCI were also present on the occasion.

Ahsan Bakhtawari lauded the efforts of Pakistan Workers Federation for protection of workers rights and legislative reforms in labor laws and assured that ICCI would try to raise their genuine concerns with the relevant quarters for redress.



Speaking on the occasion, Zahoor Awan, Chairman, Pakistan Workers Federation's Steering Committee shared the concerns of SME Bank employees due to its planned closure and stressed that the government should address their concerns. He said that the SME Bank was

established exclusively meet the financing needs of the SME sector and stimulate their growth, but its closure would be a setback for SMEs. Mian Akram Farid, Chairman (Central) Employers Federation of Pakistan said that the SMEs are the backbone of the economy and the

government should take measures to strengthen the SME bank in order to facilitate the better growth of SMEs.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan needs to boost industrialization to revive its economy and focus on the better development of SMEs that can help achieve this goal.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that instead of considering privatizing SME Bank, the government should get the input of its employees for its revival.

The Presidents of Employees Unions of SME Bank, Bank of Punjab, Zarai Taraqati Bank and State Life Insurance of Pakistan also showed concerns on the winding down of SME Bank and called upon the government to ensure better protection of workers' rights.

# Moazzam Khan Klair, meets with President of Lahore High Court Bar Association

By Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In a recent significant development, Moazzam Khan Klair, the General Secretary of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, held a productive meeting with Ch. Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan, the esteemed President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, at his office in Lahore. The meeting, attended by Mr. Fraz Ahmed Poonia, Semab Haider Alvi, and Moazzam Ikram, centered around the promotion and development of cycling, both from a fitness and sports perspective, both nationally and internationally.

During the meeting, Mr. Klair underscored the vital role of cycling in promoting fitness and its contribution to sports on a global scale. President Lahore Bar Association, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan, in turn, expressed his unwavering



commitment to supporting and fostering the growth of cycling. He pledged

his full support for initiatives aimed at enhancing the sport's status and development.

Ch. Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan acknowledged the concerns raised by the General Secretary and affirmed his dedication to providing future assistance for the betterment of sports, with a particular emphasis on cycling, not only in Lahore but also across Pakistan. He emphasized the need for improved performance by Pakistani athletes to make a mark on the international sports stage.

In conclusion, Moazzam Khan Klair extended his heartfelt gratitude to Ch. Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan and his team for their steadfast support in promoting cycling and sports development in the region. This collaborative effort is expected to pave the way for significant advancements in the world of cycling and sports in Pakistan.

## QEAT: Multan batters run riot against Lahore Blues

By A Sports

LAHORE: Four Multan batters registered centuries against Lahore Blues at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, on the second day of round six of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023-24.

Multan resumed batting from 315 for three in 82.5 overs.

Continuing the batting onslaught that centurions Zain Abbas (118, 174b, 11x4s, 1x6) and Haseebullah (101, 222b, 6x4s) laid the ground for, Sharoon Siraj (114, 136b, 14x4s, 1x6), Mohammad Basit (105, 188b, 8x4s, 1x6), Saim Ayaz (117, 138b, 13x4s, 3x6s) inflated the runs for their side, helping taking it to 718 for eight in 178 overs.

Ali Usman (105 not out, 155b, 9x4s, 1x6) was unbeaten on the crease, at stumps. Qasim Akram got three wickets while Humain Shah and Kashif Bhatti grabbed two each.

At Pindi Stadium, Ali Waqas hit an unbeaten century for Faisalabad, ensuring that the side gets



in a comfortable position against Peshawar in the sixth round of the QEAT.

Faisalabad started their say at eight for one at Pindi Stadium after getting Peshawar bowled out for 216 in 72.2 overs the previous day.

Ali Waqas hit an unbeaten century (105 not out, 236, 12x4s, 1x6s). He was supported by Ali Shan (55, 119b, 4x4s, 1x6), as the side got to 236 for the loss of six wickets in 88 overs.

Mohammad Ilyas, Sajid Khan and Abbas Afridi got three wickets apiece for Peshawar.

Meanwhile, in another sixth-round QEAT fixture,

Jamal Anwar's half-century pulled Rawalpindi back into the game against Karachi Whites at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, after the former struggled to get going the previous day.

Rawalpindi took their overnight score of 114 for five to a comfortable 243 before they were bowled out in 84.3 overs.

Jamal Anwar (89, 199b, 13x4s) played a crucial knock for this side, ensuring that they remained in the game despite the shaky start to the innings the previous day.

Left-arm pacer had four wickets and spinner Noman Ali grabbed three wickets.

In return, Karachi Whites scored 134 for the loss of two in 32.4 overs. Shan Masood (66 not out, 72b, 7x4s) and Ammad Alam (45 not out, 94b, 5x4s, 1x6) were the notable batters for Karachi. Kashif Ali and Awais Anwar got a wicket each.

At Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Tayyab Tahir's century helped Lahore Whites gain a formidable lead against FATA in the 21st match of the QEAT.

After bowling out FATA for 97 runs in 26 overs on day one, Lahore Whites resumed their innings from 66 for one at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

They piled 399 runs on the board, at the loss of eight wickets in 96.2 overs. Tayyab Tahir (102, 184b, 11x4s, 3x6s) was the major contributor with the bat. He was helped by Umar Akmal (66, 71b, 6x4s, 3x6s) and Imran Dogar (50, 88b, 9x4s).

Asif Afridi grabbed a five-wicket-haul, remaining the pick of the bowlers for FATA. Sameen Gul got two wickets as well.

## Asad Malik grabs a five-fer on the second day of first round of Super-Four stage at the Hanif Mohammad Trophy 2023-24

By Sports Desk

LAHORE: At Multan Cricket Stadium, Islamabad got a lead of 206 runs over Abbottabad in the first innings on the second day of first round of Super-Four stage at the Hanif Mohammad Trophy 2023-24. Sarmad Bhatti, the top scorer in the game thus far, was crucial to Islamabad's lead after the first innings. Quetta, at Sheikh Khalifa Sports Complex in Rahim Yar Khan, responded in equal to Hyderabad's 200 runs scored the previous day. Shahbaz Khan's unbeaten half-century was crucial to Quetta's first innings total of 201 runs.

**Islamabad v Abbottabad at Multan Cricket Stadium:**

At Multan Cricket Stadium, Islamabad continued batting from a leading position of 156 for five in 55 overs after

dismissing Abbottabad for 101 runs in 32.5 overs. Bowling to solid knocks by Sarmad Bhatti (86, 199b, 11x4s), Farmanullah Khan (64, 180b, 6x4s) and Ali Imran (47, 93b, 6x4s, 1x6), Islamabad put up a mammoth 307 on the board after batting for 119.5 overs. Khalid Usman returned with a four-fer while both Yasir Shah and Adil Naz picked two wickets each.

Abbottabad continued to struggle in their second batting attempt; they made 69 runs while losing four wickets in the process. Farmanullah Khan was the star performer of the innings, getting three wickets. Shayan Sheikh also grabbed one wicket. Anees Azam Khan (37, 38b, 6x4s, 1x6) and Afaq Khan (20, 58b, 3x4s) were the notable scorers for Abbottabad.

**Quetta v Hyderabad at Sheikh Khalifa**

**Sports Complex, Rahim Yar Khan:**

Quetta resumed batting from 30 for two in 10.2 overs after bowling out Hyderabad for 200 in 78.1 overs on day one. Batting for 80.4 overs, they scored 201 runs before they were bowled out. Shahbaz Khan (52 not out, 143b, 2x4s) and Hazrat Wali (40, 86b, 7x4s) were the notable contributors with the bat. Hyderabad's Asad Malik got five wickets while Majid Asghar returned with three wickets.

In their second batting innings, Hyderabad posted 33 runs in 18.2 overs. However, they lost one wicket courtesy of Mohammad Ibrahim. Harris Khan top-scored with 17 runs in 60 balls with two boundaries.

**Scores in brief: Islamabad v Abbottabad**

Abbottabad 101 all out in 32.5 overs

(Ahmed Khan 20, Azan Tariq 4-25, Farmanullah Khan 2-9, Mohammad Nadeem 2-26, Harris Hassan 2-33) and 69-4 in 23 overs (Anees Azam Khan 37, Afaq Khan 20; Farmanullah Khan 3-9, Shayan Sheikh 1-0)

Islamabad 307 all out in 119.5 overs (Sarmad Bhatti 86, Farmanullah Khan 64, Ali Imran 47; Khalid Usman 4-63, Yasir Shah 2-36, Adil Naz 2-77)

**Quetta v Hyderabad** Hyderabad 200 all out in 78.1 overs (Daniyal Hussain Rajput 53, Ali Ahsan 31, Mohammad Asad Malik 25, Harris Khan 23; Jalat Khan 6-61, Mohammad Ibrahim 1-0, Najeebullah 1-34, Zainullah 1-34) and 33-1 in 18.2 overs (Harris Khan 17; Mohammad Ibrahim 1-0)

Quetta 201 all out in 80.4 overs (Shahbaz Khan 52 not out, Hazrat Wali 40; Asad Malik 5-60, Majid Asghar 3-42)

## Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf travel to India on October 12

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: PCB Management Committee Chairman, Mr Zaka Ashraf will travel to India tomorrow to witness Pakistan's fixture against India at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday, 14 October. Zaka Ashraf made the decision to travel to India after it was confirmed that the media personnel were given the go ahead to submit their passports for an Indian visa to cover the ICC Men's World Cup 2023.

Zaka Ashraf: I have delayed my travel to India, and I am traveling tomorrow after receiving confirmation that Pakistan's journalists have been asked to submit their passports to obtain visas to cover the mega event. I am happy that my conversation with the foreign office helped in achieving a positive development regarding the visa delay.

I am extremely pleased with the way the players have performed so far in the World Cup, winning both matches. The PCB management committee and the entire nation stand firmly behind the players for a successful campaign in the ongoing World Cup.

I am traveling to India to motivate the team, and my message to them before the India contest will be to play fearlessly as they have been playing throughout the event



## Wahab Riaz and Dr Asif Tufail, visited Govt Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road

By Sports Desk

LAHORE: Advisor to CM Punjab on Sports Wahab Riaz and DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister, visited Govt Pilot Higher Secondary School Wahdat Road to launch sports activities in schools on Tuesday.

Director Youth Affairs

Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, DSO Lahore Tariq Khanzada, Principal Govt Pilot Higher Secondary School Waseem Butt, CEO Education Pervaiz Akhtar and a large number of students were also present on this occasion.

Talking to media, Wahab Riaz said that Sports Board Punjab (SBP), in collaboration with Punjab School Education Department (PSED), will organize Inter-School competitions in which the sports events of class six, eight and bigger classes will be conducted.

He said that Sports Board Punjab will also launch Sports Talent Hunt Programme under which the trials of seven games such as cricket, hockey, football, basketball, table tennis, badminton and athletics will be conducted in U-12 and U-16 age group categories.

Wahab further said that after the trials, the teams of different games will be formed for holding competitive sports events. Apart from this, the camps will be conducted for two hours for imparting training to young athletes. "A sports time of two hours will also be fixed in the schools so that young students can participate in healthy sports activities besides their studies," he added.

He informed that Sports Board Punjab will also initiate this healthy activity in other leading schools of the province to involve student community in sports activities.

Dr Asif Tufail on this occasion said that the holding of sports competitions in schools will prove to be very beneficial for finding several promising athletes in different games. "Through this revolutionary programme, we are quite upbeat to prepare a large pool of talented male and female athletes," he added.

He said that the expert and qualified coaches of Sports Board Punjab will impart training to young players of Govt Pilot Higher Secondary School for a period of three months.



## Zone -I and Zone VI win in A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

By Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at various cricket grounds. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone.

Summarized Scores:

Zone-I Whites beat Zone-V Blues by 6 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-V Blues 89 all out in 29.1 overs. Fareed Ullah 33, Danish Khan (mf) 4/13, Hussain Haider (lcm) 3/14. Zone-I Whites 90/4 in 15.4 overs. S. M. Ali 24 not out, M. Mair 14 not out.

In the Second Match Zone-VI Blues beat Zone-V Green by 9 Wickets at Student Cricket Ground. Zone-V Green 51 all out in 13.5 overs. Muhammad 12, Rehan Bashir 11, Fawad Akbar (mf) 4/15.

Zone-VI Blues 52/1 in 8.4 overs. Muhammad Anas 24, Areeb Noor 13 both not out.

## ICC World Cup 2023: Bumrah, Rohit propel India to humble Afghanistan

DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah returned with figures of 4-39 before Rohit Sharma scored a quickfire century and lifted India to a thumping eight-wicket victory over Afghanistan in their second ICC World Cup 2023 match.

Chasing 273, India comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just two wickets and 90 balls to spare. Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan gave the hosts a flying start with an impeccable 156-run partnership.

Sharma dominated the opening stand by thrashing the Afghan bowlers and soon brought up his century in just 63 balls.

Afghanistan then finally found a moment to cherish in the 19th over when their star spinner Rashid Khan got rid of Ishan Kishan, who scored

a run-a-ball 47 with the help of five boundaries and two sixes.

Sharma was then joined by Virat Kohli at the crease and the two veterans added 49 runs to the total together before Rashid struck again to dismiss the Indian captain.

Rohit Sharma remained the top-scorer for India with 131 in 84 balls, laced up with 16 boundaries and five sixes.

Kohli took charge of India's pursuit after Rohit's dismissal and comfortably led India over the line in just 35 overs, courtesy of an unbeaten half-century.

He scored 55 in 56 deliveries, hitting six boundaries.

For Afghanistan, only Rashid Khan picked two wickets while the rest went wicketless.

Bumrah provided India their first

breakthrough in the seventh over at a total of 32 after Afghanistan opted to bat first.

Rahmat Shah and Rahmanullah helped Afghanistan to reach 63 with a brief 31-run stand before both batters fell within three deliveries.

With two new batters on the crease, India appeared to be in a dominant position however, Afghanistan batters counter-attacked to pull their team out of trouble.

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and allrounder Azmatullah Omarzai responded with a solid 121-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with batters reaching half-centuries.

Hardik Pandya broke the stand when he bowled Omarzai at the score of 184-4. Omarzai scored 62 off 69



with the help of two boundaries and four sixes.

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Shahidi stood his ground and was involved in a 41 partnership with Mohammad Nabi before Kuldeep Yadav trapped him in front of the stumps.

Shahidi top-scored for Afghanistan with an anchoring 82 off 88, featuring eight boundaries and one six.

Jasprit Bumrah then returned to attack to dismiss Mohammad Nabi and Najibullah Zadran in the same over, reducing Afghanistan to 235-7.

However, Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman added valuable 26 runs for the eighth wicket before the former became Bumrah's fourth victim in the penultimate over.

Other than Bumrah, Hardik Pandya picked two wickets while Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav picked one wicket each.