

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ اور ایسا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم اس وقت بیٹھے ہوئے تھے کہ ایک صاحب نے آ کر سوال کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی طرف سے جو ہے اور فرمایا کہ تم خاموش کیوں بیٹھے رہتے ہو بلکہ اس کی خاطر کرو تا کہ تمہیں بھی اجر ملے اور اللہ تعالیٰ کا چاہے گا کہ تمہیں بھی اجر ملے گا۔

(پیشانی: ص 27 نمبر 6027)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Not only election mechanism, entire 'system' needs to be changed: Fazl

Slamming the results of the February 8 general elections, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman alleged "manipulation of votes" and "sell" of all legislature "from the Sindh Assembly to the President's House" took place in the 2024 nationwide polls.



## Pakistani entrepreneurs must come forward & explore business opportunities in Ethiopia: Jemal Beker Abdula

Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula has said that Ethiopia is a land of opportunities, hospitality and gestures thereby this is the right time to engage for economic collaboration. The Ambassador said that Ethiopia is a fully linked country with all the neighboring countries, with the cheapest energy availability... (Details on Page 6)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawaal-ul-Mukarram 24, Friday, May 3, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 22

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Graduation Ceremony

COAS General Syed Asim Munir addressing to Cadets on the occasion Graduation Ceremony of 149th GD (P), 95th Engg, 105th Air Defence, 25th A&SD, 8th Log and 131st Combat Support Courses held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan.



Photo: ISPR

## COAS attends graduation ceremony at PAF academy Asghar Khan, ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Graduation Ceremony of 149th GD (P), 95th Engg, 105th Air Defence, 25th A&SD, 8th Log and 131st Combat Support Courses was held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan today.

Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, was also present at the occasion.

Upon his arrival at the Academy, the Chief Guest was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

A total of 144 Aviation Cadets, 1 Gentleman Cadet, and 4 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony. The Chief Guest awarded trophies to the distinction holders.

Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet Squadron Under Officer Muhammad Junaid Malik.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sargent Faseeh Abbas.

Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the overall best performance in the Air Defence Course was received by Aviation Cadet Habib Ur Rehman.

Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the overall best performance in the Admin & Special Duties Course was awarded to Aviation Cadet Muhammad Arsalan Shakeel.

Asghar Khan Trophy for the overall best performance in the Combat Support Course was received by Aviation Cadet Khushhal Khan.

Chief of the Air staff Trophy for best performance in Engineering discipline was awarded to Pakistan Naval Cadet Sargent Amanullah.

While addressing the graduating cadets, the Chief Guest congratulated the graduating cadets and their families. COAS while applauding role of PAF for the defense of Pakistan, highlighted that PAF has always met the expectations of the nation by displaying professionalism and utmost valor.

The graduation ceremony was followed by an aerial display by an array of fighter aircraft and aerobatics.

The Graduation Parade was witnessed by high-ranking military and civilian dignitaries as well as parents of the graduating cadets.

## Lowest inflation rate in two years—result of hard work done by PDM-led govt: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, declaring the downward trend of inflation as a welcome news for the people, said that the inflation falling towards the lowest level in two years was a sign of improvement in the economy.

"This is the result of the hard work done during the 16 month-long government led by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and continued by the interim government," he said in a statement issued by the PM

Office.

The prime minister pointed out that the inflation rate had come down from the peak of 39% to 20% last month and then to 17% in the current month.

He said bringing down the inflation rate was the top priority of the government. "With the support of Allah Almighty, the people will get more relief in coming days after increase in the economic activities."

He expressed the hope that the people might also get more relief by further cut in the petroleum prices which were on the down-



ward trend in the international market.

The prime minister directed the provincial governments to ensure that impacts of fall in the petroleum prices reach the common people, besides taking special measures for the implementation of the rates of food items fixed by the Federal Government.

"With the blessings of the Almighty, the life standard of the people will further improve with further improvement in the economy," he said.

The government was trying its best to provide maximum relief to the people, the prime minister added.

## PTI issues white paper against 'rigging' in elections

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday issued a white paper against what it called massive rigging and irregularities in the February 8 general elections, ARY News reported.

Addressing a presser, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and other senior party leaders said that the PTI's mandate was 'stolen' in the general polls.

"In the elections held on February 8, we won at least 180 seats according to Form 45 but our mandate was awarded to other parties

through Form 47," Barrister Gohar.

The 234-page white paper raised a number of issues, such as alleged election manipulation to 'exclude' PTI from the political sphere, accusations of prejudice during the prolonged stay of the caretaker administration, and violations of constitutional mandates for election procedures.

The PTI reiterated its demand to release founder Imran Khan immediately. "politically-motivated cases against Imran Khan and

Continued on Page 8

## Positive results of PM Saudi Arabia visit to accrue within few months: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said highly successful second visit of Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia within a month to participate in World Economic Forum, was historic and major development, which would eventually bring about extensive positive results within next few months.

Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, he said comprehensive planning by



Saudi Arabia for investment in Pakistan was a turning point in the bilateral relations.

Tarar said that multiple meetings were held with the Saudi ministers on the sidelines of the WEF during the Prime Minister's visit. "In two days, 12 high-level meetings were held with ministers and major

personalities of Saudi Arabia including ministers for finance, industries, investment, energy and climate change," he said.

The Saudi ministers expressed their commitment to work with Pakistan with regard to bilateral cooperation and investment on the special directives of Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, he added.

Within a short span of just one month, the Prime Minister had two meetings with the Saudi Crown Prince that had a historic significance for the two brotherly countries.

Continued on Page 8

## Reforms in FBR govt's top priority for economic revival: Law Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Thursday said that as per the vision of the Prime Minister, it was the top priority of the incumbent government to introduce reforms in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to address economic crisis. Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif is leading the entire reform process in this regard, he said while addressing a press conference here.

The minister highlighted that currently, tax cases pertaining to the recovery of more than Rs2700 billions were pending in courts, which should be concluded early. The parliament, he said, for the first time has legislated

on tax tribunals in order to not only expedite the process but also make it efficient. Under the law, cases of Rs 20 million will go to the Commissioner while the cases above this will go to the Tribunal, he added.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said that some postings and transfers have been made in the FBR and more are expected in the coming days

with strict adherence to merit. Competent officers with good repute were being brought in front so the policies would be implemented efficiently, he said, adding that changes were not being made to declare anyone corrupt. He said that transfers would also be made in customs office to streamline the system and its effects would also go to

the lower level.

He said that steps were also being taken to expand tax net, recoveries, income tax collection and stop electricity theft in the country so that this money could be used for the welfare of the public. The Prime Minister, he said, is committed for the revival of economy and has given a full liberty to the FBR to perform well.

## President condoles demise of UAE's Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday expressed condolence over the death of Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan, the Representative of the United Arab Emirates' Ruler in Al Ain.

"Deeply saddened at the demise of the Representative of the UAE's Ruler in Al Ain Sheikh Tahnoun



bin Mohamed Al Nahyan. I express my condolences to the UAE's leadership," the president said in a condolence message issued by the President House.

He said Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan played important role in shaping the legacy of the UAE.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace for the departed soul.

## PM condoles over demise of UAE's Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed sadness over the death of Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan, the Representative of the United Arab Emirates' Ruler in Al Ain.

"Deeply saddened at the demise of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohamed Al Nahyan. Our thoughts and prayers are with the leadership and people of the UAE at this hour of grief," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

He said that the late Sheikh Tahnoun would be long

remembered for his contribution to building stronger ties between Pakistan and the U. A. E.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace for the departed soul.

Born in 1942, the late Sheikh Tahnoun was one of the few people who, from an early age, had accompanied Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father and builder of the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE government had announced a seven-day mourning on the death of Sheikh Tahnoun.

# Balochistan Civil Service Academy visits AJK to brief chief secretary on progress

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The delegation of Balochistan Civil Service Academy visited Azad Kashmir and met the Chief Secretary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dawood Muhammad Barich at the Chief Secretary Office. Additional Chief Secretary Development Ms. Midhat Shahzad and Secretary Services Zafar Mahmood Khan were also present in the meeting. Balochistan Civil Service Academy delegation was led by Chief Instructor Balochistan Civil Service Academy Dr. Khalid. While giving a briefing to the delegation on this occasion, the Chief Secretary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dawood Muhammad Barich said that Azad Jammu and Kashmir government is an independent entity under the administration of Pakistan and is responsible for the defense and foreign affairs of the government of



Pakistan. The government has taken great steps to make the roads and other infrastructure efficient. Azad Kashmir has better human development index than other provinces. The Chief Secretary said that the govern-

ment has focused on education to raise the standard of living of the people. Reforms are being brought in the health system.

Azad Kashmir government is focusing on education and health, the government is taking all possible measures for the welfare of the people. He told the participants that women have been given full representation in Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Speaking on the occasion, Instructor Balochistan Civil Service Academy thanked Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Daud Mohammad Barich for his warm welcome and detailed briefing later. Azad Kashmir Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich gave shield to the head of the delegation, Instructor Balochistan Civil Service Academy Dr. Khalid, while the delegation also presented shield and gifts to Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich.

## AJK Legislative Assembly approved supplementary grant



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has approved a supplementary grant of 09 billion 12 crore rupees for the Azad Kashmir Social Protection Endowment Fund (SPEF).

The grant was unanimously approved after the SPEF Ordinance was presented in the House, here today.

The SPEF will emerge as another flagship program under which financial assistance would be provided to widows, destitute, divorcees and disabled persons at their doorstep.

The development is seen as an important step towards making Azad Kashmir a welfare state.

It is another promise that the incumbent government led by prime minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has fulfilled after completing its one year in the office.

## Multan Press Club, City Traffic Police conclude two-day driving licensing camp

Asim Tanveer/ Khalid Chaudhry

MULTAN: In collaboration with Multan Press Club and City Traffic Police Multan, the closing ceremony of a two-day camp for driving licensing for journalists and their family members was held at Multan Press Club. The participation was chaired by President Multan Press Club Shakeel Anjum Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, General Secretary Press Club Nisar Awan, Nasir Mehmood Sheikh, Mehboob Malik, Muhammad Sharif Joyya, Nadeem Haider, Shoaib Iftikhar Joyya, Junaid Malik, Farqan Bhatti, Zulfiqar Malik Atif Awan. A large number of journalists including Rao Waseem Asghar Asim Tanveer participated. More than 200 members of Multan Press Club got their motorcycle and car licenses from the camp.



President Shakeel Anjum expressed his special gratitude to the traffic police

And requested the journalist community to get their and their children's driving license immediately so that they have confidence in driving. President Multan Press Club Shakeel Anjum while speaking at the event said that along with human fitness, your bike and car of your family members and friends should also be fully fit.

Chief Traffic Officer Jalil Imran Ghalizai while addressing the journalists said that motorcycle riders must wear helmets while driving at least to avoid traffic accidents. Can avoid Chief Traffic Officer Multan Jalil Imran Ghalizai said that there is a need to educate children about driving and traffic rules from the school level and a complete chapter on traffic rules should be included in the educational syllabus of Pakistan.

Two days in every month for journalists, the police service will keep van press club of the center available

## Saraiki laborer facing worse conditions than Chicago: Dharija

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The laborer of Saraiki Wasib is suffering from worse conditions than Chicago today. The problems will not be solved until the province of Saraykistan is formed. These views were expressed by Saraiki leaders Zahoor Dharija, Rana Muhammad Faraz Noon, Malik Javed Chanar Advocate, Inayatullah Mashriqi, Sharif Khan Lashari, Zafar Hans, Malik Iqbal Nandla and others while addressing the Mazdoor Kisan Conference in Jhok Lashari Multan. Before the conference, a protest was also held by setting wheat on fire against the exploitation of Wasib farmers.



Zahoor Dharija said that by ordering wheat from Ukraine, the caretaker government committed corruption of three hundred billion rupees and ruined the farmers of Wasib. He said that the Punjab government says that wheat was ordered by the federal government, the federal government says that wheat was ordered on the request of the Punjab government, who will investigate it?

Rana Muhammad Faraz Noon said that inflation, unrest and increase in electricity and gas prices and loadshedding have created the worst conditions. Capitalists always benefit from shortage of commodities.

Malik Javed Chanar said that in 1886, the worker of Chicago raised a revolt against 12 and 16 hour labor, today the village worker is a 24 hour employee and the salary is very low. Although if you look at the history, the salary of workers is always equal to one tola of gold

## Protest

KARACHI: Supporters of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam protest against alleged rigging in the general elections, and show solidarity with Palestinian people during 'Millian March' in provincial capital.



Photo: Online

# Mepco chief urges line staff to uphold their integrity: 'keep their identity prominent'

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer Mepco Engineer Rana Mohammad Ayub Khan has said that line staff are our asset and are the backbone of the company. Our line staff have proved their competence and dedication to work by restoring the system in a very short time after natural calamities. For the first time in the history of MEPCO, a certificate distribution ceremony has been organized to encourage the line staff, in which tribute has been paid to the line staff who sacrificed their precious lives on the front line from across the region. He



expressed these views while addressing the "Certificate Distribution Ceremony" to pay tribute to the line staff at Mepco head Quarters. He said that Mepco management is encouraging the line staff. All personnel are being paid TA/DA on time and promotion/upgradation cases are also being resolved on priority basis. General Manager Operation

Mepco Engineer Nasir Ayaz Gurmani said that Mepco is protecting the rights of workers and providing them with modern and standard safety equipment. The work load on the field workers is being reduced due to which there has been a significant reduction in the rate of fatal and non-accidents occurring in the field during the current financial year.

Director General HR & Admin Waqas Masood Chughtai said that the company is taking steps to solve the problems of workers on a priority basis. Promotion, upgradation of workers of other categories including line staff is being done.

Director HSC Mepco Kashif Maqbool informed the line staff about the implementation of safety SOPs and measures to prevent accidents. Director Administration Wajahat Bucha performed the duties of stage secretary in the ceremony. Later Finance Director Mian Ansar Mehmood, General Manager Operation Nasir Ayaz Gurmani, Chief Engineer Development Saifullah Surani, Chief Engineer Planning and Engineering Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood gave certificates to the employees, line staff of Multan, Muzaffargarh.

# Dr Aslam Ansari New Book Gulbang-e Arzoo Launched

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The launch ceremony of the famous poet, researcher, critic, translator, and fiction writer Dr. M. uhammad Aslam Ansari's Persian collection "Gulbang-e Arzoo" was held at the seminar room of Radio Pakistan under the auspices of Akadmi Literature Pakistan. The event was presided over by Dr. Najiba Arif, President of the Academy of Literature, while Dr. Aslam Ansari was the chief guest. Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad, Head of Urdu Department, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, delivered the keynote address on the topic. In the presidential address, President Dr. Najiba Arif said that Aslam Ansari is a genius writer and poet. Acknowledging his art and personality and organizing the publication and opening ceremony of his Persian collections is an honor for the academic literature of Pakistan.

He said that the large participation of important and representative people of Multan in the event has also made this event memorable. Dr. Najiba Arif said that despite the limited resources, the Akadmi Adbiyat is taking all possible steps to include the people living in the suburbs in the national stream. Director General Akadmi Literature Pakistan Sultan Muhammad Nawaz Nasir while speaking said that the publication of Dr. Aslam Ansari's Persian Kalyat has made Multan's central status more prominent. He highlighted the meaning of the composition "Gulbang Arzoo" and said that Dr. Aslam Ansari's Kalyat-i-Iqbal can be called an extension of Fikr-i-Iqbal. Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad called Gulbang-e-Arzoo as an epoch-making book and presented a comprehensive paper on the Persian language included in the book, which was well received by the audience. He made an intellectual and technical

review of the five Persian Masnavis and the Dewan in Kalyat. Dr. Anwar Ahmed, former president of Muqtadara Qaumi Language, said that Academy of Literature Multan is representing the penmen of this region through continuous events and today's successful and unique event is proof of this. He said that the people of Multan should be rightly proud of Dr. Aslam Ansari's academic and literary work. Dr. Mukhtar Zafar, Dr. Hamid Raza Siddiqui and Shakir Hussain Shakir also discussed the art and personality of Dr. Aslam Ansari. In the end, Dr. Aslam Ansari said that the full participation of Ahl-i-Qalam in today's ceremony has made clear his love for this region and its Ahl-i-Qalam. He said that keeping in front the importance of Allama Iqbal's Persian poetry, he has presented this rare Persian poetry spanning many years, which contains more than ten thousand poems, for people to think and look at. He expressed his



gratitude to the president of the Academy of Literature, Dr. Najiba Arif, for publishing this book, describing it as his lifetime achievement. He expressed special thanks to Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad, who supported him step by step in the publishing process. Well-known writer Muhammad Azhar Saleem Majuka performed the duties of organizing

the ceremony. Pakistan Literary Forum presented shields to the President and Director General of Akademi Literature while Ahl Qalam presented books, flowers and blue coins as gifts.

After the opening ceremony of Kalyat, President Dr. Najiba Arif had a dialogue with the writers and poets of Multan and its surroundings, in

which useful and positive suggestions were presented by the people of the pen. Renowned comic poet Khalid Masood Khan, well-known writer and intellectual Rana Mehboob Akhtar, renowned poet Qamar Raza Shehzad, Director Information Sajjad Jahania, Director Khana Farhang Multan Dr. Zahida Khanum, Bahauddin Zakariya University Urdu Department Head Dr. Farzana Kokb, Women's University Urdu Department. Presided over by Dr. Ezra Liaquat, poet and writer Dr. Shahida Rasool, former principal and poet Prof. Naseem Shahid, Dr. Abrar Ahmed, Dr. Ilyas Kabir, Prof. Nusrat Mehmood, former principal Dera Ghazi Khan Dr. Sabra Shaheen, Shahida Rasheed, Qurban Hussain, Dr. Maimona from Faisal Abad., Mubashir Waseem Lodhi from Lodhran, Shaheen Kahrovi from Kahur Pakka, Mustahsan Khyal Rana Photo Ahmed, Waseem Mumtaz A



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

# Finally, Pakistan will Orbit the Moon

**P**akistan's ICUBE-Q satellite is set to be transported by China's Change 6 spacecraft, scheduled to depart from Hainan, China, on Friday, May 3rd, 2024, at 1250 PST of China's time. The ICUBE-Q CubeSat is part of the payload of Change 6 and will orbit the moon to detect traces of ice on its surface from orbit. Developed by the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Pakistan, this miniaturized satellite, known as a CubeSat, is equipped with two optical cameras designed to capture detailed images of the lunar surface. If successful, the data collected by this miniature satellite will provide valuable insights into the moon's topography, geological features, and potential resource deposits.

Though a good beginning, Pakistan's space program is currently minuscule compared to that of its neighbor, India, in several aspects. India has achieved milestones such as landing on the moon with Chandrayaan-3, reaching Mars with Mangalyaan, launching a record number of satellites, and developing reliable launch vehicles, mission to study the sun's corona, accomplishments that Pakistan has not yet matched.

Perhaps it was India's extraordinary ability, teamwork, cohesive leadership, and vision in pursuing its space program that may have prompted SUPARCO to show signs of life. But Pakistan's institutional capacity is still too low and fragile, and its human resources are often unimaginative and regimanted. This lack of capacity hinders meaningful progress without relying on foreign assistance.

The Indian space research and development programs have been inspired and led by visionary leaders such as Dr.

Vikram Sarabhai, known as the father of the Indian space program, who established the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), later evolving into the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Prof. Satish Dhawan, as ISRO chairman from 1972 to 1984, advanced India's space capabilities with the successful launch of the SLV-3 and Rohini satellites. Prof. U. R. Rao, ISRO chairman from 1984 to 1994, oversaw the development of the INSAT and PSLV programs. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, chairman from 1994 to 2003, led the launch of the IRS and GSAT satellite series. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, renowned for his missile program contributions, also played a significant role in India's space program, contributing to the SLV-3 and PSLV programs. These leaders, among others, have guided India's space exploration, propelling ISRO into a global space leader.

Pakistan's space research and development program has been influenced by several visionary leaders. Abdus Salam, although not directly involved, advocated for scientific advancement in the country, laying the groundwork for future endeavors. Dr. Riazuddin, a prominent physicist, contributed to Pakistan's nuclear and space programs, aiding in the establishment of SUPARCO. Dr. Abdus Salam Khan, as SUPARCO chairman from 1996 to 2001, oversaw the launch of Pakistan's first indigenous developed satellite, Badr-A. Dr. Arshad Ali Hakeem, SUPARCO chairman from 2001 to 2006, facilitated the launch of satellites for communication and remote sensing. These leaders have collec-

tively shaped Pakistan's space program, contributing to its progress and achievements in space exploration. Since 2010 Pakistan's Space Research program has been headed by army generals. In 2010 Major General Ahmed Bilal was appointed as SUPARCO head, he was succeeded by Major General Qaiser Anees Khurran in 2016, followed by Major General Amer Nadeen in 2018 and who however succeeded by Mr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan in 2023, first civilian after 14 years.

Though Pakistan had an early start in the 1960s, launching a sounding rocket before India, but could not sustain its momentum thanks to our legendary callous attitude towards matters of national building, our lack of a long-term vision, mission, or clear milestones for tangible achievements, our hardened habit of achieving flashy innovations or accomplishments, only momentum, and insult those behind such achievements. This behavior stems from our internal and external institutional incompetencies, which distort our earlier gains and lead us back into a state of inertia and status quo. We then slip back into a deep sleep, only to be awakened by the wake-up calls from other countries, especially India.

Three years later than Pakistan, in 1963, India launched its first rocket which became a laughing stock being transported by a bullock cart. Since there was no looking back. Soon due to their continuous, persistent and uninterrupted commitment for space exploration, India became a major global player in space exploration

and research. While preparing to take astronauts into orbit in 2025, besides landing on the moon with Chandrayaan-3, reaching Mars by Mangalyaan mission, launching a record-breaking 104 satellites in a single mission, and developing its own reliable launch vehicles like the PSLV, and sending a spacecraft called Aditya-L1 to orbit sun and study sun's corona, chromosphere, photosphere, and solar wind aim to gather data on solar activity, which can impact Earth's climate and communication systems.

Whereas, Pakistan's space program, overseen by the Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), has achieved nothing compared to India's space program. It hasn't yet developed its own launch vehicles, and uses other nations' help for securing launch of its satellites and space probes.

In conclusion, Pakistan's space program can achieve great success only if we start honoring our scientific pioneers, establishing a clear vision and mission, and ensuring adequate resource allocation. Building state-of-the-art research facilities, cultivating a skilled workforce, and appointing competent, qualified, relevant and inspiring leaders are essential steps. Political will and support is crucial for prioritizing the program and securing necessary funding. International collaborations can also enhance Pakistan's capabilities. By adopting a strategic approach and investing in space research, Pakistan can become a key player in the global space arena, bringing pride and prosperity to the nation.

*Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## UN consider Palestine full membership

**P**akistan has called on the United Nations General Assembly to push the Security Council to reconsider and recommend Palestine's application for full membership of the UN to rectify the historic injustice against the Palestinian people. "The admission of the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations would constitute a concrete political step towards the two-state solution and towards rectifying the historic injustice against the Palestinian people," Ambassador Munir Akram said in a meeting sparked by a United States' veto, which blocked an Algerian resolution on 18 April that would have granted Palestine U. N.'s membership.

The meeting was necessitated by "the veto initiative" — the informal name for a resolution adopted by the Assembly in April 2022, titled "Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council." According to the measure, which was put forth following the repeated wielding of the veto at the Council, blocking action on other situations, the General Assembly has a standing mandate to convene within 10 working days of a veto being cast in the Council. Palestine is a 'Permanent Observer State' at the UN, meaning that it can participate in all UN proceedings, except for voting on draft resolutions and decisions in its main organs and bodies. In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy said, "The veto cast against Palestine's admission erodes the credibility of the assurances that have been held out of support for the two-state solution. "The diplomacy now underway for peace in Palestine, in Israel and the region would gain considerable momentum if the veto was lifted and Palestine's admission to the United Nations recommended by the Security Council." Ambassador Akram appealed to the United Nations and the international community at large to enforce an immediate ceasefire in Gaza; guarantee unrestricted access to humanitarian aid; prevent further escalation of the conflict; provide international protection for the Palestinians; revive the peace process and hold Israel responsible for its war crimes and crimes against humanity. "Now," he said, "the extremist Israeli leadership is threatening an assault on Rafah which, as the UN Secretary-General has stated, 'would be an unbearable escalation', would have a devastating impact on the Palestinians in Gaza, with serious repressions on the occupied West." Ambassador Akram highlighted the plight of the Palestinian people over the past seven decades, including the denial of self-determination, expulsion from their homeland, and enduring a prolonged and brutal foreign occupation. The Pakistani envoy condemned Israel for its recent war crimes in Gaza, which had resulted in the deaths of over 35,000 Palestinian civilians, indiscriminate bombing, and the blockade of humanitarian aid, which the International Court of Justice has deemed as "plausible genocide." Ambassador Akram also hit back at the Israeli representative for making wild accusations against Islamic countries. "Let me tell the Israeli representative that the outlawed Israeli regime cannot divert attention from its crimes by leveling calumny against the Islamic countries," he said, adding, "Pakistan, unlike Israel, acts in accordance with international law."



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

## Joint Civil-Military Endeavors for Enhancing Laborers Conditions - II

**C**onversely, in our country, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. The impoverished segments of society are increasingly marginalized, while the affluent class sees their wealth accumulate. Resources are disproportionately controlled by the elite and the wealthy. Taxes collected from the populace, instead of being utilized to provide essential services, are squandered through corruption and serve to further enrich the privileged few. Violations of meritocracy are rampant, and the under-privileged struggle to secure their rights. Inflation and the escalating costs of goods disproportionately burden the impoverished, exacerbating their already dire circumstances. A significant dearth exists in access to essential services such as healthcare, education, employment, and clean water for those living in poverty. It is particularly disheartening to observe that the reality in our nation stands in stark contrast to that of developed countries.

In our society, characterized by capitalism, landlordism, aristocracy, and large estates, the denigration of hard work and labor reaches its apex. Within households, employees and domestic workers are subjected to discriminatory treatment. They are forbidden from dining alongside the homeowners and are instead relegated to separate quarters without basic amenities. While the homeowner enjoys filtered or mineral water, the employee is limited to tap water. Furthermore, strict segregation is enforced, with the employee's utensils prohibited from coming into contact with those of the owner. The living quarters of domestic workers are often segregated from the main residence, serving as a testament to the pervasive inequality within our society. Verbal abuse and physical violence against employees are sadly commonplace occurrences.

The issues of harassment and child labor warrant separate discussions, given their prevalence and complexity. These challenges are not limited to domestic workers alone; ordinary laborers face similar hardships. Many spend days waiting by roadsides in hopes of securing employment, only to face discrimination based on age and physical appearance when opportunities arise. Industrial workers encounter their own set of challenges, including the absence of insurance, pension plans, education, and medical care. Child labor is another distressing reality, with children forced to toil in various sectors, from homes to hotels, workshops, and even public transportation. These children are deprived of their right to play and receive an education. The underlying causes of child labor stem from social inequalities and poverty, which are exacerbated by the widening gap between the rich and the poor. In our country, it often appears that the law and its enforcement disproportionately favor the wealthy, leaving the poor to bear the brunt of economic burdens.

To address these injustices, it is imperative to implement progressive tax policies that place a heavier burden on the wealthy and redistribute resources to benefit the poor. Education, healthcare, and other essential services should be provided equitably to all citizens. Transparency in taxation and welfare systems is essential to ensure accountability and prevent exploitation. NGOs can play a crucial role in raising public awareness and advocating for the rights of the laboring class.

In our beloved country, the laboring class is among the most vulnerable and marginalized. Inflation exacerbates their already precarious circumstances, with wages failing to keep pace with rising costs of living. Exploitation and unfair labor practices are rampant, with workers often receiving inadequate pay and facing delays in receiving wages. Access to

justice, education, healthcare, safety measures, and insurance remains woefully inadequate. Furthermore, there is a glaring absence of a comprehensive pension system for private sector workers. The journey of labor begins in childhood and continues throughout one's life, yet our system fails to recognize the diverse needs and challenges faced by workers of all ages. It is crucial to prioritize the welfare of the laboring class to realize the developmental objectives of our nation. Laborers and workers serve as the cornerstone of any country's construction and advancement. Whether it's the building of infrastructure, the maintenance of roads, or the operation of industrial machinery, the indispensable role of labor cannot be overstated. Without acknowledging and addressing the needs of this vital segment of society, achieving the aspirations of progress and prosperity remains an elusive goal.

A significant factor contributing to the plight of laborers in Pakistan is the recurring economic crises. Pakistan has grappled with recurrent economic challenges, attributed to factors such as fiscal imbalances, external pressures, and internal structural weaknesses. In response to these challenges, leaders from both civilian and military spheres have joined hands to implement various strategies aimed at stabilizing the economy, fostering sustainable growth, and enhancing the well-being of the Pakistani populace.

It is encouraging to observe that both civilian and military leadership have acknowledged the necessity of comprehensive economic reforms to tackle structural imbalances and bolster macroeconomic stability. Initiatives like the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF), the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), and the Pakistan Vision 2025 have been devised to bolster trade, enhance financial inclusivity, and facilitate long-term economic progress. These reforms aspire to diversify the economy, attract foreign investment, and nurture entrepreneurial endeavors, thereby setting the stage for sustainable development.

*To be continued*

## A Comparative Analysis of Imran Khan and Shahbaz Sharif Governments - I

**I**n the intricate tapestry of Pakistani politics, the plight of the laborers often serves as a litmus test for a government's commitment to social welfare. In the realm of governance, few issues are as vital as labor rights and welfare. Governments are tasked with ensuring the well-being of their citizens, particularly those toiling to keep the wheels of the economy turning. In Pakistan, the dynamics of labor policies have been underscored by the contrasting approaches of the Imran Khan and Shahbaz Sharif administrations. While both claim allegiance to the cause of workers, their methodologies and outcomes couldn't be more divergent.

### Imran Khan's Government: championing of labor rights

Since assuming office, Prime Minister Imran Khan has pledged unwavering support for the labor force, recognizing its pivotal role in the nation's development. Khan's administration came to power with promises of change and a vision for a "Naya Pakistan" (New Pakistan)

Under his leadership, the government has embarked on a journey of reform aimed at uplifting the marginalized including the labor force. Central to this endeavor has been the commitment to enforce labor laws, enhance workplace safety, and provide social security nets for workers. "Here are some key initiatives:

#### 1. Skill Development:

One of the landmark initiatives introduced by the Imran Khan government is the Kamy-

ab Jawan Program, which aims to empower youth and create job opportunities. Through this program, countless young Pakistanis have been able to access interest-free loans, vocational training, and entrepreneurial support, fostering a culture of self-reliance and innovation among the laboring masses.

While this program has the potential to benefit young laborers, its effectiveness in addressing the broader challenges faced by the labor force remains uncertain. Moreover, the government's efforts to improve the ease of doing business and attract foreign investment could indirectly benefit the labor market by creating more employment opportunities.

2. Labor Reforms: Imran Khan's government has prioritized labor reforms aimed at modernizing outdated regulations, ensuring fair wages, and improving working conditions across various sectors. On the legislative front, the PTI-led government passed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Factories (Amendment) Act in 2019, which aimed to enhance safety standards and provide better working conditions for factory workers in the province. However, critics argue that more needs to be done at the federal level to ensure uniform labor standards across the country.

3. Social Security: the government introduced the Ahsaas Program, a comprehensive social safety net aimed at providing financial assistance to vulnerable segments of society, including laborers. This initiative has been lauded for its efforts to alleviate poverty

*To be continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Kiran Asim

# Ambassador Amna Baloch, Visits Hasselt University

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Today, the Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, H. E. Amna Baloch paid a visit to Hasselt University in Belgium. The ambassador was warmly received by Director Research, Library and Internationalisation, Sadia VANCAUWENBERGH and other university officials upon arrival.

During her visit, Ambassador Amna Baloch commended Hasselt University for its innovative approach and impressive progress across various academic disciplines. Emphasizing the importance of bilateral relations between



Belgium and Pakistan, she highlighted the potential for fruitful cooperation and collaboration between universities in both countries, including Hasselt University.

As part of the university's annual #worldevening event, Ambassador Amna Baloch also had the pleasure of visiting a Pakistani food stall, where she appreciated the efforts of Pakistani students in showcasing diverse Pakistani culture and cuisine on an international platform.

This visit underscores the commitment of Pakistan to strengthen ties with Belgium academic institutions for mutual benefit.

# High-level Pakistan Prosecution Forum convened in Lahore

PPA

LAHORE: The Punjab Public Prosecution Department convened the 17th meeting of the Pakistan Prosecution Forum (PPF) from 2-3 May, 2024, in Lahore. This high-level meeting, funded by the U. S. Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is a crucial step toward promoting legislative and policy reforms in Pakistan's criminal justice system. Senior officials from prosecution and criminal justice stakeholders from Punjab and other provinces across Pakistan deliberated to advance critical rule of law reforms by sharing of experiences and discussing solutions for the common challenges they face.

The forum was graced by the Honorable Justice (R) Khalil Ur Rehman Ramday, as the Chief Guest, who in her inaugural speech applauded this established platform, stating, "I am honored to preside over the Pakistan Prosecution Forum, which plays a crucial role in shaping our nation's legal landscape. Together, we will continue our journey



towards a fairer and more equitable justice system inclusive of the gender specific needs of our communities." Honorable Justice further apprised that Government of Punjab is committed to reform the current Criminal Justice System for our posterity while ensuring "Rule of Law" in the Province.

The PPF is a prominent national forum consisting of each provincial prosecution department's leadership.

It has representation from all provinces and the federal law department, who come together to advocate for essential prosecution reforms to improve criminal justice service delivery to the public. The UNODC helps the forum improve and strengthen its strategic role. The provincial PPF chapters rotate, with each province hosting quarterly meetings. The Secretary of Prosecution,

Usman Anwar, highlighted, "The Pakistan Prosecution Forum is a valuable opportunity for us to learn from each other and to share best practices. I am confident that this forum will help us improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the prosecution system."

The 17th meeting of the forum also highlighted the Punjab Public Prosecution Department's flagship interventions, including the Punjab prosecution capacity building project, police training modernization, and integration of the case flow management system and prison management information system. These projects are graciously funded by the US Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and are being implemented by the UNODC Country Office in close coordination with Punjab stakeholders. UNODC Advisor for Criminal Justice System and Legal Reforms Arsalan Malik stated, "UNODC is proud to support the Pakistan Prosecution Forum. We are committed to working with the Government of Pakistan to strengthen the overall prosecution system."

## DET to bring together Dubai's tourism ecosystem at Arabian Travel Market 2024

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Government of Dubai Media Office - 02 May 2024: Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) will showcase the emirate's innovative and diverse destination offering by bringing together 129 key partners and stakeholders to demonstrate the city's collaborative spirit at the 31st edition of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), taking place from 6-9 May 2024 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.



With this year's ATM taking place under the forward-looking theme of "Empowering Innovation - Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship", DET will highlight how Dubai's tourism industry has cultivated innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability to create new pathways for growth beyond traditional tourism. This strategic approach is inspired by the ambitious goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 to further consolidate Dubai's position as one of the top three global cities for business and leisure, and the best city to visit, live and work in.

His Excellency, Issam Kazim, CEO of Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM), said: "As a longstanding destination partner of the Arabian Travel Market, Dubai is privileged to host the 31st edition of one of global tourism's most anticipated events. The industry gathering is a testament to our city's position as a world-leading travel destination, achieved under the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, through innovative strategies and robust public-private partnerships.

This year, DET will again organise the ATM Hosted Buyers Programme across Expo City Dubai, Real Madrid World, and Dubai Creek Harbour, promoting Dubai's unparalleled hospitality and offerings to 600 buyers from 46 different markets and countries. Among the attractions for visitors at the Dubai stand will be 'Dubai Pinball', an interactive and engaging gaming experience promoting Dubai's iconic landmarks, where players can win prizes and contest to get their names on the leaderboard.

## Nasa braces for intense sun storms on Mars as solar maximum draws near

As the much-anticipated solar maximum is to shower its radiation onto the celestial bodies of the solar system, Nasa is preparing to focus on Mars, Space.com reported.

The solar radiation will also hit Mars and it will be observed by the two spacecraft - MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) orbiter and Curiosity rover - that would contribute to the understanding of astronauts and will guide future missions to the Red Planet.

In the solar maximum, the sun's activity reaches its peak with a transformation in its magnetic field, causing solar flares to erupt and emit strong radiations, that could cause radio and communications blackout on Earth.

The solar maximum happens every 11 years.

Northern lights or aurora borealis are also caused by the charged particles coming from the sun during solar activity.

As Earth is saved by its magnetic field, Mars has no such thing to protect it, making the potential mission vulnerable to solar activity.

# Equipping youth with green skills through Rethinking Urban Development Initiative

ISLAMABAD: Experts at the event 'Rethinking Urban Development in Pakistan: Leveraging Youth's Potential for Sustainable Cities' said that innovative models such as the Green Urban Development School (GUDS) play a critical role in equipping youth with the green skills required to manage urbanization in a nature-inclusive and climate-resilient manner.

Institute of Urbanism (IoU) and School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) with the support of the U. S. Embassy Islamabad launched the pilot GUDS program at two universities i.e. Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and COMSATS University Islamabad,

which enhanced knowledge of participants through mentorship, exposure visits and cross-learning opportunities with experts from DePaul University, Chicago. The GUDS is also providing technical and financial support to two students from each university to practically set up their action research projects that lead to green start-ups, thus, empowering youth to spearhead the transition to a sustainable future. As the GUDS program was piloted at QAU in 2023, two grant winners have already set up their projects i.e. a composting facility and a sustainable rooftop set-up consisting of rainwater harvesting and hydro-

ponic farm.

Addressing participants at the concluding event of GUDS, Mr. Kelly Ryan, representing the US Embassy Islamabad said, "through programs like the Green Urban Development School, our aim is to encourage exchange of knowledge and collaboration to collectively address the challenge of climate change."

Mariyam Irfan, Managing Director of the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), remarked, "The Green Urban Development School represents a pivotal initiative in promoting sustainable urbanization in Pakistan. By nurturing the green

skills of our youth and empowering them to implement innovative solutions, we are not only addressing immediate environmental challenges but also shaping the leaders of tomorrow who will drive lasting change."

Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow, IoU emphasized the need to reshape urban development paradigms through strategic partnerships, collaborative efforts, development of green skills, and equitable transitions.

Marfaa Nascem, the GUDS grant winner from QAU, said that she has harvested 48,000 liters of rainwater since installing the system in January 2024, saving



around PKR 12,000 compared to tanker fees. She also highlights how the grant money helped her set up a hydroponic farm at her rooftop in Ghouri Town where she has planted around 230 plants in a limited area.

Dr. Jabir Hussain Syed, Associate Professor COMSATS said that GUDS provided a great platform to students to channelize their creative thinking into designing innovative solutions for urban environmental issues.

A total of four innovative solutions pertaining to urban water management, solid waste management and green infrastructure were submitted by the GUDS participants at COMSATS who had undergone the 2 month capacity-building sessions. After a rigorous evaluation two projects were chosen for grant award of PKR 500,000 each. The first project will focus on green infrastructure while the second will focus on water conservation. Out of these two, the project which will show greater potential for scalability at the end of two months will further be supported technically and financially.

# Government playing a crucial role to promote the adoption and growth of Solar Energy: Ali Majid, GM, LONGI Pakistan



Tahir Amin Malik

Ali Majid is a seasoned marketing professional with over a decade of experience in the renewable energy sector. He is currently servicing as the General Manager of LONGI Solar's Pakistan Branch, Lahore and he is responsible for overseeing the company's operations and business growth in the MEA & CA



Region. Throughout his career, Ali Majid has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep understanding of the renewable energy market.

In an interview Ali Majid said that he is committed to driving sustainable solutions and making a positive impact in the industry. He said that I am Ph. D in Industrial Management with a specialization in Marketing/Green Marketing, and MS in Marketing and a COL-MBA, among other

qualifications. He said that my involvement in numerous professional certifications and courses related to renewable energy and marketing. He talked about the LONGI Solar and said that LONGI products is a prominent in the solar energy industry, particularly known for its high-quality Solar Panels products which includes Monofacial and Bifacial, latest series are HIMOX6 HPBC Technology. He said the LONGI's Solar products have wonderful response



in the market with high efficiency, reliability, innovation, Global Reach, and LONGI Solar has sold over 5GW Solar Panels in Pakistan since started operation in Pakistan.

He further said that the strengthening partnerships is crucial for fostering a brighter and more sustainable future in the solar energy industry. Talked about performance and versatility of LONGI's products he said

that LONGI product is offering, HPBC Technology based solar panels which are very productive and widely acceptable from the customers in Pakistan. He said that Governments is playing a crucial role in promoting the adoption and growth of solar energy through various policies, incentives, and initiatives such as financial incentives, Feed-in Tariffs, Net Metering, Regulatory support, Public Awareness and education.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
70,657.64	71,102.54	
Day's High	Day's Low	
71,292.83	70,562.12	
Index Value	Change	
11,798,164,427	-444.90	
Percentage	Time	
-0.63%	2 May, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,172.15	+50.91	
Percentage	Time	
+0.63%	2 May, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,139.72	+236.43	
Percentage	Time	
+0.62%	2 May, 1:41 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,236.07	-37.98	
Percentage	Time	
-0.099%	2 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180	182
Bahrain Dinar	740.29	748.29
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.45	38.85
Danish Krone	39.85	40.25
Euro	294	297
Hong Kong Dollar	35.58	35.93
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.39	912.39
Malaysian Ringgit	58.38	58.98
New Zealand \$	164.24	166.24
Norwegians Krone	25.12	25.42
Omani Riyal	722.98	730.98
Qatari Riyal	76.47	77.17
Saudi Riyal	73.25	73.95
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.5
Swedish Korona	25.36	25.66
Swiss Franc	302.73	305.23
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	75.05	75.8
UK Pound Sterling	344.6	348
US Dollar	277.25	280

# Pakistani entrepreneurs must come forward & explore business opportunities in Ethiopia: Jemal Beker Abdula

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula has said that Ethiopia is a land of opportunities, hospitality and gestures thereby this is the right time to engage for economic collaboration. The Ambassador said that Ethiopia is a fully linked country with all the neighboring countries, with the cheapest energy availability where all the investments are legally protected and hopefully during next few years both the countries will be the best trading partners.

Addressing a largely attended launching ceremony of Pakistan 2nd Business & Trade Delegation to Ethiopia here at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday the Ambassador said that during the scheduled visit of the Business and Trade delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 26th to 31 May, 2024 there will be manufacturing Expo, Trade Fair, visits to the state of the art tourist sites and much more for the benefit of the visiting business community.

The Ambassador added that he is doing his level best to also get started Islamabad-Addis



Ababa and Lahore-Addis Ababa flights to bring the two countries' businessmen and people closer to each other.

ident Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari is rendering valuable services for strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia, especially for the improvement of trade relations.

In his address, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Ethiopia is the right destination for investments and businesses especially in pharma, Textile, Electric vehicles and IT sectors.

He said that during the ICCI delegation's last visit he found the Ethiopian people as extremely disciplined and determined to turn around and put their country on the road to progress and prosperity.

In his remarks Chairman Pakistan-Africa Business Forum and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that entire credit goes to the Ambassador for the commencement of Karachi-Addis Ababa direct flights especially at that time when Pakistan was facing an isolation-like situation on the aviation front. He expressed the hope that this great initiative of the Ambassador will go a long way in bringing people of all walks of life of the two countries closer to each other.

Executive member Rizwan Chheena in his vote of thanks expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ambassador for visiting ICCI with the hope that the 2nd visit to Ethiopia will be very fruitful for the business community.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Google team called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## U Bank inks MoU with National Science & Technology Park

PPA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant stride towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan, the National Science & Technology Park (NSTP) at NUST and U Microfinance Bank Ltd (U Bank) have reached an understanding to collaborate for NSTP's flagship programmes, including Hatch8 Incubation Programme and Rising Stars Startup Competition. Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NSTP, and Mohamed Essa Al Taheri, President & CEO U Bank, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a recent ceremony.

President & CEO U Bank apprised the Rector of vari-

ous innovative fin-tech initiatives undertaken by his organisation. He also commended NUST for its myriad of nation-building initiatives, world-class educational facilities, and opportunities it offers to nurture diverse minds and drive positive societal change. Rector NSTP appreciated U Bank's commitment and professionalism and expressed confidence that the newly forged partnership would go a long way in nurturing the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Both parties also discussed and devised strategies to improve student, parent, and staff well-being, including the establishment of an endowment fund for underprivileged students.

## Innovation In Agriculture Is Key To Economic Growth, Chairman PARC

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, paid a visit to the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to gain insights into the cutting-edge research facilities at NARC and have a valuable interaction with the agricultural scientists of the council. The Federal Minister commended Chairman PARC and PARC's pivotal contributions to safeguarding food and nutritional security.

He underscored the historical resilience of agriculture in boosting national economy during periods of economic turmoil. The Minister affirmed that the current government is steadfast dedicated to transform the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, emphasizing ongoing initiatives to support agricultural research and technological advancements in agriculture sector to enhance crop productivity, as in the past. Recognizing food security as a global imperative, the Minister highlighted the significance of Agricultural research institutions in addressing the critical challenges of climate change.

He emphasized the indispensable role of continuous financial support to research in driving technological progress and innovation, not only in agriculture but in other sectors as well.

Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muham-



mad Ali expressed gratitude to the Federal Minister, members of the media, and scientists for their proactive involvement in promoting food and nutritional security. He highlighted the fundamental role of research as the cornerstone of scientific advancement, technological innovation, and emphasized the necessity of investments in research endeavors. Dr Ali said that the facilitation of researchers and scientists is crucial to optimizing the potential of young researchers. It is imperative for young agricultural scientists to engage in collaborative efforts with international institutions and researchers to enhance their knowledge base. Chairman also high-

lighted PARC's comprehensive presence across all ecological zones in alignment with varying climatic conditions. Dr Ali also stressed the importance of establishing an endowment fund to ensure sustained funding for research activities.

During his visit, the Minister was briefed on the innovative research initiatives being undertaken at NARC, including the National Institute of Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Wheat Speed Breeding, and the Plant Genetic Resources Institute. Members from PARC's Board of Governors, distinguished agricultural scientists, and media persons were also present at the occasion.

## Zong 4G prioritizes user wellbeing with New SehatYab Partnership

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading mobile network operator, is proud to announce a groundbreaking partnership with SehatYab, a leading tele-health platform. This collaboration prioritizes user well-being by offering a comprehensive suite of mental health services accessible through the Zong 4G network.

SehatYab offers comprehensive online mental health services in Pakistan for individuals and corporates, providing confidential consultations with qualified and the best psychiatrists, psychologists, and trainers.

The Zong 4G and Sehat-

Yab partnership provides Zong 4G users with several valuable resources to support their mental health such as Free Online Self-Assessment Tests, helping you gain valuable insights into your mental wellbeing with free tests for adults and children. These tests cover various areas, including mental health, relationships, and work stress.

"At Zong 4G, we recognize the importance of mental health and emotional well-being," said Zong 4G Representative. "This partnership with SehatYab empowers our users to prioritize their mental health by providing them with convenient access to professional support and resources."

## RemoteWell, Godaam Technologies and Digitt+ present Top Ideas

PPA

LAHORE: "Agriculture, as a sector, hold the key to prosperity, food security, and the socioeconomic upliftment of our rural communities...Continuous innovation and development within the agricultural sector, therefore, are vital for the economic development and sustainability of Pakistan" said Zafar Masud, President & CEO of The Bank of Punjab, while speaking at the BoP-sponsored ZarZaraat start-up competition at Pakistan Agricultural Coalition's Agri-Connections 2024 conference and expo held in Lahore on April 24 and 25, 2024.

"The idea behind this fascinating project is to create a pipeline for the investors in agriculture space," said Mr. Zafar Masud

Ms. Maria Saleem of Fatima Group explained that 35 applications were received from various agri companies and shortlisted to seven which were then judged by a jury under the chairmanship of Mr. Yawar Ali of Nestle Pakistan. Other jurors included Mr. Sarfraz Hussain of Bank of Punjab, Ms. Naz Khan of IFC, Ms. Maria Saleem of Fatima Group, Mr. Muneer Kamal of Pakistan Banks' Association, Mr. Kazim Saeed of Pakistan Agricultural Coalition, and Mr. Hasan Khurram Hanif, a progressive farmer.

The three companies shortlisted by the jury, Digitt+, Godaam Technologies, and RemoteWell, were invited to pitch in front of a group of investors representing various entities including Mr. Asif Riaz from The Bank of Punjab, Mr. Navid Goraya of Karandaaz, Mr. Habib Saqib of Fatima Gobi Ventures, Mr. Kashif Thanvi of Acumen Fund, Mr. Shahbaz Malik of Hilton Pharma, and Mr. Khurram Jamaali of Din Ventures. Each finalist got a chance to explain their product/service in front of this panel to raise investment for their venture and also received cash prizes sponsored by The Bank of Punjab.

Navid Goraya, Chief Investment Officer of Karandaaz, an investment platform of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced that each finalist will get one day of counselling and advice from Karandaaz experts to improve their business models and financial viability.

## foodpanda champions Women's Empowerment at WIBCON '24

PPA

KARACHI: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading delivery platform, proudly sponsored and participated in the Women in Business and Leadership Conference (WIBCON) '24, organised by the Pakistan Society for Training and Development (PSTD). This influential event, attended by an estimated 1200-1500 participants, provided a positive platform for advancing inclusivity and empowering women leaders.

As a title sponsor, foodpanda's presence at WIBCON '24 spotlighted the significant contri-



butions and achievements of its female workforce. Through an engaging exhibit, foodpanda highlighted the pivotal roles women play in driving innovation, excellence, and growth within the company and the biases

that we need to break in order for women to grow and succeed.

Muntaqa Peracha, Managing Director of foodpanda, lent his insights to a compelling panel discussion comprising of Male Champions in the C-Suite of

leading companies. The discussion centred on creating inclusive and equitable workplaces that empower women to thrive and succeed. The theme of this year's conference, "Rise in Sync", resonated throughout the conversation, emphasising collective empowerment, bridging gaps, and rising together as a society.

Muntaqa Peracha shared his enthusiasm about the successful conclusion of WIBCON '24, stating, "We are deeply honoured to have contributed to this esteemed gathering, which highlights the importance of nurturing a diverse and inclusive environment."

PPA

KARACHI: Yango, an international tech company present on the Pakistani market with several digital offerings including a ride-hailing service, announces the implementation of comprehensive security enhancements to ensure the safety and well-being of both riders and drivers in the market.

Recognizing the paramount importance of safety on the country roads, Yango has taken proactive steps to fortify its platform and enhance security protocols, reaffirming its commitment to providing a secure and reliable ride-hailing experience for all users.

Yango has previously



already taken several steps to top up the game in the field of safety. Now, when the passenger uses the application, he can view the driver's data (photo, name, vehicle license plate, and score).

The app also has a Safety Center to contact local authorities in case of emergency; a button to share the route and trip details; and contact with the support team 24 hours a day. Trips ordered via the Yango app are also empowered by speeding control and driving style monitoring aimed to reduce the risk of accidents.



## Inspired Union 2024

KARACHI: Lady officers of Pakistan Navy and US Navy in an interactive session during Exercise Inspired Union 2024.



## PM for enhancing bilateral cooperation with Azerbaijan in various areas

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday stressed the need to work together with Azerbaijan to enhance trade and investment, energy cooperation, defence, connectivity, education and cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

The prime minister said that he intended to send a high level ministerial delegation to Baku for enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan, he said, was also prepared to convene the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Joint Commission meeting at an early date where both sides could discuss matters related to cooperation in various fields.



The prime minister was talking to Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov who called on him. The ambassador briefed the prime minister on the current state of bilateral relations, highlighting the recent inauguration of flights between

Baku and Karachi, in addition to the flights already operating between Baku and Islamabad as well as Baku and Lahore.

He said that the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan was also expected to visit Pakistan later this month. He also briefed the prime minister on

various institutional mechanisms and their upcoming meetings later this year.

While admiring the beauty of the city of Baku, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he wanted to replicate the beautification of Baku in Islamabad and suggested that both cities could explore enhanced cooperation through sister city agreement among them.

He emphasized that Pakistan attached great importance to Azerbaijan as the two countries enjoyed excellent brotherly relations.

He conveyed his greetings for President Ilham Aliyev and fondly recalled their telephonic conversation on Eidul Fitr.

He also recalled his interactions with the leadership of Azerbaijan during his visit to

Baku in June 2023 and reiterated his invitation to President Aliyev to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

The prime minister congratulated Azerbaijan on being selected as the host city for the COP 29 Summit meeting that would be held in November 2024 and said he looked forward to receiving the Minister of Ecology of Azerbaijan next week, who would be carrying the formal invitation letter of the Azeri President for the COP 29 meeting.

He said that Pakistan wanted to enhance its fraternal relations with Azerbaijan and also looked forward to the visit of President Ilham Aliyev to Islamabad soon.

## Nepal battles raging wildfires across the country

## AFP

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Firefighters and local residents battled a massive wildfire on the outskirts of Nepal's capital Thursday as the Himalayan republic endures a severe fire season authorities have blamed on a heatwave.

Nepal sees a spate of wildfires annually, usually beginning in March, but their number and intensity has worsened in recent years, with climate change leading to drier winters.

Emergency crews worked

through the night to fight the blaze which engulfed a forested area in Lalitpur, on the southern periphery of the Kathmandu valley.

More than 4,500 wildfires have been reported this year across the country, nearly double compared to last year according to government data but less than the worst fire season on record in 2021.

"Wildfires have increased in an unimaginable ratio, and the season is expected to last for a month more," Sundar Prasad Sharma of the National Disaster Risk Reduction

and Management Authority told AFP.

"It is challenging to put out fires because of our difficult terrain," he added.

Environment ministry spokesman Badri Raj Dhungana said the increase in the number of wildfires this year was because of a lengthy drought and heatwave conditions in Nepal's southern plains.

"Generally, wildfires peak late April but this year they are still increasing because of rising temperatures," he said.

Extensive scientific research



has found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

Large swathes of South and Southeast Asia have sweltered through a heatwave since last month, with the El Nino phenomenon also driving this year's exceptionally warm weather.

Temperatures have risen

above 40 degrees Celsius in the Buddhist pilgrimage city of Lumbini and other parts of the south, with more hot weather forecast in the days ahead.

More than a hundred schools in the southern city of Butwal were closed on Thursday for two days out of fears the heatwave would impact the health of students.

## Omar Hamid reappoints as ECP secretary

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Asif Hussain on Thursday tendered his resignation as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Secretary position citing health concerns, sources told to media.

Sources close to the development revealed that Asif Hussain has resigned as ECP Secretary, adding that the former ECP Secretary, Omar Hamid, reappointed to the same position.

It is pertinent to mention here that, earlier this year on January 07, Omar Hamid resigned as ECP secretary over health concerns.

Sources stated that Omar Hamid was hospitalized recently in tpast and was under medical assistance at his home.

Omar Hamid has over 30 years of experience in socio-economic analysis both on international and domestic issues. He is specialized in the political economies of developing countries.

Thorough understanding of the Government of Pakistan's governance issues, policies, and procedures. Senior-level experience in policy formulation, strategy development, and program design and re-engineering of government departments.

## Ali Randhawa appointed as new Chief Commissioner of Islamabad

## City Desk



Captain (R) Anwarul Haq from his post as the Chief Commissioner of the capital city.

As per the establishment division's notification, a grade 20 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, was appointed as the Chief Minister of Islamabad.

According to the notification, Muhammad Ali Randhawa has also been appointed with an additional charge of the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

It is pertinent to mention here that Captain Retired Muhammad Anwarul Haq was appointed the new chief commissioner of Islamabad during the caretaker government tenure.

## Pakistan, Iran appoint liaison officers to counter cross-border terrorism

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran appointed liaison officers to counter terrorism along the border of the two countries. Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement that the appointment of liaison officers was decided during the visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister. "The appointment is part of the joint efforts to counter terrorism along the Pakistan-Iran border," the spokesman said.

It added that Pakistan wants to make the Pak-Iran border a 'border of love and peace'. The development came after Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi visited Pakistan.

"The two sides agreed to further expand trade and economic cooperation and affirmed their commitment to transform their common border from 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity' through joint development-oriented economic projects, including setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings," the joint statement of Pakistan and Iran read.

## Haseena Wajid advises D-8 states to make mutual trade easier

## Spokesman Report



DHAKA: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Haseena Wajid has advised Developing-8 (D-8) Muslim countries to make mutual trade easier between them and introduce a common currency like Euro in the European Union.

A delegation of eight Muslim countries led by Turk deputy minister of commerce called of the Bangladeshi prime minister at her residence in Dhaka.

The D-8 group comprises of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Turkey, Malaysia and Pakistan.

"D-8 grouping has to work like a family must help each other to keep their fate in their own hands", Haseena Wajid said.

The D-8 member countries in their session agreed to promote bilateral and multilateral trade among them.

## PAK-US joint naval exercise: 'Inspired Union 2024' exercise held in Karachi

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: A bilateral Naval exercise titled 'Inspired Union 2024' between Pakistan Navy and US naval forces was held in Karachi.

The three-day exercise involved us Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Diving, Legal, Naval Construction Force, Civil Affairs and Medical Teams.

During the exercise, US Naval commander ctf. 52 met Command-

er Pakistan fleet and Commander coast guards and discussed matters of mutual interests.

The objective of the exercise was to promote a safe and sustainable maritime environment in the region and mutual cooperation between the two navies.

Exercise 'inspired union 2024' is a manifestation of the strong bilateral military relationship between the two navies.

## Abacus Consulting delegation calls on Minister of State for IT &amp; Telecom Shaza Fatima

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Delegation of Abacus Consulting, led by its Sr. Executive Director Naveed Hussain, called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her office on Thursday.

The discussions centered on a shared vision of propelling Pakistan's digital transformation and

explored key areas of collaboration that includes digital transformation to leverage technology to enhance government services and empower citizens.

Other members of delegation included Sikander Jamshed, Head of International Business, and Muhammad Qasim Syed, Head of International Strategy & Growth, Abacus Consulting.

## Atif Ikram Sheikh meets Algerian envoy to discuss trade opportunities

ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce Atif Ikram Sheikh met with the Ambassador of Algeria Dr. Brahim Romani at the Federation office.

On this occasion, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that there are good opportunities to promote mutual trade between Pakistan and Algeria in various fields. The Ministry of Commerce's initiative on the 'look Africa Policy' was an important step towards deeper engagement with African countries. The best way to improve bilateral trade is to promote direct links between the private sectors of the two countries. In June, the Pakistan-Algeria Economic Forum will be led by the Federation of Pakistan.

Federation President Atif Ikram said that the establishment of a joint business council will help increase economic cooperation in trade, development projects, technology exchange. Pakistan has an untapped export potential of USD 5 billion in Algeria which includes surgical instruments, textiles, vegetables and fruits, pharmaceutical products, copper, footwear, cutlery, aluminum, furniture, and mechanical equipment. Investors from both countries should explore joint ventures and investment opportunities in business

sectors. Trade and investment opportunities can be explored through frequent delegation exchanges.

Algerian Ambassador Dr. Brahim Romani said on this occasion that we are organizing the first Pakistan-Algeria Economic Forum in which we invite the business community of Pakistan to participate. Better relations and trade cooperation will be opened by opening new avenues of cooperation under the Africa Policy. It is a good opportunity for Pakistan's business community to participate in the Economic Forum and explore new opportunities to promote business with Algeria. The Chambers of Commerce of both countries should involve themselves to create more value for the local business community. The MOU between the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry opens new avenues of cooperation will play an important role.

Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Coordinator Diplomatic Committee Ahmed Waheed, Vice President Zaki Ijaz, Ijaz Khokhar, Special Advisor Dr. Afshan Malik and others were also present on this occasion.

## PTI issues white...

## Continued from Page 1

other party members should be quashed," the white paper read.

The PTI through white paper also urged the international community to support Pakistan's democratic goals by presenting the issues at hand as ones pertaining to justice, constitutional rights, and democratic fundamentals.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Gohar said that that ahead of the general elections, efforts were made to oust his party from the electoral process.

Referring to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict that struck the PTI's bat symbol, Barris-

ter Gohar said that his party was compelled to run for the general elections without its recognisable electoral symbol.

He said that even after all efforts, the PTI won at least 180 National Assembly seats across the country.

"Manipulated election results in Form 47 turned our victory into defeat," the PTI chairman added.

Omar Ayub, the secretary general of the PTI and opposition leader in the National Assembly, said that the ECP had been given billions of rupees to conduct free and fair elections in the nation yet it failed to do so.

Omar Ayub demanded the chief election commissioner to step down for conducting 'opaque' elections.

## Positive results of ...

## Continued from Page 1

He said immediately after Eidul Fitr, the Saudi Finance Minister visited Pakistan along with relevant ministers and extensive consultations were held regarding economic cooperation and investment.

On the directives of the Saudi Crown Prince, the Saudi ministers formulated comprehensive programme for cooperation with Pakistan, he added.

The minister said that it was the new robust initiative in Pakistan-Saudi relations, and the specific results of the Prime Minister's historic visit have started to come to fore.

Attallah Tarar said that in follow-up to the PM's Saudi visit, a delega-

tion of Saudi businessmen was also coming to Pakistan in the next few days.

"This is the outcome of successful foreign policy of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif", he said, adding that the exchange of delegations will continue between the two brotherly countries. He said that a delegation of Pakistani ministers including Petroleum Minister Mussadaq Malik, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Energy Awaiz Laghari and officials of Special Investment Facilitation Council had reached Saudi Arabia a day before Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and returned one day after him as they held meetings on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.