



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
مغرب سے بیان کیا کہ سعد بن عبادہ نے کہا  
کہ اگر میں بقیہ نبوی کے ساتھ کسی غیر مرد  
کو دیکھوں تو یہ جی تواریک دھارت سے  
ماریاؤں۔ بیباک نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم  
نکل چکی تو آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا  
کہ کیا تمہیں سعد کی غیرت پر حیرت ہے۔  
میں ان سے بھی زیادہ کر غیرت مند ہوں اور  
اللہ جسے بھی زیادہ غیرت مند ہے۔  
(بخاری ص ۸۴۶ نمبر ۶۸۴۶)  
Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

## Saudi crown prince can bring economic revolution, says PM Shehbaz

Pakistan is expected to make major announcements in solar energy projects, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said as the South Asian country seeks investment from the kingdom in different sectors to boost economy. In the interview with Al Arabiya English, he shared that... (Details on Page 8)



## Pakistan students take part in national campaign from UK University

The achievements of its students in Pakistan are being celebrated in an international campaign from the University of London, a prestigious UK based University which specialises in online and distance learning. The campaign features alumni and current students who are unlocking their potential by studying through the University of London while remaining here in Pakistan. (Details on Page 5)

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## Protest

MUZAFFARABAD: Tear gas shells being thrown by the Police to disperse the protesting citizen in the city.



Photo: Online

## AJK protests continue for second day, leading to food shortage, troubles for tourists



### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The shutter-down and wheel-jam strikes continued for the second day in all 10 districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, leading to a shortage of food in the region and severe hardships for tourists.

In Kotli, a clash between the police and protesters resulted in the tragic loss of a sub-inspector's life and left 12 officers

injured. Similar clashes, clashes, baton charges, and tear gas usage between the police and protesters in the Poonch and Muzaffarabad divisions of Azad Kashmir further intensified the situation, turning Muzaffarabad into a battleground.

As a result of the escalated situation, public transportation, shops, markets, and business centers remained closed.

Continued on Page 8

## DPM Dar to visit Beijing for Pak-China FMs' Strategic Dialogue from May 13

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar will visit Beijing, China from May 13-16 where he will co-chair the fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Foreign Minister and Director of the General Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China, Wang Yi. The two sides will comprehensively review Pakistan-China bilateral relations including economic and trade cooperation; high-level exchanges and visits; up-gradation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and future connectivity initiatives.

The two leaders will also exchange views on the unfolding regional geopolitical landscape and bilateral cooperation at the multilateral fora, a Foreign Office news release said. On the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue, the



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister is expected to meet Chinese leaders, senior Ministers and leading corporate executives. Deputy Prime Minister's visit is part of regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China. It reflects the importance attached by the two countries to further deepening the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership"; reaffirming mutual support on issues of core interest; enhancing economic and trade cooperation including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); and reinforcing joint commitment to regional peace and development.

# PM expresses govt desire to attract investment from UK, other countries

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed Pakistan's desire to attract investment from the UK and other countries, highlighting the country's vast potential in diverse areas including agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism, and mining.

He was talking to British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, who called on him at the PM House.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Economist and Director of the Economic and Evaluation Directorate, Foreign



Commonwealth and Development Office, London, Professor Adnan Khan.

The prime minister said, "Pakistan and the United Kingdom enjoy long-standing rela-

tions that are further strengthening with the passage of time."

He also emphasized the government's commitment to improving governance structures and introducing institutional reforms.

He said that the government was taking measures at the micro and macroeconomic levels to recover the country's economy.

Moreover, he said the digitization process of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was in a final stage.

The British delegation felicitated the government's initiative to declare an education emergency in the country and expressed support for Pakistan's recovery efforts.

## NA Speaker summons parliamentary leaders' meetings tomorrow

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for meetings with parliamentary leaders on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at Parliament House to discuss issues related to scheduling the first parliamentary year of the 5th session of the 16th National Assembly. The speaker has invited parliamentary leaders and chief whips from various political parties, including Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazir Tarar, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Members of the National Assembly such as Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Malik Amir Dogar, Ijaz Hussain Jakharani, Syed Aminul Haque, Noor Alam Khan, Gul Asghar Khan, and Khalid Hussain Magasi.

The forum will discuss the scheduling of the motion of thanks for the President's address, as well as discuss the forthcoming budget meeting. It's important to mention that President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned a session of the National Assembly on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.



## Wheat purchase target may be further increased: Rana Tanveer

### Commerce Desk

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the target of wheat purchase may be further increased to ensure a fair price to the growers as the government is sincere about facilitating wheat growers at maximum extent.

During his visit to PASSCO Center Nia Lahore Jhang Road, Tehsil Gojra near here on Saturday, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had taken strict notice of unavailability of Bardana (gunny bags) to the growers despite clear instructions of the government to start a purchase drive.

He said that PASSCO had established its procurement centers in 13 tehsils across Punjab where necessary facilities were provided for wheat growers and their apprehen-



sions would be removed. He said that Pakistan had witnessed a bumper wheat crop this year despite harsh weather and climate change. We are hopeful that current crop would not only cater to the domestic food requirements easily but we may also export its surplus, he added. He said that the government had also decided to provide fertilizer at cheaper rates so that the farmers could meet crop expenditures easily. He also visited various

sections of the PASSCO Center and directed the staff to deal with the growers politely and purchase their wheat produce under free, fair and transparent manner as no negligence or embezzlement would be tolerated.

PASSCO Managing Director Emad Nazir Ahmad briefed the minister about wheat procurement and said that PASSCO was issuing Bardana (bags) after registering growers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

## Gwadar: Rally taken out to condemn killing of barbershop workers

### Correspondent

GWADAR: Scores of protesters staged a rally in Gwadar district of Balochistan to condemn the brutal killing of seven barbershop workers, hailing from Punjab.

The rally was held from Sarbandar Chowk to Jaiti, with protesters holding banners and placards and expressing solidarity with the families of the victims.

The elders of Baloch Yakjehiti Committee and locals chanted slogans against the outlawed organisations including Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), and others.

The protesters demanded to bring the facilitators and perpetrators of this

Continued on Page 8

## Amir Muqam pledges swift development for Gilgit-Baltistan



### City Desk

GILGIT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr. Amir Muqam, vowed on Saturday to fast-track development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, harness the region's mineral resources, and prioritize its progress.

Addressing the media alongside former Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman, and

Member National Assembly MNA from Kohistan, Muhammad Idrees, at local hotel in Gilgit, he expressed appreciation for the warm reception in Gilgit-Baltistan. He pledged to increase the capacity of the Hanzel Hydropower Project to 40 MW as a significant step towards the region's progress.

Underlining the tourism prospects of Gilgit-Baltistan, he emphasized its status as a prime tourist destination.

Continued on Page 8

# Seminar on Laparoscopic Surgery at Children's Hospital Multan



**Kiran Asim**  
 MULTAN: A seminar was organized on the importance of laparoscopic surgery in pediatric urology, its problems, challenges and their solutions under the chairmanship of Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti, Dean Children's Hospital Multan,

on behalf of the Department of Pediatric Urology at Children's Hospital Multan. In which South Punjab and others of Punjab A large number of professors and Senior doctors from Different hospitals participated. On this occasion, the doctors said that We are grateful to Dean Children's Hospital Multan Professor Dr.

Muhammad Kashif Chishty, Professor Doctor Masood Al Rauf Hiraj, Professor Dr. Asif Abbas Khawaja, Professor Dr. Amir Hanif, Assistant Professor Dr. Mehreen and the Children's Hospital administration and especially the Pediatric Urology Department for organizing such a successful event.

Senior Prof. Dr. Haroon Pasha, Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Prof. Dr. Mazhar Jam, Prof. Dr. Asif Qureshi, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Anjum, Prof. Dr. Waqqas Imran, Dr. Faisal Usman and other senior registrars, PGRs, medical officers and senior staff were present in the seminar. Nurses also participated

## Saraiki Parties protested against the killing of Saraiki Wasaib Labor workers in Gwadar



**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Pakistan Saraiki Party and other Saraiki parties protested against the killing of Saraiki Wasaib workers in Gwadar Balochistan and against the abolition of Civil Secretariat in Multan and Bahawalpur. slogans of Balochistan Government Murdabad Chief Minister Murdabad and Punjab Government Murdabad were raised. The leaders of the protest were Malik Allah Nawaz Venus, Zahoor Dharija, Malik Javed Chand Advocate, former President of Multan Bar Association Syed Riazul Hasan Gillani Advocate, Dr. Zafar Hans, Khawaja Shoaibul Hasan, Rubina Bukhari, Sharif Khan Lashari, Jahangir Qureshi, Shehbaz. Bhai and others addressed. Saraiki leaders said that the killing of Wasaib workers in Gwadar is the worst form of terrorism. They said that it is a shame that Punjab is oppressing Saraiki Wasaib and because of its exploitative behavior, Wasaib's workers go to work in Balochistan and there in the name of Punjabi. They get killed. They said that we have no relation with Punjab and we are not South Punjab, our separate identity is Saraiki, South Punjab means that we will continue to be killed in the name of Punjab forever, we will sacrifice our lives for our wealth and our identity. Saraiki leaders said that our identity cards should be made in Saraiki like Sindhis' cards and should be written in front of the district.

But the fact that the killing of Wasib's workers did not stop and it is a question mark. We believe that along with the Balochistan government, President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif are also responsible for the killing of Saraiki laborers. The solution to the problem is only the establishment of the province of Saraikistan but what a shame that a lame civil secretariat was created and it was said that in the coming times it will get the status of a provincial secretariat, but today it was also abolished. The members of assembly and people sitting in high positions belonging to Wasaib are silent on this important issue. Saraiki leaders said that the civil secretariat should be restored.

The conspiracy to fight Multan & Bahawalpur should be stopped, a secretary should be appointed instead of an additional secretary, all departments should be brought under the civil secretariat, the officers of the civil secretariat should be given the full powers of the secretary, the share of Wasaib's funds and jobs should be given to the civil secretariat. It should be transferred otherwise there will be full protest and resistance.

## Demand for restoration 3G, 4G service in different areas of Waziristan

**Adam Khan Wazir**

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: On Saturday Local citizens, students and business community demanded restoration of 3G, 4G service in Waziristan. District Lower South Waziristan tehsil, birmal, Toi Khulla and various areas of Upper Waziristan are going to be over a year long, but till now Mobile, internet service 3G and 4G has been stopped completely. Common people, businessmen and especially students are facing severe difficulties due to internet shutdown.

In Upper and Lower South Waziristan, the people of Tehsil birmal and Toi Khulla have protested many times for the restoration of net service, but unfortunately the government has not yet restored the net service.

In this regard, District General Secretary of PPP Imran Mukhlis told Dawn that the state should stop treating our people like a step mother. He said the government and authorities have suspended the mobile network and internet service without any reason.

He said that we are deprived of basic constitutional rights and only have national identity cards in our pockets.

A local shopkeeper hayat Zindawar told Dawn, and raised the question of how long will our Waziristan remain in this darkness.

## Aga Khan Hospital, Hyderabad, provides free health camp to honor Mother's Day

**Kamran Khamiso Khawaja**

HYDERABAD: In a remarkable display of community spirit and medical expertise, Aga Khan Hospital, Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, organized a highly successful free health camp at the Hyderabad Club. The event, held to commemorate Mother's Day, brought together a team of esteemed medical professionals and civic leaders to provide vital health services to the local population. The event was formally inaugurated by Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Hussain Shoro.

The health camp offered a wide range of medical consultations, including Women's Health, Children's Health, Heart Health, Eye Care, Endocrinology, Internal Medicine, and Physiotherapy. Additionally, complimentary services such as ECGs, blood sugar tests, and eye examinations were provided to enhance access to quality care for the patients.

The event witnessed an impressive turnout, with approximately 300 patients benefiting from the medical services.



## Surprised

LAHORE: An unused land of Punjab Transport Company worth millions of rupees near the railway station of the provincial capital, while the company takes offices on rent in Liberty Chowk, which is a matter of consideration for the Government.



Photo: Online

# Israel, America and United Nations is Playing a Blood Game in Gaza

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami women's circle organized a rally against the music competitions organized by the Punjab government and to express solidarity with the Palestinians. Speaking on this occasion, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said that millions of children in Pakistan are deprived of basic facilities such as education. In Punjab, children are not provided with basic educational facilities and instead of providing educational facilities, the Punjab government is providing music. Promoting obscenity and nudity in the name of competitions. On the one hand, Israel is committing atrocities in Palestine, and



on the other hand, in Pakistan, the slaves of the United States are charging the students of the Islamic Jamiat Students with batons for the pleasure

of the United States. The government should correct its Qiblah.

Addressing the protestors, the General Secretary of the women's group of Jamaat-e-Islami, Dr. Humaira Tariq, said that while addressing the women's rally held in Multan against the Israeli atrocities on Gaza and the competition music by the Punjab government, she said that "Netanyahu is playing blood game in Gaza." The game is being played and all human rights organizations, including the United Nations, are playing the role of helpless spectators. Today, while Gaza is being destroyed, Gaza is going to fall. An attack on lakhs of refugees has been announced, the wheat crisis is continuing in the beloved country, farmers are sitting on the roads for wheat.

# How was Beligh as Governor?

**Azam Tariq**

The process of forming the government has been completed; only the appointment of the Governor of Sindh will make it one hundred percent. This time, after the general election held on 8th February, PMLN and PPP formed a coalition government. PPP demanded only some constitutional designations like the Presidency, Chairmanship of the Senate, Deputy Speakership of the National Assembly, and the governors of two provinces, Punjab and KPK. Now, PPP has nominated their eligible candidates for these positions. The governorship of Punjab fell under the jurisdiction of Sardar Saleem Haider, who belongs to Attack. His notification was issued, and formally, he took the

oath on 10th May; the oath was presided over by Lahore High Court Chief Justice Shahzad Khan. In the oath-taking ceremony, the outgoing governor also participated. Today, we will look at the governorship of Baligh U Rehman; before that, let's take a view of Baligh's early and political life.

Baligh Ur Rehman was born on 21 December 1966 in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. His father, Muhammad Aqil-ur-Rehman, was a Member of the National Assembly during 1997-99, while his cousin, Qazi Adnan Fareed, is also a politician.

He was initially educated at Sadiq Public School, where he passed O Level with a Gold Medal, and later completed his FSc before graduating from the University of Pennsylvania as an electrical engineer in 1994.

Baligh was elected as a member of the

National Assembly of Pakistan for the first time in the 2008 Pakistani general election from Constituency NA-185 on a PML-N ticket.

He was re-elected as a member of the National Assembly for the second time on a PML-N ticket from NA-185 in the 2013 Pakistani general election.

In June 2013, he was appointed as

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training.

In November 2013, he was given the additional charge of Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control in the cabinet of Nawaz Sharif. He ceased to hold ministerial office in July 2017 when the federal cabinet was disbanded following the disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after the Panama Papers case decision. Following the election of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2017, he

was inducted into Abbasi's federal cabinet. He was elevated to federal minister and given the portfolio of Federal Minister of Education and Training. Upon the dissolution of the National Assembly on the expiration of its term on 31 May 2018, Baligh ceased to hold the office as Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training.

When the PDM came into power after ousting IK by moving a vote of no confidence motion, all the governors of the provinces resigned except for Punjab. Punjab's governor, Umar Sarfarz Cheema, remained in conflict with the federal government, but ultimately had to leave his position. On 30 May, Baligh U Rehman, belonging to PMLN, was appointed as the new governor, as we've seen from his political career.

Taking on the governorship, he faced

challenges and began working diligently. This was during the time when the provincial government of Punjab, headed by Hamza, was in power. Later, Hamza's government was dismissed due to losing a constitutional stance in the Supreme Court regarding a letter issued by PMLQ chief. A new coalition government in Punjab was sworn in, and it was a difficult time for Baligh, but he remained courageous and fulfilled his constitutional duties impartially. He didn't show any political bias, and even CM Punjab Pervaiz Elahi and his cabinet met with Baligh on many occasions.

A more challenging time came when the suggestion to dissolve the assembly was made by the CM, purportedly for political benefits for his ally IK. Baligh didn't sign the summary, and the assembly was dissolved after forty-eight hours as per the law. He didn't support any ille-

gal practices because the dissolution of the assembly was suspiciously motivated by the political benefit of one party. Later, the same party started to negotiate for elections, but he didn't respond, stating that he was not involved in the dissolution of the assembly. The matter eventually went to the Supreme Court, which referred the case of setting the date for elections to the president. Throughout this ordeal, he performed his duties lawfully and diligently, working for the betterment of the province within his jurisdiction.

Now that he has left his position, his statement, "it seems that some burden has been lifted," reflects his sincerity towards his duty. I have some personal relations with him, and I found him to be a humble and obliging personality. May Allah bless him! We hope for his bright future.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:35 am  
Zohr ..... 12:04 pm  
Asr ..... 4:57 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:59 pm  
Isha ..... 8:34 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**Opposition alliance decides to start country-wide movement against govt**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Aain-e-Pakistan has decided to launch a nationwide campaign for the restoration of the constitution.

The opposition alliance held a crucial meeting under the leadership of Mahmood Khan Achakzai, in which they also decided to challenge the hurdles in the organisation in Karachi and Faisalabad gatherings through the court.

The meeting was attended by leaders of various opposition parties, including Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Hamid Raza, Sajid Tarin, and Sanaulah Baloch.

The opposition alliance stated that the gatherings will be held at all costs, and the meeting emphasized the need to focus on future action plans to advance the movement and achieve 'true freedom'.

Omar Ayub criticises Shehbaz's 'fake mandate', demands inquiry into May 9 Achakzai's house raided in Quetta

It was decided in the meeting that legal recourse will be sought from the court against the authorities for obstructing the gatherings in Karachi and Faisalabad, as public assemblies are our constitutional and democratic right.

The opposition alliance reiterated that the gatherings will be held without any compromise.

They expressed concerns that democracy has been undermined in the country and the constitution is being violated. They vowed to continue their movement until the restoration of the constitution.

# Corps Commander Peshawar Inaugurates Roots Millennium Future World School at DHA Peshawar

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Corps Commander Peshawar & Chairman Defence Housing Authority DHA Peshawar Lt. Gen Hassan Azhar Hayat HI (M) inaugurated the iconic purpose-built concept based Future World School & College spread on 4 acres of thematic eduland at DHA Peshawar says a press release.

Brig Haroon Rahim Administrator DHA Peshawar, Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Executive Director Engr. Anna Faisal, Chief Operating Officer Abid Hussain, Director Operations & Development Brig. (R) Khurram Nazir, Director Community & Outreach Mrs. Sabina Zakir and Principal Future World School & College DHA Peshawar Mrs. Tehmina Khalid were present at this auspicious occasion.

The Chief Guest Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen.

Hassan Azhar Hayat HI (M) unveiled the Inaugural Plaque.

Future World School & College DHA Peshawar is a Joint Venture between Defence Housing Authority Peshawar and Roots Millennium Education Group, and is Pakistan's pioneer and KPK's first concept based, skills centric, pedagogy driven, and technology enabled 21st century iconic school and college.

The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan is spreading its roots widely nationwide with flagship purpose built iconic campuses and award-winning academic choices, qualifications, and curriculum under the dynamic and trailblazing leadership of Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Tamgha-e-Intiaz, who is recognized and celebrated as 500 most influential Muslims of the world.

The Chief Guest Chairman DHA Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat HI (M) emphasized

the need for quality inclusive education for all and expressed his joy and gratitude towards the establishment of the Future World School & College at DHA Peshawar and called it a gift to the province & society. He emphasized that beginning of School at DHA Peshawar is the best thing one can do for their community. The chief guest extended his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Faisal Mushtaq for his unwavering dedication, commitment, and visionary leadership.

In his welcome address, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, CEO of Roots Millennium Future World Schools & Colleges, captivated the audience with an awe-inspiring recount of His founding parents Col Mushtaq Rasul Chaudhry and Mrs. Riffat Mushtaq Aizaz-e-Faizal for their vision, hard work, entrepreneurship and legacy and their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts for nurturing a



world class Institution ROOTS to where it stands today.

With the establishment of Future World School & College at DHA Peshawar, The Millenni-

um Education Group has created a unique hub of research, service learning, social construct, that infuses experiential and intercultural learning thus enriching

experiences for its learners' portfolios and making them become Futurists who are imbued with citizenship, humanity, and patriotism.

**Clock**

ISLAMABAD: A man passing through a "Floral Clock" at Margallah Road in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## AIOU inks MoU with PDC

**PNP**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Premium Diagnostic Center, Islamabad (PDC). Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over the ceremony. Dr. Nasir said that welfare and good health of our employees and their families is our first priority, healthy person always performs his duties with full zest. The MoU was signed by Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umer Yunis and Director, Corporate Relations, PDC, Muhammad Rashid. President, Academic Staff Association (ASA), Dr. Iqbal, President, Employees Welfare Association (EWA), Yasir Mahmood, Medical Officer, Dr. Hira and other employees were



also present at the ceremony. According to the details of MoU, PDC will provide facilities of Lab tests at discounted rates to AIOU employees and their families, 50% discount on medical tests and 35%

discount on radiology. PDC will also provide free home sample collection service and other health facilities including x-ray and ultrasound at the doorstep. EWA is actively working for the welfare of the AIOU employ-

ees by signing different MoUs and collaborations to facilitate employees. President, EWA, Yasir Muhammad said that we will continue our efforts for the welfare of the employees and AIOU.

## Not giving symbol akin to banning a political party: IHC

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamir Farooq has issued a three-page written order regarding the case of obtaining certificates and reserved seats after the intra-party elections.

A notice has been issued on the request to challenge Section 215 of the Election Act against Article 17(2) of the Constitution. The court has issued notices to the federal and provincial governments, the Election Commission, the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) party, and the Sunni Ittehad Council.

The Attorney General of Pakistan and the Advocate General have also been served notices under Order 27-A, Rule 21 for May 21.

According to the order, as per the applicant's request, political parties are required to submit certificates after the



intra-party elections. If a political party fails to submit the certificate of the intra-party elections, it will not be issued an electoral symbol. When a political party is not issued an electoral symbol, it cannot participate in the elections.

According to the court order, not issuing an electoral symbol to a political party is equivalent to imposing a ban, which can only be done under Article 17(2) of the

Constitution based on Pakistan's integrity and self-determination.

Justice Kayani 'seeks' contempt proceedings on campaign against judges

As per the applicant's request, the federal government is required to file a reference in the Supreme Court to impose a ban on the political party.

The order stated that the Supreme Court decides whether to impose a ban on a political party or not. As per the applicant's request, Section 104 of the Election Act requires a political party to submit a list of specific seats. Since a ban is imposed on a political party under Section 215, it remains incapable of submitting a list of specific seats.

According to the court order, both parties have been served notices for May 21. The Attorney General and the Advocate General have also been served notices.

## Pakistan likely to launch another satellite into space on May 30

**Spokesman Report**

Islamabad: Pakistan has unveiled plans to launch another satellite 'MM1' into space on May 30 after the success of the country's first-ever moon satellite ICUBEQ, riding the same rocket with China's ChangE6 lunar probe earlier this month.

According to a spokesperson of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), the MM1 satellite has been designed with the primary goal of strengthening Pakistan's communication infrastructure.

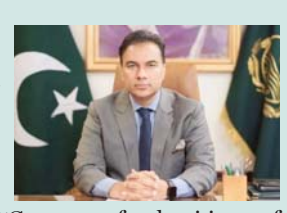
Its deployment is expected to play a significant role in establishing an advanced communication network that can effectively cater to the increasing demands of the telecom sector.

Pakistan's maiden lunar satellite iCube-Qamar transmitted the first images from orbit on Friday after completing three rounds of the moon.

## CDA chief expresses commitment to promoting modern-day technologies

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Friday expressed a strong commitment to creating an enabling environment within the IT & Telecom sector, with a focus on promoting modern-day technologies such as Fiber-to-Home, 4G, and 5G coverage for the citizens of Islamabad.



Chairing a meeting with key stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of IT & Telecom, Cellular Mobile operators, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the CDA chief outlined the primary objective of devising a collaborative policy to support the vision of Digital Islamabad.

This policy aims to ensure comprehensive cellular and fiber coverage across all areas of the city.

During the meeting, the Chairman highlighted the critical importance of seamless digital connectivity in today's world, highlighting the necessity of providing high-quality cellular and fiber services throughout the capital city.

Stakeholders from the IT & Telecom sector expressed their commitment to collaborating with the CDA in developing and implementing policies that will enhance digital connectivity across Islamabad, paving the way for a more technologically advanced and connected city.

## Pakistan offers condolences to Afghanistan following devastating flash floods

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday expressed sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by heavy rains and flash floods in Afghanistan. The government and the people of Pakistan express their heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains and flash floods in several provinces of Afghanistan, a statement issued by the Foreign Office said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, injured and the communities affected by this natural calamity and we pray for the early recovery of those missing." It said Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan during this difficult time.

## FIA apprehend two accused with costly gadgets at Islamabad airport

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a recent operation at Islamabad International Airport, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) apprehended two individuals on Saturday and recovered costly gadgets from their possession.

According to a FIA official, the arrested accused, Babar Ayub and Mohammad Salman, arrived in Dubai via flight PK-234. The FIA acted on a tip-off and recovered a cache of valuable items from their possession.

The suspects, whose frequent travels abroad raised suspicion, failed to provide satisfactory explanations regarding the items recovered from their luggage. Among the seized items were 50 iPhone 15 Pro Maxs, 16 iPhone 15 Pros, 100 data cables, and three Apple MacBooks.

Following the arrest, the accused were handed over to customs authorities for further legal proceedings. The incident underscored the vigilance of law enforcement agencies in combating smuggling activities at airports.

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# Save My Army, for God's Sake...

**“F**or God's sake, save my army. For God's sake, don't destroy the institution of the army. These institutions are ours; they belong to our nation. The army's businesses are ours, as they are built with public money on our public land, and we own them and do not deny them. The army belongs to me, to my people. The army has rendered innumerable sacrifices to save and protect our country from external and internal security threats. Therefore, more than any other person, the army itself should protect and safeguard the reputation of this important and vital institution. This requires the army and its spokesperson to indulge only in professional discipline and to refrain from getting involved where they neither had the training nor the skillset.

“Dr. Arif Alvi, the former President and close associate and companion of Imran Khan, struck a conciliatory tone after his meeting with the founder of PTI in jail on 9th May. This was perhaps his first and very important press conference after retiring as the President, where he articulately communicated PTI's narrative in response to derogatory and inflammatory statements made by the Army leadership and the leaders of the coalition governments in the center and provinces against PTI, terming it a gang of disruptive and anarchist elements.”

The former supreme commander of Pakistan's armed forces delivered this sound advice to the army leadership. He imparted his wisdom like an elder, showcasing his deep love, respect, and attachment to the army as an institution. As someone who spent over ten months as his media advisor, I can attest to his unwavering passion and affection for the army.

“He was visibly troubled and saddened by the severe backlash following the DG-ISPR's press conference, especially on social media, which prompted him to advise the army spokesperson that, lacking the skill set, he should refrain from giving sermons on political, business and commerce, law and legal matters, election results, traditional and new media, and quoting selected and isolated facts and figures to suit a narrative while rejecting those that don't. He added that the DG-ISPR has opened up a whole set of Pandora's box and ensnared the army in unnecessary controversy, pitting the army against the PTI, which is the most popular party in the country, especially among the young population. Although they believe in democracy, they can be led astray if their party and leader are portrayed in a negative light.”

He rightly argued that just as the army took strict action and imposed exemplary punishment on army personnel who violated discipline and conduct during the May 9th incident, and rightly did not extend the same punishment to the rank and file of the army, the same principle should have been applied to alleged civilian elements found involved in the incident based on incontrovertible evidence.

However, instead, the punishment was unfairly extended to the entire leadership and the party itself. The party was dismantled, its leaders were coerced into leaving, and pressured to join a newly created party. Election symbols were denied, leaving voters confused during the voting on February 8th. Despite winning the majority of seats in the center and Punjab, the party's mandate was

stolen, artificially reducing it to a minority party. This was an insult to all patriotic Pakistanis who had cast their votes in favor of the party. He stated that the DG-ISPR was denying a glaring truth, substantiated by numerous videos and documentary evidence showing the army interfering in polling stations and pressuring election staff to change results.

During his address, he also articulated the solution to the political impasse by suggesting that the only way forward for all stakeholders is dialogue. He said the army leadership should respect and trust the 80% of the people of Pakistan who voted in favor of PTI and also give due regard to those who have been elected, including the founder of PTI who, despite being incarcerated, remains the most popular leader in the country and the world with over a 70% approval rating.

He advised the army, being in a position of strength, to magnanimity and a large heart and should have offered to bury the hatchet. On the contrary Imran Khan who has been humiliated, insulted and put behind bars does not harbor any ill feeling against anyone and has shown great patience, forbearance and magnanimous attitude by offering an olive branch to seek solution of the current impasse through dialogues.

However, he refused to enter into any negotiation with the incumbent government which according to him was illegitimate, formed on false pretexts, lies, and deceit, consisting of stooges who lack the mandate or power to make consequential decisions. Therefore, it is imperative that the people's mandate, reflected in Form 45, is fully restored. This will provide a

strong foundation based on truth and solid support for improving the economy, financial stability, and prosperity for the people of Pakistan.” He also dared the media to stand with truth and justice.

Interestingly, when all this turmoil unfolded, the timing seemed ill-timed. The government was settling down, inflation was under control to a large extent, the IMF was giving positive signals, the stock exchange was performing extremely well, and promises for investment were pouring in. On the political front, the ice between the top political parties had started melting. However, the press conference by the DG-ISPR reset the entire political scenario, leading the country into another period of turmoil, agitation, confrontation, and political tension.

However, not everything is lost. The silver lining of this latest episode around the 9th May has brought the former president, Dr. Arif Alvi, who remained silent since his retirement, returned into active politics. The PTI desperately needed a mature, seasoned, experienced, and passionate leader to curb internal strife within the party, and with more than five years of unique and privileged experience as the president aptly represent the Party and articulate the party's narrative on sensitive matters with responsibility, delicacy, and professionalism.

With his presence at the helm of PTI's affairs and his experience as the president and the supreme commander of the armed forces, he will hopefully be able to bring the warring parties to the negotiation table and provide much-needed relief to the 250 million people of Pakistan.

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



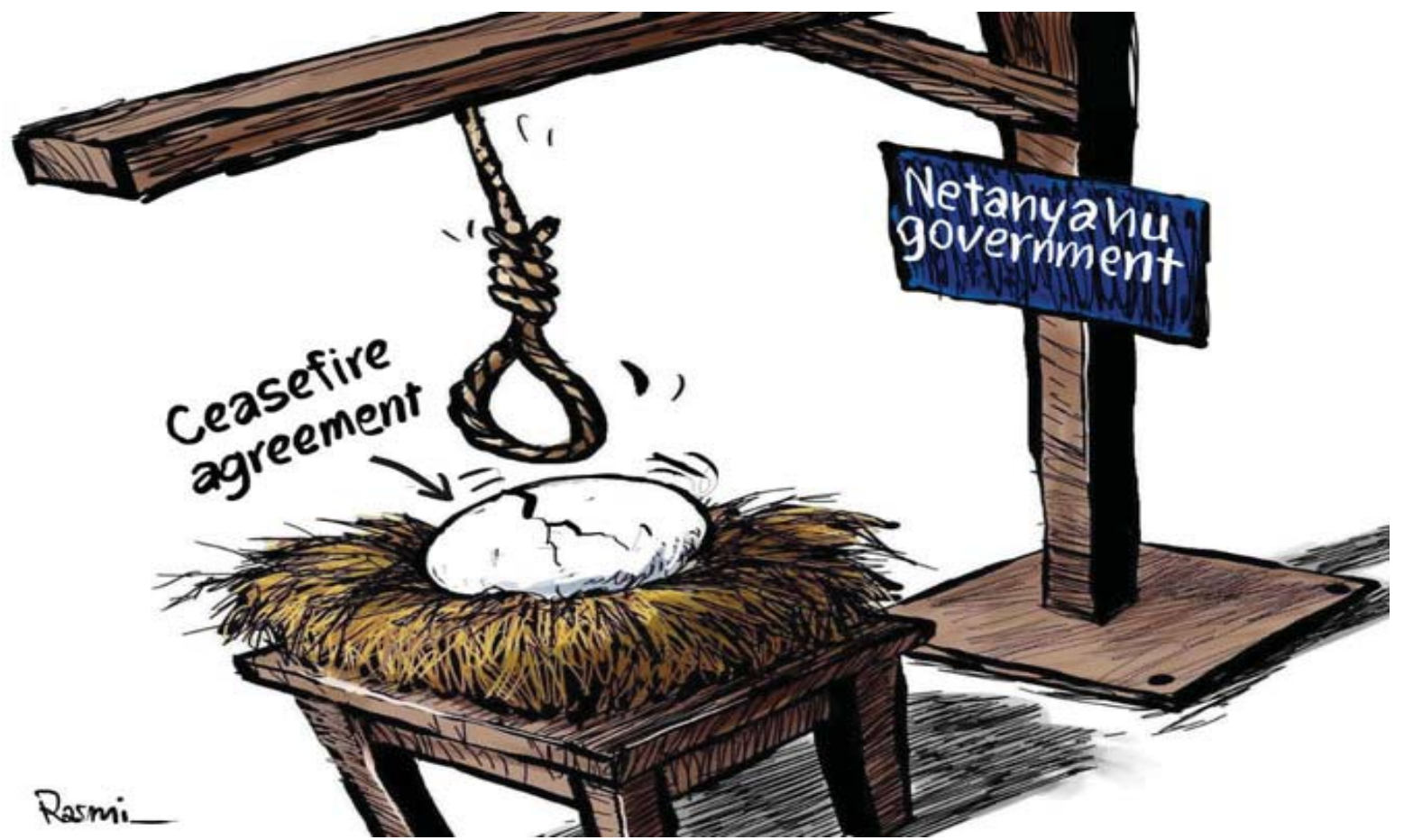
Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Saudi Arabia to test flying taxis

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Saleh al-Jasser said, “Flying taxis and drones will undergo testing during this year's Hajj season to ensure seamless operations and provide our guests with maximum comfort during their stay here.” Pakistan's Religious Ministry's spokesperson, Muhammad Umar, praising Saudi Authorities' this initiative said, “Saudi Arabia's commitment to modernizing the pilgrimage experience through innovative technology demonstrates their dedication to ensuring pilgrims' comfort and convenience.” In an interview with Al Arabiya, a state-owned international Arabic news television channel, the Saudi minister Saleh announcing the use of flying taxis and drones remarked that there was currently an intense competition among various transportation companies ‘to provide a practical product in the upcoming years.’ He emphasized that the authorities are thoroughly examining its integration as a permanent aspect in future facilitation initiatives. As this sector witnessed gradual expansion, the Saudi minister said it was vital for the ministry to introduce these new technologies and determine the optimal method for their incorporation, for the benefits of the pilgrims.

“Indeed, it's crucial for us to take the lead, ensuring that we fully capitalize on the potential of these innovative services, and that the Hajj season derives the utmost benefits from them,” stressed al-Jasser. Pakistan Religious Ministry's Assistant Director and Spokesperson, Muhammad Umar, who is overseeing Hajj pilgrimages since 2009, praising Saudi authorities' extended care and use of modern techs for the pilgrims ease said, “I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and efforts of the Saudi government in facilitating the sacred journey of millions of pilgrims. Through initiatives such as the Hajj Portal and Nusuk app, introduced especially after the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saudi government has shown a commitment to modernize and streamline the pilgrimage experience. Their proactive measures, including pre-booking of Riazal Jannah, implementation of biom-metric e-visas, and the development of a virtual Hajj app, reflect their dedication to ensuring the comfort and convenience of pilgrims.” Over the years, Umar said, “we have seen significant improvements in crowd management and the provision of exemplary facilities by the Saudi authorities during the Hajj season. Through meticulous planning and implementation, they have successfully enhanced the overall pilgrimage experience. From the utilization of technology for efficient crowd control to the establishment of the Seerat Museum, which offers insights into the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), every aspect has been carefully designed to enrich the spiritual journey of the pilgrims. Additionally, initiatives such as the provision of electronic wheelchairs for the elderly and disabled pilgrims highlight the Saudi government's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.” As we look ahead, it is evident that the Saudi government remains dedicated to ensuring that the Hajj pilgrimage remains a hassle-free obligation for Muslims worldwide.



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

## Imperative Need For Digitalization In Pakistan's Hospitality Industry

Mahnoor Masood

In today's fast-paced world, where technology is constantly evolving, the hospitality industry in Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture. To maintain competitiveness and improve customer satisfaction, the industry must embrace digitalization. Reinventing the guest experience through technology is not just trendy; it is a fundamental move toward fulfilling the growing expectations of both domestic and international travelers. Customers expect convenience, efficiency, and personalization from businesses in today's digital world.

### Embracing Digital Transformation

The push for digitalization holds a promise not only in revolutionizing guest experiences but to instill sustainable practices, which are essential for the industry's long-term stability. Using digital practices in the hospitality industry has many advantages. For one, it streamlines the check-in and booking procedures, saving guests from long queues and enabling them to plan their stays with a few smart phone taps like on Airbnb. Digitalization is setting a new standard for customer service in a number of ways, from letting visitors personalize their entertainment and eating choices with a mobile app to offering tailored recommendations for dining and lodging based on past choices. Then, Digital interaction doesn't end at check out. Gathering feedback via digital surveys, managing loyalty plans, and maintaining a connection via social media platforms can all improve the general customer experience, boosting repeat business and fostering brand

loyalty. Digital platforms give the information required to better understand and assist visitors at every stage.

The implementation of digital technologies is also aligning with global sustainability trends, which attract tourists who are environmentally conscious. Efficient use of energy and resources not only helps the planet but also can boost revenue by implementing socially responsible business practices that enhance customer satisfaction. Moreover, digitization is essential for increasing operational effectiveness in the hospitality industry. Businesses may improve efficiency, cut expenses, and streamline their operations by automating processes including reservations, inventory management, and guest communication. This, in turn, enables them to concentrate more on providing their guests with outstanding service and unforgettable experiences as a result.

### The Economic Impact

In the hospitality industry, digital transformation is more than just a trend but a strategic imperative. According to reports, digitization might allow Pakistan to unlock up to Rs9.7 trillion in yearly economic value by 2030, or 19% of the country's GDP in 2020. This significant economic potential highlights the urgent need for embracing technology in order to spur economic growth, provide employment, and improve the entire guest experience.

### Overcoming Challenges

While Pakistan's hospitality industry recognizes the need for digitalization, it also faces hurdles in fully embracing digitalization, such as gaps in technical expertise, lack of awareness and understanding of digital solutions among industry stakeholders. Many Pakistani

businesses may be hesitant to make digital technology investments because of upfront expenses, technical complexities, and return on investment uncertainty. Furthermore, there are major obstacles to digitalization in Pakistan's hospitality industry due to infrastructural issues like internet connectivity and cyber security risks. Businesses may be reluctant to move to digital platforms out of concern about data breaches or system failures if they do not have a robust digital infrastructure and cyber security measures in place. Those companies that fail to embrace this technological revolution run the risk of falling behind their more progressive rivals and missing out on opportunities to provide outstanding customer experiences.

Bridging these gaps will require collective efforts by industry leaders, governmental bodies, and academic institutions to build a strong digital infrastructure and equip the workforce with the requisite digital skills also industry associations and advocacy groups can play a crucial role in raising awareness about the advantages of digitization.

### The Path Forward

As the hospitality industry in Pakistan continues to evolve, businesses must invest in digital solutions that prioritize customer satisfaction and foster long-term success. By harnessing the technology such as cloud computing, AI and IoT and through its effective utilization, hospitality establishments have the potential to completely revolutionize their customer interactions and establish new benchmarks for exceptional service in the digital era and Pakistan can position itself as a leading destination for tourists and set new standards for excellence in the hospitality industry.

## CPEC 2.0: Ray of hope for the future - II

In a world fraught with complex geopolitical dynamics, economic fluctuations, and security challenges, the advent of CPEC II emerges as a significant milestone for Pakistan. It represents a ray of hope, illuminating the path forward amidst the uncertainty and turmoil.

CPEC II symbolizes not just the continuation, but the evolution of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, promising new opportunities and avenues for growth. As Pakistan navigates through the intricacies of global politics and economic shifts, CPEC II offers a sense of direction and stability. Moreover, CPEC II serves as a catalyst for optimism, instilling confidence in Pakistan's economic future and fostering a sense of resilience in the face of adversity. It signifies a commitment to cooperation and collaboration, not only between China and Pakistan but also within the broader global community. As Pakistan embraces the possibilities presented by CPEC II, it embarks on a journey towards greater prosperity, innovation, and resilience. It is a testament to the country's determination to overcome challenges and seize opportunities, ultimately paving the way for a brighter and more promising future.

CPEC II is not merely a continuation of infrastructure endeavors; it signifies a seismic shift towards holistic and inclusive development strategies. With its multifaceted approach, Pakistan stands on the cusp of unlocking the latent potential of diversified economic initiatives, utilizing its strategic alliance with China to unlock fresh vistas of growth and prosperity. The essence of CPEC II extends beyond the physical infrastructure it promises, residing instead in the intangible yet

priceless bonds of collaboration and cooperation between Pakistan and China. The key to navigating the current challenges and shaping a future marked by resilience, innovation, and prosperity lies in strengthening these ties and nurturing mutual trust. Indeed, the advent of CPEC II marks a watershed moment in Pakistan's journey, presenting not just a glimmer of hope, but a tangible roadmap towards sustainable development and socioeconomic metamorphosis. As Pakistan embraces the opportunities offered by CPEC II and deepens its camaraderie with China, it lays the foundation for a tomorrow defined by fortitude, advancement, and infinite possibilities.

The essence of CPEC II extends beyond the physical infrastructure it promises, residing instead in the intangible yet priceless bonds of collaboration and cooperation between Pakistan and China. The key to navigating the current challenges and shaping a future marked by resilience, innovation, and prosperity lies in strengthening these ties and nurturing mutual trust.

Indeed, the advent of CPEC II marks a watershed moment in Pakistan's journey, presenting not just a glimmer of hope, but a tangible roadmap towards sustainable development and socioeconomic metamorphosis. As Pakistan embraces the opportunities offered by CPEC II and deepens its camaraderie with China, it lays the foundation for a tomorrow defined by fortitude, advancement, and infinite possibilities.

*(The writer is a Peshawar-based analyst and Secretary-General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter. He can be reached at [syed.gilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.gilani@gmail.com).)*



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

# COP-29 in Baku to unveil debate on pressing climate issues including Adaptation Plans, BTR: Babayev

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan, Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, President-Designate COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev on Saturday said the COP-29 meeting to be held in Baku would unveil an all-inclusive forum for all the countries to debate on pressing climate issues including adaptation plans and biennial transparency report (BTR) for concerted mitigation efforts.

He was addressing the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) seminar titled "Seminar on Building Climate Consensus for COP29: The Road to BAKU" held here.

Mukhtar Babayev informed that he had held discussions with members of the civil society, youth, private sector and political leadership of Pakistan as part of the effort to gather all parties to get common and consensus-based decision at COP-29 which was an uphill task.

He added that the critical matters to be raised at the forum were mobilization of loss and damage fund, article 6 of Paris Agreement, whereas the

others aspects apart from climate finance would also be brought under discussion including land degradation, plastic waste, agriculture, food security, health issues, as each sector of our life was very integrated to climate.

He underlined that to hear the voices of vulnerable countries was Azerbaijan's biggest priority. Babayev noted that only regional and international consolidation of actions could lead to appropriate measures and strategies to prevent climate extreme events.

He mentioned that the government of Azerbaijan was organizing training workshops for capacity building of the developing countries to prepare their national adaptation plan and it would be the first time that countries would be submitting biennial transparency reports to the UNFCCC.

Azerbaijan, he said was also convening COP-29 participants in Baku to discuss ways to make the process efficient and achieve consensus on mobilization of the loss and damage fund.

Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam in her opening



remarks said Pakistan believed in collaboration for mutual economic interests and intended to further strengthen the cultural bonds between the friendly nations.

"Despite geographically distant, we are united due to share commitment on climate

change, whereas Pakistan has sent its complete support to Azerbaijan for hosting the COP-29 moot and wish success to the host country," she added.

Climate justice, she said was the fundamental principle guiding Pakistan's policy on climate change, whereas Pakistan advo-

ated for equality, justice and harmony in climate initiatives globally.

"We urge developed countries to fulfill their commitment to transfer technologies and resources for developing countries to ensure just energy transition," Romina said.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI in his opening remarks said the COP forum was an important global platform that provided the entire world to unite and discuss over ways to address environmental degradation.

"COP is one of the process-

es that had been less beneficial at times but it's absence would be extremely negative. However, the international gathering of nations at COP which is glass half full, is still a forum for countries like Pakistan to raise their plight and share opportunities to enhance collaborations," he added.

Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov briefed the participants about the vision of the country on hosting COP-29 and highlighted the efforts being taken so far to spearhead efforts for an inclusive global climate conference.

The session was Moderated by Zainab Naeem Associate Research Fellow, SDPI whereas Energy and Economy Expert, Research Fellow SDPI Dr Khalid Walid provided a brief presentation on way forward for energy transition.

Dr Shafiqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, extended a vote of thanks to the Azerbaijan Minister and President-Designate COP-29, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, SDPI Executive Director for organizing an inclusive seminar.

## Pakistan students take part in national campaign from UK University

By Fatima Zakir

The achievements of its students in Pakistan are being celebrated in an international campaign from the University of London, a prestigious UK based University which specialises in online and distance learning.

The campaign features alumni and current students who are unlocking their potential by studying through the University of London while remaining here in Pakistan.

Called 'Join the Worldclass', the campaign features the words, real-life stories and experiences of the students and graduates themselves and highlights the life-changing power that access to high quality higher education can offer. By choosing to study with the University of London, students join a global community of scholars, a 'world class', made up of 40,000 students in 190 countries who are all studying for their University of London degree while staying in their home country.

Looqman Khan is enrolled in his third year of LLB honours at Denning. He chose Denning because of the quality of education they provide, and is also



attached to the law firm of a colleague:

"In the morning, I go to my work, and in the evening, I have my classes at Denning. I live in

Malir, and we have got amazing roads for cycling, so I go cycling in my spare time. The major benefit I see with the teaching centre is that we are totally engaged with

teachers. There is no time barrier with teachers. We are always connected with teachers. Whenever we want to avail the time with them, we can have it."

Inaya Danish is a third-year student on the University of London LLB programme at Szabist. She says she chose the programme because she doesn't

see law as a career path but as a passion:

"Ever since the earliest dreams of my future, I have always envisioned myself as a lawyer. Even in home videos from when I was young, I would always proudly say that 'when I grow up, I want to be a lawyer'."

"So, when the time came for me to choose a programme, the University of London LLB program caught my attention. I compared it to the programmes in my country, and I learned that the University of London programme would provide me with a comprehensive understanding of the law in a short amount of time. The determining factor for me was that I could pursue this programme without leaving my country and my family behind. So, it felt as if everything was falling into place for me, and this programme was the perfect fit."

The University of London's online and distance learning models ensure that students can pursue prestigious international degrees, either through fully online independent study or a more structured learning experience with face-to-face support, while studying at their own pace from wherever they are in the world. The face-to-face support

is provided through a network of Regional Teaching Centres. The University of London has been working with partners in Pakistan since 2002 and has forged strong links with 18 Recognised Teaching Centres across the country.

University of London Vice-Chancellor, Wendy Thomson CBE said:

"At the University of London, we are very proud of our students and alumni in Pakistan. Through this campaign we are sharing their stories and celebrating their achievements. We hope to inspire everyone who is interested in higher education to pursue their ambitions and reach their potential and consider choosing to study with the University of London. By studying our internationally recognised, flexible programmes, our students can study with a prestigious, UK based university while staying at home in Pakistan."

In a further demonstration of the strong links between Pakistan and the University of London, Professor Mary Stiasny OBE—the University's Pro Vice-Chancellor—is currently visiting Lahore and Karachi for the University's announcement of the establishment of a new award, the Mary Stiasny Scholarship.

## UN relief agencies call for reopening aid lines as exodus from Gaza's Rafah city continues

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: With no let-up in deadly Israeli attacks in besieged Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, UN humanitarian officials Saturday issued renewed calls for a ceasefire as "the only hope" to avert further bloodshed and restore desperately needed aid deliveries. "As Israeli Forces bombardment intensifies in Rafah, forced displacement continues," said the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, in a post on X.

"Around 110,000 people have now fled Rafah looking for safety. But, nowhere is safe in the Gaza Strip and living conditions are atrocious. The only hope is an immediate ceasefire." In addition to the immediate threat of ongoing military action, UN aid agencies have warned with increasing urgency since Israeli tanks rolled into the Rafah border crossing on Monday that the humanitarian operation across the enclave has been crippled. "Impossibly, again, it will worsen if humanitarian operations are not revived in the next 48 hours," said UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Senior Emergency Coordinator in the Gaza Strip, Hamish Young. In a related development, UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned a new attack by Israeli protesters on an UNRWA facility in occupied East Jerusalem. "I condemn the recent attack on @UNRWA's Headquarters in East Jerusalem. Targeting aid workers and humanitarian assets is unacceptable, and must stop," the UN chief said in a post on

X. His comments underscored those of UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini on Thursday who reported that Israeli residents had "set fire twice to the perimeter" of the agency's headquarters, marking the second time UNRWA had been targeted in a week amid weeks of demonstrations. Back in Gaza, the latest images from Rafah provided by UNRWA showed a steady stream of people leaving the east of the city with cars, motorbikes and donkey carts laden with their belongings in response to evacuation orders from the Israeli military. Most of those displaced are seeking safety in Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah. But, these areas lack the basic services required to support civilians who need food, shelter and healthcare, aid teams maintain. Roads to the coastal zone of Al Mawasi, where Gazans have been instructed to move to, "are jammed," said Young of UNICEF. Speaking from Rafah via video-link to journalists in Geneva, he described desperate scenes as families were uprooted once again, with "many hundreds of trucks, buses, cars and donkey carts loaded with people and possessions" continuing to stream out of the southern city. "People I speak with tell me they are exhausted, terrified and know life in Al Mawasi will, again, impossibly be harder," he said. "Families lack proper sanitation facilities, drinking water and shelter. People are making improvised toilets by digging holes in the ground around groups of tents. Open defecation is on the rise." "One of the fathers told me he had nothing other than bad options to choose from. And as

he was telling me where he was going, he started sobbing. Then his children starting crying and then started asking me what to do. It's just a tragic situation and there's just nowhere safe in Gaza for children." "Civilians in Gaza are being starved and killed... This is Gaza today," said the UN's top aid official, Martin Griffiths. In a social media post on X, he warned late Thursday that for days, "nothing and no one had been allowed in or out of Gaza." The closure of Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings in southern Gaza — the main entry points for critically needed aid food, water, fuel and medical supplies — "means no aid", Griffiths said. "Our supplies are stuck. Our teams are stuck," he said, a message echoed by aid teams whose assessment missions have been cancelled because of a lack of fuel. Meanwhile, civilians have faced and repeatedly fled intense and daily bombardment and clashes "and we are prevented from helping them", the emergency relief chief insisted.

At the same time, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) reported that its main warehouse in Gaza was now out of reach. "Our main warehouse is now inaccessible. No aid has entered from southern crossings in two days," said WFP Palestine Country Director ad interim Matthew Hollingworth on X. "Thousands of people are on the move. Only one bakery is still working. Supplies of food and fuel in Gaza will only last one to three days. Without them, our operations will go into standstill." The outlook is equally dire for the enclave's remaining medical facilities, warned the UN World



Health Organization (WHO), which said that "without fuel, the whole system collapses". WHO is responsible for fuel deliveries to all hospitals in Gaza, but it has had to suspend missions to the north so that those in the south can stay open, said spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris.

"All the things that a hospital does, all the lifesaving treatments no longer can be done, even if you've got somebody back from the brink, you've operated on them, you've put them on a ventilator, the ventilator stops, they no longer breathe." The following health facilities are scheduled to run out of fuel within the next 24 hours, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, said, citing Gaza authorities: — Five ministry of health-run hospitals — 28 ambulances (14 Palestinian Red Crescent Society and 14 from the health

ministry) — 17 primary health care centers run by UNRWA and other partners — Five field hospitals — 10 mobile clinics which provide immunizations, trauma care and malnutrition services and 23 medical facilities in Al Mawasi From UNICEF, Executive Director Catherine Russell also warned that services for premature babies risk losing power unless fuel supplies reached Gaza.

"We need fuel to move lifesaving supplies — medicine, treatments for malnutrition, tents and water pipes — as well as staff to reach children and families in need." Without fresh aid supplies, children and families face becoming dehydrated or will be forced to drink dangerous water, while sewage treatment centres "will overflow and spread disease further". According to UNICEF, approxi-

mately 80 babies are born at Emirati hospital every day. But, it "cannot function" without fuel, insisted Mr. Young, who added that pregnant women "are left without options for safe delivery of their newborns. As we have seen in other parts of Gaza over the last seven months, when hospitals run out of fuel, lifesaving equipment such as ventilators and incubators stop working."

According to the Gazan health authorities, at least 34,900 people have been killed and well over 78,500 wounded during the Israeli bombardment and ground operation in Gaza since 7 October. In a statement later on Friday UN Human Rights Chief (UNHCR) Volker Turk said he disapproved of any hostilities that impact the "entry and distribution of critically needed humanitarian aid" to Gaza.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
73,085.50	72,658.05
Day's High	Day's Low
73,449.37	72,876.83
Index Value	Change
16,278,214,624	+427.45
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	10 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,433.76	+52.41
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	10 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,475.89	+88.13
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	10 May, 1:40 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,229.11	+155.13
Percentage	Time
+0.41%	10 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.5	182.2
Bahrain Dinar	741.25	749.25
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.6	39
Danish Krone	40.24	40.64
Euro	296	298.7
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.13	915.13
Malaysian Ringgit	58.79	59.39
New Zealand \$	166.93	168.93
Norwegians Krone	25.69	25.99
Omani Riyal	724.21	732.21
Qatari Riyal	76.57	77.27
Saudi Riyal	73.4	74.1
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	25.79	26.09
Swiss Franc	306.4	308.9
Thai Bhat	7.56	7.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.1	75.85
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.5
US Dollar	277.1	279.6

# ICCI President urges CDA, NHA to play proactive role in solution of Bara Kohu traders' problems

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the traders of Bara Kahu are facing multiple problems and Capital Development Authority and National Highways Authority must play a proactive role in the solution of these problems. He said that absence of street lights, clean drinking water, police security, link roads, carpeting are the key problems facing the community adding that abolishment of encroachments, construction of parking lots are also require urgent attention. He also urged CDA chairman to visit the Bara Kahu market for a first hand account of the problems being faced by the traders and then taking necessary steps for their resolution.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said this while addressing a large delegation of traders of Bara Kahu, Simly Dam and adjacent areas which called on him here at the Chamber of House led by Raja Zahid Dhaniyal President Markazi



Anjuman-e-Tajraan Bara Kohu.

He assured the delegation that the ICCI would fully cooperate with their Association in its efforts for the betterment of Bara Kahu traders stressing that CDA must also construct much needed washrooms nearby the markets and ensure the cleanliness of the market places on daily basis.

On this occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the delegating that he has directed his team to expedite the process of installation of the water filtration plant in the area which is being provided from his own pocket.

He also mentioned the performance of Mediation Council Office working in ICCI premises for the solution of rent matters

adding that NADRA facilitation Centre will also be made functional in just few days.

Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajraan, Bara Kahu, President Raja Zahid Dhaniyal, in his remarks highlighted the services of ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for traders community by mentioning at length the serious issues, the traders are confronting.

Group leader Blue Area Yousuf Rajput, President Blue Area Raja Hassan Akhtar, President Jinnah Super Assad Aziz, General Secretary Jinnah Super Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, Shah Anwar, Patron in Chief Simly Dam TWA Nisar Abbasi, ICCI Convener Rural Area Development Naveed Abbasi, General Secretary Simly Dam TWA Etahsham Abbasi in their address commended the role of Executive Member Rizwan Chheena in their connectivity with ICCI. They also underlined the need for more and more ICCI membership for the solution of traders problems.

Those present on the occasion include, Ch. Khalid, Ch. Irfan, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Ch. Waseem, Ch. Nasir and other.

## Room coolers

RAWALPINDI: A shopkeeper selling room coolers in Kashmiri Bazaar, ahead of intense hot weather in the city.



Photo: Online

## CCP Issues Notices to 12 Beauty Product Firms for Deceptive Marketing Practices

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has taken cognizance of deceptive marketing by the beauty products' manufacturers and issued notices to 12 companies regarding their false and misleading claims.

CCP's preliminary probe revealed that these Undertakings were prima facie engaged in "greenwashing", advertising their products as "Natural, Organic, Sustainable, Pure, and Chemical Free" without having any scientific evidence to support their claims. Such unsubstantiated marketing claims not only mislead the consumers but also pose potential health risks to unwary users. The notices issued by CCP may set a significant precedent for responsible marketing practices that prioritize environmental integrity and consumer trust.

The undertakings in this business strategically omit the material information about the chemical/synthetic ingredients in their products from labels and marketing communications or use misleading terminology, imagery or labeling practices to hide the presence of inorganic components or chemical additives. Hence, the consumers are significantly attracted by their environment friendly assertions like "100% Organic, 100% Natural, 100% Pure, 100% Satisfaction guaranteed, Pakistan's No.1 Skincare Brand,

Pakistan's Best Organic and Natural Brand, Pakistan's No.1 Online Organic Brand" and claims of the same kind.

The Competition Act, 2010 prohibits deceptive marketing practices under Section 10 of the Act. The Commission is further mandated to ensure fair market competition for consumer protection. The CCP, therefore, calls for the accuracy, integrity, reliability and truthfulness of all marketing communications to honestly help the consumers in their purchase decisions.

Marketing claims must be substantiated with valid scientific evidence to prevent the distribution of false or misleading information to consumers. The companies must compete on the basis of safety, innovation, value for money, quality and effectiveness of their products. The Commission is fully committed to enforce the law and any company found guilty of deceptive marketing practices will face strict enforcement actions including penalties.

In collaboration with the consumers, producers, retailers and relevant stakeholders, the CCP aims to ensure fair competition to protect the rights of consumers in the beauty products market. Furthermore, the CCP urges consumers to remain vigilant and promptly report to the Commission any instances of deceptive advertising, false claims or health hazards faced.

## Pakistan Sustainability Week: Country's Biggest Alternative Energy Exhibition Concludes in Islamabad

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The three-day Pakistan Sustainability Week (PSW), country's biggest and only dedicated alternative energy exhibition, alongside Solar Pakistan - 15th International Renewable Energy Exhibition and Conference - organized by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan's leading exhibitions organizing company, on Saturday successfully concluded at the Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad. The flagship alternative energy exhibition continued from May 9 till May 11, transforming the alternative energy landscape in Pakistan.

Federal Secretary for Housing & Works, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, Joint Secretary, Ijlal Ahmad Khattak, along with high officials and industry leaders graced the closing ceremony of the exhibition. The three-day Sustainability Week and Solar Pakistan exhibition witnessed the participation of a large number of policymakers, investors, manufacturers, suppliers,

traders, and distributors.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, Federal Secretary for Housing & Works, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, remarked, "Pakistan stands at a critical juncture in its journey towards sustainable development. The Pakistan Sustainability Week underscores our nation's collective commitment to charting a greener, more resilient future, powered by alternative energy solutions."

Speaking on the success of the exhibition, Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., expressed his satisfaction, stating, "We are glad to witness the enthusiastic participation and engagement from both local and international stakeholders. The Sustainability Week and Solar Pakistan exhibition serves as a catalyst for driving innovation and collaboration in the alternative energy landscape of Pakistan."

The mega alternative energy exhibition served as a vibrant platform for networking, collaboration, and knowl-

edge exchange, paving the way for the advancement of the alternative energy sector in Pakistan. Over 50 companies from around the world showcased their expertise, introducing a plethora of cutting-edge technologies to the Pakistani market.

During the exhibition, the Sustainability Innovation Summit also took place showcasing technical innovations and alternative energy initiatives. The summit brought together industry stakeholders, government officials, and thought leaders who shared invaluable insights, market overviews, and experiences. Pakistan Sustainability Week has emerged as a crucial platform for professionals to stay abreast of the latest industry trends and technological advancements in the alternative energy domain. By bridging the gap between industry and consumers, PSW sets a benchmark for sustainable development and innovation in Pakistan, heralding a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

## Meezan Bank and Roche Pakistan Join Forces to Combat Breast Cancer

PPA

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's first and largest Islamic Bank, has joined hands with Roche Pakistan, one of the world's leading biotech companies, in an initiative aimed at alleviating the financial burden of breast cancer treatment for patients across Pakistan.

Breast cancer remains a critical health challenge in Pakistan, claiming numerous lives and impacting countless families each year. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this pressing issue, Meezan Bank has pledged its unwavering support to ease the financial strain associated with diagnosis, medication, and therapy for affected individuals and their families.

The primary aim of this sponsorship is to offer the finest medical services to breast cancer patients. Additionally, it endeavors to educate individuals on navigating financial obstacles and accessing treatment seamlessly, ensuring a hassle-free experience.

## FRIA wants solid economic plan from all stakeholders to speed up growth

PPA

LAHORE: The Feroze Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has called for a solid economic plan from all the stakeholders to speed up growth, terming the current fiscal year as the uncertain one in view of deteriorating energy crises following the tough conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund, making this period more complicated and unstable for the economy.

FRIA senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam pleaded for formulating economic plans aimed at reviving growth in large-scale manufacturing, small and medium-sized

segments, the service sector, and exports.

He stressed the need for a revisit of the economic policies, as the economic indicators remained very depressed amidst high inflation, low exports, depleting foreign reserves and continued uncertain position of the local currency. The FRIA leader said that almost all indicators of the economy continued to show poor performance, including volatile exchange rate, unprecedented hike in markup rate, repeated increases in electricity rates, gas shortage, price spiral, mismanagement and bad governance, becoming the hallmarks of the government.

FRIA senior vice chairman observed that besides increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. He argued that this devaluation of the currency was dictated by the IMF through prior actions and it has nothing to do with macro-economic fundamentals. He said that there was a complete breakdown of economic policymaking, as the country's fiscal policy had become subservient to monetary and exchange rate policies. He said that the monetary tightening and exchange rate depreciation resulted in higher inflation,

public debt and debt servicing. The empirical evidence showed that the one percent monetary tightening hiked the inflationary pressure by 1.3 percent in the case of Pakistan, he added. The government needs to devise a strategy on war-footing to increase foreign investment in Pakistan so as to stop the upward trajectory of the dollar, he added. The rupee during through the whole year remained uncertain, as the uncertainty pertaining to the IMF program was causing pressure on the Pakistani rupee while the country's foreign exchange reserves have also declined, which was another source of concern for investors, he said.

Shahbaz Aslam called for a fully-fledged and sound plan with a highly competent team to handle local challenges forthwith, but unfortunately, they have no solid plans or directions. He foresees this year full of challenges for businesses and industries in Pakistan due to political uncertainty on global and local fronts. The government should come up with drastic measures to give confidence to local industrialists-cum-entrepreneurs and foreign investors through industry-friendly and investment-friendly policies. In this regard, the interest rate should be gradually reduced to boost economic activity and industrialization within the country.

## JazzCash, in collaboration with SFERP, disburses PKR 2 billion to flood-affected families in Sindh

PPA

KARACHI: JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech company, in collaboration with the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP), backed by the Government of Sindh and the World Bank, has successfully disbursed PKR 2 billion to flood-affected families across the Sindh province. Under this initiative, PKR 15 billion will be disbursed to approximately one million affected families.

As part of the initiative, JazzCash has already opened 80,000 mobile wallet accounts, with 45% of beneficiaries being female and 55% male. This distribution ensures equitable access to financial assistance, particularly in urban and remote areas. This partnership signifies a significant step forward in JazzCash's commitment to leveraging technology for

social good and financial inclusion.

JazzCash has so far disbursed the compensation amount in various districts, including Ghotki, Jacobabad, Qambar Shadadkot, Khairpur, Larkana, Naushahro Feroze, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Shikarpur.

JazzCash's initiative not only provides timely financial assistance but also empowers flood-affected communities by leveraging technology for inclusivity. The use of mobile wallets ensures that even those in the remotest areas can receive funds and access the assistance they require, emphasizing JazzCash's dedication to leveraging technology for financial inclusion, particularly in times of crisis.

With a longstanding commitment to providing relief funds to disaster-stricken families, JazzCash continues to be a lifeline for those in need.

# President lauds National Hockey Team's performance in Azlan Shah Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday appreciated the brilliant performance of the Pakistan National Hockey Team in the final match of Azlan Shah Hockey Cup 2024, played in Malaysia. The president observed that after a long time, the national team displayed excellent skills throughout the

tournament and securing a berth in the final was a good sign of improvement, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president also stressed upon

promotion of the national game of hockey and expressed the optimism that the national team would demonstrate such outstanding performance in the future.



## PM appreciates National Hockey Team's performance

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday appreciated the outstanding performance of the players of Pakistan National Hockey Team in the Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, 2024, played in Malaysia. The prime minister said that due to the brilliant performance, the national team reached the final game.

"They also played well against Japan in the final. Win and loss are a part of the game. The national team has won the hearts of entire nation," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. He further observed that after a long time, the national team had reached the final of a mega tournament which was very encouraging. The prime minister reiterated that the government was taking all steps for the promotion of sports in the country; particularly of the national game of hockey.

Japan won the final position after beating Pakistan in the nail-biting contest through penalty shootouts with a margin of 4-1 that followed the scheduled match which ended in 2-2 draw.



# USA is passionate about baseball and softball just like Pakistan is about cricket

Arif Hafeez

KARACHI: The US is well-versed in the game of baseball and softball just like Pakistan is with cricket. The upcoming T-20 World Cup is the first time that the USA will host a mega cricket event, and it will flourish the game in the region, said USCG, Conrad Tribble.

He was talking to a delegation of the Softball Federation of Pakistan led by President Asif Azeem at the US Consulate.

SFP is holding 15-day celebrations in connection with the 1st anniversary of World Baseball Softball Day on May 10 across the country.

Making special mention of the practice, scrimmage, and drills at the Consulate by the SFP to mark the occasion, Consul General Conrad Tribble said that these activities will create a special bond between the two nations as sports have a unique unifying power, transcending various limitations.

He further said that sports have no boundaries, they bring people together



irrespective of their colour, caste, religion or creed and it's all about promotion of the peace, tranquillity, and love among human beings at the international level.

He added that the US Consulate and Softball Federation of Pakistan will also play a festival match to mark the day.

Asif Azeem, President of the Softball Federation of Pakistan, thanked the US Consulate Karachi for always extending full support to hold such healthy events

for the development of softball.

Asif Azeem further said that Pakistani youth have been highly inclined towards baseball and softball in recent years, and the federation is working to attract them to the sport of softball which is rapidly gaining popularity among the youth of Pakistan, especially girls, who have exhibited great talent in this regard. The federation is keen to hone their skills to take them to the international level, he added.

# President's Cricket Trophy 2024 Grade-II to be Played From 12 May to 11 June: PCB Official

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced details of the President's Trophy Grade-II three-day non-first-class tournament, which will be played in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from May 12 to June 11.

The departments' event, returning to the national circuit after the 2018-2019 season, will include 24 sides, which have been equally divided into four pools. Table toppers will progress to the semifinals, with the winners qualifying for the final.

The sides participating in the tournament are: Ahmad Glass, Azlaan Traders, Capital Development Authority, Eshaal Associates, Ghani Institute, Haidery Traders, Income Tax, JDW Sugar Mills Ltd, JJ's Consultancy Group, Karwan CC, Khayaban-e-Amin, MAQ Group, MIT Solutions, OGDCL, Omar Associates, Pak-Saudi International, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Railways, Sabir's Poultry, Sardar Sports & Group, Service Industries and TARA Group.

Pool A will comprise Ahmad Glass, Income Tax, Khayaban-e-Amin, Pakistan Railways, Service Industries, and TARA Group, and will play their matches in Lahore at the LCCA ground, Rail-



ways Stadium, and Central Park Cricket Club Ground.

Pool B includes Haidery Traders, JJ's Consultancy Group, Karwan CC, MIT Solutions, Pak-Saudi International, and Sabir's Poultry, and will play their matches at various Khyber Pakhtunkhwa venues, including Gohati Cricket Ground, Swabi; Shama Cricket Ground, Peshawar; and Mardan Sports Complex, Mardan.

Capital Development Authority, JDW Sugar Mills Ltd, OGDCL, Omar Associates, Pakistan Army, and Pakistan Air Force form Pool C, and will play their matches in Islamabad at the National Ground, Diamond Ground and Shalimar Cricket Ground.

Azlaan Traders, Eshaal Associates, Ghani Institute, MAQ Group, Pakistan Navy, and Sardar Group are in Pool D, with matches to be played at the Rana Naved ul Hasan Cricket Academy, Sheikhpura; Azhar Ali Academy

ground, Valencia Town, Lahore, and Lahore Country Club, Muridke.

The two semifinals will be played from June 3 to June 5, with the final from June 8 to June 11. Venues of the three matches will be confirmed in due course.

**Schedule of matches (12-14 May, 1st round):**

Pool A - Service Industries v Ahmad Glass, LCCA Ground, Lahore; TARA Group v Pakistan Railways, Railways Stadium, Lahore; Income Tax v Khayaban-e-Amin, Central Park Cricket Ground, Lahore

Pool B - Pak-Saudi International v MIT Solutions, Gohati Cricket Stadium, Swabi; Karwan CC v Haidery Traders, Shama Cricket Ground, Peshawar; Sabir's Poultry v JJ's Consultancy Group, Mardan Sports Complex, Mardan

Pool C - OGDCL v Pakistan Army, National Ground, Islamabad; JDW Sugar Mills Ltd v PAF, Shalimar Cricket Ground, Islamabad; Omar Associates v CDA, Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad

Pool D - Eshaal Associates v MAQ Group, Rana Naved ul Hasan Cricket Academy; Ghani Institute v Pakistan Navy, Azhar Ali Academy Ground, Lahore; Azlaan Traders v Sardar Group, Lahore Country Club, Muridke

## Knight, Glenn power England to crush Pakistan in first T20I

A Sports

BIRMINGHAM: Sarah Glenn's four-wicket haul after an anchoring 49-run knock from skipper Heather Knight led England to a resounding 53-run victory over Pakistan in the first T20I of the three-match series here at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Chasing a daunting 164-run target, Pakistan's batting unit unfolded on a meagre 110 despite Sadaf Shams' brisk knock.

Pakistan had a similar start to the pursuit as they lost both their openers Sidra Ameen (9) and Gull Feroza (17) inside the batting powerplay.

But, Sadaf, who came out to bat at No.3, kept Pakistan in control with clean hitting.

The right-handed batter dominated England bowlers amid her brief knock as Pakistan were cruising at 77/3 in 10 overs.

But a mix-up between Sadaf and skipper Nida Dar saw the set batter walking back to the dugout in the next over.

She remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with 24-ball 35 with the help of seven boundaries.

Her dismissal sparked a middle-order collapse as Pakistan began to lose wickets at an alarming rate and consequently slipped to 89/9 in 15 overs.

Tailenders Fatima Sana (16\*) and Sadia Iqbal (8) offered brief retaliation by adding 21 runs for the 10th wicket until the latter fell victim to Lauren Bell in the penultimate over.

Sarah Glenn led the bowling charge for England with 4/12 in her four overs, followed by Bell, who returned impressive figures of 3/22.

Top-ranked T20I bowler Sophie Ecclestone and Charlie Dean, on the other hand, made one scalp each.

Put into bat first, England found themselves in a state of bother as they were reduced to 11/4 in 2.5 overs.

Following the early debacle, England captain Knight was joined by Jones in the middle and the duo launched an astounding recovery.

The pair batted sensibly and added 67 runs for the seventh wicket to pull England out of trouble.

Jones, who was the core aggressor of the important partnership, walked back in the 13th over as Sadia Iqbal drew a much-needed breakthrough for Pakistan.

She scored a brisk 37 off 27 deliveries with the help of four boundaries.

Coming out to bat at No.7 Danielle Gibson then took charge of bolstering England's total and knitted a one-sided partnership with Heather Knight, who perished in the 16th over.

Knight remained the top-scorer for England with a cautious 49. Her 44-ball knock featured six boundaries.

Meanwhile, Gibson continued to punish Pakistan bowlers and added valuable runs for England at the backend and returned unbeaten on 41 off just 21 deliveries, laced up with eight boundaries.

Waheeda Akhtar and Sadia Iqbal each bagged two wickets for Pakistan while Tuba chipped in with a wicket.

## Japan wins Sultan Azlan Shah Cup



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Japan emerged as the champion of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, defeating Pakistan in a thrilling penalty shootout at Ipoh, Malaysia on Saturday.

The match ended with a 2-2 draw at the end of scheduled time, but Japan won on the penalty shootout by 4-1.

Pakistan's team, which had won the bronze medal in the previous event, put up a stellar performance but failed to capitalize on their chances.

The final match between Pakistan and Japan began with a fast-paced game, with both teams creating scoring opportunities. Pakistan earned eight penalty corners during the match but couldn't convert them into goals.

Japan's player, Seren Tanaka, scored the first goal in the 12th minute, which was equalized by Pakistan's Ajaz Ahmed in the 34th minute.

Pakistan's Abdul Rehman scored another goal in the 37th minute, but Japan's Matsunoto equalized again in the 47th minute, making the score 2-2.

In the penalty shootout, Pakistan's team couldn't do well, with only Imad Butt scoring a goal. Japan won the penalty shootout by 4-1, claiming the title of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

Pakistan's team won the silver medal, an improvement from their bronze medal finish in the previous event. Meanwhile Pakistan's Rana Waheed Ashraf was declared Man of the match.

## Iftikhar Ahmed 'hopeful' for Pakistan comeback in Ireland T20Is

A Sports

DUBLIN: All-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed pinned his hopes on Pakistan to stage a comeback in the ongoing three-match series against Ireland after succumbing to a shock loss in the series opener at Clontarf Cricket Club here on Friday.

In a video statement released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Iftikhar Ahmed acknowledged the team's shortcomings in fielding, adding that they did not play at their full potential.

"When I came runs were needed and I played my natural game. The way our team is we didn't perform to that level. We lacked in fielding, we dropped a catch and gave away a couple of boundaries as well," stated Iftikhar.

"This is part of the game and we are hopeful that we will make a comeback in the series with two games remaining," he added.

He then went on to express his confidence in the team's ability to force a turnaround in the ongoing series against Ireland and win the England series to attain confidence before the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

"With the quality our team has, we can make a comeback against Ireland. We will try to win our next series against England and take confidence into the upcoming T20 World Cup," Iftikhar concluded.

For the unversed, Iftikhar Ahmed played a brief yet effective cameo against Ireland and bolstered Pakistan's total at the backend.

The right-handed batter smashed three fours and as many sixes on his way to an unbeaten 37 off just 15 deliveries.

His blazing knock powered Pakistan to a competitive total of 182/5 but the touring side yet ended up on the losing side as Ireland chased down the target with a ball to spare, at the back of Andy Balbirnie's half-century.

Pakistan and Ireland next face each other in the second T20I of the three-match series at the same venue on Sunday.

# Lahore won the National Women's One Day Tournament

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Lahore won the National Women's One Day Tournament. In the final played at Iqbal Stadium, they defeated Karachi by 8 wickets.

The highlight of the final was the fine bowling of Anam Amin and Ayesha Bilal and the half-century of Iram Javed.

Due to last night's rain, the match started late and it was reduced to 27 overs.

Lahore won the toss and allowed Karachi to bat, which scored 108 runs in 23.4 overs.

In Karachi's innings, Laiba Fatima scored 30 runs with the help of five fours. Ysra Aamir scored 24 runs.

The duo added 43 runs in the first wicket partnership but after that neither batsman could get into double figures and 10 wick-



ets fell for just 65 runs.

On behalf of Lahore, Anam Amin and Ayesha Bilal took three wickets each while bowling well. Quratul Ain took two wickets.

Lahore completed the

required score for the loss of 2 wickets in 22.2 overs.

Iram Javed stood out with 55 runs not out with the help of 5 fours and 2 sixes, this was his fourth half-century in this tournament. He was also the



top scorer of the tournament by scoring a total of 400 runs.

Quratul Ain of Lahore was the highest wicket taker in the tournament with 23 wickets.

Mahim Manzoor of Karachi took 22 wickets.

Umima Sohail of Karachi scored 384 runs and also took 20 wickets in the tournament.

**Short Score:** Karachi 108 runs (23.4 overs) / 3 wickets, Ayesha Bilal 18 / 3 wickets

Lahore 114 runs 2 players out (22.2 overs) Iram Javed 55 not out Result. Lahore won by 8 wickets.

## Called on

MULTAN: A delegation of minorities' representatives called on the Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani at Circuit House on Saturday.



Photo: PID

# Saudi crown prince can bring economic revolution, says PM Shehbaz

## Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is expected to make major announcements in solar energy projects, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said as the South Asian country seeks investment from the kingdom in different sectors to boost economy.

In the interview with Al Arabiya English, he shared that a Pakistan delegation is in Riyadh to discuss materialising investment portfolios in solar energy with ACWA POWER. "I think this is one area where we are going to make major announcements, along with mines and minerals. Thirdly, agriculture as there is huge potential [in the sector]," he said and maintained that Pakistan was an agrarian economy.



The premier called for increasing cooperation with Saudi Arabia to enhance agriculture production.

While speaking about information technology, he said that the Saudi crown prince's workings in the field were "phenomenal" and "breath-taking".

When asked about strategic partnerships with other Arab countries, PM Shehbaz replied

in affirmative and said that Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Turkey, and China can become great partners in the field. "Internationally, we can create a kind of very wonderful economic revolution. This is all because of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's dynamism and his visionary leadership."

In response to a query, he said: "We have now a clear cut way forward... mutual coop-

eration, investments in the field of mines and minerals, renewable energy," he said in an interview with Al Arabiya English that centred on the South Asian country's relationship with the kingdom.

The Saudi crown prince is expected to visit Pakistan this month, according to media reports. His visit was initially scheduled for late 2022 but faced delays due to political uncertainties and Pakistan's elections.

Prior to his arrival, a delegation of influential Saudi businessmen visited the country and engaged in discussions with Pakistani counterparts to explore investment opportunities.

At an event, PM Shehbaz assured the investors of his government's blanket support to investment, enabling them and businessmen to accom-

plish their future projects expeditiously with joint ventures.

When asked about Pakistan's ability to maintain relations with different countries, he said that the government's focus was on economic progress and admitted that the country was facing "huge challenges" at the macroeconomic level.

He vowed to bring in "huge reforms" and structural changes to resolve issues related to line losses, power generation, and increasing revenue collection.

According to the premier, it would be a futile exercise if the country does not focus on the agenda of reforms. "I had the most intense and comprehensive discussions with Saudi counterparts, investors, and professionals. They will assist us with their experience."

# Pakistan, Azerbaijan to focus Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, Transparency Report at COP-29: Romina

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday said the Republic of Azerbaijan and Pakistan would focus on climate action and adaptation plan and transparency report at the global climate moot COP-29 to be held in Baku this year for synergised and concerted response to the global warming challenge. Addressing a joint presser flanked by Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources Azerbaijan and President-designate COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev here at F-9 Park, the PM's Coordinator said

the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan had discussed pertinent issues regarding National Adaptation Plan, Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, Loss and Damage Fund mobilization, Climate Finance, G-77 plus China, Global Climate Vulnerability Index which is the priority of Pakistan to raise plight of most climate vulnerable states at the COP-20 forum.

Romina Khurshid said the Azerbaijan Minister called on the President and Prime Minister and extended his state's invitation to attend the COP-29 conference in Baku.

She said both the sides had discussed the contours of bilat-



eral cooperation and engagement for participation at the COP forum and the preparations to be made for a meaningful participation/ She added that the One house, one tree programme (Green Pakistan Programme) has been started in Saudi Arabia, where the Ministry of Climate

Change and Environmental Coordination were serving to assist the Saudi government.

She added that the Pakistani delegation would proceed under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at the COP-29 forum. On the occasion, Mukhtar Babayev said Azerbaijan vision was clear to

promoted collective work and activities within the climate agenda, whereas he had planted trees at the F-9 Park along with his delegation to renew the pledge for nature conservation. He mentioned that extensive discussions were made with partners in Pakistan on common aspects related to climate change. He thanked the Pakistani government for giving the opportunity to initiate dialogue on COP-29 forum preparations and deliberations on the climate agenda. "Our goal is to promote climate action. Pakistan is the best opportunity for us to work together to protect nature, whereas further meetings are underway," he added.

## Gwadar: Rally...

Continued from Page 1

heinous crime to justice. They termed the killings of Punjabi laborers as a nefarious attempt to tarnish the harmony among the different people residing in the town.

They said that Sarbandar is a peaceful city and the division on the basis of caste, color creed and sect is condemnable.

It is pertinent to mention here that seven residents of Khanewal district, working as barbers in Gwadar, were brutally murdered and another was injured, by unidentified attackers.

As per details, terrorists attacked residential quarters near Fish Harbour Jetty in Sarband, Gwadar and opened indiscriminate fire. As a result, seven workers, who were sleeping, were killed and another one sustained wounds.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident and expressed his condolences to the victims' families, according to a statement on X by state broadcaster PTV News.

"This incident of terrorism is a cowardly act of the enemies of the country. We are determined to eradicate terrorism from its roots," the statement read.

# Arif Alvi says PTI founder to prefer imprisonment over 'any deal'

## Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Former president Arif Alvi on Saturday asserted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail, would prefer remaining behind bars rather than making 'any deal'.

Addressing lawyers at Sialkot district bar, Alvi emphasised that 'real freedom' can only be achieved through self-respecting leadership that refuses to compromise.

He noted that there was no explanation why they were unwilling to negotiate with the person, who represents millions of people according to him.

Arif Alvi stated that his relationship with the PTI founder Imran Khan dates back a long time, and current-



ly, all institutions are heading towards a dead end. "When someone reaches a dead end, matters tend to deteriorate," he added.

Quoting the deposed premier, the former president said: "There is no way forward without the supremacy of Constitution," emphasising that dialogue is the only way out.

Earlier, former president Arif Alvi was given an "important responsibility" by party chief Imran Khan to

"resolve things" through dialogue.

This was revealed during a press conference held by PTI leaders, including National Assembly Opposition Leader Omar Ayub, Arif Alvi, and PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan, outside Adiala jail after their meeting with the ex-PM in the jail.

It is pertinent to mention here that the former president had made several attempts to bridge the chasm between Imran Khan and the establishment during his stint as the head of the state.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had taken a major U-turn on holding dialogue with establishment following the press conference of Director-General (DG) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), seeking apology from the party over May 9 events.

# Zardari gets presidential immunity in Park Lane, Toshakhana references

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad granted President Asif Ali Zardari presidential immunity under Article 248 (2) of the Constitution in the Park Lane and Toshakhana references and barred the ongoing proceedings against him.

As long as Asif Ali Zardari holds the position of the president of the country, the proceedings against him in the cases cannot proceed further, said the written order by Judge Nasir Javed.

The written order added that the

prosecution raised no objection to President Zardari's plea, hence it was approved and case proceedings were halted until the end of his tenure as president of Pakistan. In the Park Lane case, Zardari was accused of influencing relevant authorities during his tenure as the president during the PPP tenure to allegedly obtain loans for his front companies.

He was accused of receiving a loan of Rs1.5 billion released for Parthenon Private Limited "with ill intention", and the money was later claimed to have been transferred for his personal use through fake bank accounts.

The National Accountability Bureau accused him of causing a loss of Rs3.77 billion to the national exchequer.



# Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman's visit to Pakistan 'delayed'

## Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The much-anticipated visit of Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) to Pakistan has been deferred, ARY News reported on Saturday citing sources.

MBS was slated to arrive in Islamabad this month for two days.

Official sources had indicated earlier without giving any schedule that the crown prince would be in Islamabad on May 19, for two days.

Sources said that officials from both countries are holding consultations to finalise date for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman's Pakistan visit.

Earlier, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch made it clear on Friday that as soon the

schedule was worked out between the two capitals, it would be made public.

She was confident that the

Mohammad Bin Salman's visit would take place soon and it would surely be very valuable and people of Pakistan are anxiously waiting for the leader from the brotherly country.

MBS' much-anticipated visit will be the first visit by the Saudi Crown Prince to Pakistan in five years. The last time he was in Pakistan was in February 2019. The Saudi crown prince will land in Pakistan along with his delegation.



# Strike will continue until the demands are met: Joint Action Committee AJK

## Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a statement on Saturday, the committee announced that the strike would continue until the fulfilment of the charter of demands.

As a result of the strike, normal life has come to a standstill in all districts, including the capital Muzaffarabad.

The protest has resulted in road blockades, complete suspension of public and inter-city transport, a significant decline in tourist arrivals, and inconvenience for those returning as they face road closures. Some protesters are guiding returning tourists through alternative routes while others are providing information about the situation.

# Amir Muqam pledges...

Continued from Page 1

Directives have been issued to the Chief Secretary and other officials to expedite ongoing development projects. Expressing concern over frequent flight cancellations causing inconvenience to the populace, he announced plans to request the Prime Minister for the deployment of C-130 aircraft. Initiatives are in progress to secure constitutional rights for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, including the appointment of judges to the Supreme Appellate Tribunals.

Earlier, Engr. Amir Muqam,

accompanied by Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Gulbar Khan, in a meeting, agreed on the importance of improving coordination between the Gilgit-Baltistan government and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan.

In their meeting, they extensively deliberated on the security status in Gilgit-Baltistan, budgetary concerns, ongoing development initiatives, and the provision of wheat to the region.

The minister stated his intention to engage with pertinent authorities to address the economic challenges facing the region.

# AJK protests continue ...

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Sub-Inspector suffered severe injuries and was brought to the divisional headquarters, where he succumbed to his injuries.

In an attempt to evade arrest, a young man near Neelum Bridge jumped into the Neelum River, while 40 people were injured in a collision with the police. Police operations are underway for the arrests of young individuals distributed in groups in the streets and squares of Muzaffarabad city.

In various areas of Muzaffarabad city, including Tang Stand, Neelum Bridge, and Bila Noor Shah, violent clashes erupted between the police and protesters, further exacerbating the situation instead of restoring peace. The police set up checkpoints on various roads of the city and arrested dozens of young individuals.

Public transport has been suspended and educational institutions, shops, and business centres have been closed since Friday after the Joint Public Action Committee called for the strike. The group, which comprises farmers, businessmen, locals, and vendors, is demanding wheat subsidy and tax-free electricity from the Mangla dam.