



**Pakistan & Kazakhstan enjoy common values & intense linkages: Atta Tarar**

The embassy of Kazakhstan, Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized a screening of a movie titled "Kazakh Khanate –Golden Throne". Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin warmly welcomed the audience, delivered a speech about Kazakhstan and Pakistani cultural ties... (Details on Page 6)



**India should allow her, Raziyah to meet Yasin: Mushaal**

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik demanded Indian government to allow her along with their 12-year-old daughter Raziyah Sultana a safe entry to India to meet Yasin in Tihar Jail as per rights of prisoners under Geneva Conventions. In a statement on Saturday, Mushaal, a former special assistance to PM on human rights... (Details on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the performance of Civil Armed Forces in Anti-Smuggling activities on Saturday.



Photo: PID

**Mohsin Naqvi seeks plan to establish 'Safe City' in Dasu, Chilas**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting regarding the establishment of the Safe City Project in Dasu and Chilas to ensure the fool-proof security of Chinese and foreign nationals. The minister has formed a special committee to seek a comprehensive plan in this regard and directed the committee to submit final recommendations within 15 days.

On this occasion, the minister said that the prime minister had directed to establish the safe city project in Dasu and Chilas. He emphasised the implementation of the project on the pattern of safe cities in Islamabad and Lahore. He highlighted that the purpose of Safe City is not just to install cameras but a system that is equipped with advanced technology and artificial intelligence tools, adding that the Safe City project will ensure surveillance and security of the entire area. The minister further

said that Islamabad Police will provide all kinds of support in this regard. He directed that Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and Islamabad Police should jointly prepare a comprehensive plan in this regard. The minister also constituted a committee comprising of IG Islamabad, RPO Hazara and the representative of WAPDA. He said that it is their responsibility to ensure the security of Chinese citizens working for the progress and development of Pakistan, assuring that no effort will be spared in this regard. The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary for Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Chairman WAPDA Lieutenant General (R) Sajjad Ghani, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and IG Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi. Additionally, the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Additional IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and RPO Hazara joined the meeting via video link.

**SIFC okays setting up seven international desks to attract investment**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday approved establishment of seven desks to promote investment and trade with other countries and regions, terming it a 'lifeline for the country's economy'.

The special desks will be established for United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, China, Qatar, European Union, United States of America and Far East.

The 10th meeting of the apex committee reviewed the progress

on ongoing economic collaboration with friendly countries and appreciated the recent upsurge in trade and investment related engagements under government-to-government and business-to-business frameworks.

The committee also gave directions for an efficient follow-up mechanism to transform these commitments into tangible projects and economic dividends, at a fast pace.

The meeting was convened to review various initiatives and projects under its ambit, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended

by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, members of the federal cabinet, chief ministers and high-level government officials.

The prime minister appreciated the role of SIFC and affiliated stakeholders for steering the investment and privatization drive, in a befitting manner.

He also gave directions to fast-track various initiatives through 'whole of the government' approach and play a constructive role towards the economic stability of the country.

The chief of army staff reassured the firm resolve of Pakistan Army to backstop government's

initiatives for economic prosperity of the country and socio-economic well-being of its people.

During the meeting, the ministries gave comprehensive progress on various projects and policy initiatives being steered through the platform of SIFC, and proffered plans for accomplishment of setting milestones in the future.

The committee exhibited profound satisfaction on the overall progress achieved so far and appreciated the role of federal ministries, provincial governments and associated departments in realising the envisioned dividends.

The committee appreciated the facilitation provided from the platform of SIFC for improving macro-economic conditions of the country.

It also reviewed the progress on privatization of state-owned-enterprises (SOEs) and expressed satisfaction with the ongoing process. It urged timely accomplishment of various privatization milestones in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The committee reiterated the commitment to improve the investment ecosystem and gave directions to make it more investment-friendly through sustainable policy initiatives.

**Gandapur reveals meeting with army chief**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has revealed that he met the Army Chief during a media briefing following his participation in the Special Investment Facilitation Council meeting in Islamabad.

Gandapur stated that he had met with the Army Chief twice and reiterated his stance of not compromising on the province's share of resources.

He also confirmed that he had voiced his opposition to the imposition of taxes on FATA and PATA regions, urging the federal government to refrain

Continued on Page 8

**Army officer arrested for killing pro-Palestine protestors in capital**

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a tragic incident this week in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, a car ran over and killed two pro-Palestine protestors. The Islamabad police have now identified the driver as an army officer, who has been handed over to military authorities for further legal action.

The protesters had set up camp at the D-Chowk area of Islamabad, where they had been demonstrating for several days. On Monday, a speeding car plowed into the crowd, killing two protesters and injuring four others. The driver initially fled the scene but was quickly apprehended by the

police. "The driver who crushed two people to death was arrested from the scene and identified as an



army officer," stated Taqi Jawad, an Islamabad police spokesman. "He was nominated in the FIR [police report] and later handed over to the military police for further legal action."

While the protesters condemned

the incident, they vowed to continue their demonstrations, urging the Pakistani government to take stronger action in support of the Palestinian cause.

Lawyer Humaira Masihuddin told Arab News, "We feel that the State of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan should do far more than it has been doing till now."

Pakistan does not recognize Israel and has repeatedly raised the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the United Nations. However, some protesters, like student Rabail Shahid, criticized the government's failure to provide adequate security for the demonstrations in Islamabad's highly secured Red Zone area.

**Alleged desecration of Holy Quran sparks violence in Sargodha**

Correspondent

SARGODHA: In Punjab's Sargodha an alleged desecration of the Holy Quran sparked violent protests and mob attacks on Friday.

The mob attacked multiple houses, broke windows, and set the household belongings on fire.

Local police officials requesting anonymity said they had rescued a Christian family and relocated them to a safe place. However, there was no immediate words from the government or senior police officials.

Video clips obtained by Aaj News show police

Continued on Page 8

**Rana vows to revive sports in Pakistan**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, has pledged to revitalize sports in Pakistan, in line with the Prime Minister's vision. Rana, who was given an additional portfolio of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), convened a high-level meeting here to discuss the revival of sports in schools.

The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary IPC, Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Federal Secretary for Education, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and senior officials from all provinces, including Azad

Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Rana emphasized the need to enhance sports infrastructure at the school level, highlighting the importance of promoting sports from the grassroots to international standards. He also directed to compile data on sports infrastructure in schools in collaboration with all provinces, including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Once data is available, it will be easier to set goals and achieve them, he said. Rana announced the establishment of a benchmark to assess the state of sports in schools. Our aim is to take immediate action to elevate sports to international standards, he said.

**CM Maryam welcomes positive trend in stock market**

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday welcomed the positive trend in the stock market, with the 100-index reaching new records.

Expressing her thoughts, she said: "The positive trend in the stock market indicates a better future for the government, with foreign investors showing confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led government."

"We welcome the announcement of a \$10 billion investment by the UAE," she said. She was optimistic that "good days" were coming for Pakistan and its people.

Addressing an event in Lahore, CM Maryam stated: "The initiatives taken by Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz

were sabotaged by the previous government. It takes up to three months to organise the new government."

"It is Nawaz Sharif who gets pleased with the launch of every project," she added.

Speaking about the "Clinics on Wheels" projects, CM Maryam said: "It is not about the vehicle but the entire clinic, which will reach outside the doorsteps of the masses."

She maintained: "The vehicle will be available in the underprivileged areas for six days, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The pregnant women will be given complete facilities in the ambulance."

CM Maryam vowed to increase the doctors and paramedic staff. "Now doctors from every district will be given priority in terms of recruitment," she said.

**Trailer crushed the passenger van, 13 passengers died and 7 injured: Police**

Farooq Sheikh

MUZAFFARGARH: According to the Information For Police and Rescue Emergency 1122 The accident took place between a Trailer and a Passenger van. As a result of the accident, 13 people died and 7 people were serious-

ly injured. After the accident, emergency was declared in THQ Hospital Kot Addu.

A very tragic incident has taken place near Ada Muhammad wala on Chowk Sarwar shaheed Multan Mianwali (MM) Road, the accident took place between a truck and a Hi X Van. 13 people

were killed and 7 people were seriously injured due to the accident. After the accident, emergency has been imposed in THQ Hastpal Chowk Sarwar Shaheed.

Passenger Van was going from Multan to Bhakkar in this terrible collision. About twenty people from the same family were

on board while 7 people were injured. Rescue 1122 and local people are continuing to bring the injured and dead people in their vehicles, has reached

A large number of people from the tragic traffic accident in Kot Addu reached to donate blood to the injured. District Police Officer

Muzaffargarh Syed Hasnain Bukhari reached the accident site and supervised the rescue operation and shifted the dead and injured to the hospital. The seriously injured in the accident are being shifted to District Headquarters Muzaffargarh and Nishatar Hospital Multan.



# Govt to provide quality education to special children, says Governor

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has said that special children are vital part of our society and Punjab government would utilize all resources to provide best facilities and quality education to special children. He expressed these views during his visit to special education center Pindigheb on Saturday. "Providing all facilities to special children for their welfare is our prime religious obligation", he added. He said special children were important segment of our society and efforts were being made to educate them and to make them useful member of the society.

Upon arrival the principal of the school Dr Ghazala Yasmeen



has briefed the governor about the students, faculty and problems of the school. On this occasion he visited various class rooms of the school and interacted with special male and female students. The local notable Riasat Ali has informed the governor the special education center under the school management committee led by General (retd) Muhammad Arif Malik was established on 6 kanals of land with an allocation of Rs 20 million in 2022. He informed that the first floor of the building was constructed through self help basis.

On this occasion Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has announced donation worth Rs 0.5 million to the school management committee for addressing the academic needs of deserving special students of the school.

## PHA Rawalpindi comes forward to rescue birds from scorching sun

**PNP**

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi in view of the extreme hot weather in Rawalpindi and Islamabad has placed water pots for birds in the parks and under the flyovers in the garrison city.

Following the instructions of Director General PHA Ahmed Hassan Ranjha, PHA has put specially made water pots in the parks, green belts and under the flyovers of Rawalpindi city.

In the city parks and under the flyovers, provision of drinking water pots for birds has been made to protect the birds from extreme weather conditions and scorching sun as heatwave prevailing with higher mercury in the twin cities.

According to the instructions of Director General Parks and Horticulture Authority Rawalpindi Ahmad Hasan Ranjha, PHA workers have been tasked in all public parks and flyovers of Rawalpindi city to keep drinking water pots specially to protect the birds from severe weather effects and hot sun.

Amidst extreme hot and scorching sun in Rawalpindi, water pots for birds have been arranged because the birds often die due to extreme hot weather conditions and non-availability of water especially in the urban areas.

In big cities, most of the birds used to nestle in the parks and under flyovers during daytime to protect themselves from scorching sun and extreme weather conditions.

## Chairman Drug Court Judge visits Nishtar Hospital, checks the stock of medicines

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Chairman Drug Court and Judge Multan Muhammad Saleem ullah Member Drug Court Dr. Muhammad Nabil Saleem.

Along with Prosecution Officer Mohammad Shafiqur Rehman visited Nishtar Hospital Multan Pharmacy Department, Chief Pharmacy Nimreen, Dr. Maqsood, Rauf Mayo and others welcomed the guests and gave a briefing. Checked medication records. He said that Nishtar Hospital Multan has the best medicine stock system for the admitted patients. It has been linked to the online central medicine store.



## British-Pakistani Opera Singer receives King's commendation

**PNP**

ISLAMABAD: British Pakistani Sufi Opera star Saira Peter has received a special letter of appreciation from Buckingham Palace for her recording of British national anthem 'God Save the King' following the coronation of HM (His Majesty) King Charles III. Upon receiving the recording, performed in soprano vocal range, the King sent Saira a letter conveying his good wishes and sincere thanks for her public services, including with it a signed photo card from himself and Queen Camilla.

Created by request of UK Government offices at Hastings Town Hall (East Sussex), the recording is used across the region for official government events, including citizenship ceremonies. It follows Saira's performance of 'God Save the Queen' recorded in 2018, also by request of the government, making her the first Asian and the only Pakistani bestowed this honour. That recording likewise led to a personal letter of thanks from the late Queen.

Saira Peter, a woman of many firsts—Pakistan's first opera singer, world's first Sufi Opera singer and the first Asian to record the British national anthem—keeps making waves as she continues to boost Pakistan's image ever higher on the global stage.



## Dangerous

ISLAMABAD: A child traveling hanging on the back of a truck, which may cause an accident in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# India should allow her, Raziyah to meet Yasin: Mushaal

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik demanded Indian government to allow her along with their 12-year-old daughter Raziyah Sultana a safe entry to India to meet Yasin in Tihar Jail as per rights of prisoners under Geneva Conventions.

In a statement on Saturday, Mushaal, a former special assistance to PM on human rights and women empowerment, said that they should be allowed to visit Indian to see Yasin Malik, who was imprisoned in notorious tihar jail in false, fabricated and politically motivated cases.

She stated that the family has not seen each other and been forcibly divided for almost 10 years, as senior hurriyat leader was kept in death cell



for his crime for raising voice for the long-denied fundamental and legal rights to people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal urged United Nations,

World powers, human rights organisation and the government of Pakistan to look into the grave human rights violations and put pressure on India to guarantee a safe and secure meeting with her husband in Tihar Jail.

She pointed out that Indian Kangaroo courts have unilaterally given life imprisonment to Yasin Malik in fraudulent and bogus cases to suppress the legitimate and most powerful voice of Kashmir's right to self determination.

The hurriyat leader feared that now the fascist Indian government was seeking his death penalty in fictitious cases to silence the vociferous voice of Kashmir's freedom movement to break the shackles of Indian subjugation.

She lamented that he had been charged life imprisonment two years ago without a fair trial, physical presence, counsel and following due legal access.

Mushaal urged that the UN and international community should build pressure on India to ensure her husband earliest release from unlawful detention.

# Muslim Conference stages magnificent 'Kashmir Banega Pakistan' rally in Muzaffarabad

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference organized the magnificent "Kashmir Banega Pakistan Istahkame Pakistan rally, hundreds of vehicles from Dheerkot/Kohala to Muzaffarabad, thousands of people on dozens of motorcycles. The atmosphere echoed with the slogans of Azadi Kashmir Zindabad. In Kohala, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan unfurled the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. There was great cheering of Muslim Conference workers, municipal representatives, women and youth in the rally. Full participation. The participants of the rally waved the national flag of Pakistan and left for Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said in his address that in order to stop the political crisis on the horizon of Azad Kashmir and to end the ideological and ideological chaos. The responsibilities of the Muslim Conference have



increased. The idea of annexation of Pakistan is actually the name of Tehrik-e-Takmeel Pakistan, for which Kashmiris have been making a new history of sacrifices for 76 years. Efforts to weaken the Muslim Conference on the political front are the result of that at this time. The ideological turmoil within the region is increasing, the frustration and anger among the youth proves that the concerns about the future are increasing. The Muslim Conference will continue its journey of struggle to

fulfill its ideological mission.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan further said that the time and circumstances required that the region should be created. The current situation and political crisis should be ended through ideological process. The platform of the Muslim Conference has always been an active role for the security, defense and national interests of Pakistan and our journey has never stopped, the Muslim Conference and its The first conspiracy to weaken the ideology within the

state took place during the Maharaja period, which was thwarted by the power of the vote of the people of the state. He was active to strengthen and advance this structure. The elements afraid of the popularity of the Muslim Conference in Azad Kashmir always tried to weaken the idea of annexation to Pakistan, but since this idea exists as a faith in the heart of every person of the state. Yes, it can neither be eliminated nor weakened.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan made it clear that the Muslim Conference will continue its struggle in the worst conditions, power is not our goal, the preservation of the ideology and the fulfillment of the goal of Pakistan. The journey of sacrifices will continue in the future for the achievement. Candidate of Assembly Constituency Khawra Raja Saqib Majeed along with hundreds of his colleagues were present in Kohala for flag hoisting where the convoy led by Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan was welcomed. Flag hoisting After that, the rally left for Muzaffarabad.

# Maroof Int'l Hospital: Advancing Healthcare Through Research



**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital celebrated Int'l Clinical Trial Day, highlighting the crucial role of clinical trials in medical advancements. Key speakers provided compelling statistics and committed to furthering research excellence.

Dr. Waqar Hafeez, Consultant Neurologist & Executive Director of Maroof Clinical Trial Unit, emphasized the surge in clinical trials in Pakistan. "Data from clinical trials reveals a dramatic increase in the number of clinical trials: 469 conducted in 2023 compared to just 215 in 2019," he highlighted, underscoring the critical need for robust clinical research, especially post-COVID.

Ch. Naseer Ahmed Chairman MIH congratulated the research team for their commitment to excellence. "Dr. Mujtaba Qadri & Dr. Mir Waheed have been the pioneers, and under Dr. Saboor Waris' leadership, our clinical trial unit has achieved new heights," he said.

Mr. Haroon Naseer CEO MIH, reaffirmed the hospital's dedication to advancing medical research. "We will continue pushing the boundaries of medical research to ensure our

patients receive the most advanced and effective treatments," he said, praising the MIH research department's growth from humble beginnings to a national leader.

Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed, Medical Director MIH, celebrated the unit's dedication to life-saving research, announcing, "Our renewal of the DRAP license for Maroof Clinical Trial Unit is a testament to our commitment to conducting high-quality & safe clinical research."

Dr. Saboor Waris, Director Maroof Clinical Trial Unit/Research & Quality Dept. highlighted Pakistan's potential in the clinical trial industry. "Our genetic diversity and high disease burden make us an ideal location for impactful clinical research," she noted, recognizing historical figures like Avicenna and James Lind for their foundational contributions.

Dr. Gulafshana Hafeez HOD Maroof Obs & Gynae Dept. Chairperson Institutional Review Board, emphasized the importance of ethical oversight in clinical research, ensuring patient safety and research integrity.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Chairwoman Musarat Naseer shared a touching story of a relative who benefited from an oncology trial, significantly improving her life expectancy. "This personal experience underscores the life-changing impact of clinical research," she shared.

Ms. Rubina Afzal Corporate Head Maroof Int'l Hospital skillfully hosted the event, ensuring its success with outstanding coordination and grace.

The event concluded with Maroof Hospital's renewed commitment to advancing healthcare through ongoing research, ensuring the delivery of cutting-edge treatments to patients.



106th Anniversary of Independence

Democratic traditions, national statehood foundation of Azerbaijan independence: Khazar Farhadov

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, has said that since the early years of its independence, Azerbaijan had been determined to strengthen the democratic traditions and national statehood that were the foundation of its independence.

Democratic traditions, national statehood foundation of Azerbaijan independence: Khazar Farhadov

"Today, we celebrate the 106th anniversary of our independence, and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established on May 28, 1918, and that is the first democratic republic in the Muslim East. Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan," Khazar Farhadov said this while on the occasion of Independence Day (May 28, 1918) of the Republic of Azerbaijan here.

The Ambassador said that within a remarkably brief span, Azerbaijan established its first parliament and government, defined its borders, instituted state attributes, and carried out crucial state-building measures.

He said that important steps were taken in the fields of state building, recognition of the Republic as a subject of international relations, and protection of its national interests.

The Azerbaijan envoy said the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, though it had an existence of only 23 months, played a pivotal role in the formation of democratic traditions and the history of national statehood and laid a solid foundation for the future independence of the Republic by strengthening the sentiments of freedom and independence.

He said, "The legal successor of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, restored its independence in 1991 and managed to preserve its sovereignty thanks to the great leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, who has made an immense contribution to the people and the state of Azerbaijan." Khazar Farhadov said.

"Azerbaijan has been implementing the policy of Heydar



Aliyev, continuing and enriching it under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan."

"From the first day of our independence, we felt Pakistan's full support for the Republic of Azerbaijan, both in bilateral format and within the framework of international organizations," he said.

The Ambassador said that in 2020, under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan liberated its internationally recognized territories from the almost 30-year occupation by Armenia, implementing UN Security Council 4 resolutions of 1993.

He said, "Over the past years, Azerbaijan has successfully chaired several important organizations, such as the UN Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Turkic States, and many others."

This month, on May 1-3, the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, themed "Dialogue



for Peace and Global Security: Cooperation and Inter-connectivity," was held at the Baku Convention Center," he said.

He said, "The Republic of Azerbaijan was chosen to host COP29 in December 2023 with

unanimous support from all countries, and it showcases the recognition of Azerbaijan's leadership and efforts in addressing climate change at the national, regional, and global scales."

The Islamic Republic of Paki-

stan was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 12, 1991, he informed.

The diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on June 9, 1992.



Khazar Farhadov said, "The relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan continue to grow on an upward trajectory in all fields."

He said, "Direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan (from Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore), which have been operated since 2022 by PIA and 2023 by AZAL, tremendously contribute to these relations."

He said, "More than fifty thousand Pakistani tourists visited Azerbaijan in 2023. I have to mention that Pakistan is one of the countries that is included in the online ASAN visa system of Azerbaijan."

The Ambassador said, "The citizens of Pakistan can easily obtain a visa online within three hours to visit Azerbaijan, and this direct connectivity brings people from all circles of the two countries closer."

In December 2022, the Government of Azerbaijan, taking into account fraternal relations, exempted rice from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the same origin from import customs duty, he said.

"It is not a coincidence that the trade turnover between the two brotherly countries reached up to \$100 million."

Democratic traditions, national statehood foundation of Azerbaijan independence: Khazar Farhadov

Meanwhile, on the occasion, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam, addressing the ceremony as chief guest, said that, while representing the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, "I would like to say that Azerbaijan has made unprecedented progress since its independence, and the roots of mutual relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are strong in history."

She said, "The relations between the two countries are getting deeper and stronger day by day after independence, and the people of both countries are also coming closer to each other."

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

ICCI celebrates Africa Day: Pakistan committed to deepen ties with African nations-Speakers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Africa, with its diverse cultures, vibrant traditions and spirit stands as a testament to the resilience of its people. From the struggle for independence to the pursuit of development, Africa has demonstrated its commitment to progress, prosperity and peace. This has been stated by Mr. Shehryar Akbar Khan Additional Foreign Secretary while addressing a conspicuous Africa Day ceremony organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said that since the launch of the Engage Africa Policy in 2019, Pakistan has successfully executed Phase-1 of the policy, which involves opening of five resident Missions in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Djibouti, and Rwanda and up gradation of two missions to Ambassadorial level in Tanzania and Niger, and that options are being explored to enhance our engagements with Africa by opening one embassy per year.

He added that Pakistan is committed to deepening its ties with the African nations and transforming it into meaningful partnerships and its proof is that in the last seven months, we have processed ten MoUs on establishing bilateral political consultations with various African countries.

Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya and Somalia have successfully launched social identification systems established by NADRA and that after the resumption of direct flights from Addis Ababa to Kara-



chi by Ethiopian Airlines, discussions are underway to extend the flights operations to Lahore and Islamabad.

Senator (R) Mushahid Hussain Syed said that there is a massive potential for growing economic and trade ties between Pakistan and African countries. He said that prominent African national leaders in the post-colonial era had always acknowledged the overwhelming moral, diplomatic and material support their countries had received from Pakistan for ensuring their survival and growth soon after securing independence.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan's relations with Africa are characterized by mutual respect, solidarity and cooperation. Pakistan is actively engaged in capacity-building programs, training diplomats, providing scholarships, and offering military training to African countries. Pakistan and Africa can unlock new oppor-

tunities for trade, investment, and partnership, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development and prosperity of both regions.

As far as the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) is concerned it is all set to develop a Sister Cities Economic nexus with the chambers of cities that have established sister city agreements with Islamabad, he added.

Islamabad has signed sister city agreements with 20 cities worldwide, including three in Africa: Rabat (Morocco), Khartoum (Sudan), and Tunis (Tunisia). We are also planning to invite all Presidents of sister city chambers of commerce and industry in August to develop cooperation mechanisms.

He went on to say that ICCI delegations recent visits successfully explored new avenues of partnership with African nations.

I shall like to request the esteemed support of the respective Excellences to ensure the success of this initiative to bring the countries closer for the promotion of Business to Business, People to people, and academia linkages for the benefit of all the stakeholders, he further said.

Ambassador of Morocco and Dean of African Corps H. E. Mohammad Karmoun in his speech underlined the need for close cooperation between Pakistan and the African nations to overcome challenges of climate change which are badly impacting the economic development at global level. He said that both sides have to work closely to ensure food security, water management, high yield productivity, climate resilient crops to mitigate the negativity and ensure sustainable growth.

Ambassador of Algeria, H. E. Brahim Romani said that his country wants to develop strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas.

Ambassador of Mauritius H. E. Rashid Ally Soobar said that diplomatic and economic relations between Mauritius and Pakistan were growing with each passing day and that Pakistan enjoys immense potential to become a world class tourist destination. He suggested that a core group comprising business community leaders from Pakistan and the African States be established to chalk out the future course of action for strengthening economic ties and enhancing trade volumes for the benefit of the people of both sides.

Ambassador of the Republic of Somalia, H. E. Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim said both Somalia and Pakistan have been developing a fruitful and close relationship. He acknowledged that both countries continue to learn from each other's experiences in these critical areas.

Chairman Founder Group, Khalid Iqbal Malik while mentioning the benefits of investments in Pakistan said that it is high time for friendly African countries to come forward and avail the opportunity.

Chairman Pakistan Africa Friendship Association (PAFA) and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari underlined the need for air connectivity with African countries, especially with Egypt and Morocco for promotion of tourism. He also said that PAFA plans to organize events to commemorate the national heroes of African countries like Nelson Mandela, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Ahmed Ben Bella, Habib Bourguiba and others.

Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Faad Waheed said that frequent meetings of Pakistani and African business leaders are the need of the hour to achieve the cherished goal of enhancing business ties.

All the speakers highly commended the services of Zafar Bakhtawari for fostering ties between Pakistan and the African nations by declaring him a true Pakistani, working hard for the cause.

Ambassador of Palestine, and Head of Missions of Egypt Sudan, Libya and Nigeria also attended the ceremony.

Renowned Psychologist Fatima Hassan efficiently performed the duty of stage Secretary.

Advertisement for SNGPL featuring a large headline in Urdu: 'اب بھی سمجھ جاؤ یہ نہ ہو کہ پچھتاؤ گیس چوروں کے خلاف بلا امتیاز کریک ڈاؤن کا آغاز'. It includes news items such as 'SNGPL dismantles 4,500-metre illegal pipeline in Lower Dir', 'Factory's connection severed for using domestic meter', 'SNGPL intensifies crackdown on gas pilferers', 'Over 180 gas connections disconnected in anti-theft drive', 'SNGPL detects 325,000 gas pilferage cases, recovers Rs2.4b during crackdown', and 'Massive action kicks off against gas theft in Punjab, KP'. A phone number 1199 is also displayed.



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# Demand to declare India a Terrorist Country - III

**H**e noted that he had directly raised the issue of the murder with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 summit in New Delhi and urged the Indian government to cooperate with Canada in conducting a thorough investigation. In response to these developments, Canada also took the unprecedented action of expelling India's top intelligence official stationed in the country. It's noteworthy that the Khalsa movement has gained momentum in Canada, with Khalsa Day celebrations fueled further support for the Khalistan movement. It's also important to highlight that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged to protect the rights of Sikhs while actively engaging in Sikh community events.

ing insurgent movements or engaging in proxy warfare as components of their foreign policy approach. Others have endured colonialism, conflict, or external intervention, factors that may engender grievances and radicalization, prompting them to adopt terrorism as a method of resistance or retaliation. Countries engaged in international terrorism, like India, operate within expansive transnational networks that surpass conventional boundaries. These networks facilitate the movement of finances, weaponry, and personnel across numerous nations, enabling terrorist groups to operate on a global scale. Sponsors of terrorism exploit these networks to cultivate alliances, synchronize operations, and magnify their influence on the global stage.

ly violates the sovereignty of the targeted nation. Sovereignty, a cornerstone principle of international law, ensures that each country has the autonomy to govern its territory without external interference. When nations undertake covert operations or support terrorism abroad, they encroach upon the sovereignty of other nations, corroding trust and inflaming tensions.

ic endeavors to address global issues. Nations engaging in such practices risk facing isolation, condemnation, and sanctions from the international community, tarnishing their reputation and credibility globally. Furthermore, the revelation of covert operations or terrorist support can precipitate diplomatic crises, leading to expulsions, economic sanctions, or even military confrontation.



Analysis  
**Abdul Basit Alvi**

In an increasingly interconnected world driven by technology, trade, and travel, the threat of terrorism transcends geographical boundaries. While terrorism can manifest from diverse origins, the phenomenon of international terrorism, wherein a nation acts as a center or supporter of terrorist activities beyond its borders, presents distinctive challenges to global security. Comprehending the traits of nations harboring or endorsing terrorism on an international scale is pivotal for crafting efficacious counterterrorism strategies and nurturing international collaboration.

In an increasingly interconnected world characterized by porous borders, the imperative for nations to uphold each other's sovereignty and abstain from participating in espionage and terrorist activities abroad has never been more urgent. These clandestine activities not only erode trust between nations but also present serious challenges to global stability, security, and collaboration. Recognizing the detrimental impacts of such behaviors is crucial for cultivating mutual respect, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence on the global platform.

or military responses, sparking a perilous cycle of escalation. Similarly, backing terrorist groups or insurgent movements in foreign lands can exacerbate instability, prolong existing conflicts, and deepen humanitarian crises, resulting in catastrophic outcomes for civilians.

Espionage and terrorism pose significant threats to global security, destabilizing regions and impeding efforts to counter transnational threats like terrorism, organized crime, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Covert operations, intelligence gathering, and cyberattacks can compromise critical infrastructure, disrupt essential services, and compromise national security, posing risks to individual countries and the international community at large.

Historical factors significantly shape the characteristics of international terrorist nations. Some nations maintain a longstanding tradition of support-

Conducting espionage and engaging in terrorist activities on foreign soil flagrant-

These clandestine activities undermine diplomatic efforts and corrode trust between nations. By resorting to covert actions or backing terrorism abroad, countries undermine established diplomatic channels and mechanisms designed to peacefully resolve disputes. Such actions foster suspicion, enmity, and paranoia among nations, impeding meaningful dialogue, negotiation, or collaboration on shared challenges.

Respecting the sovereignty of other nations and refraining from engaging in espionage and terrorism activities abroad are imperative for upholding international norms and values. Nations that uphold the principles of non-interference, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence play a pivotal role in fostering a stable and secure international order grounded in the rule of law, human rights, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The proliferation of espionage and terrorism activities strains international relations and undermines diplomat-

The world must examine India's malicious role in promoting and supporting terrorism in other countries and consider declaring India a terrorist state. Teaching a lesson to an international terrorist state is essential for creating a peaceful world.



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

## Redefining beauty: Inclusivity and Diversity in Modern Fashion

**Nimra Iqbal Sheikh**

ing consumer behavior, attitudes, and trends. The public's conception of style and beauty is greatly influenced by celebrities, influencers, and fashion icons. Social media networks enable trends to spread quickly, impacting millions of people worldwide and increasing demand for particular goods and aesthetics.

**Disadvantages of fashion:**  
 Distraction from Academic Focus: Students' obsession with looks and fashion might divert their attention from their academic obligations. Excessive time and effort spent on choosing clothes or keeping up with trends might negatively impact academic achievement and study time.

ed with by young guys. Men high fashion included puffed sleeves, long tightly permed hairstyles, white trainers, leather or denim coats, and buttoned-down shirts with the top two or three buttons undone to reveal chair. still baffles me how such loose-fitting shirts, sweaters, and jeans came to be so trendy. It was a daring, glitzy, dramatic, and creative time. It became fashionable to wear half-sleeve dresses with big, bulky platforms. It was fashionable to have matte lips and Smokey eyes with a metallic effect.

**Impact of Social Media on Fashion:**  
 Social media has completely transformed the fashion business by changing the way people express their personal style, brands interact with consumers, and trends are spread. Social media sites such as Instagram, TikTok, and Pinterest are excellent resources for fashion inspiration since they let users interact with influencers, find new looks, and join online groups. Fashion has become more accessible thanks to social media, which has given rise to a wide range of voices and viewpoints outside of runway events and traditional fashion journals. But it has also quickened the rate at which trends emerge, encouraging a disposable fashion and fast gratification culture. Furthermore, worries about body image, authenticity, and the environmental effects of rapid fashion have arisen as a result of the pressure to build a flawless online presence.

**Conclusion:**  
 The unwavering power of fashion is one thing that doesn't change as we negotiate the complexity of the twenty-first century. It's important to embrace change, value variety, and make thoughtful decisions rather than merely following trends. Our world is still being shaped by fashion, and this effect is only growing. In a culture that prizes uniqueness and self-expression, fashion is still a major influence and still controls the entire globe.

**T**he world is dominated by fashion trends more than ever in the twenty-first century. It regulates not just how individuals dress, but also how homes are decorated and how makeup is applied. Everyone in the world follows fashion these days, and they feel confident when they dress in accordance with the trends.

**Advantages of fashion:**  
 Self-expression: Self-expression is possible through dress. Whether deliberately or unconsciously, people talk about us. People discuss our tastes, ideals, and what we dress. A person's standard is shaped by their style. Fashion allows people to express their individuality through the selection of apparel, accessories, and grooming products that are in line with their tastes and personalities. A person's taste and aesthetic sensitivities are reflected in their distinctive style, which can be expressed through vibrant colors, unique patterns, or simple designs.

**Cultural Identity:** A key factor in determining cultural identity is dress. Every culture has a distinctive clothing known as traditional attire. When we celebrate our tradition's cultural costume, it demonstrates to others where we are from. These outfits represent the history, traditions, and values of our community.

**Economic Impact:** The fashion business contributes significantly to the world's economies by creating jobs in a variety of fields, including production, retail, and marketing, and by bringing in billions of dollars in revenue annually. Events like fashion weeks, trade exhibits, and retail sales encourage travel and consumer spending, which supports economic expansion.

**Social Influence and Trends:** Fashion has a significant impact on popular culture, influenc-

## Critical Evaluation of Pakistan's Second Strike Capability - I

**Muhammad Yaseen**

**O**urs is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living."—Omar N. Bradley

Second strike capability refers to a state's ability to respond to a nuclear attack with a retaliatory strike, even after facing an initial nuclear attack. This is considered vital for nuclear deterrence, as it prevents an opponent from attempting to win a nuclear war through a first strike. As of now, Pakistan's second-strike capability represents an important aspect of its nuclear deterrence strategy, particularly in the context of strained relations vis-a-vis India. The assessment reveals both strengths and weaknesses that affect its effectiveness in deterring potential threats. A critical role in deterring the enemy from launching a first strike. This deterrence factor contributes to the stability of the region by preventing aggressive activities that could lead to nuclear escalation.

**Pakistan's second strike capabilities and incapacities**  
 Pakistan has developed the Babar-3 submarine-launched cruise missile, with a range of 450 km, enhancing its second strike capability by enabling it to attack Indian coastal cities. Pakistan has achieved a nuclear triad comprising land, air and sea nuclear capabilities that enhance its second strike capability and overall deterrence strategy. While Pakistan has converted some of its conventional submarines to carry the Babar-3 cruise missile, the country lacks nuclear powered missile submarines (SSBNs), considered crucial for a credible second strike capability. Pakistan's reliance on modified conventional submarines raises concerns about their survival, low noise and

ability to go unnoticed, which could undermine the credibility of its second-strike capability. The monarchy of nuclear command, control, communications and intelligence (NC3) poses the risk of accidental release of nuclear weapons and calls into question the continued deterrence against India. Ballistic missile submarine to effectively deter the enemy and counter India's naval advances. Although Pakistan has made progress in developing its second strike capability, it faces a number of limitations, including the lack of advanced submarine technology, strong command and control systems, and the need to have a nuclear missile submarine to enable a credible second strike capability.

**Pakistan's second strike capability compare to other countries**  
 Pakistan currently lacks nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), which are considered essential to a credible restrike capability. Countries like India have developed the INS Arihant, giving them assured re-strike capability and improved survivability. However, other nuclear armed states have longer range missiles and more advanced capabilities. For example, India's Agni-V ballistic missile has an official range of 8,000 km, which is a longer range than Pakistan's current missile capabilities. Countries with more established nuclear weapons, such as the United States, Russia and China, have advanced nuclear capabilities, including a variety of delivery systems, advanced command and control infrastructure, and robust nuclear triads. Pakistan's restrike capability, even if it materializes, may not be as comprehensive or technologically advanced as that of the major nuclear powers. Pakistan's strategic depth and limited land area have been highlighted as a factor that makes the navy's nuclear technology essential to its survival, especially against possible first strikes.

To be concluded



## Polish envoy calls for further trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Poland



PPA

LAHORE: The Ambassador of Poland, Maciej Piasarski has emphasized the need to further expand trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Poland. He highlighted that the total trade volume between the two countries is close to one billion dollars that needs to be doubled, at least. Thanks to the GSP Plus status, Pakistan exported goods worth \$800 million, while Poland's exports to Pakistan last year were \$128 million. The ambassador expressed his gratitude to the LCCI for their commendable efforts and initiatives that facilitated this delegation's visit to Pakistan.

The Ambassador made these remarks while leading a high-level Polish trade delegation during a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Friday.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar delivered a welcome address while Honorary Consul General of Poland in Lahore, Ahmed Husnain, Joanna Zdanowska from Poland's Ministry of Climate and Environment, LCCI Executive Committee members, and a significant number of business community representatives were also present in the meeting. B2B meetings between Pakistani and Polish businessmen were also held on this occasion.

Kashif Anwar also highlighted the climate challenges faced by Pakistan and the need for support from friendly countries to restore ecosystems, improve the clean green index, develop climate-resilient urban areas, and plant more trees. He pointed out that Poland could play a key role in this matter.

The Ambassador of Poland assured that Polish investors would fully utilize the available opportunities and that the Polish Embassy is guiding Polish business people regarding the trade prospects in Pakistan. He stressed the need to further expand trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Poland. He pointed out that Poland's economy, with a size of \$1.4 trillion, is ranked 21st in the world and is the sixth-largest economy in the European Union.

## AJK and GB hits over 100% teledensity

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Despite difficult terrain and sparse population, AJ&K and GB has turned out to be the only region with 100% teledensity. The enhancement and strengthening of telecom infrastructure and services in AJ&K and GB remains priority for Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Government of Pakistan. Today, competition has been ensured in all telecom services including mobile broadband, fixed broadband, Fiber To The Home (FTTH), and fixed line services.

This achievement would not have been possible without the trust placed in the incumbent operator Special Communication Organization (SCO) and other telecom operators by 6 million mobile subscribers. In addition to mobile broadband, the residents of AJ&K have access to a variety of broadband services such as FTTH, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), and Wireless Local Loop (WLL) utilized by the masses for services like e-education, e-commerce, e-health etc. thus contributing towards socioeconomic uplift of the region.

# UAE's decision to invest 10 billion dollars welcomed

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Saturday that the United Arab Emirates' assurance of investing ten billion dollars in Pakistan is encouraging.

He said the UAE president, Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, gave this assurance during a special meeting with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that international institutions and friendly countries are restoring confidence in Pakistan, which is likely to bring about a pleasant change in the country's situation soon.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that after

addressing the round table session on the partnership between Pakistani IT companies and the United Arab Emirates, the Prime Minister met with the IT experts and professionals.

He met with the Director General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, during which the promotion of cooperation between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates was discussed.

The PM also discussed cooperation in the political, economic, and defence sectors during the meeting with the President of the friendly country.

The Prime Minister also reiterated his commitment to promote cooperation in the fields of information technology, renewable energy and tourism.

He also expressed his determination to ensure success of investment projects in Pakistan in the fields of energy, port operations,



food security, communications, minerals, banking, and financial services. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal

Khan, Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi also participated in these meetings and had productive discussions with various officials.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the majority of Pakistan's population is youth, due to which there are many opportunities for development in Pakistan. The 60% majority of our population is between 15 and 30 years old, but they are facing problems in finding employment.

A large number of educated people are leaving the country due to lack of opportunities. This leakage of intelligence is harmful to the country's future, so it should be prevented in every possible way.

Those who leave the country do not get employment and business opportunities, which will cause the country to suffer a lot. The best way to keep them in the country is through economic development, he said.

## Hard work

MUZAFFARABAD: A man selling balloons at Azadi Chowk, to earn livelihood for children.



Photo: Online

# Pakistan's Male Champions of Change Devise a Transformational Plan for Gender Equality & Inclusion



PPA

KARACHI:- Male Champions of Change (MCC) Pakistan's members convened for their quarterly meeting in Karachi, hosted by Syngenta Pakistan, where they collectively shared actionable best practices on the ongoing themes for gender equality including "Power" and "Gender Equality Targets", in addition to making new commitments for empowering women in their organizations and communities.

During the meeting, Syngenta Paki-

stan showcased its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) by sharing details about initiatives such as the "Women in Sales": a first-in-the-industry program which is designed to shift mindsets and open opportunities for women in areas which have previously been male-dominated.

These female employees are operating in the field and are working in farmer-facing roles.

Speaking on the occasion, Zeeshan Hasib Baig (Country GM, Syngenta Pakistan) stated "At Syngenta Paki-

stan, we understand the importance of taking bold actions to disrupt the status quo and achieve greater representation of women in workforce & leadership roles as gender equality is one of the key levers for ensuring a healthy society and a successful organization.

The Convenor of Male Champions of Change Pakistan, Fiza Farhan further added; "It gives me great pleasure to see the actionable momentum at MCC Pakistan, led by our members with their collective commitment and action towards gender equality.

# SECP conducts awareness session on wealth management

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in collaboration with Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) on Saturday conducted an interactive session on "Building Wealth through Investment" in furtherance of its efforts to promote investor awareness and engagement. The session was part of the two-day EconFest Islamabad event being held at the Gandhara Citizens Club, F-9 Park, Islamabad.

The panellists for the session included Mr. Akif Saeed (Chairman SECP), chief executive officers of PSX and NCCPL, and a senior representative from CDC. The panellists emphasized the need to embrace

financial literacy and make prudent investment for wealth accumulation over the longer horizon. They provided elaborate guidance on various investment instruments, in addition to describing the roles of their respective institutions are playing for the efficient and transparent functioning of the capital markets. They also suggested to visit websites of their respective institutions to access various types of information.

The audience, which included professionals and students from diverse fields and backgrounds, gained from the experience and expertise of the panellists by closely interacting with them. The younger audiences, in particular, expressed their enthusiasm to benefit from the ever-increasing digitalization of the capital markets to explore new investment opportunities and avenues.

# PPL signs joint venture agreement with FWO in mining sector



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with Degan Exploration Works (DEW), a wholly owned subsidiary of Frontier Works Organization (FWO), to explore and develop mineral resources in the EL-207 Block located in District Chagai, Balochistan. This initiative is a key component of PPL's strategy to diversify

into the mining sector and strengthen its presence in Balochistan.

The agreement was signed by GME&CBD PPL Mr. Arshad Pakekar and Mr. Qaiser Rafique, representative of DEW, and witnessed by MD & CEO PPL, Mr. Imran Abbas, and DG FWO Major General Abdul Sami on May 24 in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by key stakeholders and company officials.

# PIDE Launches Economy Festival 2024 with a Spectacular Opening Day

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Research for Social Transformation & Advancement (RASTA) program and the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), proudly inaugurated the third Economy Festival-EconFest today at the Gandhara Citizens Club, Fatima Jinnah Park, F-9, Islamabad.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Vice Chancellor of PIDE, in his opening remarks, said that PIDE is

proud to present a deep reform agenda aimed at transforming Pakistan's economic landscape.

Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the necessity for a comprehensive approach to address Pakistan's economic challenges. PIDE's agenda targets key areas including regulatory modernization, tax reform, market liberalization, energy sector efficiency, and improvement in agriculture and banking.

Dr. Faheem Jahangir, Chief (Policy) at PIDE, said that in the realm of tax and administrative reforms, PIDE calls for

tax simplification and policy certainty, streamlining taxes in a revenue-neutral manner, and ensuring stability for a decade. This includes implementing a uniform tax rate across all income sources, eliminating presumptive tax regimes, and transitioning to Advance Income Tax mechanisms.

Daniyal Aziz, Nargis Sethi, and Taimur Jhagra spoke about "Islaah for Public Administration". They addressed critical inefficiencies in Pakistan's governance system, proposing comprehensive reforms across various sectors including the cabinet, civil bureaucracy, judi-

ciary, and local government.

Syed Mohammad Shabbaz Zaidi, former Federal Minister and former chairman FBR, addressed misconceptions about taxes in Pakistan, highlighting that 54% of tax revenue is allocated to provinces, which often show surplus budgets. He questioned the accountability of provincial spending, noting that funds are frequently used for luxuries rather than essential projects. A significant portion of federal taxes goes towards debt servicing, while provinces also collect their own taxes.

Shahid Kardar highlighted that Pakistan has participat-



ed in approximately 14 IMF programs over the last three

decades and now has 58 withholding taxes, which account for 70% of direct tax payments. He pointed out that the Neelum-Jhelum project, initially contracted for 85 billion rupees in 2007, has exceeded 500 billion rupees and remains incomplete. Mehtab Haider noted that while individuals in Pakistan are advancing, the country as a whole is regressing due to widespread cleverness and self-interest. He identified elite capture, particularly by the military and judiciary, as a major issue, emphasizing the need for reforms among the powerful. Dr. Nadeem expressed opposition to the IMF's focus on taxation over growth, which he believes hinders economic progress.



IS 'The Kazakh Khanate. The Golden Throne'

# Pakistan & Kazakhstan enjoy common values & intense linkages: Atta Tarar

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The embassy of Kazakhstan, Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized a screening of a movie titled "Kazakh Khanate - Golden Throne". Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin warmly welcomed the audience, delivered a speech about Kazakhstan and Pakistani cultural ties, and informed them about the movie's background.

The movie screening was attended by the Information Minister and Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Mr. Atta Tarar, Director General PNCA, Muhammad Ayoub Jamali, Charge D' Affairs of Tajikistan, H. E. Mr. Shafiev Saidjon, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadovand, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov along with a large number of people from different walks of life and media persons.

The Ambassador stressed that through the prism of the film, the life of the people of that time, the geopolitical conditions of the formation of the Kazakh Khanate, as well as details of costumes and battle scenes were conveyed. He said this movie is based on footage from a great historical show. The Ambassador commended PNCA and the National Heritage and Culture Division for collaborating Kazakhstan movie screening.

Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and Culture Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan had a great legacy in the entertainment industry and efforts were being made to revive that legacy. "We in Pakistan used to take great pride in the dramas that we used to produce which were watched worldwide. We used to take great pride in the songs and films we used to produce and they were also very famous worldwide," he said while addressing the screening ceremony of the "Kazakh Khanate: Golden Throne" drama series here in Islamabad.

"Pakistan had a great legacy



that I had inherited as minister for information and culture and this legacy had a great historical value", he added. "I believe that my mission as the minister would be to revive the legacy that we once had and promote cooperation between the two countries", he said. Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan enjoyed a lot of commonalities and they had deep-rooted linkages not only in culture but also in history. He said that historic relations and culture, common history, and heritage brought the two nations closer. The minister opined that there were a lot of common terminologies in the national languages of both countries which also brought them closer. He said as minister for infor-

mation and culture, it was his responsibility to promote not only entertainment but also promote deep-rooted strategic ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. "Our Deputy Prime Minister was in Astana just a few days back and had a significant dialogue with Kazakhstan's foreign minister and dignitaries there", he remarked.

Tarar said since he had assumed office, he had taken steps to promote the screening of films and the next target was the production of films. He said he would like to encourage the private sector to come forward in film production field. The minister said he had read the brief about "The Kazakh Khanate: The Golden Throne" which he opined would be very popu-

lar in Pakistan if it was aired by Pakistan Television in Urdu, through some agreement. It will not only be popular but also help in bringing the people of Pakistan and Kazakhstan together and to understand each other's cultures and diversity in better terms, he added. He assured the Kazakhstan ambassador that as minister for information and culture, he would take every step to promote cultural relations between the two countries and he would want to air this series on the PTV.

The minister said Pakistan and Kazakhstan had memorandums of understanding (MoUs) regarding cooperation in media and he would like to see this cooperation going forward and more exchanges taking place



between the two countries in the fields of media, culture, and film production. He said that steps were taken to produce a Pakistani series of Netflix which was currently being filmed in Italy. Moreover, a Hollywood film company was making an Urdu version of Jane Austin's popular novel Pride and Prejudice which will highlight women's empowerment in Pakistan. Besides the ventures already embarked upon, he said he would like to take this venture forward and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting would provide all possible assistance for this purpose. He said that this series tells the story of how the Kazakh state was established over the

years and if it could be shown in Pakistan, people of Pakistan would be deeply interested in it. He expressed his gratitude to the Kazakhstan ambassador for providing him the opportunity to watch the screening of the series. He hoped that Pakistan and Kazakhstan would move forward as partners and brothers and promote joint culture, history, and entertainment for the people and the betterment of both countries.

The movie was screened in the Urdu language. The movie "Kazakh Khanate - The Golden Throne," is an exciting and highly anticipated historical movie portraying the first Kazakh Khans. Kazakh Khan-

ate is referred to as the "Kazakh Game of Thrones" by BBC, the movie unfolds in the XV century, showcasing key events in the formation of Kazakh statehood under the leadership of Khans Zhanibek and Kerey. The series, based on Ilyas Esenberlin's novel "Diamond Sword," retells the story of the struggle for the great steppe and Kazakh statehood from 1470-1485. This is one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Kazakh Khanate. The film tells about the battle of the Khans Zhanibek and Kerey against the descendants of Abulkhair Shaibani for power and Syganak. The second season has more drama and action.

Photos: Ramzan Mughal

# Lithuania Pakistan to Further Solidify, Diversify Bilateral Cooperation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Pakistan and Republic of Lithuania has completed 30 years of diplomatic relations with success and harmony on most of bilateral, regional and international affairs that depicts the mutual understanding and commonalities between the two states as well as the contributions of diplomats of both sides.

Pakistan recognised Lithuania's independence on 8 September 1991. The two countries established their diplomatic relations on 31 May 1994. The two countries are commemorating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

The culmination in the bilateral relations is the visit of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania Egidijus Meilunas to Pakistan who held 7th Round of Pakistan-Lithuania Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) in Islamabad on 24 May 2024 with Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan. The Lithuanian delegation also included non-resident Ambassador Recardas Degutis and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Masood Khan's efforts to keep Pakistani public aware about Lithuania are appreciative. Mr. and Mrs. Masood Khan hosted a reception in honor of visiting high level delegation at his residence in the same evening. Leader of House in the Senate of Pakistan, Ms Sherri Rehman graced the reception as chief guest. Ambassador Shafiqat Ali Khan was also present. Former MDPTDC Mr. Salman Javed conducted the ceremony. The reception was attended by selective guests from all sectors including MOFA, government, civil society, business community and senior media persons.

Vice Minister, Mr. Egidijus Meilunas, in his keynote address, spoke highly about bilateral relations, present status



and the prospects to be explored and tapped in the future.

He said, "Lithuania and Pakistan worked together in difficult times. We can work on regional security issues in Europe and South Asia. Both sides have readiness to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation. We can increase our cooperation in trade, economic side, cyber security, electronics, engineering and in other fields."

The visiting dignitary welcomed Pakistani students to Lithuania and stressed upon developing the people to people contacts as well. He praised Honorary Consul Masood Khan for properly representing Lithuania in Pakistan.

The Vice Minister expressed solidarity with Ukraine and condemned Russian aggression against the neighboring country. He said that Lithuania as the member of European Union for last 20 years, stands at solid position on Ukraine crisis that Ukraine should be

independent, sovereign in its decisions, peace should be restored there and freedom is the right of Ukrainian people.

He expressed determination that Europe will continue fight against aggression and strengthen global democratic community.

Here it is worth mentioning that Lithuania takes Russia's war against Ukraine as it has caused a global food and energy crisis, affecting many developing countries in Asia. Therefore, the efforts of all countries to stop Russian aggression are crucial.

Senator Sherry Rehman in her address as chief guest welcomed the delegation from Lithuania and assured her full support in the promotion of mutual ties. She recalled the visit of former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto that was the first ever visit of high official from Pakistan to Lithuania on Feb 21, 2023. It was only after the assistance Lithuania extended to Pakistan

in floods 2022.

Sherry Rehman thanked the delegation for assistance in her speech.

She appreciated the success of Lithuania in converting to renewable energy with more than 40% utilization there. She shared that Pakistan is also looking forward to clean and green future. She sought joint ventures in this sector between the two countries.

"The contact between Pakistani port Karachi and Lithuanian port Klaipeda will be accelerator in the building of bilateral cooperation, Sherry said.

"Pakistan is ready to share experiences in working on youth and formation of Parliamentary group in the Senate of Pakistan for facilitation to construction of solid basis for mutual cooperation, Sherry Rehman concluded.

Republic of Lithuania, is a country in the Baltic region of Europe. It is one of three Baltic states and lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Lithuania is



a developed country with a high income, advanced economy, ranking 37th in the Human Development Index (HDI) and 19th in the World Happiness Report. The population in 2022 was counted as 2.832 Million by World Bank. It has common borders with Poland, Belarus and Latvia.

Earlier at the 7th Round of Political Consultations the two sides agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and cooperation, especially in the spheres of trade and investment, parliamentary exchanges, education, Information technology, labour mobility, connectivity,

and cooperation in multilateral forums. Former FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid an official visit to Lithuania at the invitation of Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. The Foreign Ministers' meeting focused on developing political dialogue, the international community's response to Russia's war against Ukraine and regional security issues in Europe and South Asia, including the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the terrorist threat and strengthening cooperation between the European Union and Pakistan.

Photos: Ramzan Mughal



# International Test Umpire Aleem Dar Hosts 51st Edition Of PCB Podcast

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Aleem Dar, who won the David Shepherd Trophy for umpire of the year from 2009-2011, hosts the 51st edition of the PCB Podcast, which was released today and is available here for viewing and free downloading for editorial purposes.

In the latest episode, the 55-year-old, who has umpired in 453 international matches since 2000, speaks with elite panelist Ahsan Raza, Asif Yaqoob, and Rashid Riaz (both from the international panel) as the trio prepares to officiate in next month's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the USA and Caribbean. It is the first time that three Pakistani

umpires have been selected to officiate in a T20 World Cup.

Aleem Dar speaks with the three umpires about their pre-umpiring days, journeys to the top, match preparations, excitement at being selected for the biggest cricket event of the year, career aspirations, how technology has assisted the umpires, what it means to be a cricket umpire, and life outside cricket.

Ahsan Raza - Celebrates his 50th birthday next week, was promoted to the ICC elite panel in 2023, has umpired in 13 Tests, 53 ODIs, 76 T20Is, 12 Women's ODIs and 16 Women's T20Is since making his international debut in 2015. He played 21 first-class matches for Faisalabad, Habib Bank Limited,



Lahore and Sargodha  
Asif Yaqoob - The 50-year-old has

umpired in 17 ODIs, 19 T20Is, 21 Women's ODIs and 12 Women's T20Is since 2015. He has been part of the international panel since 2018, has previously umpired in the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cups, and won the PCB Umpire of the Year for 2020 and 2021.

Rashid Riaz - The 48-year-old has umpired in 15 ODIs, 32 T20Is, 15 Women's ODIs, and 11 Women's T20Is since 2015. He has umpired in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifiers and ICC Men's U19 World Cups. He played 50 first-class matches for Lahore and the National Bank of Pakistan from 2000-2011 and has been part of the international panel since 2018.

## PM Youth Talent Hunt National Handball League-2024 begins

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt National Handball League got underway under the aegis of Directorate Sports University of Peshawar with top 10 qualified teams from all across the country are taking part.

Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar Professor Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan was the chief guest on this occasion who formally inaugurated the League. Director General Sports University of Peshawar and international athlete Bahre Karam, Dr. Noorzada, Organizer Ehsan Khan, Sajjad Khan, players, officials of the Pakistan Handball Federation, representatives of the Higher Education Commission were also present.

The Vice Chancellor announced the commencement of the League by cutting the ribbons in a colourful opening ceremony. The HEC representatives appreciated the University of Peshawar for being an active member hosting various Games under the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program.

The official said that two teams from each provincial Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan



and Federal Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are taking part. Punjab have two teams White and Red and similar teams of other provinces including Islamabad. The Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir players are including in the Islamabad, having two teams.

In the opening match Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Green defeated Balochistan Green by 30-18 in a thrilling match wherein the two teams were 17-8 at the first session play. The players of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Greens and Balochistan Green presented

Balochistan with his 7 individual goals, Sheraz made three goals and Qasim Khan scored one goal for Balochistan Green.

In the second match, Punjab Green recorded victory against Sindh Greens in a one-sided affairs. Punjab Green dominated the proceedings and did not allow Sindh Greens to strike back. Punjab scored with any regular interval and dominated the match.

Punjab Greens was leading first at 33-4 and similarly led the way with 39-6 by scoring 6 goals against two of Sindh Greens in the second session. For Punjab, Shahab and Saqib scored seven goals each with their perfect shooting while Junaid scored six individual goals and Usman and Asif slammed in four goals each, Ali Zahid and Asif, the other leading scorer with three goals each.

The matches were supervised by Muhammad Sufyan and Dilshad Sher acted as referees while Mirza Sultan Mehmood, Ummar and Saleem Khan acted as field judges. There were two different grounds prepared for the League matches in the premises of University of Peshawar.

excellent display of shooting which were largely enjoyed by the sitting spectators.

For Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Green's Faisal Shah converted eight shooting for the team which his excellent and perfect goals, followed by Waqas who scored nine goals, Ghoas Ali Shah made another four goals and Muhammad Talha scored 7 goals while Salam and Luqman scored one goal each.

For Balochistan, Sher Dil (05) goals, followed by Zain (02), Muhammad Riaz was the top scorer for

## PAK vs ENG: England defeat Pakistan by 23 runs in second T20I

Pakistan faced defeat against England after falling short of 23 runs in the second T20I of the four-match series at the Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham, on Saturday.

Babar Azam and Co. were bowled out for 160 while chasing a target of 184. This is England's eighth win in the last 11 T20Is against Pakistan.

Fakhar Zaman starred for Pakistan in a losing cause as the left-handed batter played an explosive knock of 45 runs off 21 balls with the help of three fours and five sixes. Skipper Babar Azam scored 32 runs on 26 balls as he was the second-highest run-getter.

Meanwhile, down the order, Iftikhar Ahmed (23 off 17) and Imad Wasim (22 off 13) provided crucial runs but they weren't enough to propel Pakistan to victory.

For England, Reece Topley picked three wickets. Moeen Ali and Jofra Archer bagged two each while Chris Jordan, Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone picked one.

Earlier, Jos Buttler played a captain's knock and scored 84 runs on 51 balls with the help of eight fours and three sixes. During the process, he also completed 3,000 runs in T20I cricket, becoming only the ninth player in the shorter format to do so.

Pakistan were off to a great start as Imad Wasim removed Phil Salt in the fourth over but England recovered brilliantly as Buttler and Will Jacks formed a 71-run partnership which brought the home side back in the game.

The hosts looked on course of reaching a massive total but the impressive comeback by Pakistani bowlers especially Haris Rauf, Imad and Shaheen stopped them.

## American Standard International School Emerges as Champion of the Arfa Karim Memorial Badminton Tournament

News Desk

DHAKA: The Arfa Karim Memorial Badminton Tournament, organized by the Pakistan High Commission in collaboration with the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, concluded today with the American Standard International School emerging victorious. F. H. Traders clinched second place while the City Bank and UN World Food Program (UNWFP) secured 3rd and 4th positions respectively.

The tournament, held to honor the legacy of the iconic Arfa Karim, saw enthusiastic participation from 32 teams representing MoFA Bangladesh, diplomatic missions, UN bodies, business companies, educational institutions, and media outlets.

The concluding ceremony was graced by the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen as the chief guest who along with Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof, awarded trophies and cash prizes to the winning teams. The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Yao Wen, and the Secretary General, Para Archery Association Mr. Faisal Ahsan Ullah were also present on the occasion.

Foreign Secretary Momen deeply appreciated High Commission for organizing the event and assured the continuous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in future also. High Commissioner Maroof thanked Foreign Secretary Momen and Bangladesh Badminton Federation for their support and the participants for making the tournament a resounding success with their enthralling participation.

## Trials for U-23 KP Games: Malakand Region Boys, Girls trials completed

SWAT: Trials of male and female players of Malakand Region completed for the forthcoming U23 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Games with more than two thousand male and female players participating in 20 different disciplines.

Cricket trials were held at Makan Bagh Cricket Academy in which more than eight hundred male and female players participated. Regional Sports Officer Muhammad Tariq told media men here on Saturday.

RSO Muhammad Tariq said that they also held male and female trials at Chitral wherein a lot of talented players have been given due opportunities to come and play.

He said that they held trials of male and female athletes at Girls College Chitral for female games and boys at Chitral Sports Complex inside Chitral Scout Center.

Muhammad Tariq Khan said that they held a details meeting of the District Sports Officer of the Malakand Region in which District Sports Officer from Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Chitral Upper, Chitral Lower, Buner, Shangla, Malakand, Bajaur and Swat before conducting the trials.

He said that female trials at Chitral were organized in Govt Girls Degree College Chitral wherein players from the Lower and Upper Chitral participated in different games badminton, squash, table tennis, cricket, volleyball, hockey, judo, athletics and taekwondo.

In the Swat all female games trials were held at Officer Club where Miss Sumayyah Ahmad supervised the trials along with other female coaches of Swat District with District Sports Officer Obaid Khan headed all committees. The athletics and hockey trials with cricket conducted at Grassy ground Swat while athletic and hockey trials were organized at Hockey Turf, Makan Bagh Swat and Judo, Table Tennis and Taekwondo trials were held at Female Indoor Gymnasium.

The male trials of football was held at Parade Ground, Chitral, Cricket at Town Cricket Ground Baloch, Chitral, Badminton at Grain Depot Badminton Court Chitral Lower, Table Tennis at Government High School Baloch Chitral and Athletics at Polo Ground Chitral and Volleyball at Govt Commerce College Ground Chitral Lower.

Muhammad Tariq Khan said that a total of 1850 players' contingent would vie for the top honor in the forthcoming Inter-Region U23 Games played at Peshawar from May 28, 2024.

He said, "Directorate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given them a task to hunt talented players, both male and female and ensure them due opportunities so that they could come and play and be part of the Games while representing Malakand Region."

He also appreciated Adviser to the Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhre Jehan, Secretary Sports Matuallah Khan, Director General Sports Abdul Nasir Khan for giving free hands to extend all out facilities to the players during the trials and games.

He said, "Those born after June 1, 2001 are eligible to participate in the trials. The data of the players have already been completed and camps have been set up for both female and male athletes."

Muhammad Tariq Khan said, "The players of Malakand have enough talent and would give tough resistance to other teams participating in the six regions."

He said, "The male athletes of Malakand Region participated in the trials of Badminton, Cricket (Hardball), Football, Hockey, Volleyball, Squash, Athletics, Karate, table tennis and taekwondo."

"Similarly, female players are given trials in Badminton, Cricket, Squash, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Judo, Athletics and Taekwondo," he added.

## 1st PNSC Inter-Provincial Women Softball Championship to commence from May 30th

Sports Desk

KARACHI: First PNSC Inter-Provincial Women's Softball Championship will be played at the Football Stadium KPT Sports complex, Karachi, from May 30th to June 1st 2024.

Teams from Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and host Sindh will participate in the championship.

Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) is the title sponsor of the championship and Combaxx Sports is co-sponsors in collaboration with Palmolive, Dr Essa Lab, KPT and others. Sindh Softball Association has been given the hosting of the championship.



While addressing the meeting held to finalize the arrangements for the event, President of the Softball Federation of Pakistan Asif Azeem said that in October this year, Pakistan has to participate in the 4th Asian Universities Women's Softball Championship to be played

in Taiwan, in which the age limit for participation by Softball Asia has been set from 18 to 28 years. The PNSC Inter-Provincial Softball Championship is an excellent platform for the women players of the four provinces in which they can become a part of the national team camp by showing outstanding performance, especially the students of the colleges and universities participating in the teams of the provinces can get the full opportunity from this event to make it to the national team.

Asif Azeem also said that the sponsorship of the softball game from the private sector is welcome, and we are

grateful to PNSC, the title sponsor of the event, Combaxx Sports CEO Omar Saeed, Palmolive, KPT, the event's venue partner, and Healthcare Partner Dr. Essa Lab for their cooperation.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the championship, Dr Farhan Essa, said that providing an ideal environment to the players in the sports field is our priority. A refresher course will also be conducted during the championship. The Federation's Qualified Coaches Unit will educate participating players, umpires, coaches and technical officials on the new rules and regulations of the game of softball, he concluded.

## Manchester United stun Manchester City to win FA Cup

Sports Desk

WEMBLEY: Manchester United upset Manchester City to win the FA Cup with a shock 2-1 victory at Wembley Stadium here on Saturday.

City were hot favourites to win a second successive Premier League and FA Cup double.

Yet Eric Ten Hag found a way to neutralise Pep Guardiola's side as first-half goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo put United on course to win the FA Cup for the first time in eight years.

Jeremy Doku squeezed an 87th-minute strike past Andre Onana's weak attempted save but it was too late to rescue City.

Ten Hag celebrated by kissing the Cup as he held it aloft in the Royal box.

Asked if he was worried about his future, he said: "I don't know. The only thing I'm doing is preparing my team."

"This is a project for me. When I came in I can say it was a mess. Now we are better. We are not where we

want to be." Guardiola added: "Congratulations to United. It was a tight game. It can happen. At the end they scored two goals and we couldn't score more."

Having ended a turbulent season on a high note, if Ten Hag's two-year reign does end, his exit would provoke memories of fellow Dutchman Louis van Gaal's Old Trafford departure.

Van Gaal was fired just two days after United's FA Cup final victory against Crystal Palace in 2016.

Ten Hag will hope a more apt comparison is Alex Ferguson's 1990 FA Cup final win against Palace, which kick-started his remarkable run after calls for his sacking earlier that season.

Ferguson was in attendance as a match labelled Ten Hag's funeral turned into a triumph for the much-maligned Dutchman.

United shareholder Jim Ratcliffe, who has control of football operations at Old Trafford, was also watching from the stands alongside co-owners Joel and Avie Glazer.

Linked with Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino and Gareth Southgate, among others, there is still plenty for Ratcliffe to ponder after United finished eighth in the Premier League this season — their lowest final position since 1990 — and crashed out of the Champions League in the group stage.

Ten Hag believes a lengthy injury list was the root of the problems and can point to the two trophies he has won in three cup final appearances with United as proof of what he can do when his team are at full strength.

Ten Hag ended United's six-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup last year and has now avenged their 2-1 loss to City in the FA Cup final 12 months ago despite finishing 31 points behind the champions this term.

United will also qualify for the Europa League, avoiding a first season without European action since 2014-15.

Manchester United benefitted from

an unusually tepid Manchester City performance as their double bid fell flat in their first domestic defeat since losing at Aston Villa in the league 171 days ago.

Last weekend, City became the first team to win the Premier League in four consecutive seasons.

But Guardiola's men looked hungover after the celebrations that followed their sixth title in seven years.

Content to sit deep with all 11 men behind the ball, United stifled City impressively and gleefully accepted their gift-wrapped opener in the 30th minute.

Diogo Dalot's punt forward should have been dealt with by Josko Gvardiol, but the left-back hesitated as he looked for an offside flag.

Gvardiol headed the ball over City keeper Stefan Ortega, who had rashly rushed off his line, leaving Garnacho with the simple task of tapping into the empty net as Ten Hag clenched his fist in celebration.

Just nine minutes later, Mainoo



punished more sloppy City defending.

Garnacho advanced unchecked down the right wing and found Fernandes, whose superb first-time pass reached the unmarked Mainoo for a clinical close-range finish.

Manchester City pushed harder after the interval but although Doku's

shot slipped through Onana's grasp to set up a tense finale, it wasn't enough to deny Manchester United.

As the final seconds ticked away, Ten Hag stood in the sunshine nervously waiting to celebrate a dramatic win that could earn an unexpected stay of execution or serve as his final fling.



## Group Photo

MULTAN: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with a delegation of members of the Parliament, Provincial Assembly, and prominent political figures from Multan on Saturday.



Photo: Online

# Upcoming budget should be people-friendly, Acting President Yousuf Raza Gillani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has urged the need for the upcoming budget to be people-friendly. He stated that economic prosperity was linked to political stability in the country.

"Without economic stability,

the condition of the people cannot be improved", he remarked. He stressed the need to bring all stakeholders together to resolve national issues.

The Acting President expressed these remarks while addressing a gathering of Parliamentarians, Members of the provincial assembly,

and other prominent political figures from Multan.

The Acting President pledged to engage with the federal and provincial governments to complete developmental projects in Multan, including the issuance of notification for Multan as Big City and the completion of the under-construction ring road

project.

Different parliamentarians and local leadership including MNA Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmed Khan, MPAs Syed Ali Haider Gillani, Mian Kamran Abdullah, Rana Iqbal Siraj, Wasif Mazhar Raan, Senior Vice President PPP South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan

Alam, Mehr Irshad Seyal, Dr Javed Siddique, Malik Naseem Labar, President PLF South Punjab Shiekh Ghayas ul Haq advocate, General Secretary District Bar Multan Syed Arif Shah, City President PPP Aabida Bukhari, Secretary Information Khawaja Imran Bashir and many others were also present.

# Federation, provinces on one page for development of Pakistan: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar stated on Saturday that the meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council had given a message of unity as federation and provinces were on one page on the issue of development of the country.

Speaking to the media after the SIFC meeting, he said it was serious forum and its meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

He said open discussion was held over national economy, attracting investment and public private partnership.

Tarar said he was grateful to all Chief Ministers for not



only attending the meeting but also giving their input. He said this forum will move forward with the input of all

including the chief ministers of the four provinces.

The minister also congratulated all the provincial govern-

ments on meaningful meeting of SIFC.

Investment will be promoted through SIFC forum both at Federal and provincial level.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had issued directives for establishment of seven desks to promote investment and trade through SIFC which was the lifeline of the country's economy. The special desks will be established for United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, China, Qatar, European Union, United States of America and Far East.

He said all the chief ministers lauded the contribution of SIFC in promotion of investment and trade.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also assured

cooperation, he remarked.

"The prime minister has made it clear that we do not want aid or loans, our focus will be on investment and trade," the minister maintained.

He said that meetings of SIFC Executive Committee will be held more frequently and it will be empowered to make decisions.

He remarked that federation and provinces were on one page on issue of national development.

To a question, Tarar said he had a conversation with chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a cordial atmosphere. He said that in politics, doors for talks and consultation were kept open and this was a good omen.

## Rubina Khalid urges BISP's beneficiaries not to trust messages from any number except '8171'

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid Saturday advised the beneficiaries not to trust messages received from any other number except BISP's official number which is '8171'.

She urged the beneficiaries to visit the designated payment centres to collect their quarterly stipends and warned against trusting any number other than 8171, as other numbers are likely fraudulent and used to deceive innocent people.

She was speaking to the women during her visit to the BISP payment centres in Peshawar, said a news release issued here.

Rubina Khalid made a clear announcement that the total amount of the quarterly tranche issued under Benazir Kafaalat is Rs. 10,500. She advised deserving women to count and receive their full amount and to request a bank receipt. In case of any deduction of the stipend or abuse by the staff, she urged beneficiaries to immediately file a complaint with the BISP helpline at 080026477.

During her visit, Chairperson Rubina Khalid inspected the payment centres established at Tamash Stadium and the UC20 office in Peshawar to review the payment disbursement process to deserving women and the necessary arrangements and facilities provided to them.

## Government provides exceptional care for Pakistani pilgrims

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (MORA) is working tirelessly to ensure the comfort and well-being of Pakistani pilgrims performing Hajj this year.

Through its dedicated Hajj mission established in Saudi Arabia, MORA is providing a wide range of services to facilitate the spiritual journey of the faithful.

The department of missing and recovery in Madinah found 530 missing bags and handed them over to their owners.

Likewise, 61 Hajj pilgrims who lost their way were found and brought to their residences. About 304 food and 38 transport complaints were redressed in Madinah.

With the special support of the Saudi authorities, 20,500 pilgrims were facilitated to visit Riyadh al-Jannah.

In Makkah, 197 bags were found while 17 pilgrims who lost their way were taken to their residences.

Haram Guides stationed at the entrances of Haram Makkah have provided guidance to 4500 pilgrims so far.

More than 35,000 pilgrims reached Saudi Arabia by 149 flights. Now, all flights will land in Jeddah by June 9, 2024. The series of pre-Hajj flights for Madinah have already ended since 24 May 2024.

Moreover, 32 hundred and 46 pilgrims also reached Saudi Arabia through the private Hajj scheme.

## PTV Peshawar inaugurated new HD Studio, thanks employees for their hard work: MD PTV



City Des

ISLAMABAD: The Managing Director of Pakistan Television (PTV), Sayeed Mubasher Tauqir Shah, visited the Peshawar Centre and inaugurated a new HD Studio there.

On this occasion, the MD received a warm welcome from the employees. The employees of PTV Peshawar Centre thanked him for his efforts in reviving a studio that had been inactive for 10 years due to a fire. The employees appreciated the MD's dedication, noting that the studio is now capable of broadcasting in HD.

During the visit, the MD was briefed on the centre's activities and contributions to the network. The Managing Director emphasized that PTV Peshawar should also produce shows, series, and programs that cater to youth interests, such as documentaries, science shows, and career planning. The MD urged the local management to embrace digital platforms to reach a broader audience.

## PM directs provision of latest equipment, technology to civil armed forces

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday while appreciating the civil armed forces for their anti-smuggling efforts, directed for provision of all possible facilities, latest equipment and technology to them. Chairing an important meeting on performance of the civil armed forces in their anti-smuggling activities, the prime minister said that for the first time in the country's history, they were witnessing considerable reduction in smuggling activities.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asimr Munir specially attended the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Interior Syed

Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, IGs FC Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, DGs Rangers Punjab and Sindh, Pakistan Coast Guards and other senior government officials were also present during the meeting. The prime minister lauded the efforts of the personnel of the civil armed forces that had been performing their duties despite difficult conditions and challenges. A number of personnel, in their anti-smuggling efforts, had embraced shahadat, he said, adding that the entire nation saluted them for their sacrifices. The prime minister further observed that the efforts of civil armed forces were benefiting the national exchequer and reassured his government's complete support to them in their efforts to curb smuggling.

## Pakistan Navy deploys warship in Indian Ocean for maritime patrolling



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy has deployed Naval Warship PNS ASLAT on a regional maritime security patrol in the Indian Ocean.

According to the ISPR, the PNS ASLAT will ensure the safety of merchant ships entering and leaving Pakistani ports with dedicated helicopters.

The deployment of PNS ASLAT is also aimed at ensuring the safety of international shipping.

During the deployment, the Pakistan Navy Ship will participate in joint operations with friendly and partner countries in addition to its own operations.

The PNS ASLAT will also visit regional ports under the principle of maritime diplomacy.

"The ship is equipped with the latest weapons and sensors, capable of dealing with multi-dimensional threats and conducting a wide range of maritime operations," the statement said.

## Pak envoy invites Chinese, in 1 enterprises to invest in STZs, UAV sector in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi briefed Chinese and international enterprises and entrepreneurs about the lucrative incentives being offered by the government and invited them to invest in National Aerospace Science and Technology Parks as well as in the thriving UAV sector in Pakistan.

Addressing at the opening ceremony of 8th Drone World Congress being held from May 24 to 26 in the southern Chinese metropolis of Shenzhen, he briefed the participants on UAV landscape, research and development and investment opportunities in Pakistan. Pak Envoy invites Chinese, in 1 enterprises to invest in STZs, UAV sector in Pakistan

Ambassador Hashmi highlighted Pakistan's strengths including youthful population, underlining the significant dividends for investors and collaborators who seize the opportunity to partner with Pakistan in its UAV journey.

He also highlighted progress and

achievement of Pakistan in development and deployment of drones and UAVs for diverse purposes.

In an interaction with entrepreneurs and enterprises at the congress, the ambassador encouraged them to avail the lucrative incentives and invest in the Special Technology Zones (STZs) in Pakistan.

Pakistan is the guest country of honour at this year's congress being co-hosted by institutions including the China Electronic Information Industry Federation and the China Civil Airports Association.

The congress, with a theme of "Low-altitude Economy, The Future," witnessed the participation of nearly 500 enterprises from home and abroad.

More than 10,000 industry experts, scholars and entrepreneurs from over 110 countries and regions are attending the congress. It included a range of activities, such as parallel forums and exchange meetings, focusing on topics such as the low-altitude economy and artificial intelligence robotics.

## Gandapur reveals meeting ...

Continued from Page 1

from further taxation. He claimed that the federal government had accepted their proposal.

Regarding load shedding, the Chief Minister stated that he had informed the federal government of the province's concerns.

He also addressed the issue of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's dues, which he termed "compulsions" rather than "theft," emphasizing his commitment to providing relief to the people of the province. He urged the federal government to release the province's funds immediately.

## Alleged desecration of ...

Continued from Page 1

personnel standing between the angry mob and private properties. The violence occurred in the Muja-

hid Colony area of Sargodha. Sargodha district police officer (DPO) and other officials rushed to the area as police personnel tried to disperse the mob.