

**PM strongly condemns Israel's brutality**

PM Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly condemned the recent Israeli attacks on unarmed Palestinians in Rafah area of Gaza, urging the international community to intervene to get stopped the worst barbaric inhuman acts. "I, on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, demand that the international community should play its due role to ensure that the people of Palestine and Indian Occupied Kashmir are granted their rightful freedoms."



**James Webb Telescope discovers distant galaxy ever found**

In yet another remarkable discovery, the all-powerful James Webb Space Telescope has captured the most distant galaxy from deep space, according to a statement issued by the European Space Agency (ESA) Thursday. The newly-found galaxy was discovered after two years of observation exploring Cosmic Dawn. This time is a few million years after the Big Bang when the first galaxies came into being, according to the release.

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**83rd Formation Commanders Conference**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presides over the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference held at GHQ on Thursday.



Photo: ISPR

**Formation commanders call for bringing planners of May 9 to justice**

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army.

The forum offered Fatiha and paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas, including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens of Pakistan who laid their lives for the country's safety, security, and sovereignty.

The forum was briefed on the dynamics of the geo-strategic environment, emerging challenges to national security, and the Army's strategy to counter multi-domain threats. The participants were also briefed on technological innovations to modernize the Army and optimize logistic support

to field formations, in line with fast-evolving operational environment.

The forum expressed serious concerns over continued cross-border violations from Afghanistan and terrorism being orchestrated using Afghan soil, noting that Pakistan's adversaries were using Afghanistan to target Security Forces and innocent civilians inside Pakistan. The forum acknowledged the priceless sacrifices of the people of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) in the war against terrorism and underscored the importance of uplifting the NMDs to decisively defeat terrorism.

The forum also underlined the need for socio-economic development in Balochistan to counter externally propagated narratives of exclusion, exploited by foreign-sponsored proxies to lead Balochistan's youth away from peace and progress.

Reviewing the prevailing situation on the Eastern Border and

the latest round of extra-judicial murders in IIOJK, the forum expressed complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in UNSC Resolutions. The forum showed concern over the treatment of minorities, especially Muslims, in India and noted the growing fascism being perpetrated to achieve vested political ends. The forum also expressed complete solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated in Gaza, supporting the International Court of Justice decision to stop Rafah Operation and all other operations within the Gaza Strip.

The forum underscored that politically motivated and vested digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators duly abetted by their foreign cohorts, against State institutions is clearly meant to try to induce despondency

in the Pakistani nation, to sow discord among national institutions, especially the Armed Forces, and the people of Pakistan by peddling blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda. However, the nation is fully cognisant of their ugly and ulterior motives and surely the designs of these nefarious forces will be comprehensively defeated, InshaAllah.

The forum noted that planners, perpetrators, abettors, and facilitators of 9th May need to be brought to justice for the collective good of the country, and that without swift and transparent dispensation of justice to the culprits and establishing the rule of law, stability in the country will ever remain hostage to the machinations of such elements.

The forum resolved to continue to fully support the government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable economic growth and curbing illegal activities, including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, imple-

mentation of One Document Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners, and safeguarding of the national database, etc.

The COAS appreciated the high standard of training displayed by formations during various exercises and the excellent performance of officers and troops in counter-terrorism operations. The COAS commended the formations for their high morale and round-the-clock operational readiness. The participants expressed their complete satisfaction with the steps being taken at the Army level for the training, administration, and welfare of serving and retired officers and troops. The forum noted the significant milestone achieved by Pakistan on Youm-e-Takbir and its stabilizing impact on the region.

The Conference concluded by affirming the resolve to neutralize all threats to the security and stability of the country with the full backing of the proud nation.

**KP governor calls on PM; political, provincial matters discussed**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here where-in they discussed the matters related to the KP province and the overall political situation. The governor appreciated the prime minister for his

government's pro-business and investment policies which led to an enhanced investment in the country.

In the meeting, they also discussed the issues facing the KP province and their durable solution. Commerce Minister Ahad Khan Cheema and Advisor to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah also attended the meeting.

**Pak Sat MM-1 communications satellite launch another chapter in Pak-China space program: Ambassador Hashmi**

**Spokesman Report**

BELJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi on Thursday said that launch of a multi mission communications satellite was yet another significant milestone in Pakistan's space program and another chapter in space cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Pak Sat MM-1 communications satellite launch another chapter in Pak-China space program: Ambassador Hashmi

China successfully launched the multi-mission communication satellite for Pakistan using a Long March-3B rocket, with the launch taking place at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern

province of Sichuan today.

The satellite has entered its planned orbit. The launch was the 524th mission of the Long March rocket series.

At the launch site of Multi Mission Communication Satellite in Xichang with @betterpakistan & Chairman SUPARCO. Yet another significant milestone in space programme & another chapter in space cooperation, the ambassador posted on social media platform X formerly known as twitter.

Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Chairman of SUPARCO and other senior officials were also present at the site of launch in Xichang, China.

**IHC to hear plea of 'offloaded' Bahria Town officials**

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court is expected to hear a case on Thursday (today) regarding the "offloading" of three Bahria Town officials from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight, Dawn reported.

The court has posed a question to the government regarding the reasons behind such an incident, which involves three separate petitions filed by retired brigadiers Tahir Butt and Zafar Iqbal Shah, as well as Manzoor Hussain Mughal, who holds the key position of chief surveyor for Bahria Town's real estate projects.

Butt is the head of 'Land Security' for the real estate company while Shah also oversees land-related matters for the controversial property developer, Malik Riaz. The case is expected to be heard by separate benches of the high court.

The development comes after Riaz, the property tycoon, made a social media post claiming that he was

under pressure to take a political side. This was followed by a raid on Bahria Town's Rawalpindi offices which was carried out by the National Accountability Bureau and local law enforcement.

The IHC's decision to take up the plea of the offloaded Bahria Town officials is expected to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the incident and its potential implications.

Observers suggest that the recent developments were happening against the backdrop of the £190 million corruption reference against former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

It is reported that Riaz and his family members have also been declared proclaimed offenders by the court for not appearing before it in the case.

In one of the cases, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb disposed of the petition by converting it into a representation and referring it to the Ministry of Interior for a speaking order.

**Govt committed to support local industry: Finance Minister**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Thursday reiterated the government's commitment to support the local industry. During a meeting with representatives from Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP), Pakistan Steel Melters Association (PSMA), Pakistan Steel Re-Rolling Mills Association (PSRMA) and Pakistan Steel Pipelines Association (PSPA), the minister highlighted the initiative of

Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) in expanding the tax net by bringing under-taxed sectors into the tax net.

The Minister further emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between the government and the private sector to address the challenges faced by steel industry, according to press release issued by finance ministry. Chairman FBR, who was also present in the meeting, assured the delegation of continued support and favorable actions from the government. Earlier, the delegation members expressed gratitude to

the Finance Minister for providing them with the platform to express their concerns. They presented an overview of the steel industry's performance, alongside potential strategies to enhance its growth. Emphasizing the importance of fostering a conducive environment for industry expansion, they proposed adjustments to tax and custom duties. Furthermore, the delegation advocated for encouragement to organized steel sector and stressed the necessity of integrating all producers and sellers into the tax net.

**FIA launches investigation into 1971 video posted from Imran's account**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime Wing has initiated an inquiry against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. The investigation stems from the alleged upload of a propaganda video attributed to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Khan's official X (formerly Twitter) account.

A notification issued by the FIA Cybercrime Wing states that the inquiry was prompted by the posting of a propaganda video on May 26th, purportedly featuring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, from Khan's X account.

The notification highlights that Khan, currently incarcerated at Adiala Jail, had his official account used to upload the video.

viewing four individuals associated with the PTI in connection with the incident.

Sharjeel Memon claims Imran Khan operating X account from jail

The team is expected to question Imran Khan, Barrister Gohar, Omar Ayub, and Raouf Hasan. The FIA aims to determine whether the video was tweeted by Khan himself or with his authorization.

The notification further emphasizes that the investigation will examine the origins of the anti-Pakistan propaganda, identifying those responsible for its creation and dissemination.

If the account holder is found to have uploaded the video, legal action will be taken. However, if the account holder denies posting the video, they will be required to request the closure of their X account for its unauthorized use.

# Information minister gives shields to AJK students after attaining top honors in Qur'an competition

Abdul Majeed Tahir

Information Minister Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah attend a ceremony as a Chief guest in the "Nazara Qur'an and Fahme Qur'an" competition held at Government Girls' Degree College, Eighth Maqam under the Qur'an Education Model Program organized by Character Education Foundation, Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, Azad Kashmir Information Minister Maulana Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah said that by following the teachings of the Quran, we can achieve success in both this world and the hereafter. He praised the Qur'an education model program of the Character Education Foundation and said that I consider the teaching of the Qur'an to be the greatest blessing in the world. Following the teachings of the Quran, the Arabs and the Turks ruled the world, but the curse of nihilism and sectarianism has pushed them back into decline. He said that we have to give back our lost identity by teaching Quran to our new generation. By reading, under-

standing and following the Qur'an, the world will have to be convinced by its regularity. Azad Kashmir Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah gave shields to the students who won prominent positions in the "Nazara Qur'an and Fahm Qur'an" competition. At the end of the ceremony, Azad Kashmir Peer Mazhar Saeed Shah, Regional Coordinator Azad Kashmir Ahmed Nazir, Senior Executive Officer Character Education Foundation Azad Kashmir Syed Murtaza Bukhari presented the honorary shield. District Education Officer Khawaja Zakir, Deputy DEO Ms. Zahida Ashraf, Assistant Education Officer Khawaja Mansha Anjum and others were also present in the ceremony. Earlier, the students of all the educational institutions across the district participated in the competition "Looking at the Quran and Understanding the Quran". Azad Kashmir Information Minister Maulana Muhammad Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah was warmly welcomed at various places during his visit to Neelum. A warm welcome was given at Dudhniyal Sahbai's place, flowers were showered and garlands



were thrown. During the visit, Public Relations Officers Sardar Nowshad, Mufti Obaidur Rahman and PS Raja Waqas were also present.

## Blast in cylinder shot

HYDERABAD: Firefighters trying to extinguish inferno erupted in a house on Thursday, and cooling the gas cylinders after a blast in a gas cylinder shop in Paretabad area of the city, some 20 people burnt and injured, 5 people shifted to Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club Oath-taking ceremony of newly elected officials held

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Burhan Muzaffarwani Shaheed Press Club Oath-taking ceremony of newly elected officials and members According to the details, the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected officials and members was held in Burhan Muzaffarwani Shaheed Press Club. Ahmed Obaid got the blessing of recitation. The duties of the stage secretary were performed by General Secretary Press Club Iftikhar Abbasi, the ceremony was attended by a large number of members and officials. Mudassar Awan Syed Basand Kazmi took oath as members President Press Club Sardar Muhammad Younis Khan Niazi took oath of newly elected office bearers and members All members and office bearers congratulated the newly



elected office bearers and members The meeting was held during the ceremony itself. In the meeting, the executive committee was dissolved and it was decided to celebrate the Martyrdom Day of Burhan Muzaffarwani Shaheed with enthusiasm and respect and devotion under the organization of Burhan Muzaffarwani Shaheed District Press Club. It was also decided to celebrate

Burhan Muzaffar Shaheed's Martyrdom Day ceremony and to celebrate it with dignity. Ahmad Ubaid is the chairman of the committee while Raja Shehzad Khan is the foundation of Kazmi Rana Ilyas Arbab Mughal Mudassar Awan Abid Qureshi and Salim Qureshi will be the members of the committee. A prayer was also offered for the ceremony, Syed Barkat

Hussain Shah Sayaka Awan Ahmed Obaid Kiniza Batul Syed Biand Kazmi Sheikh Majeed Tahir and others spoke while appreciating the performance of Burhan Muzaffarwani Shaheed District Press Club and termed it as successful and a good character. The members appreciated the services of the office bearers and presented them with commendation

## AJK Muslim Conference to celebrate Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally on June 22

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President, former prime minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan is the guarantee of peace in South Asia and Azad Kashmir is the arm of Pakistan. Azad Kashmir cannot afford ideological chaos. Some people want to fulfill their nefarious purposes under the guise of problems. The solution of public problems has always been the first priority of the Muslim Conference. The solution of all problems from independence is the achievement of the Muslim Conference. In Poonch division, Kashmir will be created as Pakistan rally will be celebrated with grandeur. After Poonch, rallies will be held in Kotli and



then in Mirpur division. On June 22, Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally will be organized in Bagh district. He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of the central council. Sardar Attique said that the Muslim Conference is the inheritor of the ideological base in Azad

Kashmir. Kashmiri people have an eternal bond with Pakistan which cannot be weakened. Pakistan is the best shelter for Kashmiris. Kashmiris reject the atrocities that have been committed in the occupied valley and are now staging elections again. Kashmiri people may have differences with the government of Pakistan, but there is no room for differences with the state of Pakistan. Former President of Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral, Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed Khan, Former Minister Ms. Shamim Ali Malik, Former Chairman Implementation Commission Sardar Altaf Hussain Khan, Former Advisor to Government Sardar Abdul Raziq Khan Advocate, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan Muslim Conference Punjab Province President Waheedul Haq Hashmi Advocate, Zilla

Bagh President Sardar Mushtaq Nair Advocate, Syed Ghulam Nabi Shah, Colonel (R) Muhammad Farooq Khan, Mirza Muhammad Sadiq Jaral, Sardar Muhammad Irshad Khan, Sardar Abdul Sami Advocate, former Umid War Assembly Raja Iftikhar Ahmad Khan, Bhambar District President Raja Tahir Iqbal Khan, Major (R) Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Muhammad Sajid Qureshi Advocate, Sardar Wajid Bin Arif Advocate, Chaudhry Muhammad Jameel Tabasim, Sardar Asim Zahid Abbasi, Mirza Muhammad Sadiq Jaral, Sardar Muhammad Salim Chaghatai, Sardar Ajmal Nakyalvi, Pirzada Muhammad Afsar Naqshbandi, District President Muzaffarabad Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, District President Jhelum Valley Raja Waqar Khan, Sardar Saeed Sultan, and others also addressed.

## Punjab Emergency Service Rescue 1122 Multan conducted practical exercises at Chenab River



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Punjab Emergency Service Rescue 1122 Multan conducted practical exercises at Head Mohammad Wala on Chenab River to deal with possible floods.

Under the direction of Secretary Emergency Services Department Dr. Rizwan Naseer (Star Intiaz) and the Punjab Government, Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) Multan under the supervision of Divisional Emergency Officer Dr. Ejaz Anjum led by Emergency Officer Multan Engineer Muhammad Bilal. I conducted practical exercises on flood control near Chenab River Head Mohammadwala Bridge involving Police, Traffic Police, Social Welfare, Punjab Highway, Metropolitan Corporation, Livestock, Inhar Department, Scouts, local NGOs., rescue volunteers and other district institutions participated fully. All these institutions set up campuses as an expression of pre-determined emergency responsibilities and demonstrated their responsibilities during the floods.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Muhammad Faizan Sahib participated in the practical exercises as the chief guest and inspected the mock exercises.

Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Multan Engineer Mohammad Bilal briefed the Chief Guest about mock flood drills and operational preparations of Rescue 1122 and thanked all the departments and participants. In the mock drills, Rescue 1122 personnel gave a practical demonstration of transferring the flood victims to a safe place by boat as well as giving first aid to the injured and shifting them to the field hospital. Along with this, the rescuers also presented a practical example of swimming to show their readiness in case someone has to be rescued without a boat.

## Every third person suffering from various digestive problems: Dr Ali



Khalid Chaudhry

MULTAN: Assistant Professor of Nishtar Hospital Dr. Ali Raza Malik has said that the citizens should avoid unhealthy spicy fatty foods because every third person suffers from various digestive problems like heartburn, acidity and constipation. He expressed these views during a press conference at the Press Club. On this occasion, Dr. Amjad Ali Sheikh, Adil, Zeeshan, Shehbaz were also present. Consuming food, drinking adequate amount of water and exercising regularly is very important to maintain good health. With regard to World Digestion Day, it is important to make people aware of digestive problems and their prevention so that citizens can protect themselves from various diseases. can be saved and create a healthy environment in the society.

## Dr Safdar Hashmi demands termination of IPPs contracts this fiscal year

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Amer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said that the agreements made with IPPs are a sword hanging around the necks of the people this fiscal year. Electricity worth 1300 billion was used while these IPs companies received 3446 billions from consumers. These IPs companies belong to the elites and mafias imposed on the country. Jamaat-e-Islami does not tolerate this cruelty and injustice. On one side, there are talks of emptying the national treasury, while on the other hand, there are talks of appointing a new NAB officer and giving him the same privileges as the Chief Justice of Pakistan. Thousands of free units are given to each officer which is condemnable. He further said that Jamaat-e-Islami will not tolerate such atrocities. We will fight for the rights of the people everywhere. He demanded that the contracts with the IPPs should be terminated immediately.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:18 am  
Zohr ..... 12:05 pm  
Asr ..... 5:04 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:12 pm  
Isha ..... 8:53 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 92766044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4

**TikTok hosts Creator Focus Group to evaluate & strengthen user safety on platform**

**City Desk**

PAKISTAN: TikTok held a Creator Focus Group in Lahore today to evaluate and bolster trust and safety on the platform. This initiative underscores TikTok's commitment to creating a secure and supportive environment for its diverse community of creators.

Over the past year, TikTok has seen significant improvements in safety metrics across various regions, particularly in Pakistan. This focus group was convened to evaluate whether these advancements translate into a better user experience and to gather valuable insights to further enhance the platform's trust and safety measures.

TikTok's Community Partner, Digital Rights Foundation, collaborated to deliver a training session aimed at empowering creators with the knowledge, safety tools and helplines available in Pakistan to safeguard themselves against issues like cyberbullying. Creators were also provided with valuable insights and practical advice on how to overcome such challenges.

Hamza Zohaib, a popular creator who participated in the focus group shared, "Being part of this initiative is incredibly important. It shows that TikTok is serious about addressing our concerns and improving the platform for everyone. I'm looking forward to seeing how our feedback will shape the future of TikTok's safety measures."

This Creator Focus Group brought together diverse creators, including lifestyle influencers, artists, foodies, comedians, educators, activists and storytellers, to share their experiences and insights. This collaborative effort highlights TikTok's dedication to fostering a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community.

**Nuclear program is a priceless gift to people of Pakistan**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said on Thursday that those who started Pakistan's nuclear program and those who completed it despite all the obstacles are our heroes and benefactors of the nation.

He said that the whole nation is indebted to all those who contributed to making Pakistan's defense impregnable through the nuclear program.

He added that the nuclear program was a priceless gift to the nation, making national defense invincible and making the nation proud.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said this while addressing the party workers on the occasion of Youm-i-Takbeer, the day when Pakistan's defense became impregnable after nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan, in 1998.

He said that in the presence of a nuclear program, the enemy can neither consider us inferior nor dare any adventure.

He added that the whole world tried to stop Pakistan from conducting nuclear tests. Still, the political and military leaders rejected all the pressure. They carried out explosions, which resulted in sleepless nights for the enemies of Pakistan.



The nuclear blasts resulted in a balance of power in South Asia. The explosions gave Pakistan the honor of becoming the 7th atomic power in the world and the first nuclear power in the Muslim world.

Hanif Mughal said that through this move, Pakistan equaled the nuclear explosions carried out by India on May 11 and 13, 1998, which resulted in threatening statements against Pakistan by Indian politicians.

After threats by Indian politicians, the people of Pakistan became anxious; they were wondering how will Pakistan reply

to this aggression as it has become an issue of integrity for Pakistan.

At that time, the people were anxious to know how and when we would give a response to India. When the reply was given through nuclear tests, the people erupted in joy.

The celebration started in the streets, sweets were distributed, and it was celebrated all over the Islamic world.

As expected, Pakistan faced problems related to the implications of the nuclear explosions. It faced economic sanctions but overcame these problems in a few years.

Youm-i-Takbeer reminds us how the entire Pakistani nation united on that day to make the country's defense invincible. The nation decided not to yield to external pressure and would not compromise the country's integrity and defense.

He emphasized that Pakistan had always contributed to international efforts for arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament, adhering to the highest standards of nuclear safety and security.

Now, any enemy country cannot attack Pakistan; therefore, they have started economic and political terrorism and militancy. However, he hoped that Pakistan would also overcome these problems and join the ranks of developed countries soon.

**Beautician course concludes in Faisalabad with honours for successful graduates**



**Abdul majid**

FAISALABAD: The Chief Guest of the Beauty Expo 2024 held at Taj Mahal Marquee was warmly welcomed by Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, the guest of honor candidate Punjab Bar Council and former Senior Vice President Faisalabad District Bar Sarwar Butt. Adv were also present. A prayer was also offered after inaugurating the Beauty Expo 2024. Naseer Yousuf Vohra, who achieved improvement in the beautician course, also distributed certificates to the successful beauticians who joined from all over Punjab.

Central President Cloth Board Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra has said in his address that in this course you have been explained about various beauty techniques including facial, manicure, pedicure, body massage, hair covering, henna application in different ways. You are informed about various services. You are also taught safety precautions and practices, professional ethics, standards, hygiene and sanitation procedures. Such workshops should also be organized by the Punjab government so that the widows can be provided with the best employment.

**National Food Security Policy review must amid focus on addressing malnutrition, women in agriculture**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) organised a consultative discussion titled "Reviewing Pakistan's Food Security Policy Amidst Climate Change and Nutrition Situation" to stir discourse on shortcomings in the existing policy and way forward for enhanced food security and climate resilience here on Thursday.

In his opening remarks, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI said the Ministry of National Food Security and Research had undergone a phase of transformation with an ambitious goal to transform it into a holistic and powerful forum which was never materialised.

Dr Suleri mentioned that the world was grappling with different complexities shifting policy focus from food security to sustainable production, consumption, and less carbon intensive food supply chains and the climate change casting drastic impacts on the food production, consumption and storage patterns.

He added that since the climate change had challenged all prerequisites of food security then it was imperative to make a review of the existing food security policy.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the second most important component of addressing food security and malnutrition as over 190 million masses of the country were facing security and hunger crises, he said.

Qasim Ali Shah, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI said in the debate of food security in the context of Pakistan, the global food security context should not be overlooked as the growing climate crisis, conflicts, economic slowdowns and lack of global action for achieving SDG 2 by 2030 had become increasingly infeasible.

Dr Aamer Irshad, Head of Program FAO said the country population since partition in 1947 witnessed a visible boom from 35 million masses to 250 million by 2024.

Farrah Naz, Country Director GAIN said Pakistan's food security context has transformed massively amid global happenings. Pakistan, she said has adopted many strategies like scaling up of nutrition movement and its adoption in the country that showed its sincerity towards the issue.

She suggested that it was necessary to provide more opportunities to small farmers and focus indigenous crops addressing malnutrition that would help strengthen women's role in food nutrition.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Saleem Mohsan, agronomist, Ministry of Food Security and Research said after the 18th Constitutional Amendment and devolution of powers the coordination between the federation and the provinces was not strong as per the spirit of that legislation.

He added that after that the focus should be made on quantum of food for first three years to increase availability and then quality alongwith integrated nutrients addition to improve soil health.

**Election Tribunal adjourns rigging hearings in NA-46, 48 constituencies**



ISLAMABAD, MAY 30 (APP): The Election Tribunal on Thursday heard appeals regarding alleged rigging in Islamabad's NA-48 and 46 constituencies and adjourned the hearing in NA-48 till June 6, while NA-46 till June 11.

The Election Commission has submitted certified copies of Forms 45, 46, and 47 to the Election Tribunal concerning the results of the general elections in NA-48.

During the hearing, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri remarked that the decision must determine whether the election was transparent or not.

Meanwhile, the tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 each on the successful candidate, Raja Khurram Nawaz, and the returning officer of the same constituency for absenteeism.

The tribunal stated that if the winning candidate did not appear, their membership would be suspended.

During the hearing, the Election Tribunal compared Forms 45 one by one, and the forms of Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar and PTI candidate Ali Bukhari were matched.

The lawyer of Raja Khurram Nawaz, who won from NA-48, appeared in court and stated that they did not receive the verified forms.

The tribunal directed the Election Commission to submit attested copies of all the forms, including Form 45, along with an affidavit.

**Welcome**

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani welcoming the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: PID

**Peaceful protest held in Islamabad demanding justice for persecuted Christians**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek Bedari, led by Chairman Naveed Gul of the Glory of God Foundation, organized a peaceful protest in front of the Islamabad Press Club, supported by various religious organizations. The demonstration called on the Government of Pakistan to take immediate and decisive action following a recent incident in Sargodha's Mujahid Colony.

Protesters demanded that the government condemn the ongoing persecution of Chris-

tian patriots and urged the registration of an FIR under the law against abuses. They called for the formation of a high-level judicial commission to ensure a transparent investigation into the Sargodha incident. Emphasizing the state's legal responsibility to protect the life and property of all citizens, they highlighted the need to stop daily religious terrorism.

The protesters also demanded strict punishment for those involved in past attacks against Christians, including the burning of houses, property, sacred books,

and places of worship. They stressed that such actions should not be repeated and called for the government to adopt a concrete strategy to prevent such incidents.

Chairman Naveed Gul, alongside other Christian organizations, strongly condemned the persecution and abuse of Christians. They urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, and the President to take immediate action. The protest also called for a ban on extremist organizations inciting religious violence and an end to the misuse of Ehsaas

religious laws.

The demonstrators sought immediate justice and protection for the oppressed Christians in Sargodha. They also demanded the dropping of all defamation cases against Ms. Anita Sindhu to enable her to lead a dignified life. In a symbolic act of protest, Christian women burned their dupattas in front of the press club, underscoring that a woman's honor, represented by her dupatta, must be respected. They called on the state to respect all religions living in Pakistan and fulfill its responsibilities without delay.

**Cyberattacks targeting children grow by 35% in Q1 2024: Kaspersky reveals**

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky experts looked into the recent threats using a bite the mention of gaming and toy brands popular among kids like Minecraft, Roblox, LEGO, Disney, and more. As a result of research based on chosen key words, it was found out that the number of attack attempts grew up by 35% in Q1 2024, compared to the same period of the previous year. Specifically, almost 1.3 million attack attempts were detected from January to March, 2024.

A total of 1,264,866 attempts to attack mobile and desktop devices disguised as topics popular among kids were detected in Q1 of 2024. This is an increase of 35% growth compared to Q1 2023, when 936,840 attempted attacks were recorded. According to Kaspersky's data,



desktop threats significantly dominate the number of attacks detected during the reporting period - 98.7% versus 1.3% of mobile threats.

Based on the research by Kaspersky experts, the top brands exploited by cybercriminals included the most popular children's games: Minecraft, Roblox, and Brawl Stars. Besides this, attackers also tried to leverage product names such as LEGO, and a number of

popular kids' cartoons including Paw Patrol, Bluey, and entertainment giant Disney, whose name could be used to search cartoons, movies and popular TV series, and related games or merch. More than 1.2 million of the infections are from downloaders distributed in Q1 2024.

Trojans, malicious programs that can enable cybercriminals to gather credit card details, login credentials, modify data or disrupt the performance of computers, ranked second among the most widespread threats masked as children's favorites. In Q1 2024, there were 27,576 attempts to launch Trojans on users' devices, while adware - a type of software that displays unwanted irritating pop-up adverts on your screen - resulted in 27,570 attempts.

Kaspersky researchers also found malicious web pages with toys, dolls and

other children's products. These pages were originally legitimate resources, later hacked by cybercriminals to spread malware. In this case, not only children who want to choose a new toy, but also parents looking for products for children can also become victims.

"As part of the research, we see attacks on children are becoming a traditional vector for cybercriminals that will only become more and more active. Children are often unaware of the basics of cybersecurity and easily fall into attackers' traps, for example, when trying to download a free version of a popular game, or a new episode of a favorite cartoon. That's why cyber hygiene education is a must-have for parents who care about their children's safety in the online environment," comments Hafeez Rehman, Technical group manager at Kaspersky.

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# AJK, Protest and Rangers - II

**A**dditionally, protesters have a responsibility to uphold the rule of law and comply with lawful directives from authorities. Although the right to protest encompasses freedom of assembly and dissent, it is not absolute and must be exercised within legal confines. This includes obtaining necessary permits or permissions, adhering to prescribed routes or areas, and refraining from unlawful acts such as obstructing traffic, trespassing on private property, or inciting violence. By respecting legal boundaries, protesters affirm their commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law, while also reducing the likelihood of confrontation with law enforcement. Furthermore, protesters must prioritize the safety and well-being of themselves and their fellow demonstrators. This encompasses taking measures to minimize potential harm, such as maintaining hydration, refraining from confrontations with counter-protesters, and adhering to safety protocols amidst the ongoing pandemic. Furthermore, protesters should remain vigilant in identifying and addressing instances of harassment, discrimination, or violence within their own ranks, ensuring that the protest remains inclusive, respectful, and secure for all participants.

Apart from these immediate obligations, protesters also carry a broader responsibility to engage in constructive dialogue and advocacy beyond the confines of the protest itself. While public demonstrations can act as a potent force for change, sustained progress often necessitates ongoing efforts to interact with policymakers, mobilize public

support, and institute systemic reforms. This might entail orchestrating lobbying endeavors, advocating for legislative amendments, or participating in community outreach initiatives aimed at tackling the underlying issues prompting the protest. By directing their enthusiasm and commitment towards these broader advocacy endeavors, protesters can amplify the effectiveness of their activism and contribute to meaningful, enduring transformation.

In any community, maintaining law and order stands as a cornerstone of stability, guaranteeing the safety, security, and welfare of its inhabitants. At the core of this pivotal function lies the duty of governments to uphold the rule of law, safeguard individual liberties, and preserve societal order amidst challenges and disruptions. As guardians of the social contract, governments bear a solemn obligation to uphold law and order while championing fundamental freedoms and democratic ideals.

One of the primary roles of government in maintaining law and order is the enforcement of laws and regulations designed to protect public safety and security. This encompasses preventing and investigating criminal activities, apprehending and prosecuting offenders, and imposing suitable sanctions in accordance with due process and legal norms. By ensuring accountability for criminal behavior, governments deter future transgressions and uphold the principle of impartial justice. Moreover,

governments are tasked with providing adequate resources and assistance to law enforcement agencies responsible for maintaining public order and responding to emergencies. This involves furnishing police forces with requisite training, equipment, and personnel to carry out their duties effectively while respecting human rights and minimizing the use of force. Additionally, governments should invest in community policing initiatives aimed at fostering trust, nurturing collaboration, and addressing the underlying socioeconomic factors contributing to crime and disorder.

Beyond law enforcement, governments play a pivotal role in tackling the root causes of social unrest and instability. This may entail addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, discrimination, and lack of access to education and healthcare, which can engender feelings of disenfranchisement, frustration, and isolation within society. By implementing policies and initiatives aimed at promoting social cohesion, economic opportunity, and inclusive progress, governments can address the underlying grievances that often precipitate civil unrest and mitigate the risk of conflict and disorder.

Furthermore, governments have a duty to safeguard the rights and safety of all members of society, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. This involves protecting civil liberties such as freedom of expression, assembly, and association, while also ensuring

individuals are shielded from discrimination, harassment, and violence based on factors such as race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. Governments must uphold these rights even in the face of public protests or dissent, ensuring that peaceful demonstrations are allowed to proceed without undue interference or repression. During periods of crisis or emergency, such as natural calamities, public health crises, or acts of terrorism, governments are tasked with showcasing adept leadership and adept coordination to uphold law and order. This might entail mobilizing resources, orchestrating response endeavors, and engaging in transparent, timely communication with the public to safeguard public safety and mitigate disruptions. By exhibiting competence, accountability, and promptness during crises, governments can cultivate confidence and trust among citizens and stakeholders, thus fortifying social unity and resilience. Pakistan, as a responsible and civilized nation, affords its citizens ample opportunity to peacefully protest for their rights, while the government ensures the maintenance of law, order, and security during such demonstrations.

In Pakistan's rugged terrains, where diverse ecosystems flourish with abundant biodiversity and natural splendor, the role of rangers emerges as vital guardians of the wilderness. Entrusted with the dual duty of safeguarding both nature and people, rangers play a crucial role in upholding law and order throughout Pakistan's expansive wilderness.

*To be continued*



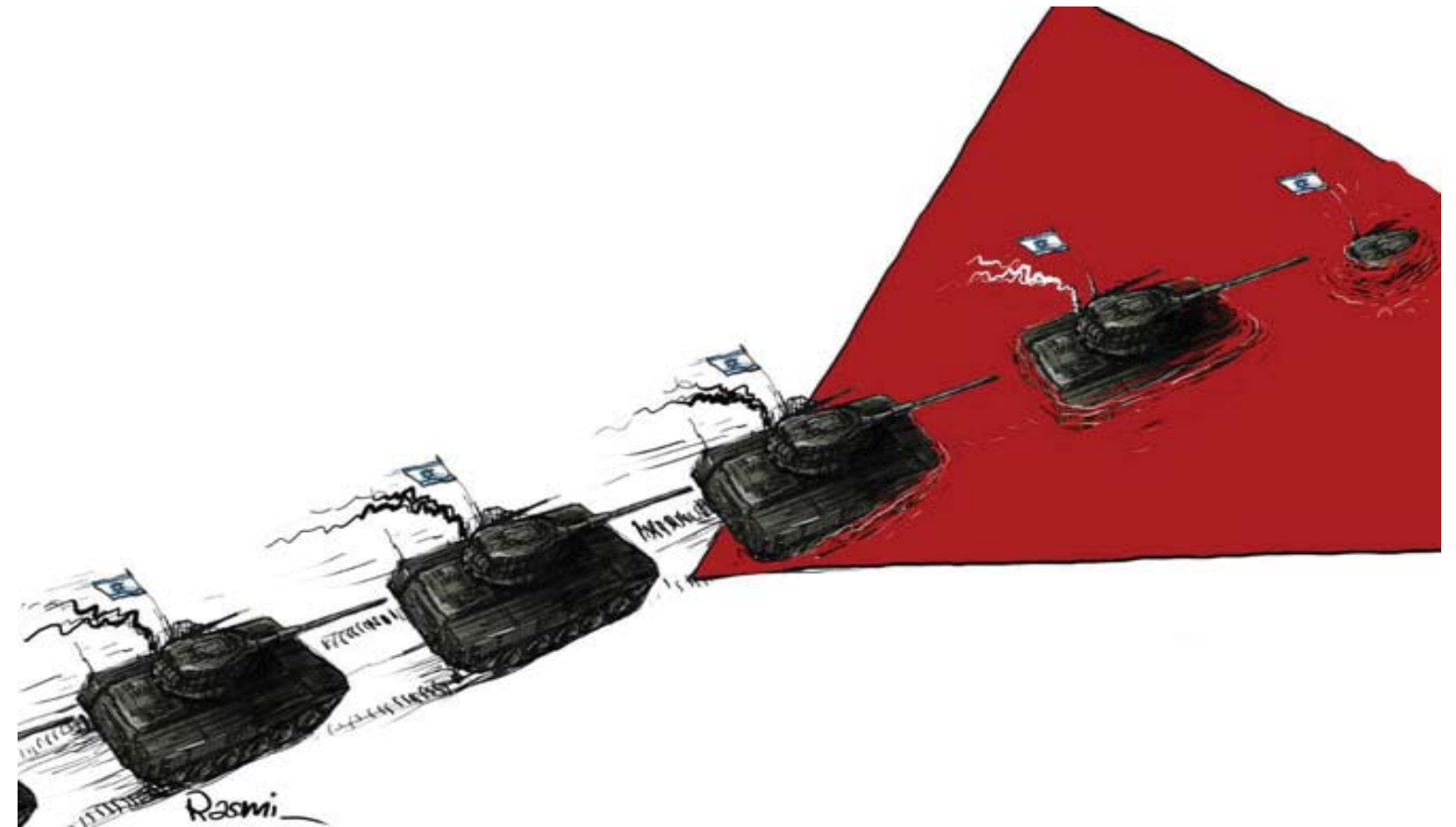
Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Global unemployment set to drop slightly this year

**G**lobal unemployment numbers will fall modestly this year, but unequal access to jobs is still a problem worldwide, particularly for women in poorer countries, the International Labour Organization (ILO), a Geneva-based UN agency, according to a new report. The updated 'World Employment and Social Outlook' report predicts that the global unemployment rate will be 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly down from 5.0 per cent in 2023.

This represents a revision from the previous projection in January of 5.2 per cent for this year, which is expected to flatten in 2025, with unemployment remaining at 4.9 per cent. The report, however, points to a persistent lack of employment opportunities. Currently, the number of people worldwide without a job but who want to work stands at 402 million. This includes 183 million people who are counted as unemployed. Women, especially those in low-income countries, are disproportionately affected by the lack of job opportunities. "Despite our efforts to reduce global inequalities, the labour market remains an uneven playing field, especially for women," said ILO Director-General Gilbert Houngbo. In low-income countries, more than one in five women, 22.8 per cent, are unable to find work, compared with almost one in seven men, or 15.3 per cent. This contrasts with high-income countries, where the rate is nearly 10 per cent for women and 7.3 per cent for men. Furthermore, although women in high-income countries earn 73 cents for every dollar earned by men, this figure drops to just 44 cents in low-income countries. The report found that family responsibilities are behind much of these differences, "indicating that women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work plays a major role in shaping gender employment gaps globally". Houngbo called for countries to work towards inclusive policies that take into considerations of all persons in the workforce. "We must place inclusion and social justice at the core of our policies and institutions. Unless we do, we will fall short of our objective to ensure strong and inclusive development," he said.



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

## From Isolation to Revival: World Youth Festival 2024

**Humda Arshad Khan**

**E**nter the world of public diplomacy, which built bridges between countries, exchanged cultures, languages, and mutual respect, fostering understanding among nations. Countries opt for this to improve their image and depart from hard power. Likewise, Russia held a consort of young people in Russia from March 1st to March 7th, 2024, in Sirius, under the name of the World Youth Festival, from isolation to revival. Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in 2023, and the federal minister and the Russian Federation government worked together to implement this event successfully. 20,000 people flew in for the festival from 185 countries. The government of Russia had given instructions to 95 countries' capitals to select some competent students and send them to Russia. The World Youth Festival had diverse feature activities, such as cultural performances in which participating countries showcased their enriched cultures, international forums (seminars, workshops), global issues, sustainable development, and youth empowerment. Sports programs, a cuisine festival, a volunteer program, meetings held with Foreign Minister Leadership, a chess tournament with Russian champions, and a friendly football match also took place. Talent show and young exchange program: participants bring innovative ideas by doing teamwork. The winning team

became the hero of the day.

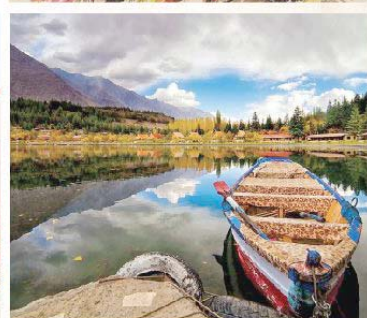
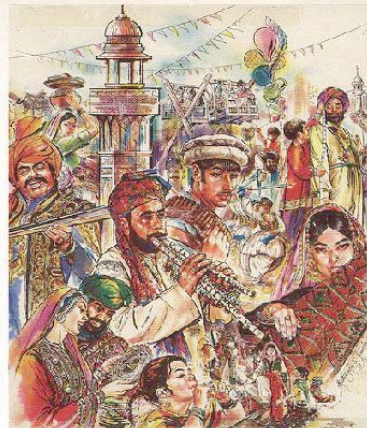
Furthermore, different TV shows invited them, and reputable academic institutes offered scholarships. In this event, all were not participants, most of them social media influencers, officials, and business tycoons. They interact and discuss strategic and politi-

diplomacy in foreign policy. Effective public diplomacy enhances a country's soft power and influences public opinion and goodwill. The motive of this forum is to provide people-to-people contact. Russia overwhelmingly welcomed the participant and hosted the young diplomat for its role in establish-

to ensure sustainability. A competition was held titled Creating Your Future City. The winning team came up with an innovative idea. They have been offered positions to assist the Russian city development committee in inculcating plans involving youth. The experience has already opened many opportunities.

According to the best of my knowledge, at this festival, Russia called them an unfriendly regime, as said by the Foreign Minister Spokesperson. As we all know, Russia and Ukraine have fought numerous wars. Years ago, a war between Russia and Ukraine resulted in significant casualties. Consequently, Russia was sanctioned by the West. Post-war Russia entered the isolationist phase in 2017; no activity was held likewise. For interconnectedness, Russia promotes public-to-public contact, which helped increase tourism and showed the world that Russia is a peaceful country. This opportunity will bring employment to the foreign public as well as innovative industrial and infrastructure growth.

In the end, this forum brings more valuable opportunities for people, especially those who belong to the South Globe and proximity regions such as Central Asia and South Asia. After the Cold War, there was a rivalry between Russia and the West over ideological differences, and they fought many proxy wars in third-world regions. As the world begins to shift its focus towards Russia, there will be heightened tension in the West. Consequently, it will spark tension on a global scale.



cal changes. Participants visit 30 sites in Russia. Their objective is to learn about the culture, cuisine, language, and several others.

As we know, in the contemporary world, to behave in the global arena, states are moving towards soft power by promoting public

ing a multipolar world, said the Foreign Minister Spokesperson. Another motive is youth empowerment. As we move forward, the role of youth in the international system is increasing with the passage of time due to innovative ideas that helps to shape policies

## Pakistan Air Force: Guardians of the Skies in the Face of Adversity

**A**s I returned to my hometown, the picturesque forests of Sakesar welcomed me with a sight that stirred both awe and concern—a massive fire raging through the lush greenery that had once defined this serene landscape. The tranquility of the mountains was shattered by the fierce flames, threatening to engulf everything in their path. However, amidst this chaos, a beacon of hope emerged in the form of Pakistan Air Force helicopters soaring through the skies, their rotors slicing through the smoke-filled air as they embarked on a mission of valor and determination.

The legacy of the PAF as the first responder in times of national crisis shone brightly as the MI-17 and Augusta-139 helicopters took to the skies, their blades cutting through the turbulent winds of Sakesar's challenging terrain. Day and night, these aerial sentinels tirelessly carried out firefighting missions, their pilots displaying unwavering dedication and professionalism in the face of adversity. The roar of their engines echoed through the mountains, a symphony of courage and resilience that resonated with all who witnessed their valiant efforts.

Amidst the chaos and destruction, the PAF's Unmanned Aerial Vehicles also played a crucial role in the firefighting operation, their keen eyes spotting and monitoring the fire with surgical precision. With their assistance, the firefighting efforts were guided with unparalleled accuracy, ensuring that every drop of water and every strategic maneuver was executed with meticulous care and efficiency.

The collaboration between the PAF and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) further underscored the unity and strength of purpose in the face of adversity. Together, they stood as a formidable force against the ravaging flames, their coordinated efforts a testament to the power of unity in times of crisis.

As the flames threatened to consume the very heart of Sakesar, PAF rose to the occasion, their helicopters weaving through the smoke-filled skies like guardian angels, their mission clear—to protect and preserve the invaluable national assets that lay in the path of destruction. With unwavering resolve and unparalleled skill, the PAF pilots maneuvered through the treacherous terrain, their actions a testament to the ethos of the PAF—"Second to None".

In the aftermath of the firefighting operation, as the smoke cleared and the embers smoldered, a sense of gratitude and admiration filled the hearts of all who witnessed the PAF's heroic efforts.

The forests of Sakesar, once engulfed in flames, now stand as a symbol of resilience and hope, a testament to the unwavering spirit of the Pakistani people and the indomitable courage of the PAF. As I looked up at the clear skies, now free from the pall of smoke that had once darkened them, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and gratitude towards the Pakistan Air Force.

In the face of adversity, they had emerged as true guardians of the skies, their legacy of service and sacrifice shining brightly in the hearts of all who had witnessed their heroic deeds.

Analysis

Izmi Herlani

# 73rd Anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations commemorated at ISSI Event

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a commemorative event titled: "73 Years of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relationship: A Partnership of Peace and Development." The panelists included eminent speakers from academia, research and business community. The Embassy of People's Republic of China was represented by the Deputy Head of Mission, H. E. Shi Yuanqiang. Prominent personalities from diplomatic corps, academia, think-tanks and civil society attended.

Ambassador Sohaih Mahmood, Director General ISSI, emphasized the importance of China-Pakistan relations, founded on mutual respect, strategic trust, and close cooperation. He stressed that from the very outset, this relationship developed as a special and unique example in interstate

relations and has served the best interests of the two countries. Both nations have consistently supported each other on issues of core interest, with Pakistan backing 'One China' principle and China's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China Pakistan Study Centre ISSI, highlighted the history of Pakistan-China relations, noting Pakistan's steadfast support for the 'One China' principle and China's support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He emphasized the importance of China's investment in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, economic impact of CPEC, and cultural bonds through numerous exchange programmes, and Confucius Institutes.

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of People's Republic of China, H. E. Shi Yuanqiang, in his remarks emphasized on how the Pakistan-China relationship has remained strong for 73 years,

encompassing economic and strategic cooperation. China eagerly anticipates the Prime Minister's visit to China, he informed the audience, emphasizing strengthened cooperation. According to him, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has spurred development in Pakistan and attracted foreign investment. He also reiterated that China supports Pakistan's territorial integrity as Pakistan supports the 'One-China' principle. Both nations are advancing cooperation in space programs and accelerating development projects, he stated. Going forward, he specifically stressed the importance of further deepening strategic trust; enhancing practical cooperation; carrying forward traditional friendship through P2P exchanges; and working together to promote multilateralism.

Mr. Raja Amir Iqbal, entrepreneur and former President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), highlighted China's



rise as a global trade and manufacturing power. He urged Pakistan to learn from China's success to boost its own economy. He emphasized the importance of the second phase of

the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), signed on April 28, 2019.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt highlighted the enduring Pakistan-China friendship, evident

in infrastructure projects like the Hakla-Yarik motorway. This relationship, based on mutual respect and shared values since 1951, has fostered peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Dr. Ghulam Jillani shared his experience working on agricultural research in China. Some key highlights in Pakistan-China agricultural cooperation has been Pakistan's import of agri-chemicals and the hybrid rice seed from China. Moreover, Pakistan has variety of agricultural products.

Dr. Bilal Zubair in his remarks stated that strong cultural ties and people-to-people contacts have existed between both countries even before 2000 years ago. Regular bilateral cultural exchange between both countries started in 1979, and today over 30,000 Pakistani students study in China.

In the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI, pointed out that the journey of Pakistan-China relations has been a glorious one. Notwithstanding the different culture, language and ideological moorings, the friendship between both countries has matured into a strategic partnership.

## Belgium Ambassador calls on PRCS Chairman

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Charles Delogne, the Belgium Ambassador to Pakistan, visited the National Headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Thursday. PRCS representatives warmly welcomed him upon arrival.

In his meeting with PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, the two leaders discussed the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Belgium, focusing on humanitarian cooperation and exploring potential joint initiatives to support vulnerable communities in Pakistan.

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari emphasized PRCS's extensive humanitarian services across the country, particularly highlighting the assistance provided to millions affected by the 2022 monsoon floods. He detailed the various facilities and support mechanisms PRCS has



implemented, including ongoing recovery efforts for flood affected families such as shelter, livelihood support, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), cash assistance and others.

Ambassador Charles Delogne expressed his pleasure at visiting PRCS, extending his best wishes and commending the organ-

ization's efforts under Chairman Laghari's leadership. He praised PRCS's initiatives during natural disasters and crises, reiterating Belgium's commitment to supporting humanitarian causes.

Following their meeting, Ambassador Delogne spoke to the media, lauding PRCS's humanitarian services and efforts to bolster diplomat-

ic relations. He emphasized the universal importance of humanitarian work and praised PRCS's historically significant contributions.

Ambassador Delogne also toured the PRCS library and inscribed his remarks in the guest book. As a token of appreciation, Chairman Laghari presented him with his book, "Dastan-e-Azam."

## Training of Trainers Boosts Literacy Drive: NCHD's Remarkable Efforts

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) continues to make significant strides in promoting literacy across Pakistan. A comprehensive Training of Trainers (TOT) program was conducted in different clusters of ICT urban areas: 1-8/2, Barakho, Sehala, Tarnol and Nilore on 29th and 30th of May. A total of 1433 teachers from the ICT schools located in the mentioned areas have been trained so far in this crucial initiative under the "Each One Teaches One" campaign, which aligns with the Roshan Pakistan Literacy Drive and the directives of the Prime Minister.

During the training session at the I-8/1 cluster, the Director General of NCHD, Mirza Nasir ud Din Mashhood Ahmad, paid a visit. He expressed his appreciation for the dedication shown by the trainers and emphasized the critical role they play in transforming lives. "With such sheer commitment," he stated, "our nation will thrive, and we will achieve the ambitious goal of 100 percent literacy within a short time."

Director General commended the exceptional efforts of Mr. Saferullah Khan, a Senior School Teacher (SST) at IMCB vi-x G-6/2 Islamabad. Khan's unwavering resolve and commitment to literacy have earned him the title of "Champion of Literacy." He serves as a role model for all educators, demonstrating the impact that dedicated teachers can have on their communities.

The NCHD extends its gratitude to the resource persons who organized this beneficial training in record time. The commitment of the trainers, combined with the support of administrative staff, ensures that Pakistan moves closer to its literacy goals. Deputy Director Literacy Mr. Tahir Zubair, Director Admin Hussain Bukhari, Siraj Ahmad HoD IT, and Hassan Abbas AD Admin accompanied Director General during his visit, reinforcing the collaborative effort to transform lives through education.

As Pakistan continues its journey toward universal literacy, initiatives like the Each One Teaches One program play a pivotal role. With dedicated trainers and champions like Mr. Saferullah Khan, the nation is well on its way to achieving literacy for all.

## Entire Muslim world proud of Pakistan's nuclear capability: Dr. Hathal

**City Desk**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Emphasizing the significance of recently celebrated Youm e Takbeer, President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi has said that the entire Muslim world is proud of Pakistan's nuclear capability, it is an honour not only for Pakistan but the whole Muslim world. The IIUI President paid tribute to the dedicated services of the Pakistan armed forces.

He was addressing the concluding ceremony of the 39th Human Resource Development course arranged by Dawah Academy for the officers of Pakistan Forces (Army, Navy and Airforce) at the International Islamic University (IIU).

President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi announced that the university has a comprehensive plan to launch distance learning and online training via constituent units of the university.

He highlighted universities' pivotal societal role, citing IIUI's training and research initiatives. Dr. Alotaibi expressed optimism for IIUI's trajectory towards global eminence, underscoring its potential to serve the Muslim world.

He added that IIUI has been put on a track of progress and development and soon the university will shine among the leading educational institutions of the world. He opined that IIUI has a great potential to serve the Muslim world.

The IIUI President elaborated the university vision, its history and future objectives. He also shared the university's vision of progress and appraised of the latest steps taken by the University for Academic Excellence. He also shed light on the inculcation of Islamic thoughts in young minds and importance of guidance from religion in our daily life routine. He specifically mentioned that the university is keenly focusing on service to society and dissemination of the true image of Islam.

The ceremony was also addressed by the Director General Dawah Academy, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas who appraised the details of the course mentioning the lectures, covered topics and relevant activities. Incharge Training Department, Dr. Abdul Faeed Brohi also gave details of the month-long course.

## Donald Trump might ask Elon Musk to join White House if re-elected

Donald Trump, former president of the United States, is considering to offer tech billionaire Elon Musk an advisory role in the White House if he gets re-elected as president this fall, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Musk, 52, has been outspoken about border security and economic policies on his social media platform X.

According to the report, Musk's relationship with Trump, 77, has warmed as the two regularly talk on the phone.

The report, which cited people familiar with the talks, also said that both influential personalities have discussed a role that would allow the Tesla CEO to formally provide input and have influence over border security and economic policies.

## Federal Minister Maritime Affairs addresses 3rd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh attended 3rd International Conference 2024, Innovation & Disruption: Business Success through AI as Chief Guest at IBA School of Business Studies (SBS) at Karachi. (30 May-2023)

National and International dignitaries attended the session and addressed the session which includes Dr. Nora Colton Director University College London, Dr. Geoffrey Wood DAN



Western University Canada, Dr. Adam Zaremba Associate Professor Montpellier Business School France, Dr.

Tariq Rafi Chairman HEC Sindh and others.

While addressing the audience the Federal Minister Maritime Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said AI is the way forward to facilitate students in order to access high-quality educational resources, regardless of economic status or geographic area.

Nonetheless, AI can assess each student's progress and provide real-time feedback, assisting them identify their strengths and areas for improvement.

## EIC, Sialkot Chamber agree to establish consortium of companies in Ethiopia

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate establishment of a consortium of companies in Ethiopia that are related to Sports Goods, Sports Wear, Leather Products, Surgical Instruments, Gloves, and Workwear.

The MOU was signed by Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of the Sialkot Chamber, and H. E. Hanna Arayaselassie, Ethiopian Investment Commissioner.

H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and H. E. Atif Sharif Mian, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Ethiopia witnessed the signing ceremony.

This significant agreement lays the groundwork for enhanced bilateral trading cooperation between the business communities of Pakistan and Ethiopia through joint ventures. The signing ceremony marked a pivotal step in fostering stronger economic ties and exploring new investment opportunities

between the two nations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Hanna Arayaselassie, Ethiopian Investment Commissioner said Ethiopia offered a conducive environment for the investors as its government was committed to attract the foreign direct investment.

She assured the Sialkot Chamber President that the Government of Ethiopia provided full protection to foreign investment, and also facilitated foreign investors in all possible ways.

Mr. Malik expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating, "This MOU represents a crucial step towards

a deeper economic partnership between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Ethiopia's robust economic growth, strategic location, and favorable investment climate make it an attractive market for Pakistani businesses.

"The Ethiopian market is not only rich in natural resources but also offers a burgeoning labor force and a growing consumer market, making it an increasingly attractive hub for trade and investment," Mr. Malik added.

The Sialkot Chamber delegation's stay in Ethiopia has been marked by a series of productive engagements aimed at exploring various investment avenues and strengthening economic ties.



The delegation has participated in numerous meetings with key stakeholders, including the

Ethiopian Ministry of Mines, where they experienced the Ethiopian Mineral Gallery and

gained valuable insights into the country's rich mineral resources and mining sector.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
74,878.12	74,836.30
Day's High	Day's Low
75,300.03	74,585.35
Index Value	Change
9,981,562,142	+41.82
Percentage	Time
+0.06%	30 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,231.05	+47.98
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	30 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,186.43	-255.11
Percentage	Time
-0.66%	30 May, 1:08 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,054.13	-502.74
Percentage	Time
-1.30%	30 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	741.29	749.29
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.45	38.85
Danish Krone	40.39	40.79
Euro	297.5	300
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.01	917.01
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	59.85
New Zealand \$	170.48	172.48
Norwegians Krone	26.34	26.64
Omani Riyal	722.39	730.39
Qatari Riyal	76.57	77.27
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.25
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	26.13	26.43
Swiss Franc	305.12	307.62
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.95
UK Pound Sterling	348.5	352
US Dollar	277.25	280

# Some politicians determined to create instability, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Thursday that it is sad that the investment ratio in the country has come to the lowest level in fifty years.

He said the lack of investment could affect the availability of a new IMF program, which would be unfortunate.

He added that some irresponsible politicians are bent on pushing the country into crisis, which will also cost them their supporters.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that economic stability has come to the country due to Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif's efforts.

However, political stability has not come, which has caused investors to be worried and

not ready to invest in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister is trying hard to attract investment in the country, and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have assured him of fifteen billion dollars of investment.

However, the prices of electricity and gas, the highest policy rate, and political instability are hampering the PM's plans.

At the same time, some politicians are not ready to play a serious and positive role and are fanning instability.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that according to the latest data, the ratio of investment in Pakistan has reached the lowest level in the last fifty years. During the current financial year, it remained at 13.1 percent of the GDP, which is less than the target of 15.1.

Apart from this, there has been a significant decrease in the ratio of public and private sector investment to GDP. This rate has come to the lowest level in 25 years.

He said economic development will also be



possible if policymakers become serious about reforms, which will relieve the government and

the people and increase the satisfaction level of international institutions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said establishing SIFC with top civilian and military leaders in control was the need of the hour.

The main objectives of SIFC were identifying investment opportunities, providing a favorable environment for investors, removing obstacles, and promoting investment from foreign and domestic sources.

Moreover, many important policies aren't balanced, and there is a need for continuity in them, as distortions have disappointed local and foreign investors despite positive sentiments.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that another valuable year has been wasted waiting for investment, so it should now be acknowledged that the investment environment cannot improve without fundamental economic reforms, reduction in business costs, and a business-friendly bureaucracy.

## MoU

KUWAIT: Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan and Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Omar Saud Al-Omar signing the MoU on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# Officials of Rawalpindi Restaurants demand to extend deadline to introduce alternatives to plastic

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Officials of Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association of Pakistan said that the administration should extend the deadline of June 5 so that alternative products can be supplied in the market. The Environment Department has not taken any substantial steps to introduce alternatives to plastic. We have not been provided with the contact of any factory making the substitutes. We have followed the government measures. So appeal to the platform of the association to address our concerns.

On Thursday, President of Rawalpindi Restaurant Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed and Patron General Muhammad Naeem, honorable members of the Core Committee, General Secretary Raja Adnan Mehmood, Vice Chairman Saleem Raza Butt, Senior Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Muneer, Vice President Huzaifa Ansar, Vice President Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood, Vice President Sardar Mahmood Hussain Niko, Information Secretary Tariq Khan, Sheikh Imran Elahi, Chaudhry Muhammad Hafeez, Chaudhry Sharafat Ali Awan, Sheikh Nayir Feroze, Naveed Abbasi held two separate important meetings with AC Cantt Almas Sabih Saqib and AC City Hakim Khan regarding the ban on single-use plastics. Regional Director of Environment Department Aunza Niazi was also present in the meet-



ing. President of the association Chaudhry Farooq said after the government orders on the price of roti, our association and other organizations conveyed their opinion to the Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz, Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider, DG Environment, and informed the district administration of our concerns. We want alternative solutions to be given first, then action taken. Chairman Association Mumtaz Ahmed said that sorry to say that the environment department's homework on this matter was not complete, the environment department should have first introduced alternative products in the market and then imposed a ban. Patriarch Muhammad Naeem said that since the new government came, we have been

trying to give us an alternative solution, but despite this, the new thing has not been introduced. That the people should not be burdened unnecessarily.

Assistant Commissioner City Hakeem Khan praised the efforts of the association and said that the last date for the ban on plastic by the government was set on June 5, in which any extension is impossible, so let everyone know that after June 5, plastic Strict crackdown will be done against the users. While Assistant Commissioner Cantt Almas said that the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan is right, some problems may be faced in implementing alternative solutions. All of us will have to follow the rules. We will try to resolve the problems those are pointed by The Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan.

# Shehzad Ahmed Malik, Re-elected as President of ICMA

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Shehzad Ahmed Malik, Re-elected as President of ICMA, Mr. Muhammad Yasin, FMCA-Vice President, Mr. Shaham Ahmed, FCMA-Honorary Secretary, Ms. Marryum Parvaiz, FCMA-Honorary Treasurer also elected



Mr. Shehzad Ahmed Malik, FCMA, M. A. in Economics, CFC(U-SA), Employer Trainer of ICAEW is a highly experienced professional with over 25 years in management consultancy and finance. He currently serves as the CEO of SMNCO (Shehzad Malik Management Consultants Pvt Ltd.) and holds various board positions in Pakistani companies. He is also a board member of SAFA, contributing to its Committee on Education, CPD, and Training. He represented ICMA on the Members' Development Committee of the Confederation of Asia and Pacific Accountants (CAPA). At ICMA, he chairs the Technical Support and Practice Development (TSPD) Committee, and the Executive Committee, and

the Education Committee. With over 24 years of professional experience, Mr. Malik has held significant roles such as Vice President & Hon Secretary at ICMA. Finance Director/CFO at Islamabad Electric Supply Company and Army Welfare Trust (AWT). He has contributed to the Ministry of Finance's Tax Reforms & Anomaly Committees of FBR served as a faculty member at several universities and ICMA International. Moreover, he holds honorary positions in various committees of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisor at Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO). He has also worked with World Bank and HEC on different projects.

# Chairman & Member CCP address Islamabad Chamber of Commerce

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan (CCP), Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, called upon the business community to support the CCP's efforts in policing cartelization and anti-competitive practices.

The Chairman addressed businessmen and members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) during an advocacy session on Competition Law hosted by ICCI. The session was also attended by President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, ICCI executive committee members, CCP Member Salman Amin and other senior officials.

Dr. Sidhu emphasized the CCP's vital role in ensuring free and fair competition across all commercial and economic activities, aiming to prevent market abuse and promote good governance. He also highlighted the significant role that chambers of commerce play in whistleblowing to identify cartels.

Highlighting the performance of the CCP, he stated that the Commission has imposed PKR 74 billion penalties on cartels in sugar, wheat, poultry, cement, automobile, and telecom sectors. He added that several significant cases are currently pending in the apex court awaiting final decisions.

# Microsoft and HEC collaborated to Bridge Academia-Industry Gap by Empowering Future Tech Leaders

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Microsoft Pakistan brought together leading figures from academia and industry for a dynamic event "Bridging the Academia-Industry Gap" on Thursday, May 30th, 2024. Held at the Auditorium, HEC Headquarters - Islamabad, the event focused on fostering collaboration and equipping graduates with the skills needed to thrive in the modern workplace.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission followed by a Keynote by Microsoft's Director Education Industry, Central Europe Middle East & Africa Jaye Richards Hill. Highlighting the importance of this collaboration, Jaye Richards Hill stated, "At Microsoft, we believe that technology can be a powerful bridge between academia and industry.

By equipping students with the latest tools and technologies, and fostering collaboration with industry leaders, we can prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow." Mr. Jibran Jamshad addressed the audience on latest AI offerings by Microsoft. Mr. Jibran Jamshad highlighted a recent survey from the World Talent Initiative, which paints a picture of a rapidly changing workplace driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The



survey revealed a significant increase in AI adoption, with a staggering 75% of knowledge workers now using AI tools in their daily tasks. Interestingly, nearly half (46%) reported

adopting these tools within the last six months, highlighting a rapid acceleration in AI integration. D

The event also featured remarks by Dr. Mukhtar

Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, and the Honorable Chief Guest, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister youth programme. Mr. Rana Mashhood emphasized the crucial role of technology in empowering Pakistan's youth, stating, "Equipping our graduates with the latest technological skills is paramount to ensuring their success in the competitive global landscape."

## Experts urge the use of AI solutions to enhance productivity

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Experts urged industry and academia to adopt the modern and latest tools and solutions of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance research, development, and productivity in every field, including business and academia.

Speaking at the seminar "Emerging Trends in Social Science Studies" organized by the University of Karachi, AI expert Adnan Zaidi said the field of artificial intelligence will continue to explore new domains to assist human efforts in achieving productivity with maximum accuracy and efficiency in a short span of time; hence, utilizing it will give a competitive edge to its users on a long-term basis, whether it is industry or media.

AI is an evolving field, having achieved its 30% potential by now. Its strength will be explored up to 70% by globally renowned companies till 2030, says Dr. Adnan Zaidi, CEO of Proxima AI.

Another AI expert, Dr. Umair Arif, said AI will replace various jobs and trades inevitably in the future, but at the same time, it will provide opportunities for human beings to switch their roles by acquiring more productive and facilitative roles.

There are a number of professions that are likely to be irrelevant, but a number of new ones will emerge in the next few years. People should not be afraid of AI, but they should learn to use it effectively, he remarked.

He mentioned that industries in Pakistan are slowly adopting AI solutions, but the majority of them are reluctant to acquire this new technology in their businesses because of their investment in technology.

The utilization of technology will give a company a competitive edge over its competitors worldwide, said Dr. Umair Arif, AI consultant at Hexalyze.

On the occasion, Dr. Fauzia Naz, while chairing a session on AI integration in the media, said AI poses a great challenge to academics when it comes to the assessment of research and learning, as students

# First-ever hockey academy in an educational institution inaugurated

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Women hockey is set to get a major boost in Pakistan as the country's first-ever hockey academy in an educational institution was inaugurated at Viqar-Un-Nissa Post Graduate College for Women Rawalpindi. Member National Assembly (MNA) Hanif Abbasi, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the academy.

Besides others MNA Daniyal Chaudhry, Olympian Khawaja Junaid, Political Secretary British High Commission Cormic Dreehan, Group Head Allied Bank Faisal Ghauri, Principal Viqar-Un-Nissa College Zahida Parveen attended the inauguration ceremony.

"The ultramodern astroturf, which presently costs around Rs 35 million, was imported during the PML-N government's last tenure, but unfortunately this asset was not utilized till to date. "I must appreciate Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy and Allied Bank for joining hands to make this facility functional for our female athletes.



"The college has around 6,000 students and I hope it will provide some shining stars for the national women hockey team," he said. Daniyal Chaudhry on the occasion expressed the hope that the initiative would have great impact on the students as well as the broader community. "It is heartening to see Khawaja Junaid Academy is nurturing the talent from the grassroots level, ensuring that young girls receive comprehensive training in both the technical and strategic aspects of hockey. "I'm sure the success of this academy will pave the way for similar initiatives

in other parts of the country", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Khawaja Junaid said that the academy was aimed at identifying and nurturing budding players to represent Pakistan at the national and international levels. He said the long-term vision for the academy included hosting tournaments, establishing exchange programmes with international hockey academies, and producing players who can represent Pakistan at the global level.

"We have provided experienced coaching staff for the academy, while Allied

Bank will be providing financial support for the coaching purposes", he added. Faisal Ghauri in his remarks said Allied Bank was proud to support Khawaja Junaid Academy as it would help promote women sports in the country. "We believe in empowering our women. The launch of this hockey academy is a commendable initiative. I hope it will promote women's empowerment and sports development. We are proud to support such fantastic endeavors as we believe this will help nurture talent and create future champions.

Principal Viqar-Un-Nissa College said that her institution was known for its strong emphasis on female education and empowerment. "I'm grateful to Khawaja Junaid for choosing this ideal institution for the academy.

The college's support for the academy will always be there", she said. At the end, some 40 students of the Viqar-Un-Nissa College were given away hockey sticks, while souvenirs were presented to respected guests.

## Rain halts fourth-Pakistan England T20I

**A Sports**

LONDON: The persistent rain halted the fourth T20I between Pakistan and England here at Kennington Oval on Thursday.

Earlier, England captain Jos Buttler won the coin toss and put Pakistan into bat first.

With young left-handed opener Saim Ayub dropped, Pakistan captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan opened the innings for the touring side.

The decorated opening pair provided a solid start to Pakistan, adding 59 runs for the first wicket before Babar fell victim to Jofra Archer on the final delivery of the batting powerplay.

Babar smashed five fours and a six on his way to a 22-ball 36.

Rizwan was quick to follow as he was cleaned up by Adil Rashid in the next over. He scored 23 off 16 deliveries with the help of three boundaries.

Coming as Saim Ayub's replacement, Usman Khan then put together a brief partnership with Fakhar Zaman, who fell in the ninth over after scoring a run-a-ball nine.

Pakistan then lost two more wickets in quick succession as Shadab Khan and Azam Khan both perished for ducks.



The touring side was 91/5 in 10.4 overs when the on-field umpires decided to stop the proceedings and the covers were brought on.

Notably, the first and third T20I of the ongoing four-match series between Pakistan and England were also washed due to rain.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 as Jos Buttler and bowlers led them to a convincing 23-run victory in the second T20I.

The ongoing four-match T20I series between Pakistan and England, scheduled to run from May 22 to 30, is a final opportunity for both sides to

gear up for the T20 World Cup 2024 as the previous edition's finalists will skip the warm-up matches for this year's mega event.

**PLAYING XI'S**

England: Phil Salt, Jos Buttler (c), Will Jacks, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Moeen Ali, Liam Livingstone, Chris Jordan, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.

Pakistan: Mohammad Rizwan, Babar Azam (c), Usman Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Shadab Khan, Azam Khan (wk), Iftikhar Ahmed, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Amir, Naseem Shah.

## Cristiano Ronaldo loses THIS record



Portuguese star forward Cristiano Ronaldo saw his record shattered in European football on Wednesday when the Greek club Olympiakos won the Europa Conference League.

Among his several records, Cristiano Ronaldo was also the top goal scorer at the European tournament knockout stages. During the 39-year-old's stay at Los Blancos, he had scored ten times in the club's 2016-2017 win.

Karim Benzema also held a similar record while bidding for the Champions League title in 2022 with Real Madrid.

But now, Ayoub El Kaabi has taken the honour from the two and struck a goal in the 116th minute, taking Olympiakos to crush Fiorentina and secure their first-ever European trophy.

This is how he hit for the 11th time in the knockout stages of the continental tournament.

El Kaabi, who is a Moroccan player, has been a noticeable player as he has a hat-trick against Aston Villa in the first leg of their semi-final and then backed up his team more by scoring a brace in the return leg.

## Netherlands include injured Frenkie de Jong in Euro 2024 squad

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman has included Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong in his final 26-man squad for Euro 2024 despite the fact he is still recovering from an ankle injury.

Koeman has however left out left-back Ian Maatsen, who has played a key role in Borussia Dortmund's progress to the Champions League final against Real Madrid on Saturday but has never played for his country's senior side.

The coach has placed his trust at left-back in the duo of Nathan Ake, fresh from winning the Premier League title with Manchester City, and the veteran Daley

Blind.

De Jong suffered the injury in Barcelona's 3-2 defeat by Real Madrid in the Clasico on April 21 — the third time this season he had suffered ankle issues — but is expected to return to training on Saturday, just under two weeks before the Euros kick-off.

Fitness concerns also surround Atletico Madrid forward Memphis Depay.

The Netherlands, who have won the European crown once in 1988, are in Group D with France, Austria and Poland.

They will play Canada on June 6 and Iceland four days later in warm-up games. Netherlands' squad for Euro 2024

Goalkeepers: Justin Bijlow (Fey-



noord), Mark Flekken (Brentford/ENG), Bart Verbruggen (Brighton/ENG)

Defenders: Nathan Ake (Manchester City/ENG), Daley Blind (Girona/ESP), Stefan de Vrij (Inter Milan/ITA), Lutsharel Geertruida (Feyenoord), Denzel Dumfries (Inter Milan/ITA), Matthijs de Ligt (Bayern Munich/GER),

Jeremie Frimpong (Bayer Leverkusen/GER), Micky van de Ven (Tottenham Hotspur/ENG), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool/ENG)

Midfielders: Frenkie de Jong (Barcelona/ESP), Ryan Gravenberch (Liverpool/ENG), Teun Koopmeiners (Atalanta/ITA), Tijjani Reijnders (AC Milan/ITA), Jerdy Schouten (PSV Eindhoven), Xavi Simons (RB Leipzig/GER), Joey Veerman (PSV Eindhoven), Georginio Wijnaldum (Al Ettifaq/KSA)

Forwards: Steven Bergwijn (Ajax), Brian Brobbey (Ajax), Memphis Depay (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Cody Gakpo (Liverpool/ENG), Donyell Malen (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Wout Weghorst (Hoffenheim/GER)

## Imad Wasim 'given rest' from fourth Pakistan-England T20I



**A Sports**

LONDON: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim has been given a rest from the fourth T20I against England as a preventive measure for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

In a statement, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared that the all-rounder experienced discomfort in his right rib cage.

"While batting in the nets during Wednesday's training session, he experienced discomfort in his right rib cage. He was sent for a preventative scan as advised by the PCB medical panel," stated PCB.

"Keeping the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 in mind Imad will take ample rest and is expected to be fit before the start of Pakistan's campaign," the statement added.

The PCB Medical panel is actively monitoring Imad Wasim's progress.

For the unversed, Imad Wasim was named in Pakistan's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place from June 1 to 29 in the United States of America (USA) and the West Indies.

Of the 15 players, Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Saim Ayub and Usman Khan have been picked for their maiden T20 World Cup, while Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim last appeared in the 2016 and 2021 tournaments, respectively. The other eight players participated in the 2022 event in Australia.

Pakistan, who lifted the title in the 2009 edition will start their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against the USA on June 6 before taking on arch-rivals India on June 9.

Pakistan Squad for T20 World Cup 2024: Babar Azam (c), Saim Ayub, Mohammad Rizwan, Fakhar Zaman, Azam Khan, Usman Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Abbas Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Abrar Ahmed.

## ARY and Pakistan Football Federation join hands for live football coverage

**A Sports**

KARACHI: ARY and the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) have joined hands to bring high-quality coverage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers to viewers across Pakistan.

The partnership will make A Sports HD — Pakistan's first HD sports channel — the exclusive home of Pakistan Football for its upcoming fixture against Saudi Arabia.

The two teams go head-to-head on 6th June at the Jinnah Football Stadium, Islamabad, as Pakistan host their final match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

Saudi Arabia has previously defeated Pakistan 4-0 in the first leg of the qualifying fixtures.

Pakistan are placed in Group G of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Tajikistan.

Notably, this is the first time Pakistan is playing in the second round of FIFA World Cup qualifiers. They defeated Cambodia in the first round.

## Win or lose we are with you: Mohsin Naqvi backs Green Shirts ahead of T20 World Cup 2024

Commenting on the team combination in the tournament, the PCB chief said that the discretion on the said issue lies with the captain and team management.

"Overall, a strategy is in place that they don't have to panic and give their best [on the field]," Naqvi said.

Furthermore, peaking at a dinner hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Mohammad Faisal in honour of the Green Shirts, Naqvi reiterated his earlier remarks and said: "I just want to request one thing which we really need for the next four weeks. Let us all support our players."

The event was attended by London Mayor Sadiq Khan, former caretaker prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti and a large number of Pakistani community living in the UK.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Khan said he was proud that the Pakistani team had come to London once again.



## Bayern Munich appoint Vincent Kompany to end long search for new coach

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Bayern Munich's long search to fill their vacant head coaching position is over with the German giants naming Vincent Kompany as manager in a shock move on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old Belgian, a surprise choice with his Burnley side relegated from the Premier League this season, has penned a three-year deal at the Allianz Arena.

Normally in contention for the biggest names in the business, Bayern have been knocked back for months but have been knocked back by several candidates after their first trophyless season for 12 years.

After failed attempts to lure Bayer Leverkusen boss Xabi Alonso, Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann and Austria's

Ralf Rangnick, Bayern tried to hold onto Thomas Tuchel, who had agreed in February to leave in the summer.

Tuchel however announced in May he "couldn't agree on terms" to stay with the club and would "stick to the agreement we had in February".

Instead, Bayern Munich have decided for Vincent Kompany, taking a risk on an inexperienced yet promising candidate in one of the biggest jobs in football.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of FC Bayern. It's a great honour to be able to work for this club — FC Bayern is an institution in international football," said Kompany in a club statement.

"I'm now looking forward to the basics: working with the players, building a team. Once the basis is right, success will follow."

Burnley will reportedly receive £10 million (\$13 million) in compensation for allowing their manager to leave.

"We understand the allure and prestige of a club like Bayern Munich and respect Vincent's ambition to explore new opportunities," Burnley said in a statement.

After a successful playing career where he captained Manchester City and the Belgian national team, Kompany returned to his first club Anderlecht to begin his managerial career.

He moved to Burnley in 2022 and took them to the Premier League as second-division champions, before crashing back to earth over the past 12 months.

Yet, he crucially retained the support of his old coach at City Pep Guardiola, who advised his former club to go for

Kompany due to his leadership qualities and determination to play an attacking brand of football.

"As a coach, you have to stand for what you are as a character," added Kompany. "I love having the ball, being creative — but we also have to be aggressive and courageous on the pitch."

Coaching instability has been a feature at Bayern over the past decade and a half, despite their consistent on-field success.

Guardiola, whose three-year spell in Bavaria ended in 2016, was the last Bayern coach to complete at least two full seasons.

Used to poaching the best talent from their Bundesliga rivals, Bayern were shunned by Alonso, as he decided to take Leverkusen into the Champions League next season.



However, recreating the Spaniard's success in Germany looks to have been on the minds of the Bayern board.

Like Alonso, Kompany is a disciple of Guardiola and speaks German thanks to his spell as a player in Hamburg.

But his transition into coaching has not been as smooth as the Leverkusen boss.

He finished third and fourth in his two full seasons at Anderlecht before

overseeing Burnley's lowest-ever points tally in the English top-flight to finish second bottom of the Premier League this season.

Vincent Kompany, who is the same age as Bayern captain Manuel Neuer, now has a mammoth task ahead of him in reviving Bayern's on-field fortunes, not to mention navigating the club's complex backroom politics, which have derailed more experienced coaches.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds delegation-level talks with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov at Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation including in trade, connectivity

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday resolved to enhance cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, investment, energy and connectivity to exploit the huge potential of the friendly relationship between the two countries. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov met here and discussed the multidimensional bilateral and regional agenda encompassing bilateral and international matters.

Addressing a joint press stakeout, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar told the media

that both countries would further enhance cooperation in trade, investment connectivity, energy and defense sectors. He said the two countries were taking measures to increase bilateral investment, especially in the energy sector. The joint working group on energy would be critical in promoting cooperation in this sector, he added.

He said both countries also desired to promote parliamentary and cultural exchanges to promote business-to-business and academic linkages, besides boosting cooperation in renewable energy.

The deputy prime minister expressed good wishes for Azerbaijan to host the COP 29 meeting and assured Pakistan's support. Both sides held

a detailed discussion on the prevailing situation in Gaza and called for an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities and the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Quds Al Sharif as its capital. Ishaq Dar thanked Azerbaijan for its constant and principled support on the Kashmir issue and reiterated Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told the media that in their meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership to take the bilateral relationship to the next level.

He said the huge potential for economic and trade cooperation still remained

untapped which necessitated the launch of joint economic projects in energy, tourism, transport, information technology, pharmaceuticals and transport.

He told the meeting that the 8th Pakistan-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission to be held in Islamabad later this year would give further impetus to economic cooperation. He invited Pakistan's business community to benefit from the conducive business conditions in his country and connectivity projects.

Mentioning six direct flights between the two countries and the 55,000 Pakistanis visiting Azerbaijan last year, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said the upcoming COP29

meeting would also create opportunities for cooperation in energy and climate change. He also appreciated Pakistan's firm stance along with political and moral support on the Karabakh conflict and reiterated his country's principled position Kashmir dispute calling for its peaceful resolution in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. To a question, he said that realizing the adverse impacts of climate change across the world, including the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan, he said Azerbaijan would make efforts to ensure that the developing countries could get the necessary resources to help promote adaptation and execute technical and capacity building projects.

## PM AJK assuring the AKNS delegation to resolve the problems of the newspaper industry

## Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while assuring the AKNS delegation to resolve the problems of the newspaper industry, has said that the arrears of advertisements would be paid as soon as possible. The AJK premier Haq said this while talking to the members of Newspapers Society's Code of Conduct Committee that called on him here today.

The delegation, led by the Newspapers Society chief Amjad Chaudhry, was comprised of other members of the body including Zaheer Jagwal, Syed Afaq Shah and Sardar Zulfiqar. Whereas, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan was also present on this occasion.



The delegation informed the Prime Minister about the problems faced by the newspaper industry and said that the newspaper industry had suffered badly due to the growing inflation across the coun-

try. The delegation sought the Prime Minister's urgent attention and assistance visa a vis the early payment of the arrears for the greater interests of the media industry. The PM assured the delegation that all

the problems of state newspapers would be solved on priority basis. Prime minister Haq also stressed the need for implementation of the ethical code of practice for the press to maintain professional and

ethical standards of newspapers and news agencies. The PM said that apart from the government advertisements, media industry must focus on private sector to keep the wheel of the industry moving on.

## Ex-PM Khan acquitted in two more cases on May 9

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad district and sessions court acquitted incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan in two more cases related to the May 9 events.

Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir announced the reserved verdicts on the applications for acquittal. The court acquitted the PTI chief due to "insufficient evidence", but he will not be released from prison as he is still serving out his sentences in the cypher and the iddat cases.

Cases were registered against the PTI founder and other party leaders after a violent mob attacked

state buildings and military installations when Khan was arrested in a graft case on May 9.

Rivals of PTI have accused Khan's party of ordering attacks, but the party leaders have called for a judicial inquiry into it.

Lawyers Mirza Asim Baig and Naeem Panjutha had presented arguments in favour of Khan's acquittal.

The court announced reserved judgments on the acquittal applications in two cases registered at the Shahzad Town police station.

On April 2, an Islamabad court acquitted Khan and former federal minister Asad Umar in a case registered at the Margalla police station for organising a rally.

## Pakistan, Kuwait agree for enhancing cooperation in different sectors

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kuwait and Pakistan on Thursday agreed for enhancing mutual cooperation, promotion of bilateral relations and investment. Agreements and memorandums of understanding in the fields of industrial cooperation and engineering were also signed during the meeting of 5th Joint Ministerial Commission, said a press release.

Pakistan also offered Kuwait to invest in the fields of pharmaceutical, engineering and automobiles. A high-level delegation of Pakistan, headed by Minister of Investment Board, Privatization and Communi-

cations Abdul Aleem Khan represented Pakistan in the Joint Ministerial Commission meeting. Addressing the JMC's concluding session, Abdul Aleem Khan announced to appoint a Commercial Counselor of Pakistan in Kuwait. He said that "Visa on Arrival" facility would be started soon in Pakistan for the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries.

Aleem Khan said that the Pakistani delegation also held talks on joint ventures with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce. A consultative meeting was with Kuwait's well-known livestock organization "Al Muashi" in which Pakistan and Kuwait

agreed to encourage export of poultry and other dairy products, he added. Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Omar Saud Al-Omar termed the holding of the 5th Joint Ministerial Commission satisfactory and assured the federal minister of all possible support from Kuwait.

Earlier, Abdul Aleem Khan along with his delegation held a meeting with Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Energy Dr. Mahmood A. M. Bashehri. During the meeting, Aleem Khan said that both Kuwait and Pakistan were facing energy challenges and they could form joint working groups under the SIFC in that regard.

## Acting president for maximum public relief through upcoming budget



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Thursday stressed the need for extending maximum relief to the masses through the upcoming federal budget, and the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to enhance the revenue. The acting president said this in a meeting with Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, who

called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The finance minister briefed the acting president about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming people-friendly budget and the government's measures to reduce inflation. The minister said that a remarkable reduction in the inflation rate manifested the government's constant and undeterred actions by the government.

## Govt importing urea to ensure uninterrupted supply to farmers: Rana Tanveer



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for industries and production and National Food Security

Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that the government will import 200,000 metric ton urea for ensuring uninterrupted supply of urea to farmers.

The federal minister while chairing a high-level committee meeting to review actions taken to ensure fertilizer supply chain and prices in the country.

The committee meeting was attended by federal ministers Sard-

ar Awais Leghari and Mussadaq Malik besides Members of National Assembly Syed Khurshid Shah, Moeen Wattoo, Azhar Khan Leghari, Fatehullah Khan and Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani. Federal Secretary Food Security Muhammad Fakhar-e-Alam and Federal Secretary Industries Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on measures taken regarding the supply chain of fertilizers and its prices. Federal Minister Rana Tanveer emphasized the importance of ensuring urea supply during the upcoming sowing season and informed that 200,000 metric tons of urea is being imported to meet the targets.

The government is committed to stop fertilizer smuggling and ensuring equal distribution of urea at affordable prices. Stringent monitoring will be done of dealers and distributors involved in black marketing.

## Electricity price to climb to Rs100/unit, dollar to reach Rs350, says Omar Ayub

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Omar Ayub Khan, the General Secretary of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, has painted a bleak picture of Pakistan's economic future, predicting a sharp rise in inflation and a decline in the value of the Pakistani Rupee.

Speaking on a news program Rubaroo on Aaj News on Thursday, Khan warned that the Pakistani Rupee could reach 350 against the US dollar within the next few months, and the price of electricity could rise to 100 rupees per unit.

He attributed this dire prediction to a lack of confidence in Pakistan's legal system among investors, citing instances of perceived influence by intelligence agencies on the judiciary. "Investors look for the rule of law. They see the state of our courts and then they say, 'There's too much pressure from intelligence agencies on the judiciary, and they show you letters from judges,'" Khan said.

He also criticized the government's handling of the economy, stating that he has been warning for two years about the rising cost of fuel and electricity. "The price of electricity was 17 rupees per unit two years ago, today it's 85 rupees, and it will go up to 100 rupees. The dollar will reach 350 rupees in the next few months," he predicted.

Khan also forecasted a looming rice crisis in addition to the increasing price of electricity.



In a sarcastic tone, Khan commented on the cases filed against him, including charges of motorcycle theft, theft of an X-ray machine, and murder. He claimed that these charges were absurd, suggesting that he had somehow stolen a motorcycle, attached an X-ray machine to it, and used it to commit crimes across the country.

He also poked fun at the sudden disappearance of former Minister Hammad Azhar, who was seen leaving for Peshawar before the police could reach him. Khan claimed that he had given Azhar his own "F-16 motorcycle" and that Azhar had disappeared with it.

In a lighter vein, Khan expressed his amusement at the actions of the Islamabad Police, who raided the PTI Secretariat while UN officials were present. He said, "They were so smart, they raided while UN officials were there, asking them about the challenges they faced during the elections. Then, to top it off, they searched the cars of UN officials."