

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے عوام میں تقاضا ہے کہ انہوں نے کہا ہم سے ابو ذر سے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: اے جو زبان پر بگڑے ہیں لیکن ترازو پر (آخرت میں) بھاری ہیں اور اللہ رحمن کے یہاں پسندیدہ ہیں وہ یہ ہیں «سبحان اللہ و بحمده سبحان اللہ العظيم»  
(بخاری ص 682)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## In a first, woman jurist Justice Aalia Neelum 'nominated' as LHC top judge

Justice Aalia Neelum has been nominated as the chief justice (CJ) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) in a first event of a woman judge being named for the post, sources said on Tuesday. (Details on Page 5)



## Pakistan's tallest man passes away at 30

Pakistan's tallest man Zia Rasheed on Tuesday passed away after a protracted illness at the age of 30 in Vehari. A large number of people, including influential social and political personalities, attended his funeral prayer. At the age of 15, he had become Pakistan's tallest man. However, he had long been suffering from a disease related to knees, after he suffered a knee pain at 20. Since then, he could not get himself treated properly and neither the government took care of him, Geo News reported.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 26, Wednesday, July 3, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 81

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Guard of honor

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives guard of honour at the Qasr-e-Millat, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# PM, President Emomali vow to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan ties

### Spokesman Report

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on Tuesday expressed satisfaction on the existing fraternal ties and reaffirmed to continue their joint efforts to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan ties.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the existing fraternal ties between the two countries which were based on a shared history, culture, geographical contiguity and common faith.

On the bilateral front, the two leaders discussed the entire range of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan, including trade and

economy, investment, connectivity, culture, education, science & technology, defence, humanitarian assistance, parliamentary exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

The prime minister who is on a two-day official visit to Tajikistan on the invitation of the president of Tajikistan, met the Tajik president.

Earlier, the official welcoming ceremony was held at Qasr e Millat. Upon arrival at Qasr e Millat, the president of Tajikistan received the prime minister, and he was given a guard of honour.

The welcome ceremony was followed by a tete-a-tete meeting and delegation level talks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the talks, the two

leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two leaders signed the 'Strategic Partnership Agreement', which upgrades bilateral relations to the level of a long-term strategic partnership.

The two leaders underlined that the upgradation in bilateral relations would open new vistas of opportunities to further expand multifaceted cooperation.

PM, President Emomali vow to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan ties

To further deepen and diversify bilateral relations, the two sides

signed a number of Agreements/MoUs in the fields of aviation, diplomacy, education, sports, people to people linkages, industrial cooperation, tourism, etc.

The prime minister also apprised the President of Tajikistan about deteriorating situation of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and attempts of the Indian government to change the demographic structure of IIOJK.

Both leaders also expressed their serious concern over the ongoing situation in Gaza where Israeli atrocities have resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians, including women and children.

The two leaders urged the international community to

redouble efforts to end the violence and bring peace in the region.

The visit of the prime minister has reinforced the continuation of regular bilateral engagements at the highest-level and marks a significant step towards elevating the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between the two brotherly countries, to the next level," the press release added.

Earlier in the day, upon arrival at Dushanbe International Airport, Prime Minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzoda warmly received the prime minister.

In a gesture of respect and solidarity, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid a floral wreath at the Ismoili Somoni Statue, the national monument of Tajikistan.

## President Zardari, Bilour discuss national issues



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Ghulam Ahmed Bilour met with President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday to discuss the country's overall political, security, and law and order situation.

Speaking to senior leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, the president emphasized the importance of collaboration

among all political parties to address national issues and achieve political and economic stability.

President Zardari said that consultation and consensus among all political parties on major national issues were indispensable.

Former Railways Minister Bilour congratulated President Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan for the second time.

## Cheema lauds longstanding economic, trade ties between Pakistan & Jordan



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema on Tuesday lauded the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Jordan, emphasizing the potential to increase trade.

Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema and Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Maen Khreasat convened a meeting at the Prime Minister's office to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and education, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The Minister highlighted the significant demand for Pakistani cotton fabric and invited Jordanian businesses to explore opportunities within Pakistan's thriving textile and garment sectors.

Ambassador Khreasat expressed gratitude for the Pakistan Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) scholarships being utilized by Jordanian students and underscored the need to diversify the disciplines offered.

Dr Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, mentioned ongoing consultations to revamp the PTAP policy, including expanding available disciplines, reallocating seats, increasing stipends, and improving living standards for students to ensure comprehensive support.

The meeting also addressed enhancing cooperation in cultural exchange programs, sports, and education.

Ambassador Khreasat highlighted Jordan as an attractive destination for Pakistani investments and referenced existing investment promotion agreements and MoUs with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Concluding the meeting, both parties committed to facilitating the Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting and exploring new cooperation opportunities. They reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening bilateral ties and expanding economic collaboration.

## Khan's arrest internal matter of Pakistan, says law minister after UN panel's report

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The arrest of PTI's founder Imran Khan and pending cases against him were an internal matter of Pakistan, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Tuesday as he reacted to a United Nations panel report on the incarcerated former prime minister's detention.

"As an independent state in Pakistan, the Constitution and prevailing laws are followed by the courts," he was quoted as saying in a statement shared by the PTV News on social media.

Khan's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law, a UN human rights working group said in an opinion issued on Monday, adding the jailed politician should be released immediately.

The Geneva-based UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said that the "appropriate remedy would be



to release Mr. Khan immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law."

The UN working group said Khan's legal woes were part of a "much larger campaign of repression" against him and his Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaf (PTI) party. It said that in the lead up to the 2024 elections, members of Khan's party were arrested and tortured and their rallies were disrupted. It also alleged "widespread fraud on election day, stealing dozens of parliamentary seats."

According to the law minister, the PTI founder was in the jail as a convicted prisoner. "He had all rights as per the Constitution of Pakistan and laws."

## Detention of Imran Khan violates international law, UN working group says

### Reuters

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law, a U. N. human rights working group said in an opinion issued on Monday, adding the jailed politician should be released immediately.

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The Pakistani embassy in Wash-



ington had no immediate comment. Pakistan's election commission denies that the elections were rigged.

Khan has been in jail since last August and was convicted in some cases ahead of a national election in February. He is also fighting dozens of other cases which are continuing. Khan and his party say the charges were politically motivated to thwart his return to power.

In recent months, Pakistani courts have suspended Khan's jail sentences in two cases about the illegal acquisition and sale of state gifts, and also overturned his conviction on charges of leaking state secrets.

However, he has remained in prison due to a conviction in another case in which a trial court ruled that his 2018 marriage was unlawful. Khan also faces a trial under

anti-terrorism charges in connection with violence in May last year.

Khan came to power in 2018 and was ousted in 2022 after falling out with Pakistan's powerful military. He alleged the U. S. and Pakistani military played a role in his ousting through a parliamentary no-confidence vote. Both deny the accusations.

Multiple legal cases were brought against Khan after he was ousted which disqualified him as a candidate in February's election.

Despite not running himself, candidates backed by Khan secured the highest number of seats, but the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) formed a coalition government.

The U. S., Britain and the European Union expressed concern about reported irregularities in the elections and urged a probe while United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern about violence and the suspension of mobile communications services during the elections.

## Ahsan Iqbal felicitate US government on 248th Independence Day

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday felicitated the government of the United States of America on the 248th Independence Day of the United States of America.

On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, "I congratulate the people and government of the United States of America on the 248th Independence Day of the

United States of America " he said this while participating in independence day celebration in US embassy in Islamabad.

He said that the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776 has left deep impressions on human and political history.

The American Declaration of Independence begins with the principle of equality of all men and the basis of human equality is fundamental in all religions, Quranic commands and teachings of Prophet Muhammad, he said.

# Khatme Nabuwat conference held at Poonch

**Bureau Report**

**DHIRKOT:** Speaking at the Katman Nabuwat conference organized by Azad Kashmir Poonch Division at Ringla College ground, the speakers demanded immediate knowledge on the resolution passed by the assembly regarding Muslims and non-Muslims. Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chaudhry Shabbir Usmani, while speaking, said that the belief in the end of Prophethood is a part of our faith, and no one can change it.

Information Minister Maulana Pir Mazhar Saeed, former Senator Hafiz Hamdullah, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan, said that no compromise can be made on the belief of end of Prophethood. Our lives are also sacrificed for the sake of protection of

the end of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The belief of protection of the end of Prophethood is a part of our faith, no one can go back from it. Maulana Imtiaz Abbasi

Tehreek President Maulana Qari Abdul Waheed Qasmi, Spiritual leader and Sajjad Bakot Shareef sahibzada Hussain Ahmed Bakoti Moderator Maulana Jameel Ahmad Jami, Tehreek Spokesman Maulana Hafiz Maqsood Kashmiri, Qadiani Jamaat head Mirza Masroor's foster nephew Neo-Muslim Haji Shamsuddin, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Secretary General Maulana Imtiaz Abbasi. The leader of Shaban Khatman Nabubat Maulana Munir Alvi, Maulana Syed Imran Hamdani, Mufti Yasir Ali Kayani, Maulana Shamsul Arifeen, Maulana Usman Waheed while addressing the

conference said that the members of Azad Kashmir Assembly are lucky that they have accepted the belief of Khatman Nabubat. By guarding the real proof of the love of the Prophet (peace be upon him), Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution 1974 requires further constitutional amendments to protect the belief of the end of Prophethood of Muslims so that the ways of subsidiary legislation can be opened for the protection of the belief today. Fifty-one years ago, the resolution of the End of Prophethood presented by Major Retd. Muhammad Ayub Khan, which was passed by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on April 28, 1973, by implementing its Clauses A and C, gave the Qadianis the status of Azad Kashmir. In the constitution, non-Muslims were

declared and the propagation of Qadianism was also declared as a criminal offense, but according to Clause B of this resolution, neither constitutional amendment nor subsidiary legislation was made to separate the franchise of Qadianis and Muslims. In this regard, the recommendations of the July 2019 meeting held by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Ideological Council, the decision issued by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court PLD 2023 AJK High Court 1 and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly dated 13 October. Clause D of Resolution No. 199 passed in 2020 also provides guidance for the same constitutional amendment and subsidiary legislation, but so far no progress is seen from the government in this direction, which is a matter of concern.

## GCWUF conducts successful self-review of Institutional Performance



**Abdul Majid**

**FAISALABAD:** The Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) conducted a successful Self-Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE) from June 26-28, 2024, organized by the Directorate of Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC). Mr. Muhammad Waseem, Director QEC from the National College of Arts (NCA) Lahore, served as the external evaluator. The internal review panel included Dr. Aasma Khalid, Mr. Asif A. Malik, Mr. Muhammad Tariq Shahzad, Dr. Nausheen Syed, Dr. Sadia Asim, and a Lead Student Representative.

The evaluation focused on sixteen standards across three main categories: Strategic Development, Academic Development, and Institutional Development. The panel reviewed each standard, with focal persons defending their respective areas. A meeting with students provided feedback on lab facilities, course content, teaching, and research, while a faculty session involved discussions on course files and question papers.

The final day included thoroughly inspecting university facilities, such as labs, the Health Unit, sports grounds, library, smart classrooms, the cafeteria, the Psychological Wellness Center, student societies, and hostels.

Mr. Waseem met with department heads, offering academic and infrastructural enhancement recommendations. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazki thanked Mr. Waseem and commended Dr. Aasma Khalid and her team for their efforts. A souvenir was presented to Mr. Waseem as a token of appreciation.

## Joint Public Action Committee staged dharna for their demands

**Bureau Report**



**ABBASPUR:** Public Action Committee Anjuman Tajran Joint Public Action Committee Youth UC Khali Darman Organized a peaceful protest under the leadership of Chairman union council Sardar Junaid Kabeer Khns front of the office of Assistant Commissioner Abbaspur in favor of demands. UC Khali Darman has entered its third day. The people of Khali Darman demand that a doctor, lady doctor and other staff should be appointed in BHU Khali Darman. The building of Government Girls

High School Khali Darman should be constructed soon and staff complete The building of Government Boys High School Namjar should be constructed. The work should be started Khalsa Namjar RCC bridge should be constructed Khalsa Namjar bridge is included in ADP and should be approved and tendered immediately. Aziz Sardar Bilal Latif Zakaria Effendi Sardar Babar Kabir Sardar Yusuf Chaghtai Sardar Shah Zeib Khan Syed Amjad Geelani Khan Liaqat Khan Chaudhry Shafiq Syed Babar Hussain Shah Geelani and other leaders while talking to reporters in the protest sit-in, did they also demand that Abbaspur administration said that until our demands are accepted, our peaceful protest dharna will continue in favor of our demands. He said that the administration has given a time of 15 days. Our peaceful protest will continue for 15 days in favor of our demands. If our demands are not accepted, after 15 days, thousands of people of the four union councils, the people of Town Abbaspur will stage a dharna on the bridge in favor of their demands. They will completely jam the roads of the Council, he demanded from Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu Kashmir and Member Legislative Assembly Azad Jammu Kashmir, former Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi. Should we accept our demands within 15 days and start working on them practically? He said that if our demands are not accepted, then we will start a door-to-door election boycott campaign in all four union councils and will not allow any politician to enter the union council. Kar Khali Darman is treating the people like a step mother and favoring the people he likes, ignoring our Union Council, favoring his personal people on the basis of communalism and other people including our Union Council. He is responsible for the backwardness in the Union Council. All the development funds are being used by Dara Sher Khan. Who wants to take revenge by ignoring more than 15 thousand people in our Union Council? We strongly condemn and strongly demand the Prime Minister to accept our demands immediately and solve the public problems.

Bar Association President Khawaja Asghar Advocate Mian Haleem Advocate Youth leader Bilal Latif Sardar Zakaria Effendi Sardar Naveed Khan Sardar Abdul Hafeez Sardar Mehmood Sardar Shah Jan Arshad Waqar Yusuf and other leaders fully supported the people participating in the sit-in. He assured full support of their demands

## Repairing in progress

**ISLAMABAD:** Workers repairing security cameras at Faizabad Check post in Federal Capital.

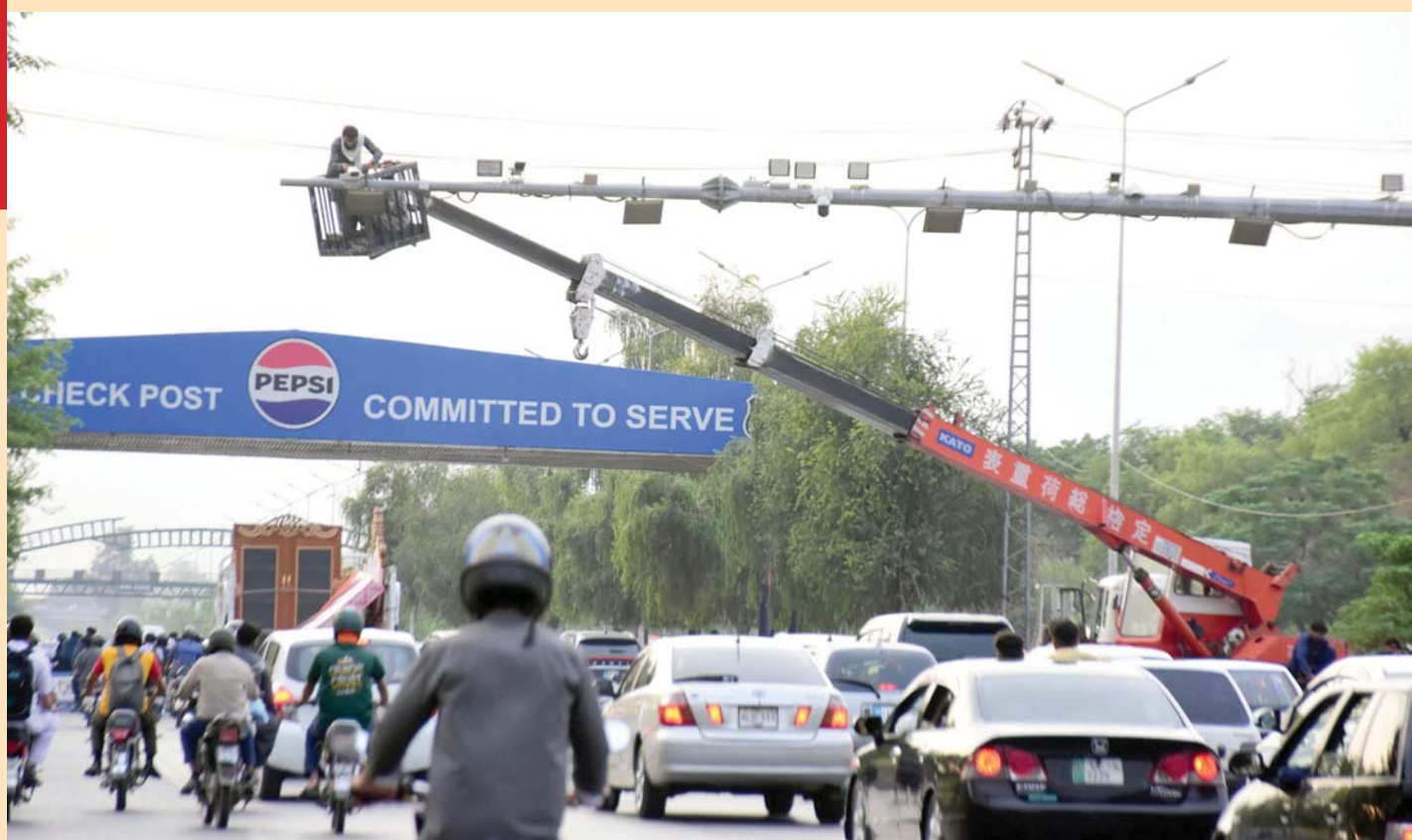


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Multan Crescent Lions Club: Sheikh Zahid elected as President for the year 2024-25

**Asim Tanveer**

**MULTAN:** Multan Crescent Lions Club Monthly meeting was held under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Anwar Sheikh, while Secretary Dr. Basit Ramzan presented a report on the performance of various projects. In the meeting, with the unanimous opinion of the members, Sheikh Muhammad Zahid was elected as the President for the year 2024-25. Professor Azam Hussain Senior Vice President, Sheikh Faheem Sattar Vice President, Zaman Khan General Secretary, Yasir Irshad Dewan Associate Secretary and Usman Khan Treasurer were elected while the newly elected officials were congratulated by the members and presented bouquets of flowers. Ilyas Anwar Sheikh said that the newly elected office bearers will play a full role in promoting the philosophy of LINES movement and making the fruits of social and service projects known



to more people. He said that people who work on human welfare are leaders in this world and the hereafter. The members of Multan Crescent

Lions Club are working day and night for human welfare. Their projects directly have a positive impact on human and social life. Newly elected positions will perform their services in a better and efficient manner, while the newly elected President Sheikh Muhammad Zahid said that the members will try their best to fulfill the responsibility given to us by using their skills for the welfare of society, promotion of fellowship and Lions Club. In the meeting, former District Governor Muhammad Azam Chaudhry, Muhammad Afzal Supra, Chairperson Chaudhry Altaf Shahid, Farrukh Umar Chaudhry, Professor Raza Siddiqui, Sajid Majeed Hashmi, Najam Salam, Chaudhry Zulfikar Ali, Abdul Mohsen Shaheen, Haji Umar Bhatta, Rana Aslam, Imran Khalid, Jam Akhlaq Hussain, Syed Ijaz Shah, Chaudhry Waheed, Dr. Rana Zulfikar Ali, Abdul Jabbar Qurashi, Parvez Ahmad Sulhari, Ahmed Chaghtai, Saeedullah Khan, Ahmad Saeed, Professor Amjad Ramey, Waqas Hafeez, Sheikh Waseem, Iftikhar Nadeem Qadri, and other members participated.

## KEC Expresses Condolences on the Passing of S. M. Fazal

**Bureau Report**



**KARACHI:** Senior legend journalist and esteemed member of the Karachi Editors Club (KEC), S. M. Fazal, passed away on Monday. His Namaz-e-Janaza and funeral were held on Tuesday.

In a condolence meeting of KEC, President of KEC, Mubashir Mir, along with General Secretary Manzar Naqvi, Agha Masood Hussain, Col. (R) Mukhtar Butt, Iqbal Jamil, Khurshed Hyder, Haseena Jatoi, Naem Tahir, Naemuddin, and other members of the Executive Committee, expressed profound sorrow and regret over the loss of their senior colleague.

S. M. Fazal, who was associated with the Jang Group for a considerable period, made invaluable contributions to the field of journalism. His legacy will be remembered and cherished. KEC officials conveyed their heartfelt condolences to S. M. Fazal's family, praying for his soul to rest in eternal peace in Jannah and for strength to be bestowed upon his bereaved family to bear this irreplaceable loss with fortitude. Ameen.

# Teachers' group meets Minister Education, discuss upgradation of teachers

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

**MUZAFFARABAD:** A meeting of the representative delegation of teachers organization, panel heads and district presidents was held under the chairmanship of Minister of Education Schools Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai. In the meeting, Secretary Schools Razaq Ahmed Nadeem, Senior Additional Secretary Schools Syed Saleem Gurdizi, Additional Secretary Education Raja Khalid Saleem, Vice-President Male Syed Talib Hussain Shah, Vice-President Female Tasneem Gul, Director General Research and Curriculum Development Raja Naseer Khan, and Department of Education. Schools were attended by other senior officials besides representatives of teachers' organizations. Under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary Schools Raja Khalid Saleem, a committee was formed to calculate and work on the expenses incurred on the upgradation of teachers. The committee will be bound to send the report to the Minister of Education within 01 month. Later, the summary will be submitted to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for final approval of your graduation. The possible meeting to be held on July 03 was postponed on the assurance of solving the teachers' organization's demand in the meeting. A committee was formed headed by Additional Secretary Schools Raja Khalid Saleem due to the discrepancy in

the estimates made by teachers' organization, education department and finance department on the up-gradation of teachers. The Committee will consist of Administrators (Male/Female), 03 representatives of Teachers Organization and System Engineer Secretary Committee of Nizam EMIS. The committee will calculate and work out the expenditure incurred on the up-gradation of teachers and will be bound to prepare a report by eliminating the discrepancies found between the estimates of the Department of Education, Schools, Finance Department and Teachers' Organization. The committee will be obliged to submit the report to the Minister of Education within 1 month. In

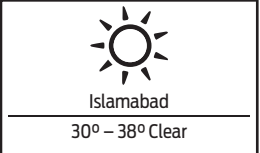
the light of which, while completing the case, it will be sent to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for final approval. Education Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai and Education Secretary Razak Ahmed Nadeem were



thanked by the teachers for their serious steps to solve the problems of the teachers and also announced the postponement of the protest demonstration on July 03. And vowed not to spare any minute for improving the

quality of education. And in a short period of time, the education department also paid tribute to the pending selection board of schools and revolutionary initiatives like education policy. On this, the Minister of Elements

and Secondary Education, Independent Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Dewan Ali Khan Chaghtai also thanked the teachers and representatives and said that a teacher is a civilized person of every society.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:18 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:22 pm
Isha	9:35 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**Dr Abid Suleri appointed as Member to NSPP board of governors**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday appointed Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri as member, Board of Governors of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), Lahore. The Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division issued a notification on the appointments approved under the NSPP Ordinance, 2002.

The newly appointed Board of Governors also included Dr. Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah, and Dr. Ali Hasanain. The National School of Public Policy is the lead institution for training and capacity building of senior ranking civil servants in Pakistan. He is a leading expert on sustainable development, political economy, food security, and climate change. He has served in various national and regional policy-making forums and has represented Pakistan in several official and civil society delegations at the global level. Dr Suleri is currently a member of the Pakistan Climate Change Council, Board of Directors of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Board of Directors of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), and the Government of Punjab's Vice Chancellors' Search Committee for Agricultural Universities.

# SPARC celebrates World Sports Journalist Day, advocates for youth sports and tobacco-free future

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) in collaboration with Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) celebrated World Sports Journalist Day. The purpose is to recognize the efforts of individuals involved in sports journalism and the importance of introducing healthier activities among youth.

programs in Pakistan to empower youth. Given that almost 65% of the population in our country is young people, promoting sports in Pakistan is indeed a crucial step towards fostering a healthy, active and engaged young lot.

Along with encouraging sports activities the government can introduce more ways to earn revenue and such as imposing pending health levy bill (2019) on cigarettes. This will be a Win-Win situation for both, providing better public healthcare and strengthening the national economy.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, said that the tobacco industry targets Pakistani children to promote their businesses. We all must discourage smoking and all related harmful products introduced by the tobacco industry and promote sports events such as today's, so that the future Pakistani children and youth are healthy. The government can eliminate unhealthy choices in its youth by making cigarettes expensive to keep children away from bad habits.

He further said that with

approximately 31.9 million adults aged 15 years and above reported as current tobacco users, constituting nearly 19.7% of the adult population, the dire consequences of tobacco consumption extend far beyond individual health. Over 160,000 deaths are attributed to smoking-related illnesses annually, amounting to a staggering 1.6% of the nation's GDP each year.

Dr. Khalil urged the government to take proactive measures to protect public health and prevent the exploitation of children by the tobacco industry.



## Worst traffic jams

ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# CBD Punjab executes historic land transfer in record 24 hours' worth 6.9 billion PKR

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has successfully completed the fastest land transfer in its history, closing a transaction worth 6.9 billion PKR for plots Lahore Prime 4 & 5. Taxes deposited for this transfer exceeded 310 million PKR to the government treasury through the Board of Revenue (BOR), marking the largest plot transfer at auction price in Punjab.

CBD Punjab has committed to providing a one-window operation for its investors, simplifying processes and ensuring a hassle-free experience. Demonstrating this commitment, CBD Punjab recently completed the transfer of ownership for two amalgamated plots in Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District to the Pakistan Corporate Consortium (PCC) following their full



payment. PCC emerged victorious in the competitive auction for these plots, marking a significant milestone in their investment journey.

Commenting on the swift transfer process, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin said, "This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to providing our investors with the best possible experience.

At CBD Punjab, we believe in creating an environment where investors can thrive and contribute to the economic development of the region. Our one-window operation is designed to make the process as smooth and efficient as possible, and we are proud to see it in action."

With the land transfer completed, the next phase

of development is set to commence. CBD Punjab will provide full support in building design and other formalities required for the construction of its first skyscraper. This landmark project is expected to set new standards in urban development and further reinforce CBD Punjab's position as a premier investment destination.

## Pak-Iran ties can be strengthened through educational, cultural cooperation: Chairman HEC

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The opening session of the Second International Conference on "Iran-Pakistan Academic-Cultural Dialogue" took place yesterday. The conference is organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, presided over the inaugural session. Vice Chancellors from 6 universities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their delegations are participating, led by Vice Chancellor, University of Religions and Denominations, Prof. Dr. Seyyed Abolhasan Navvab. The conference aims to foster cultural and academic partnerships, enhance relations in education and research, promote the languages of both countries, educate the new generation about the importance of cultural and historical ties between the two neighboring countries, and encourage academic dialogue among scholars from both countries. The conference will span two days and include various sessions.

Chairman of HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad expressed that Iran has been the guardian of knowledge, culture, and cultural heritage for centuries. He emphasized the need for Pakistan and Iran to learn from each other's experiences as neighbouring countries. Dr. Mukhtar highlighted the importance of Muslim countries setting aside their mutual differences and uniting to address common problems. He also stressed that Iran-Pakistan relations can be further strengthened through educational and cultural cooperation.

The head of the Iranian delegation, Prof. Dr. Seyyed Abolhasan Navvab, addressed the conference, expressing his pleasure in visiting Pakistan and Allama Iqbal Open University. He emphasized the shared values between Iran and Pakistan, highlighting the importance of cooperation in education, culture, knowledge, economy, and science.

Vice-Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while delivering the welcome note, said that during a conference at Irani University this year, significant progress was made in fostering collaboration in various departments. As a result, the Iqbal Chair was established at the University of Religions and Denomination in Iran, the Urdu department was founded at the University of Qom, and a Persian language course was started at the Allama Iqbal Open University.

## Customs forces recovered smuggle foreign goods worth over Rs 436.7 million

**Kiran Asim**



MULTAN: Customs Multan Attempts to smuggle foreign goods worth more than Rs 436.7 million were foiled and confiscated at Multan International Airport (303 operations). The Collectorate of Customs, Multan has revealed the highest number of iPhone and mobile phone smuggling attempts at Multan International Airport during the year, the valuable mobile phones seized are worth Rs 28.50 crore. Attempts to smuggle foreign liquor were thwarted and liquor worth about Rs. 1.5 crore was seized. Cigarettes of different brands worth Rs 10 crore 25 lakh were also seized. During one year, foreign currency worth Rs 280 lakh and narcotic drugs worth crores of rupees were also seized. During the financial year 2023-24, 23 persons were detained and legal action was taken against them and 19 cases were also registered this year. Also, in the current financial year, the Collectorate of Customs, Multan achieved all its targets for customs duties and other taxes three days before the end of the financial year. In this regard, Collector Customs (Multan) Mr. Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari appreciated the excellent performance of the team of Deputy Collector Maryam Jameela and also acknowledged the professional skills of Additional Collector Customs (Multan) Mr. Shah Faisal Sahoo. Instructed to work with hard work and dedication in 2024-25.

# OGDCL Collaborates with NCSW for Women Empowerment and Growth

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has partnered with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) to empower women and foster their growth within the company.

Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL, and Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson of NCSW, on Tuesday, signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to formalize this collaboration. The LoI signing ceremony was held at the OGDCL Head Office in Islamabad. This strategic partnership underscores OGDCL's commitment to recognizing and honoring the invaluable contributions of women within its operations.

Earlier this year, OGDCL unveiled its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



(DEI) Policy to foster a more inclusive workplace culture. The collaboration between OGDCL and NCSW is poised to set a new standard for

gender inclusivity and empowerment in Pakistan's corporate landscape. OGDCL is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion,

ensuring a workplace where every individual, regardless of gender and background, feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

## Columnist Baig Raj will address the Pakistani community in Sydney

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: Renowned columnist and analyst Mr. Baig Raj will arrive in Sydney from Melbourne on July 5, where events have been organised in his honor. The dinner ceremony has been arranged by renowned travel writer and columnist Tariq Mahmood Mirza and Akhtar Ali Mughal, President of Bazme-Adab o Fun Australia. The Consul General of Pakistan, Mr. Qamar Zaman, will attend the ceremony as president, along with prominent figures from the Pakistani community. Heads of leading overseas Pakistani organisations, including the Pakistan Australia Friendship Society and the Pakistan Mission International, will also participate. On July 6, Baig Raj will attend "Sham e Gazal" a poetry evening, as a special guest at the Community Hall.

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# Mass Surveillance a comparative study...

**C**ivilized countries uphold the basic rights of their citizens above all other considerations. The constitutions and laws of these countries ensure that all public services and government institutions operate strictly within legal boundaries, serving the people who are the ultimate paymasters for all state institutions and their functionaries, from the President down to the peon.

Even countries that profess socialism have realized that their source of power lies in their citizens' ability to generate wealth. This wealth creation is only possible when the entire government machinery is holistically, ideologically, and administratively focused on creating enabling conditions for their people to realize their full potential. By creating wealth and paying taxes, citizens make the government wealthy, which in turn uses this wealth to further empower the people and leverage resources from other countries to fuel their growing and prospering economies.

In contrast, countries like ours often operate oppositely. Government officials, who enjoy powers, perks, and privileges because of the hard-earned wealth of individuals from peons to chief executives of multinational companies, often fail to honor and uphold the dignity, privacy, and private lives of these citizens. Instead, they treat them disrespectfully and violate their basic human rights, guaranteed by the constitution, with total impunity. This disregard for citizens' rights undermines the fundamental principles of governance and erodes public trust in state institutions.

In civilized countries, the right to privacy and protection from unlawful surveillance is a cornerstone of democratic values and human rights. Governments in these nations are bound by stringent legal frameworks and oversight mechanisms to ensure that any surveillance activities are conducted lawfully, transparently, and with respect for individual freedoms.

However in extreme exigencies the intelligence agencies need surveillance of

their own or citizens of the foreign countries, they do so after following stringent legal procedures to obtain permission. In the United States, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the USA PATRIOT Act require agencies to seek warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) or a federal judge, with oversight from congressional committees and the Department of Justice.

In the United Kingdom, the Investigatory Powers Act mandates that surveillance warrants be authorized by a Judicial Commissioner and a Secretary of State, overseen by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO).

European Union member states adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), requiring national court approvals and oversight from bodies like the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS).

For example, Germany's Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) requires G10 Commission approval, and France's intelligence activities are overseen by the Commission Nationale de Contrôle des Techniques de Renseignement (CNCTR). In contrast, China's National Intelligence Law and Cybersecurity Law allow the Ministry of State Security (MSS) to conduct surveillance with administrative approval and limited transparency, emphasizing state security.

Each approach reflects the country's balance between security and privacy and the extent of judicial and public oversight to prevent abuse. In Pakistan, the legal framework governing the surveillance of citizens by intelligence agencies includes several key laws and regulations. Article 14 of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the inviolability of the dignity of man and,

subject to law, the privacy of home. It provides a constitutional safeguard against unlawful interference in an individual's private life. Section 54 of Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 allows interception of communications only if authorized by the federal government for national security or emergency purposes, following prescribed procedures. Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013 requires a warrant issued by a High Court judge, based on reasonable grounds related to terrorism, espionage, or serious crime. It also emphasizes the need for judicial oversight to ensure surveillance activities are lawful and not arbitrary. Section 39 of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act

(PECA), 2016 permits the retention, acquisition, and disclosure of traffic data by service providers for up to one year under specific conditions read with Section 29 permitting the retention, acquisition, and disclosure of traffic data by service providers for up to one year, subject to production of a warrant issued by the court.

Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects individuals from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home, or correspondence and ensures the right to legal protection against such interference.

But in total disregard to the laws of the country, international law and best practices, the high court declared that the intelligence agencies of the country in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and telecom companies, were reportedly engaged in unauthorized mass surveillance of over 400,000 citizens without proper legal authorization or judicial oversight.

The most serious aspect of the judgment is the word "mass surveillance" which is a far more serious crime than individual surveillance if done without following a

lawful procedure. It involves monitoring large segments of society indiscriminately, infringing on the privacy rights of many innocent individuals and creating a pervasive sense of being constantly watched. This can lead to self-censorship, stifling free expression and personal freedoms. Additionally, mass surveillance provides extensive data that can be misused for political, social, or economic control, increasing the risk of data breaches and unauthorized use of personal information. It undermines democratic value, violates constitutional and human rights on a large scale, posing significant ethical dilemmas by treating all citizens as potential suspects without due cause.

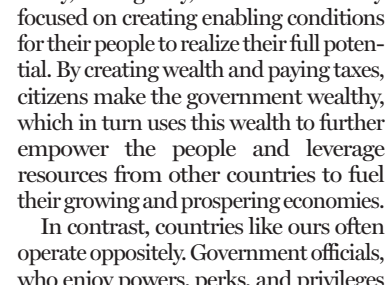
The impugned judgment has significant implications for upholding the privacy rights of citizens and the democratic and constitutional process in Pakistan. It mandates enhanced accountability and transparency by requiring the federal government, specifically Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and cabinet members, to report on the legal framework and implementation of the surveillance system, ensuring compliance with legal boundaries and constitutional provisions.

By demanding detailed reports from the PTA and telecom companies, the judgment emphasizes judicial oversight to prevent unauthorized surveillance and protect citizens' privacy under Article 14 of the Constitution.

Holding top officials responsible for mass surveillance promotes accountability, strengthens the rule of law, and prevents abuse of power, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the democratic process.

This proactive judicial stance enhances public confidence in the judiciary and may prompt legislative and policy reforms to create clearer, more robust laws balancing national security needs with individual privacy rights, reinforcing the democratic fabric of the country.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## CAIR calls on US to act on new reports of Israeli torture of Palestinian detainees

**T**he Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a prominent Washington-based Muslim advocacy organization, Monday called on the Biden administration to take action following new reports of Israeli torture of Palestinian detainees.

Upon his release on Monday—without any charges—from Israeli detention, Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital Director Muhammad Abu Salmiya reported that Palestinians in Israel's prisons were facing daily abuse.

"There was almost daily torture. Cells are broken into and prisoners are beaten. Several inmates died in interrogation centers and were deprived of food and medicine," Abu Salmiya said.

He said even medical staff were responsible for abuse and neglect, with some detainees' limbs amputated due to poor medical care. He said detainees survived on nothing but bread for two months.

A lawyer, who visited one Israeli detention center, said the "situation there is more horrific than anything we've heard about Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo".

CNN and the New York Times have reported on rape and sexual assault at the same detention center.

Last month, CAIR said it made a similar demand after growing reports of the systematic torture of Palestinian detainees by Israeli forces after a Palestinian journalist from Gaza described the torture, abuse and rape that he and other detainees were subjected to at an Israeli detention camp.

"The Biden administration must take concrete action to end the widely-reported torture and abuse of thousands of Palestinian detainees being held by the genocidal Israeli government. These ongoing human rights abuses are made possible by the Biden administration's complicity in the Israeli genocide and by decades of systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian people. Both the torture and the dehumanization must end."

On Sunday, CAIR condemned both newly-revealed Israeli use of Palestinian civilians as "human shields" and recorded remarks by a top Israeli official calling for the summary execution or starvation of Palestinian prisoners.

In video aired exclusively by Al-Jazeera, Palestinian prisoners were shown being forced to search homes for bombs or tunnels, and while Israeli troops sought protection from being fired on, they forced handcuffed and nearly-naked prisoners to search buildings.

Over the weekend, CAIR's New York chapter said a false claim by the far-right Israeli government's new consul general that New York is under threat of "Muslim occupation" would likely lead to more hate crimes targeting ordinary Muslims and Arab-Americans.

Last week, CAIR condemned Israel's blocking of Palestinian mothers from accompanying their children who left Gaza to Egypt for cancer treatment.



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

## Public Questions Regarding a New Emerging Political Organization

**T**he formation and dissolution of political parties have been a regular occurrence in Pakistan's political history. Since the inception of Pakistan, political parties have come and gone. Even today, there are hundreds of registered and unregistered political parties in the country, most of which were formed according to the needs and circumstances of the time. Recent examples include "Istehkam-e-Pakistan" and "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentary," which failed in their political agendas. The purpose of these parties was to weaken the public strength of a major political party.

Looking at Pakistan's political history, most political parties were created either to weaken a rival party or to counter its influence. Even the history of the three major political parties currently in the public eye is similar.

In the current scenario, there is much talk about the formation of a new political party by former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail. This party is expected to be called "Awam Pakistan." The crucial question is

whether this party, like many others in the past, has been formed out of necessity, or if it is genuinely based on a specific ideology.

In Pakistan's history, the establishment has often played a significant role in the formation and dissolution of political parties. Temporary blocs created under ad-hoc policies lose their significance once their need is fulfilled. Now, with two prominent figures forming a new political party, a general question among the public is whether this new party will possess a genuine ideology or continue the old traditions.

Another question in people's minds is whether this party is being created to attract the followers of Imran Khan, who support him for his vision of a progressive and corruption-free Pakistan, or if it is genuinely based on a real ideology. The answer to this question depends on the political preferences and trends among the people of Pakistan.

Given the history of political parties in Pakistan, it can be said that most parties were created out of necessity and lost their significance over time. Conversely, a party based on a true ideology focused on public

service and the country's development can gain public acceptance.

In the current political environment, there is a desire for change among the public, evident from the popularity of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which garnered support under the banner of a corruption-free and progressive Pakistan. If the new party is truly progressive, corruption-free, and based on public service, it could have a bright future.

Nonetheless, to emerge as a major party, the new political party must establish its genuine and lasting identity. It will need to address public issues, ensure transparency, and take practical steps for the country's development. The people of Pakistan are ready to prioritize a genuinely progressive political party if it remains true to its promises and takes concrete actions.

In the coming times, it will be essential to observe whether "Awam Pakistan" remains committed to its ideology and manifesto or turns out to be a product of necessity like many in the past. To gain public trust and support, it will need to focus on consistency, transparency, and the ideology of public service. If the party considers all these aspects, the people of Pakistan might prioritize it politically.

*Writer is student at University of Sargodha.*

Analysis



M Azam Tariq

## AI & Pakistan's Flawed Judicial System-II

**I**t helps them to find relevant precedents, make sound decisions and ensure consistency in rulings. As a result, the knowledge, skills, understanding and research capabilities of the professionals will be refined and enhanced.

Additionally, the Alternative Dispute Resolution legislative framework of Pakistan is faced with multiple challenges. It has been suffering from case backlog and non-availability of ADR oriented infrastructure and human resources. It is informal and traditional in nature. Interestingly, AI has capacity to improve the ADR methods like mediation, arbitration and mini-trials. It has ability to evaluate the nature of disputes and suggest fair settlements. Thus the burden on courts can be reduced in true sprits.

Sadly, the legal system of Pakistan is experiencing poor documentation management system. It is lacking track and tracing mechanism. The record rooms and branches of the court are based on manual methods for record-keeping. These are heavily burdened. There is no mechanism to preserve the documents and other evidences in times of natural calamities. Individuals are unable to easily access the required documents. Undeniably, steps have been taken towards digitalization but these are insufficient and insignificant. However, AI tools can result in better case prioritization, assigning cases to judges, scheduling hearings, managing court calendars and allocating resources. Thus, timely and effective justice delivery is ensured to all and sundry.

Furthermore, many people have lost faith and confidence in the judicial system of Pakistan because of unnecessary delays, widespread biases, poor perfor-

mance and lack of transparency and accountability. Conversely, AI can track the progress of the cases and make court proceedings transparent. It helps to identify biases, analyze data objectively, monitor judicial performance, and ensure accountability. This is how public trust can be increased through AI.

AI can be vital to strengthen cyber security and data protection in the judicial system of Pakistan. It can protect sensitive judicial data from cyber attacks. It ensures secure storage and prevents unauthorized access. It can monitor suspicious activities and identify malware and vulnerabilities. It is crucial for safeguarding integrity of the legal proceedings.

The crux of the matter is that AI has potential to radically transform the legal system of Pakistan. It can improve efficiency, decision-making process, transparency, and access to justice. It is supportive to deliver timely justice, empowers the parties, and fosters a sense of belongingness. Indubitably, there are legal, ethical, and technical challenges in implementing the AI in judicial system of Pakistan. Immense care and seriousness is required while incorporating it. Indeed, legal decision-making and justice administration require the unique human qualities like empathy, ethical reasoning, motivation and public trust. However, AI cannot replace the human judges in foreseeable future but it can work as supportive tool in the judiciary for fair, accountable and trustworthy legal system.

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Analysis



Zahid Karim

# Russia & Central Asia Connectivity To Karachi Port

Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev called on Abdul Aleem Khan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan was called on by Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev in which matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. In this meeting, detailed discussions were held on road connectivity between Russia and Pakistan which could greatly increase trade and cargo activities between both countries.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, while talking to the Ambassador of Russia, Albert P. Khorev, said that Pakistan is keen to connect Russia through Central Asian countries and back to Karachi Port for the promotion of bilateral trade which would also help other countries on the way to boost their commerce activities. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said



that Pakistan gives importance to trade relations with Russia as it is very much important from economic and geographical point of view, because Russia has great significance in the region. Federal Minister further said that Central Asian countries and South Asia are also equally important for trade activities for which Pakistan

is ready to invite investment from these countries. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also informed the Ambassador of Russia, Albert P. Khorev about his recent visit to Central Asia. In the meeting, they also discussed in detail the promotion of bilateral trade and creating an effective mechanism for investment matters on both sides while

they agreed upon in principle on maximum points as well.

In the meeting, Ambassador of Russia in Pakistan Albert P. Khorev in his conversation said that Russia also attaches great importance to trade and economic relations with Pakistan and we are willing to provide financial and technical support to this country in

various projects. He said that the road network of China, Pakistan and Central Asian countries in the region of special importance, while Russia also wants to establish road connectivity to Pakistan through Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan as a trade corridor. Ambassador Albert P. Khorev said that in the current situation, Pakistan has a central position in terms of trade in the region, while Russia wants to work with Pakistan as a "strategic partner". In the meeting between the Federal Minister and the Russian Ambassador, the possibilities regarding bilateral flight operation from Islamabad and Karachi to Moscow were also discussed. Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud was also present in the meeting who briefed the distinguished Ambassador on Government policies and working of the Department of Communications on road network through China, Afghanistan, Central Asia and other countries.

## Minister Shaheen meets with the Italian Consul General

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates received Dr. Farsin Aghabekian Shaheen, today at the Ministry's headquarters, the Italian Consul General, Mr. Domenico Pilato, where she warned of the danger of the new Israeli decisions to legitimize new settlement outposts in Area B in the West Bank under Palestinian civil control, stressing the need for the international community to put pressure on Israel and hold it accountable. Since settlements are illegal according to international law, she stressed that these steps would undermine the two-state solution.

Minister Shaheen appreciated the efforts of the Italian government in providing humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and reviewed the tragic situation that our people are experiencing in the Strip with the continuation of the war of genocide, starvation, and forced displacement, stressing the need to take effective and serious steps to stop the fire, open all crossings, and allow humanitarian aid to enter.

For his part, Mr. Pilato stressed his country's position in support of the efforts made in international forums and the European Union to reach a radical political solution that supports and implements the two-state solution. He also pointed out Italy's continued provision of humanitarian aid, including through the (Food For Gaza) initiative.

Mr. Pilato also expressed his continued efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

# OICCI Members Positively Impact 40m People Across Pakistan Through Their CSR Initiatives

Commerce desk

KARACHI: Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry's member companies have invested Rs 13 billion in 2022-2023 in local communities, positively impacting 40 million individuals across the country.

In collaboration with over 290 social sector organisations, the OICCI members have extended their CSR initiatives to all the four provinces of Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, to build a legacy that transcends profits and inspires progressive change in Pakistan.

The Overseas Investors

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI)'s 2023 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report has highlighted the profound impact of over 210 foreign investors who are not just pursuing profits but are actively enhancing lives across Pakistan, aligning their efforts with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Commenting on the CSR initiative, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh said, "True leadership in business is measured not only by financial success but by the positive impact one makes on the society.

Our commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility reflects the

belief that sustainable business success and social good are inseparable.

The report details that OICCI members have been particularly active in education and skill development, responding to the crisis highlighted by UNICEF which states that around 23 million Pakistani children aged five to 16 are not in school—the world's second highest figure. Ahmad Zahid Zaheer, member of the OICCI management committee, highlighted that "In 2023 alone, our members contributed Rs2.3 billion towards SDG 4, supporting education and skill development for vulnerable children in collaboration with organi-



sations such as The Citizen Foundation, Akhuwat Foundation, STEM Pakistan, SOS Village, and public sector schools".

OICCI CE/Secretary General M Abdul Aleem, expressing grati-

tude towards members of OICCI, stated, "Our members have also been exemplary in their support for access to affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) with a contribution of Rs2.2 billion, decent work

and economic growth (SDG 8) with Rs2.6 billion, and Rs2.1 billion contribution towards improving the life on land (SDG 15)."

These funds supported a variety of key activities, including the provision of solar panels to farmers and flood-affected communities, vocational training, tree planting, and effective waste management skills.

"The OICCI CSR 2023 Report not only showcases the financial commitment of MNCs in Pakistan but also their role in driving positive social change and sustainable growth throughout the country," Aleem concluded.

The OICCI is the collective

voice of major foreign investors in Pakistan, with over 200 members, from more than 30 countries. OICCI members contribute over one-third of Pakistan's total tax revenue and are involved in 14 sectors of the economy. They facilitate the transfer of technology and skills and provide employment to a significant number of people. About a third of OICCI member companies are listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, and many are associates of Global Fortune 500 companies. OICCI members also engage in corporate social responsibility activities benefiting 46 million persons from underprivileged communities.

# Sixth Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Belarus

Spokesman Report

The Sixth Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Belarus was held in Islamabad today. Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistani side, while the Belarusian side was headed by the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Lukashevich.

The two sides reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations covering political relations, high-level engagement and dialogue, trade and investment, military and security cooperation, education, and people-to-people contacts. Expressing satisfaction at the trajectory of Pakistan-Belarus relations, they agreed to enhance cooperation in all issues of mutual interest. The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation at multilateral forums, including at the United Nations, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Ambassador Sergei Lukashevich also called on Foreign Secre-



tary, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi. Bilateral areas of cooperation and important regional and global developments were discussed.

The Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expand and diversify mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two countries are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

# Lahore High Court to get first female chief justice

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan unanimously on Tuesday nominated Justice Aalia Neelum as the Lahore High Court chief justice, making her the first female judge for the post.

This historic development marks the first time that the selection of an LHC chief justice has been made through a voting process among three judges.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan

was the senior puisne judge in the high court while Justice Neelum was third in the seniority list after the elevation of incumbent LHC CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan to the Supreme Court.

Born in 1966 in Lahore, Justice Neelum obtained her law degree from the Punjab University Law College in 1995 and has additional legal diplomas to her credit. She started her legal practice as an advocate in

1996, becoming a high court lawyer in 1998 and a Supreme Court lawyer in 2008. Justice Neelum has practised in various fields of law, including constitutional, civil, criminal, and terrorism cases.

She was appointed as an ad-hoc judge of the Lahore High Court in 2013 and became a permanent judge in 2015. She has also issued standard operating procedures for recording witness testimony through video links.

## FBR imposes regulatory duty on 657 luxury goods, over 2,000 items to get new customs duty

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced a significant increase in customs duties on a wide range of imported goods, effective July 1, 2024. This move aims to generate additional revenue for the government and potentially curb the import of luxury and non-essential items.

The most notable change is the imposition of a 2% additional customs duty (ACD) on over 2,200 items, including components for the assembly of vehicles, tractors, and other machinery.

This ACD applies to goods previously subject to zero percent duty. Additionally, the FBR has levied regulatory duties (RD) ranging from 5% to 55% on 657 luxury and non-essential items.

## SECP issues Consultation Paper on Certifications of Financial Sector Professionals

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) issued a concept paper titled "Consultation on Mandatory Certifications and Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements in Financial Services". The paper proposes consolidation of all certification requirements across SECP regulated sectors with the introduction of a comprehensive regulatory framework for training and regulating financial services

professionals. The concept paper has been made available on the SECP website for soliciting public feedback.

Earlier in 2009, the SECP adopted a mandatory certificate model to enhance the professional competence of financial services professionals and specified the functions and positions in the regulated sector that were required to obtain certifications. In that context, the Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP) introduced relevant certifications.

## Bushra Bibi gets bail in graft case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An accountability court in Islamabad granted interim bail on Tuesday to Bushra Bibi, the wife of former prime minister Imran Khan, in a graft case.

Judge Muhammad Ali Warraich heard the former first lady's pre-arrest bail application in the £190 million case at the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi.

Khan, in jail since last August, was convicted in some cases ahead of February's general election, but a UN human rights working group said on Monday his arbitrary imprisonment

violated international law. Both Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, deny wrongdoing in the case against them regarding the alleged receipt of financial help from a land developer in setting up an educational institution.

At the hearing, Deputy Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi contended that Bibi's arrest was not required and the National Accountability Bureau chairman did not issue her warrants.

The bail application was ineffective since the arrest warrants were not issued, he said and added that they had

the same stance 10 months ago.

The court adjourned further hearing of the case till July 5.

The defence counsel completed the cross-examination of three prosecution witnesses. In total, the cross-examination of 27 witnesses in the reference has been completed.

However, his spouse will stay in prison as she is also serving a sentence after her marriage to Khan was ruled unlawful.

Khan and his party say the charges were politically motivated to thwart his return to power.

## PM wants expansion of...

Continued from Page 8

holding delegation level meetings in which they discussed to explore trade and investment opportunities.

He said Pakistan would be keen to be a part of China, Tajikistan and Afghanistan trade corridor project, adding 'it would be another opportunity to broaden the multilateral trade' in the region.

He also expressed the confidence that the CASA 1000, would be completed next year bringing prosperity in this region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also referred to another MoU pertaining to relaxation of visas requirements and said that it would be very helpful for both countries in further achieving their goals.

The prime minister said the two brotherly countries had been the victims of terrorism; Pakistan faced this menace for years and paid a huge price in terms of human lives and of course, suffered from colossal economic losses to the tune of billions of dollars.

Thousands of people from all walks of life laid down their lives to defeat the menace of

terrorism, he said, adding the armed forces of Pakistan had been fighting this menace and its officers and Jawans gave huge sacrifices in the line of duty, besides police and other law enforcement agencies personnel also rendered huge sacrifices.

Terming it 'a story of huge sacrifices', the prime minister regretted that unfortunately, it had resurged but it would be suffice to say that they had absolutely resolved to defeat this menace again with collective efforts.

The prime minister also offered cooperation to Tajikistan in this regard and said the two countries could fight this menace collectively wherever it existed and in any shape.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that peace was imperative for progress and prosperity of the region as it was directly linked with the development of the region.

The prime minister said today, the world was facing different challenges, the war in Ukraine, and genocide in Gaza in which almost 40,000 Palestinians had lost their lives including children and mothers had been martyred.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
79,552.88	78,824.33	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,740.35	78,978.54	
Index Value	Change	
11,761,010,241	+728.55	
Percentage	Time	
+0.92%	2 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,121.20	-45.56	
Percentage	Time	
-0.56%	2 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,146.13	-23.39	
Percentage	Time	
-0.060%	2 Jul, 1:11 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
40,074.69	+443.63	
Percentage	Time	
+1.12%	2 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.22	748.22
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	294.3	297.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.63	35.98
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	907.71	916.71
Malaysian Ringgit	58.99	59.59
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.1	73.9
Singapore Dollar	202	204
Swedish Korona	26.27	26.57
Swiss Franc	309.01	311.51
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	74.95	75.75
UK Pound Sterling	349.5	350.75
US Dollar	277.7	280.55

# Pakistan, Azerbaijan commit to enhanced bilateral trade, economic cooperation

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. Samir Sharifov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office.

The high-profile meeting was attended by Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Federal Secretary for Commerce Ahsan Ali Mangi, and other senior officials.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Pakistani government's dedication to forging robust economic relations with other nations. He emphasized that, over the past three months, the government has made significant strides in enhancing diplomatic and economic ties, achieving notable developments.

"Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Azerbaijan. We must continue to advance our cooperation in various sectors including tourism, transport, energy security, and defense, though this requires additional efforts," said Minister Jam.

He also urged the need for an early conclusion



of Preferential Trade Agreement and Bilateral Transit Trade Agreement.

Deputy Minister Sharifov conveyed Azerbaijan's readiness for closer cooperation with Pakistan across all fields of mutual interest.

He apprised that the President of Azerbaijan plans to visit Pakistan soon, during which several MoUs are expected to be signed.

Minister Jam also proposed to hold B2B meetings which may either in Pakistan or in Azer-

baijan. Both sides agreed on the necessity of a long-term and practical mechanism to enhance monitor

bilateral trade and cooperation to suggest ways forward to achieve the desired aim.

Sharifov highlighted the ease of travel between the two countries, noting that Azerbaijan received 55,000 Pakistani visitors last year due to its favorable visa policy.

He also mentioned that Azerbaijan is the first Central Asian country to initiate direct flights to Pakistan, facilitating greater connectivity.

Minister Khan invited Azerbaijani businesses to invest in Pakistan, citing the country's cost-effective labor market as a significant advantage.

He pointed out Saudi Arabia and China investments in Pakistan encouraging Azerbaijani investors to seize the opportunities available in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing a strong commitment to deepening economic and diplomatic relations, setting the stage for a new era of cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

## Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: A group photo on the occasion of meeting with President FPCCI Atif Sheikh Ikram Presenting shield to chairman British Pakistani Foundation Khurshid Ahmed Hashmi along with Vice President FPCCI Tariq Khan Jadaun Executive Committee Member FPCCI Mohammad Badar Haroon Chairman Tourism and Hospitality Committee RCSTSI Rauf Raja at FPCCI Capital Office.



## Government should reduce its expenses and give relief to people and entrepreneurs: President FPCCI



Not globally competitive, these will increase further, which will put us out of the competitive race in the region.

Federation President Atif Ikram said that the stakeholders were not taken into confidence in the budgeting process. As a representative of the business community, I appeal to the government to revisit the budget due to the excessive taxes. In the current budget, tax payers have been burdened with billions of rupees, businesses will be affected after electricity and gas become expensive. Opportunities are running out for entrepreneurs burdened by taxes. The government should reduce its expenditure and give relief to the people and businessmen.

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that we request the government to revise the budget, after the presentation of the budget, the difficulties of the export sector have increased. Electricity and gas rates have already increased.

## Deserving traders to get residential plots on competitive price, easy instalments: ICCI President

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the business community is wholeheartedly determined to serve the country by making it an economic hub and investment friendly destination and that ICCI on its part will continue to play the role of a bridge between the community and the government to foster business development.

He said this while addressing the Presidents of different Traders Welfare Associations of Islamabad who called on him at the Chamber House.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that during his election campaign he announced that he will get launched a Housing Scheme for the deserving traders to enable them to have their own accommodations in the capital and that now the



time has come to fulfil this dream of the community and on the matter all the spade work has been completed with a renowned business group of the capital city which will not only provide residential plots on 25% discount but receive the payments on easy instalments. Former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari said that a viable and comprehensive strategy has been evolved to go into the forthcoming ICCI election. He underlined the need for strengthening unity in the ranks of the community for the resolution of its problems on

priority basis and for the availability of the level playing field for the development of the businesses.

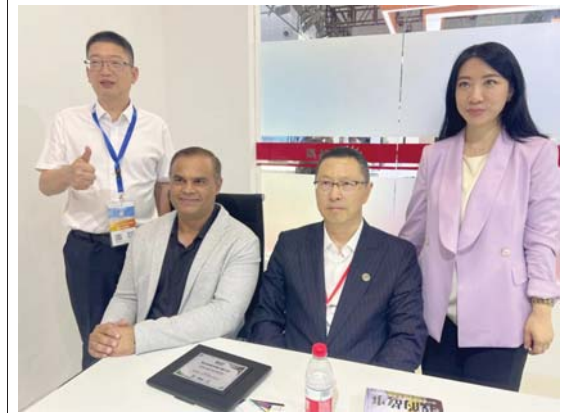
The participants by appreciating the performance of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as President ICCI not only reposed their confidence in him but also pledged to stand with him in all the circumstances and in all his future endeavors for the economic wellbeing of the community.

In his address former President FPCCI Zubair Ahmad Malik extended congratulations to Ahsan Zafar Bakht-

awari and his team for the successful conduct of the All Pakistan Chambers President Conference.

Yousuf Rajput, Group leader Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar President Blue Area, Asad Aziz President Jinnah Super Market, Raja Javaid Iqbal, President G/9 markaz, Iftikhar Abbasi, President E-11 markaz, Naeem Akhtar Awan President G-11 markaz, Kashif Chaudhry President I-10 markaz, Nasir Chaudhry President G-8/1, Raja Fayyaz Gul President I-8 markaz, Ahmad Khan President F-10 markaz, Azhar Iqbal President Melody Market, Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi President F-6 markaz, Wajid Ayub President TWA Tarnol, Khalid Chaudhry General Secretary Traders Action Committee also spoke on the occasion and showed full solidarity with founder group and endorsed the unity move between City and Industrial Area.

## Rana Abbas meets Canadian solar chairman after being paralyzed for years



**Commerce Desk**

Rana Abbas hold a meeting with Canadian solar chairman. He said its an immense pleasure to meet a man of vision, significant contributions, and remarkable resilience, especially after enduring a severe accident that left him paralyzed for years. He said during that challenging period, he not only fought to recover but also inspired many by demonstrating that with

determination, anything is achievable. Rana Ab as said that he has made substantial contributions to a greener world, from inventing solar cells to establishing a world-renowned company. Currently, he remains as energetic and proactive as ever in addressing global environmental and energy challenges. He said that this was a great experience and a true pleasure to spend time with the visionary and living legend, Dr. Shawn Qu.

**Hamdard Pakistan**

## Team Karachi Welfare Society donates dowry items to 100 girls in need

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Team Karachi Welfare Society, with the support of Hamdard Pakistan, provided dowry items for the marriages of 100 girls from low-income families. A special event was recently held

in a local hall in Karachi, where Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, attended as chief guest and distributed goods to the needy. She was accompanied by Hamdard Pakistan's COO Faisal Nadeem, Group Director of HR Abu Talib Bhutto, and

Director of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan Syed Muhammad Arsalan.

In her speech, Ms. Sadia Rashid emphasized the importance of compassion and understanding the struggles of our neighbors and relatives. Syed Muhammad Arsalan



highlighted that Hamdard Pakistan is fundamentally a welfare organization dedicated to serving the community, supporting both charitable initiatives and institutions like Team Pakistan.

Representing Team Karachi, President Saqib Zeeshan, Vice

President Zeeshan Alrab Jafri, Board Member Mahmood Arshad, and Board Member Mufti Shakir Siddiqui were present as hosts.

The dowry items, fully supported by Hamdard Pakistan, included dinner sets, bath sets, buckets, cooler jug

glass sets, juicer machines, irons, graters, frying pans, tray sets, kitchen sets, steel thermoses, water sets, spice racks, tea sets, strainers, sets of pots, sewing machines, washing machines, pedestal fans, and three dresses for the bride, including cash.

## Mobilink Bank champions sustainability-driven leadership with ESG training



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has taken a leap forward in solidifying its position as a frontrunner in sustainable banking practices. The Bank announced the successful completion of an external training program on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices explicitly designed for its leadership team. This in-depth training initiative equipped the Bank's top decision-makers with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate ESG principles into the core of their operations.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

The training was held in Islamabad and conducted by Zero Point Partners, a leading environmental consultancy and led by, founder and CEO, Maha Qasim and Senior Associate, Aliza Aijaz, both experts in providing strategic and advisory support to banks and financial institutions on developing GHG emissions inventories, net zero target-setting, decarbonization planning, impact assessment, ESG reporting and gender mainstreaming.

"Equipping ourselves with a strong foundation in ESG principles is not only essential for navigating the future of digital and financial landscape, but it aligns with our core values of social responsibility and sustainable growth," shared Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO Mobilink Bank. "Climate change threatens our communities, especially women, farmers and small businesses who are the backbone of our economy.

# 25th Men National Baseball Championship: Exciting matches mark second day

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 25th Men National Baseball Championship, organized by the Pakistan Federation Baseball, continued with thrilling matches on its second day. The event, held at the GHQ Rawalpindi Baseball Ground, welcomed Malik Anooosh, Coordinator of the Sports Board Punjab, as the chief guest. He was warmly received by Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, General Secretary of the Pakistan Federation Baseball, along with enthusiastic applause from all the players.

The day began with a competitive match between the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). HEC emerged victorious, scoring 4 runs against KPK's 2 runs from HEC Raees Bashir, Ikram Ullah, Ashir Shirazi and Juniad score for their team, from KPK Muhammad Bilal and Muhammad Qasim score for their team.

In the second match, the Punjab team showcased their prowess by defeating Balochistan with a score of 9 runs to 2 from Punjab team Muhammad Mazhar and Muhammad Ahmer score 2 runs, Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Nouman, Umar Waris, Umair Shah and Amir Bhatti score for their team from Balochistan Arslan and Rehan make 1 score each.

During the event, General Secretary



Syed Fakhar Ali Shah presented Malik Anooosh with a bouquet and an honorary shield. The chief guest expressed his encouragement to all the players and praised their remarkable talent. Syed

Fakhar Ali Shah addressed the media, explaining that due to the elimination of three teams, the championship is proceeding with a two-match series each day to cope with the heat. The final

match is scheduled for July 5.

Chief Umpire Jameel Kamran, Aamir Imdad Bhatti, Amjad Nawaz Khan, and Hamza Ashraf were also present, adding to the event's distinguished presence.

## ICC's duty to ensure India's participation in Champions Trophy: Salman Butt

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former cricketer Salman Butt termed the International Cricket Council (ICC) responsible to ensure India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to be held in Pakistan.

The former Pakistan captain emphasized that if India do not come to Pakistan to partake in the event then it will be the apex cricketing body's problem.

"If they come, then they welcome, if they don't, the

ICC has to deal with it. We will find out if they can just deal with all the other countries or can do the same with India as well. It will show how much authority they have as a regulator and how neutral they can be," stated Butt on his YouTube channel.

Reportedly, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah had allegedly given a green signal regarding the Indian team's participation in the Champions Trophy, citing his remarks that India target the World Test Champion-



ship (WTC) and Champions Trophy after T20 World Cup 2024 triumph.

"The way this team is progressing, our target is to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. There will be a similar squad playing there. The seniors will be there," the Press Trust of India (PTI)

quoted Shah.

However, Salman Butt is of the view that Jay Shah did not give any signal regarding India's participation in the Champions Trophy.

"We try sensationalizing everything. There have been a few reports suggesting that Jay Shah has given a positive signal. However, I don't think he's given any signals," said Butt. "I wouldn't have been excited even if there had been a signal from him because it is the ICC's duty to ensure that all teams visit Pakistan," he added.

## Over 10 lakh athletes to feature in Punjab Games

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the Punjab Games will be organised in near future in which more than 10 lakh athletes from across the province will participate. He said this while addressing an introductory meeting of Sports Board Punjab's new members at the National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

He said the Punjab Games competitions will be held from Union Council to Punjab level and it will be a golden opportunity for male and female athletes of far flung areas to prove their sports potential," he added.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar further said that a compact sports calendar comprising complete detail and schedule of next year's sports activities will be prepared. "This calendar will be presented in the next general body meeting of Sports Board Punjab," he added.

## Shadab Khan lights up LPL 2024 with a hat-trick

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan made his Lanka Premier League (LPL) debut memorable by claiming a hat-trick in the third fixture of the ongoing fifth edition.

Shadab, who is representing Colombo Strikers in LPL 2024, decimated Kandy Falcons with ruthless bowling. The all-rounder returned magnificent bowling figures of 4/22 including a hat-trick.

He achieved the feat in the 15th over of the Falcons' innings and turned the game on its head as the home side slipped from 140/5 to 147 all out.

Shadab Khan dismissed Falcons' captain and set-batter Wanindu Hasaranga on the fourth delivery of his last over.

Hasaranga looked to go for a big shot against Shadab but mistimed it towards the long-on fielder Muhammad Waseem, who took a great running catch diving forward.



He then dismissed compatriot Agha Salman on the next delivery with a perfectly executed leg-break that breached the batter's defence and hit the timber.

Coming out to face the hat-trick ball

was Pavan Rathnayake, who cautiously tried to work the ball towards the outside but failed to judge the googly and was trapped in front.

Following the game, Khan took to Instagram where he posted his batting

and bowling figures.

"God is great," he wrote in the caption.

Following Shadab Khan's hat-trick, Dunith Wellalage, who was equally exceptional, took two wickets in the next over to take the Strikers home.

Both Shadab and Wellalage bagged four wickets each while Glenn Phillips and Binura Fernando chipped in with a wicket apiece as Colombo Strikers booked Kandy Falcons on 147 to kick off their LPL 2024 with a victory.

Put into bat first, the Strikers registered a massive total of 198/7 on the board, courtesy of a combined effort from their batters.

Leading the way was wicketkeeper batter Sadeera Samarawickrama, who played a blazing knock of 48, coming off on 26 balls with the help of seven fours and a six.

Thisara Perera (38 off 30) and Shadab Khan (20 off 17) played anchoring knocks before Chamika Karunaratne bolstered the total with late fireworks.

### PCB Regional Inter-District U-19 (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

#### Zone-IV and Zone-VI 3rd Consecutive Victories

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three More Matches decided in the PCB Regional Inter-District Under-19 (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was 3rd Consecutive Victories by Zone-IV and Zone-VI.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-IV beat Zone-I by 22 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-IV 223/9 in 50 overs. Musab Amir 73 9x4 1x6, Masoid Ali 41x4, M. Musa Azad 26, M. Areeb Ahmed 22. Tasheen Ahmed (sla) 3/45, Muhammad Qamar (ob) 3/63.

Zone-I, 201 all out in overs. Fair Hussain 65 11x4, Mathew Rizwan 46, Saad Ali 24. Muhammad Areeb Ahmed (sla) (mf) 3/40, Muzammil Khan (mf) 2/43, Muhammad Sarwar (mf) 2/49.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-VI beat Zone-VII by 55 runs. Zone-VI 218/6 in 50 overs.

Abdul Rehman Niazi 54 2x4 2x6, Huzafa Ahsan 52 4x4, Owais Rahim Shah 40 not out, Abdullah Alam 34, Shahwaiz Yasir 21. Zain Hussain (sla) 3/45.

Zone-VII 163 all out in 44.4 overs. Ismail 65 7x4 2x6, Syed Kashan Faheeh 34. Saad Sakhawat (sla) 2/19, Abdul Moiz (rlb) 2/32, Owais Rahim Shah (sla) 2/35.

In the 3rd Match Zone-II beat Zone-III by 7 wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-III 143 all out in 40 overs. Muhammad Salman 43 4x4, Ahmed Mohiuddin 30, Abdul Rahim 26. Muhammad Ahmed (sla) 3/18, Abdul Rauf (rmf) 2/30, M. Ibad Mirza (rmf) 2/31.

Zone-II 146/3 in 25.4 overs. Syed Muhammad Fahad 67 10x4, Zain Jaffry 37, Muhammad Shahriyar 24. Sobhan Sadiq (ob) 2/56.

## David Miller breaks silence on T20I retirement

A Sports

LAHORE: South Africa's batter David Miller has responded to rumours regarding his retirement from the T20 internationals following the Proteas' defeat in the T20 World Cup 2024 final.



Several on social media had claimed that the South African batter had decided to retire from the shorter format.

However, Miller took to Instagram on Tuesday to refute such rumours, saying that he is available to represent South Africa in T20Is.

"Contrary to reports, I have not retired from T20 international cricket. I will continue to be available for the Proteas. The best is yet to come," he wrote in his Instagram story.

South Africa faced a heartbreaking defeat at the hands of India in the T20 World Cup 2024 final by seven runs on June 29.

Miller was dismissed on the first delivery of the final over when his team needed 16 runs from 6 deliveries.

Known for closing crunch games, Miller could not finish the ultimate game for his country and was caught on the boundary after he tried to hit Hardik Pandya's first delivery of the final over.

Terming the loss as a "tough pill to swallow," the left-handed batter earlier penned an emotional post on Instagram to share his feelings.

"I am gutted!! Really tough pill to swallow after what transpired 2 days ago. Words don't explain how I am feeling. One thing I do know is how proud I am of this unit. This journey was an incredible one, with highs and lows throughout the entire month. We have endured pain, but I know this team has the resilience and will keep raising the bar," David Miller wrote in a post on Instagram.

## Pakistan's Awaiz Munir crowned Asian 6-Red Snooker champion

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's cueist Awaiz Munir won the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship after beating Hong Kong's Nansen Wan in the final in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh on Tuesday.



Munir secured a 6-3 victory with the scores of 0-65, 35-26, 27-36, 38-20, 0-65, 13-46, 8-60, 34-0, 27-40. Munir clinched the first frame with the score of 0-65, however, he ended the second frame with 26-35, the third frame went to the Pakistani cueist while the fourth was secured by the Hong Kong cueist. With the game tied at 2-2, Awaiz Munir won three sets straight and made his lead 5-2.

He clinched the ninth frame and the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship final after Nansen's comeback in the eighth frame.

Munir had qualified for the final after defeating countryman Asjad Iqbal 5-2 in the semi-final a day earlier.

He secured victory by winning five consecutive frames after initially trailing Iqbal 0-2.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan's cueist Mohammad Hasnain is the Asian U21 Snooker champion after he defeated compatriot Ahsan Ramzan 4-3 in the final.

Hasnain also remained undefeated during the group stage of the tournament having beat Shawn Lee of Hong Kong in the last four clash along with defeating Ranveer Duggal of India 4-3 in the quarters. Ramzan also remained unbeaten in the championship before the final against Hasnain.

## Ronaldo on Euros redemption trail after Slovenia penalty ride

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 39-year-old superstar was shown crying after missing a 105th minute penalty in the Selecao's Euro 2024 last-16 victory over Slovenia on Monday.

Despite multiple attempts at goal and then Jan Oblak saving his spot kick, Ronaldo could not pierce Slovenia's sturdy defensive wall and eventually the match finished goalless across 120 minutes, leading to penalties.

Taking Portugal's first spot kick, this time the former Real Madrid hitman did find the net and his team triumphed 3-0 on penalties after Diogo Costa saved all three Slovenia efforts.

Ronaldo is now on a redemp-

tion trail and his side face France next in a rematch of the 2016 final which Portugal won in Paris to clinch their first ever European Championship.

Eight years ago Ronaldo was not the hero either, going off early with an injury and seeing the lesser-known Eder striking in extra-time to defeat Les Bleus.

Without a goal to his name at the Euros, the all-time men's leading international goalscorer with 130 strikes has at times appeared desperate.

"I will always do my best for this shirt, whether I fail or not, and I'm going to do this my whole life," Ronaldo told Portuguese television channel RTP.

"I've been doing this for 20 years - as you saw I missed the

penalty, but I wanted to be the first to score.

"We have to take responsibility... you can't be afraid, I've never been afraid to face things head on, sometimes I get it right and sometimes I don't, but giving up is something you'll never hear attached to my name."

Ronaldo made his Euros debut in 2004 in his homeland but Portugal came up fractionally short, losing in the final against unfancied Greece.

The forward, who went on to star for Manchester United, Madrid and Juventus, now plays for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

If he scores in the Euros he will become the oldest ever goalscorer in the competition's history - so long as his

41-year-old team-mate Pepe doesn't find the net.

"The last Euros"

Ronaldo is appearing in a record-extending sixth Euros and has scored 14 times in the competition, far ahead of French great Michel Platini's runner-up tally of nine.

"It's undoubtedly the last Euros (for me) of course," said Ronaldo.

"The most important thing about this career I have made is the enthusiasm that I have still to be here."

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez agreed and said Ronaldo's tears were a sign of how much this all means to him.

"When you see a player, the only player to play in six Euros,



with the desire and that belief (of a) young man, those emotions are incredible for someone who has won everything and experienced everything," said the Spanish coach.

"He doesn't need to care that

much and that is why I thank him... I was certain he had to be the first taker (in the shoot-out) and show us our way to the victory.

"Everyone is very proud of our captain. He gives us all a lesson,

to have real high standards and never give up."

Ronaldo had multiple free-kicks either off target or saved by his former nemesis, Atletico Madrid's Jan Oblak.

The striker has scored at every major tournament he has played at but is without a goal in eight Euros and World Cup games, having taken 20 shots without success in Germany this summer.

Ronaldo is aiming to put that right against France.

"We will now have a difficult game against France, who are the favourites to win the competition along with Germany and Spain, but let's go to war," he said.

"We will fight until the end."

## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: Online

## PM wants expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan, Tajikistan through enhanced connectivity

## Spokesman Report

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed upon expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Tajikistan as the current volume did not reflect the current level of brotherly relationship between the two countries.

Addressing a presser along with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister said that today, they had signed a number of MoUs which would be very helpful in furthering their bilateral ties.

PM wants expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan, Tajikistan through enhanced connectivity

The prime minister especially mentioned the agreement over strategic partnership.

"These agreements will go a long way in furthering our brotherly ties and of course, expanding our scope of cooperation in the coming days," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also assured Tajik president that he would work closely with him to further cement the brotherly ties not only in fields



of agriculture, education, health and promotion of investment but also in expansion of bilat-

eral trade. He underlined that the both countries required to work

closely and fix targets as how to increase their bilateral trade and investment, citing transportation of goods from port of Karachi to Tajikistan via Afghanistan and then from Dushanbe to Karachi port via Afghanistan through a rail-road connectivity project.

The prime minister termed this existing opportunity as 'an area of huge economic importance for both countries'.

The prime minister apprised that he had very fruitful and productive one-on-one meeting with the Tajik president, besides

Continued on Page 5

## Pakistan, China make substantial strides in harnessing capabilities in IT sector: Shaza Fatima

## Spokesman Report

BELJING: Recognizing the immense potential of IT sector, both Pakistan and China have made substantial strides in harnessing its capabilities, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Tuesday.

Pakistan is the most attractive destination for outsourcing. With around 20,000 registered IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) companies exporting to over 170 countries, our IT sector growth is robust.

We offer 100% equity ownership, 100% repatriation of capital and dividends, and income tax credits for IT exports to foreign investors, she told media after addressing as a keynote speaker at the opening session of Global Digital Economy Conference 2024.

About significance of her official visit of China, she said the primary aim is to see and collaborate with different partners across the world who are present here.

She highlighted that the digitization process and digitizing economies is now becoming more of an international and transnational phenomenon.

We are looking forward to partnerships that we can foster with other countries in this particular domain and how can Pakistan benefit from the expertise and share experience and also how can Pakistan add value to these other countries when it comes to digitization, she added.

Responding to a question about Pakistani IT companies participating in this conference and vision of the government on digital economy, she said that soon after assuming charge few months back, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif main goal was digitizing the whole nation in three particular verticals, including digital economy, digital governance, digital society, but digital economy certainly remains a top priority.

The government already legislated national digitization commission where the prime minister himself will be overseeing the work process. So, hopefully very soon, we will, embark upon this journey, she added.

About incentives or advantages for Chinese companies which intends to go to Pakistan, she said that Pakistan at this point in time offers a very large youth population that also serves as a free market and also as a great human resource potential.

## Non-bailable warrants issued for KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur over his absence in cases related to violent protests and violation of Section 144 of the criminal procedure code.

In its order, ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra issued the warrants for his Gandapur. On Monday, the court

rejected his plea seeking exemption from appearing in court.

The court order stated that has not appeared in the hearings after April 2024.

A case was registered against Gandapur at the I-9 police station in October 2022 regarding protests against the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision. Another case was also registered for vandalism during the protests against the ECP's decision to disqualify the PTI chairman.

## Paid Content

## The Interview of Ammad Naeem Kamboh, Managing Director, AEXON Energy Pvt Ltd, (Managing Director NTN Home Appliances)

NTN Home Appliances is our Family Business. While, Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd a Solar EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) and trading company is an authorized, Tier 2 dealer of Huawei Inverters in Pakistan



Tahir Amin Malik

The Managing Director Aexon Energy and NTN Home Appliances Ammad Naeem Kamboh said in an interview that I am basically an Electrical Engineer and entrepreneur, graduating with a bachelor's degree which I got in 2015. He said I began my career by joining my family business, NTN Home Appliances, where I gained valuable experience in the manufacturing and sales of electric and gas home appliances. He said in 2020, I ventured into the renewable energy sector by establishing the Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd as well which is a solar EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) and a trading company and under my leadership, the company successfully has completed numerous projects and



was appointed as the authorized Tier 2 dealer for Huawei Inverters in Pakistan market. Ammad Naeem further said that Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd is a pioneering solar energy company in Pakistan which is offering top-quality and cost-effective solar solutions to residential, commercial, and agricultural entities with a strong customer satisfac-

tion. He further said that their solar solutions are designed to provide reliable and clean energy, catering to diverse customer needs. Talked about further on Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd he said that its a successful experience for me at the SNEC exhibition in China (Shanghai) and this was largest world's largest solar exhibition which attended



by large number of visitors throughout the worlds and exhibition provided a valuable opportunity to connect with cutting-edge solar technology manufacturers and customers, leading to new relationships and potential growth for the company. He said Huawei is the leading company for solar PV inverters in the world and Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd is an authorized Tier 2 dealer of Huawei inverters in Pakistan. He further said that Huawei held 29% of the global market share for solar PV inverters in 2022 and the company's inverter shipments increased



by 83% in 2022 compared to the previous year Huawei's solar PV inverters are part of the company's FusionSolar's product line and FusionSolar's Smart PV Inverter SUN2000-330KTL won the intersolar AWARD at Intersolar Europe 2023. Ammad Naeem said that Pakistan's economy is struggling leading to annual increases in electricity tariffs to manage the fiscal deficit. He said the country relies heavily on fossil fuels (gas and furnace oil) for power generation, accounting for over 60% of its total electricity production and in the fiscal year 2022-23, the government spent approximately 95 billion rupees monthly on importing gas and furnace oil for electricity generation and these substantial expenditures on fossil fuel imports significantly impact the country's economy, leading to inflation and higher costs for citizens, including increased electricity bills and prices for essential items and its clear that Pakistan faces significant energy security and economic challenges. He said transitioning to renewable energy sources, like solar power, could help reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, mitigate inflation, and stabilize the economy. He said Pakistan's abundant sunshine hours make it an ideal location for harnessing

solar energy, Solar panels use sunshine as a fuel source, which is free and inexhaustible. He said Pakistan receives an average of 7-8 hours of sunlight daily, making it suitable for generating electricity through solar energy and the country has immense potential for producing electricity at economical rates by leveraging its solar resources. He further said the key to unlocking this potential lies in

installing a larger number of solar projects. He said by capitalizing on its solar potential, Pakistan can reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, decrease energy costs, and mitigate the impact of inflation on citizens. At last he said that Aexon Energy Pvt Ltd's efforts to promote solar solutions align with this vision, contributing to a sustainable and economically viable energy future for Pakistan.





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