



# AJK PM says all resources to be utilized to provide basic amenities of life



**Bureau Report**

KOTLI: Prime Minister Chudhary Anwar ul Haq said that all resources would be utilized to provide the people with basic amenities of life.

The AJK premier said this while speaking to a public delegation which

was led by advisor to the Government, Ms. Sabiha Siddique, here today. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister Haq said, "It is the responsibility of the government to protect the rights of every citizen irrespective of caste and creed".

He maintained that the provision

of all the basic amenities to the masses including education and health would be ensured.

The Prime Minister also praised Ms. Sabiha Siddique for her political activism and commitment towards the people.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms.

Sabiha Siddique said that she would continue to strive for the rights of the people at every forum.

On this occasion, the most senior minister Colonel Retired Waqar Ahmed Noor, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Malik Zafar Iqbal, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq were also present.

## Pakistan People's Party says Imran Niazi's 'politics of lies' must be stopped

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan People's Party South Punjab President Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mehmood, Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen said the tradition of PTI that Umar Ayub should always do politics of lies and anarchy. It should have been a shame to talk about the protest that took place at the time of the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto, why the leaders of the PPP were not arrested, had not given any call for protest and neither the leadership of PPP was leading this protest. At that time, President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari controlled the sentiments of the people by raising the slogan of Pakistan Khape. This is leadership. But what did PTI do when Imran Niazi was arrested? Insaaf attacked the GHQ, Corp Commander House, military installations and martyrs' memorials under a well-thought-out plan, as proof of which there are numerous videos and photographs, but it is on record that Imran Niazi stood in the Supreme Court. said that if I am arrested again, there will be more severe reaction. He added that Imran Niazi should have confessed to attacking the military installations long ago.



## Jamaat-e-Islami to stage dharna at D Chowk on July 26: Sheikh Usman

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sheikh Usman Farooq Advocate has said that the dharna held at D Chowk on July 26 will be the expression of the sentiments of the entire nation and a means to show the true face of the rulers in Karachi, Sindh and Balochistan. The caravans from Punjab will leave for Islamabad today, while the people's caravans from Punjab will move towards Islamabad on July 25. The government will have to accept the legitimate demands of the people. In a meeting and discussion with the workers in Multan, he said that Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rahman has informed the whole nation about the real facts and the worst looting related to IPPs and has adopted a lively stance on the corruption of electricity distribution companies. He said that the government of Pakistan is creating such situations. That they will be forced to take to the streets like in Bangladesh, however, Jamaat-e-Islami believes in peaceful struggle and will force the ruling class to return people's rights by following the constitutional and democratic path to solve public problems. He said that four power plants are closed and paying them 10 billion rupees per month from the national treasury is an injustice that worries the entire nation. The causes have stopped and the increase in unemployment is increasing day by day.

Sheikh Usman Farooq said that in these circumstances, the sit-in of 26th July is very important and the workers of Jamaat-e-Islami, God willing, will reach D Chowk Islamabad with the spirit of national service.

## Sewerage problems of Shamanabad, Writers Colony, Sharifpura will be fixed very soon: Khalid Raza Khan

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: MD WASA Khalid Raza Khan has said that very soon the Sewerage problems of Shamanabad, Writers Colony, Sharifpura will be fixed. Or if any officer is found to be blocking the sewage line or benefiting the people from one area to another, he will be dismissed from his job. For me, the people of Multan are the same. I will visit the areas, now all the officers and workers have to work, he expressed these views yesterday regarding the sewerage problems of Shamanabad, Writers Colony, Sharifpura, Mehboobabad under the leadership of President Rana Shahbaz. On the occasion of a meeting with a visiting delegation, Rana Shahbaz said on this occasion that these areas have been submerged in dirty water for the last 8 months. The delegation will hold a dharna and make the graves of Maryam Nawaz, MD Wasa and perform the victory ceremony. The delegation includes Secretary Reform Committee Ali Waqar, Joint Secretary Gulbaz Khan Kharanchi, Amjad Khan and other members Akash Gujjar, Malik Afaq, Sharafat Qureshi, Ramzan Bhatti, Shahzad Awan, Master Sajjad Awan, Javed Ahmed, Khalil Ahmed, Kako, Mrs Noreen and local people participated.

## AIOU's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Postage Stamps launched

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An unveiling ceremony of Allama Iqbal Open University Golden Jubilee commemorative postage stamps was held yesterday. Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, was the guest of Honor, while Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood hosted the event. Addressing the ceremony, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Allama Iqbal Open University has made significant progress in the field of education, with 2.5 million children out of school in the country, there is a need to bring these children into the educational network. The Federal Minister further stated that to bring prosperity to people's homes and support the country's social and economic development, special attention is needed on skills and vocational education, in addition to higher education, so that students can secure respectable employment as soon as they graduate.

## Hunger strike

ISLAMABAD: Members of Parliament from Opposition benches stage hunger strike at camp outside Parliament House in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

# Muslim Conference to stage Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally in Neelum district

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZZAFFARABAD/ NEELAM: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Preparations for "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" rallies in Neelum district are going on, Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Chairman Youth Wing visited Neelum and welcomed the workers. Meetings with the senior leaders and officials of the Muslim Conference along with former government minister Shamim Ali Malik, chairperson of the student wing Maimuna Kayani advocate, student board chairman Syed Saqlain Fida Kazmi advocate, former assembly candidate Lower Neelum engineer Yasir Kazmi Sikandar Habib Mir, member District Council Imtiaz Qureshi was also present. Yesterday, Chairman Youth Wing held a review meeting in Kundal Shahi regarding the Kash-



mir Banega Pakistan Rally, in which former Minister of State Shamim Ali Malik, Chairperson of Students Wing Maimunah Kayani, Advocate, Chair-

man of Students Board, Syed Saqlain Fida Kazmi Advocate, Former Candidate Assembly Lower Neelum Engineer Yasir Kazmi Sikandar Habib Mir, District Council Member Imtiaz Qureshi, Syed Shah, Adil Shah, Shujaat Sayad, Aqeel Haider, Naqibur Rehman, Syed Khalid Kazmi, Syed Kaleem Haider, Syed Farooq Hussain, Shah, Syed Qadir Hussain, Dewan Ali, Bilal Khan, Naqash Kazmi, Mudassar Ali, Syed Amir Ali and others participated. Addressing the review meeting, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan said that the rally in Neelum will be a history maker in which the people of Neelum will participate fully. Express love and solidarity with Pakistan Army. The incidents that happened in Azad Kashmir are very sad and condemnable. The Pakistani flag is dear to my heart and soul. The Pakistani flag is a symbol

of honor and pride. Hundreds, not thousands, not thousands, of Kashmiri mothers, sisters, daughters, honor, lives, blood and bodies are buried in the foundations of what is the Pakistani flag. In Azad Kashmir, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the movement led by Nila Pat is the result. Today the situation is such that once the opportunity has come to raise this flag with full force. Later, Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan met him at the residence of Tikki Piran Syed Ghulam Hussain Shah alias Naga Shah. After that, he had a meeting with Raja Rashid Khan, a long-time associate of Mujahid e Awwal a senior leader of the Muslim Conference, and attended a dinner in Neelum Valley after which a political discussion was held. After completing the tour of Lower Neelum, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan reached upper Neelum.

# Pakistan Muslim League-N has always ruled the hearts of the people: Hanif Abbasi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said that Pakistan Muslim League-N has always ruled the hearts of the people. People vote for a government that takes practical steps, not by being charmed by words and promises. Pakistan Muslim League-N will keep Pakistan out of crises. Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan President Muhammad Farooq

Chaudhry said that he appreciated the people-friendly policies of the member of National Assembly and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi. Availability of trained staff is the need of the food industry. Matriculation or less qualified unemployed youth should be attracted to food industry related courses. We would like Rawalpindi Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) to support us in conducting advanced courses in food industry to our staff.

On Wednesday, President of Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed along with honorable members of the core committee Huzaifa Ansar, Khalid Mehmood, Tariq Khan, Shrafat Awan, Nayer visited Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Rawalpindi on the invitation of senior leader of Pmln n Mna Muhammad Hanif Abbasi. Which was founded by Member of National Assembly

and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N Muhammad Hanif Abbasi. Meanwhile, the topics of providing modern technical training to the staff of the food industry were discussed. President Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that MNA Hanif Abbasi has fulfilled all his promises to the people of Rawalpindi. Two days before he had promised to support our staff for modern courses, which he has fulfilled today. He said that We want trained staff in the food industry. Matriculation or less educated



unemployed youth should be attracted towards food industry with the help of courses.

On this occasion, Regional Director Usman Ali, Principal Mustafa Masood also gave a detailed briefing on the courses

conducted in the college and the performance of the institution. At the end of the meeting, Member National Assembly Muhammad Hanif Abbasi reviewed the practical observations of the students along with

the President of the Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, Core Committee members and college administrators and highly appreciated the efforts of the administrators.

## Egypt gives top priority to bilateral ties with Pakistan, says Envoy

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Africa with its resources and potentials is a great attraction of investments. He said similarly Pakistan with its strategic position, skilled labour and vast potentials has huge business opportunities. He added that in recent years, Egypt has witnessed economic development and reforms attracting investments and enhancing connectivity with Africa. He expressed his views while exclusively talking to Daily The Spokesman on the occasion of 72nd National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Egypt embassy in Pakistan on Tuesday celebrated the 72nd National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, marking the anniversary of the 1952 revolution that reshaped not only Egypt's history but also influenced the Arab World and the Middle East.

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest while the event was attended by the Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, H. E. Atadjan Movlamov, Dean of African Corps and Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Pakistan, Mohamed Karmoune, Chairman of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Raja ZafarulHaq, PPP Senator Sehar Kamran, Custodian of the Eidgah Sharif, Pir Naqeeb-ur-Rehman, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Ambassadors, diplomats, members of civil society, academia and a large number of the Egyptian nationals.

Earlier, Rana Tanveer Hussain congratulated the Egyptian people on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan on their National Day. He also highlighted the deep-rooted relations and bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Addressing the event, Egypt's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid highlighted Egypt's resilience in the past 72 years, navigating through regional challenges while steadfastly pursuing its path of political, economic, and social development.

He emphasized Egypt's current ambitious developmental and economic reform program, which has transformed the country through extensive modernization of infrastructure and numerous mega-projects.

"Egypt is undergoing a significant transformation with vast infrastructure projects underway across the country," stated Ambassador Abdelhamid. These projects include the enhancement of transportation networks, expansion of power generation capacity, development of the Suez Canal Economic Zone, and the establishment of a new administrative capital.

Highlighting the enduring ties between Egypt and Pakistan, Ambassador Abdelhamid recalled Egypt's early recognition of Pakistan's independence in 1947 and the subsequent establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.

He underscored the stable and cooperative nature of Egyptian-Pakistani relations, emphasizing mutual support on international issues and joint efforts in multilateral forums.

"The strengthening of bilateral relations with Pakistan remains a cornerstone of Egypt's foreign policy," Ambassador Abdelhamid affirmed, expressing determination to enhance cooperation across diverse sectors such as trade, tourism, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and industry.

He expressed that the shared cultural and religious bonds between the



### The message of H. E Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid, Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the 1952 revolution

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the 1952 revolution in Egypt, a revolution that ushered a new era not only in Egypt's history, but also the history of the Arab World and the Middle East.

Over the past 72 years, and despite the unfavorable regional surroundings, Egypt has moved ahead, faced and successfully overcome various internal and external challenges, and, as it was always the case, followed its own nationally-charted path for political, economic and social development.... And today, Egypt is transforming itself yet again.

Egypt is currently pursuing a highly ambitious developmental and economic reform program. This program has succeeded in changing the shape of the country in the last decade, benefiting from unprecedented modernization plans of the infrastructure. "Egypt is literally becoming a huge construction site with a wide variety of mega projects being undertaken all throughout the country".

Improving transportation networks; expanding power generating capability; the Suez Canal Economic Zone; and a new administrative capital, are some highlights of these mega-projects.

Bilateral relations between Egypt and Pakistan



Egypt was one of the first countries to recognize Pakistan's independence and exchanged immediately the diplomatic representation with it in January 1948. Egyptian-Pakistani relations are characterized by distinction, stability and cooperation in various fields, in addition to the complete convergence in the policies and goals of defending the issues of the Islamic nation and developing countries in the Multilateral international forums, which always witness wide-ranging agreement on international issues of common interest as well as the

mutual support for the candidatures of both countries to important international posts.

In line with the traditions that characterized our relations for many decades, Egypt is currently placing the strengthening of bilateral relations with Pakistan as one of its main foreign policy goals, and both countries are determined to work closely on reinforcement of our bilateral relations, as well diversifying, and expanding, the aspects of cooperation to benefit from the huge potentials both countries have, and the excellent political relations... There is always a room to improve the ties and links that gather us.... And there is a great potential for investment and cooperation in several fields such as trade, tourism, pharmaceuticals, food production, agriculture, and industry, especially that both countries have large markets and strong industrial and services sectors....

The bond that gathers the peoples of Egypt and Pakistan is solid, ranging from culture and religion to sharing a similar scheme of values and principles... both countries own a unified vision regarding the importance of South-South cooperation, combatting terrorism and radicalization, and defending the rights of oppressed peoples.

peoples of Egypt and Pakistan, underpinned by a unified vision on South-South cooperation, counter terrorism efforts, and advocacy for the rights of oppressed peoples.

At the end of his speech, Ambassador Abdelhamid highlighted the immense potential for further investment and collaboration between Egypt and Paki-

stan, leveraging their sizable markets and robust industrial sectors.

A documentary 'Egypt: Land of Civilization' was also screened on the occasion showing fusion of the ancient and the modern and evolution of Egypt from Pharaoh's state to a modern republic.

Egypt is earning millions of dollars

by facilitating tourists who arrive every year to visit its pyramids. Pakistan too can facilitate the Buddhist tourists' visits to the country's ancient sites, they said. They welcomed the recently-held International Gandhara Symposium and held that if proper steps like security, facilitation centres, food, stay and transport, etc were taken, Pakistan could



attract hundreds and thousands of tourists to Buddhist sites every year. Participants enjoy Egyptian and Pakistani cuisines made under the supervision of Pathmanathann Balagangdaram, Executive Chef, Serena hotel, Islamabad.



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# State in Internal Turmoil

All patriotic Pakistanis, from common laborers to highly accomplished individuals, are deeply worried and scared by the current state of conflicts within the government, among various governmental entities, among institutions, within institutions, and between the government and these institutions. This pervasive distrust is escalating at a breakneck pace, causing significant concern across the nation.

The federal government and the KP government are embroiled in a bitter blame game, each accusing the other of inefficiency, corruption, incompetence, and mismanagement of the law and order situation.

The political party PTI is accusing the federal and Punjab governments of stealing their mandate, exacerbating the political turmoil. In response, the federal and Punjab governments are threatening to ban the PTI and charge its leaders with high treason and rebellion.

The Federal, Punjab and Sindh governments are accusing the superior judiciary of re-writing the constitution and providing unconstitutional and unlawful relief to PTI, while threatening both the judiciary and PTI with dire consequences and vowing to teach them a bitter lesson.

JUI leader Moulana Fazal Rehman is openly claiming that the army wants to seize the mineral wealth of the FATA regions under the guise of launching military operations.

The army is blaming the federal and provincial governments for failing to register the madrasas and mosques, a task assigned to the civilian government in 2014, which remains unaccomplished.

The KP government and PTI are accusing the army of fomenting unrest in the KP province, while the army blames the KP government for its failure to manage the participants of a peace march. According to the army, after holding a

rally and chanting objectionable slogans, some participants attacked Bannu Cantt, breached the wall of its storage facility, and stole flour and other supplies. When the crowd became too unruly, the army unit deployed at Bannu Cantt resorted to aerial firing as an SOP to prevent further damage to the state installation. The army also accused the KP government of failing to trace and arrest those participants of the peace march who were carrying firearms.

The army also blamed social media activists sympathetic to PTI for committing digital terrorism, alleging that they had established a nexus with terrorists to carry out attacks on the ground. These activists are accused of doctored old pictures and images of wounded and injured persons from other countries, presenting them as victims of the Pakistani army. While the army spokesperson was accusing PTI activists of digital terrorism, a heavy police contingent invaded the PTI party office and arrested PTI spokesperson Mr. Raouf Hassan and media coordinator, confiscating computers, digital disks, files, and documents.

The army also criticized the judiciary for failing to impart exemplary punishments to the masterminds, planners, abettors, and facilitators of these acts, instead providing them with relief. The army spokesperson warned that if this trend of rewarding perpetrators of violence continues, it would lead the country to unimaginable consequences.

Furthermore, the army blamed all opposition parties for resisting and politicizing a comprehensive, robust, and all-encompassing operation, Azm-e-Istehkam. The army accused these parties of misconstruing and misreading the operation, making it controversial from the

very beginning and undermining its efficacy, despite its conception for the greater national interest.

The army complained that when it closed the borders to stop smuggling from Afghanistan, a propaganda campaign was launched by politicians to spread hatred against the army. This campaign instigated people, especially at the Chaman Border in Balochistan, to chant slogans against the army. During an hour-long press conference, the army spokesperson frequently used the terms "digital terrorism" and "anarchist group." The term "anarchist group" was often attributed by the audience, rightly or wrongly, to PTI, while "digital terrorists" is perceived rightly or wrongly by the audience referring to PTI activists who were allegedly targeting the army on the digital media for all the wrong reasons and on false premises.

The conflict among all stakeholders escalated to its highest level after the Supreme Court's decision to restore PTI as a party in the National Assembly and allocate reserved seats to it. This decision enraged both the government and the establishment.

All indications point to a prolonged conflict between the Supreme Court on one side and the Federal, Punjab and Sindh governments and PML(N), PPP, establishment, and parliament on the other. How the Supreme Court will face this coordinated attack remains to be seen, but logically, the Supreme Court has very few power pieces compared to its opponents on this political chessboard.

The judiciary faced a similar situation in March 2023 when a massive rally organized by JUI, PML(N), and PPP, backed by the establishment and parliament, took place right in front of the Supreme Court.

This rally threatened Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, urging him to desist from pressing for the holding of general elections on May 14, 2023. Sensing his helplessness, the Chief Justice caved in, though he did not reverse his order; he did not press for its implementation either.

This state of affairs also reflects a bitter reality: the judiciary may be mocked globally if the government, the establishment, and the parliament do not support it. Similarly, the army and the government are vulnerable without the people's support.

All stakeholders have become so entrenched in their egoistic pursuits that they have entered a blind alley, seeing only one option: to fight and use force to resolve issues. They are forgetting the maxim that when the use of force fails, applying more force often leads to an even greater failure.

The volatile situation is causing widespread anxiety among the populace, as persistent conflicts and mutual recriminations undermine the stability and progress of the country.

All stakeholders must step back from their deeply entrenched positions and realize that in this country, which is our home, we must live together, whether willingly or unwillingly, happily or gloomily. We need to start respecting each other, address the underlying issues and conflicts, provide justice to each other, and grant the rights that lawfully belong to others. It is imperative to stop name-calling and labeling each other as anarchists, rebels, or usurpers of rights. We must understand that the only solution to our woes is to establish and respect the rule of law, which is more applicable to state operatives than any private entity. All stakeholders should have mercy on the people of Pakistan, who are like grass being trampled by the fights of elephants.

*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

## At UN, Pakistan calls for joint efforts for conservation of Markhors

Pakistan has urged the world community to espouse collaborative efforts for the conservation of the Markhor, given its role in the overall ecosystem.

"For Pakistan, the Markhor holds a special significance as it is our national animal," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a side event that focused on strategies for the protection of this iconic animal, also known as a "screw-horned goat."

"Markhors offer a significant opportunity to bolster the economy, foster conservation efforts and promote sustainable tourism and economic growth," Ambassador Akram said at the event convened by the Tajikistan Mission to the UN in collaboration with UNEP (UN Environment Programme) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

While Markhors' population is declining globally, with less than 6,000 mature individuals left, he said their numbers in Pakistan have been increasing for the past ten years, reaching between 3,500 and 5,000, "due to our proactive conservation programmes, and community engagement."

"In Pakistan's experience", Ambassador Akram said, "strengthening community governance structures and promoting local ownership over sustainable natural resource use is a crucial first step to building more capacity for wildlife management activities."

In this regard, he cited Pakistan's 'trophy hunting policy' that initially allowed a quota of 6 and later 12 Markhors to be hunted per season, a programme recognized under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Under its terms, the Pakistani envoy said local communities are trained to monitor and manage Markhor populations and trophy hunts independently. These communities retain 80% of the trophy permit fees, creating strong incentives for conservation, leading to significant livelihood improvements and community development projects, with proceeds also spent on enhancing Markhor breeding spaces and habitats.

Pakistan, he said, was willing to share its knowledge and experience in Markhor conservation with other countries and looks forward to learning from them.

Ambassador Akram also said the UN General Assembly resolution, which proclaimed May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor, would help promote collaborative efforts for the long-term preservation of this iconic species and its habitat.



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

## India Initiates a New Era of brutality in IIOJK - I

In recent years, India has been implicated in human rights abuses across various regions, encompassing a range of issues from extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances to constraints on freedom of expression and discrimination against marginalized groups.

A focal point of concern has been the situation in IIOJK. The decision by the Indian government in August 2019 to revoke the region's special autonomy resulted in a severe crackdown. Reports from international human rights bodies and local activists have detailed arbitrary

use of force by security forces. Prolonged internet shutdowns and restrictions on movement have also been documented. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), applied in IIOJK and several north-eastern states, grants extensive powers to security forces with minimal accountability. Under AFSPA, security personnel are shielded from prosecution unless approved by the central government, a provision criticized for fostering impunity and instilling fear.

India's treatment of its religious and ethnic minorities has been scrutinized as well. Reports highlight incidents of mob violence and attacks targeting religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, often fueled by religious intolerance and discriminatory legislation. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of December 2019 sparked widespread protests domestically and internationally, criticized for allegedly discriminating against Muslims in the citizenship process.

Moreover, the situation of Dalits, considered the lowest caste in India's social hierarchy, remains precarious despite legal safeguards. Dalits continue to encounter discrimination, violence, and systemic barriers to education, employment, and justice. Beyond internal conflicts and social divides, environmental activists and journalists have faced harassment, intimidation, and violence. Freedom of expression has come under increasing pressure, with laws criminalizing speech deemed offensive or against state interests.

Although India is a so-called signatory to various international human rights treaties and its constitution guarantees fundamental rights to citizens, the implementation and enforcement of these rights remain inconsistent. Human rights advocates and civil society organizations within India have repeatedly called for reforms to strengthen accountability mechanisms, improve transparency, and uphold the rule of law.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has faced numerous allegations of human rights violations, prompting scrutiny and debate both domestically and internationally. Since Modi took office in 2014, several incidents have drawn significant criticism and raised serious concerns about the state of human rights in the world's largest so-called democracy. One pivotal incident occurred in August 2019, when the Indian government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomous status and reorganized the state into two union territories. This decision was accompanied by a comprehensive lockdown, communication blackout, and widespread arrests of political leaders and activists. Reports from international organizations documented instances of arbitrary detentions, torture, and the use of excessive force by security personnel. In December 2019, the Indian Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which expedites Indian citizenship for refugees from neighboring countries excluding Muslims. Critics argue that this law discriminates against Muslims and undermines India's secular constitution. The introduction of the CAA, along with the proposed nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC), ignited protests across the country, which were met with police crackdowns and allegations of excessive force against demonstrators. During Modi's tenure, there has been a noticeable escalation in government actions against dissenting voices and independent media. Human rights organizations have documented cases of harassment, intimidation, and arrests targeting activists, journalists, and academics critical of the government. Laws like sedition and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) have been wielded to target dissenters, raising concerns about freedom of expression in India.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Judiciary's Influence on Pakistan's Political Development

By serving as an essential check on the authority of the government and legislature and maintaining the rule of law, the judiciary has a significant influence on the political landscape of Pakistan. The court has historically negotiated intricate political relations, frequently finding itself at the nexus of political pressures and legal obligations. As the highest court in Pakistan, the Supreme Court has played a crucial role in deciding well-known cases with important political ramifications. Its impact is shown by seminal rulings like the invalidation of elected officials and the examination of constitutional modifications. The judiciary has demonstrated its dedication to accountability and transparency by taking the initiative to address concerns of governance and corruption.

The judicial system's ability to address certain issues facing the nation has also grown as a result of specialized tribunals like accountability courts and anti-terrorism courts. These courts seek to ensure prompt justice and improve the effectiveness of the judiciary by streamlining the legal procedure in crucial areas. These improvements do, however, come with some drawbacks, such as the requirement for sufficient funding, instruction, and safeguards against potential abuse of the court system.

Decisions made by the judiciary internationally have a big impact on Pakistan's foreign policy and adherence to international norms. For instance, Pakistan's reputation and its relations with other nations may be impacted by how matters pertaining to terrorism and human rights are handled. Pakistan's international standing is bolstered by an internationally regarded judiciary, which also attracts investment and cultivates diplomatic relations. Pakistan's judiciary's future requires striking a careful balance between accountability and independence so that it may carry out its constitutional role without going beyond bounds or giving in to outside pressure. Sustaining public confidence requires continued judicial reforms, greater openness in judicial nominations, and improved public participation. Maintaining judicial integrity requires a commitment to ethical norms and ongoing professional development.

As the nation's democratic institutions develop, the judiciary will remain a crucial component of Pakistan's political

system, protecting citizens' rights and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld. Its significance for upholding democratic values, encouraging openness, and ensuring justice cannot be overstated. A fair and impartial court is essential to the advancement of a just and stable society. Pakistan won't be able to successfully overcome its political challenges and achieve long-term prosperity until then.

It is critical that the judiciary take a leading role in social justice concerns. The role of courts has been crucial in resolving social injustices, defending the rights of minorities, and defending the rights of women. Court rulings in situations involving workplace harassment, domestic abuse, and honour killings have established significant precedents for social reform. Social justice and human dignity are advanced by the judiciary through the enforcement of laws protecting disadvantaged groups. A significant factor in determining public policy is the judiciary's engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. NGOs and civil society organizations can bring problems of general societal concern before the courts through public interest litigation (PIL). With the help of this process, the court can deal with systemic problems that the legislative or executive departments might not be able to sufficiently handle. The judiciary's response to PILs is indicative of its function as a social reform catalyst and defender of the public interest.

**Conclusion:** The judiciary plays a vital and diverse role in Pakistani politics. Its impact goes beyond simple decision-making to include policy-making, rights protection, and the promotion of democratic values. Maintaining justice, encouraging good governance, and defending the rule of law will depend on having a robust, independent, and unbiased court as the nation negotiates its complicated political and socioeconomic environment. The judiciary's vital position in Pakistan's political arena will continue to be defined by its continuous evolution and its proactive approach to solving modern issues.

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Analysis

Muhammad Sohail Hassan

# Pakistani companies seek business opportunities at China-South Asia Expo

Jamil Bhatti/Jiang Chao /Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani businessman Anique Mansab Chaudhry has been working on his plans to explore maximum opportunities at the upcoming China-South Asia Expo for the expansion of his businesses in Pakistan.

"I am looking forward to purchasing new energy technology products at the China-South Asia Expo," Chaudhry told Xinhua in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Chaudhry, head of the projects at Reon Energy company based in the southern port city of Karachi, is all set to visit China for the first time to attend the expo as a professional buyer.

The 8th China-South Asia Expo will be held from July 23 to 28 in Kunming, capital of China's southwestern Yunnan Province.

According to the provincial Department of Commerce of Yunnan, over 2,000 enterprises have registered for the event, with representatives from all South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

The expo will present 15 pavilions, including two dedicated to South Asian countries, showcasing a total of approximately 800 booths.

Li Ping, director of the Commercial Representative Office of Yunnan Province in Pakistan, told Xinhua that soon after the invitation for the China-South Asia Expo was released, a number of Pakistani companies and chambers of commerce actively signed up, and finally over 70 professional importers and exporters submitted applications.



"Many professional buyers will go to the expo to import products from China, and they are most interested in electric appliances, information technology, solar energy, energy storage, new materials, artificial intelligence and other products made in China," Li said.

Chaudhry noted that his main task for this expo trip is to purchase photovoltaic modules, inverters and high-efficiency energy storage batteries to improve his company's efficiency and to provide the best to the satisfaction of customers.

"The expo has provided practical help for my career and company development. China is the largest supplier of renewable energy products in Pakistan," said Chaudhry, adding that the right solutions and the most efficient products all come from China, which can

help improve the production efficiency of his company.

Chaudhry said that China's dynamic development of new quality productive forces, along with the promotion of the production and export of "new trios", including new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products, will ultimately benefit the South Asian countries, and significantly reduce global carbon emissions.

"There is no doubt that Chinese products are of very good quality, which is the result of years of technological research and development," said Chaudhry.

The businessman explained that China's high-efficiency products help his company's clients achieve a good return on investment, ultimately providing clean and affordable energy for Pakistan's industrial development.



Sauqib Fayyaz, senior vice president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who has already visited China over 40 times, will lead the delegation of Pakistani exporters at the expo.

Talking to Xinhua, Fayyaz, attending the expo for the second time, said that the Pakistani delegation would set up about 120 booths in the expo, displaying products from various fields including agriculture and handicrafts.

"China is a huge and potential market, and every country wants to expand into the Chinese market, and we want to introduce our products,"

said Fayyaz, adding that the Pakistani business delegation will also organize a number of business-to-business meetings with Chinese counterparts on the occasion.

"The China-South Asia Expo and Business Forum have created vast opportunities for promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries and released positive and favorable market signals," said Fayyaz.

According to Fayyaz, Pakistan and China have achieved a win-win cooperation, in particular through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC), a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He believes that the establishment of industrial parks by Chinese companies in Pakistan will help increase the added value and export of Pakistan's industrial products and promote the vigorous development of the economies of the two countries.

"I hope that by participating in the China-South Asia Expo and its business forum, Pakistani and Chinese companies can deepen cooperation, enhance the level of bilateral trade between the two countries, and achieve common development," added Fayyaz.

## Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador/Director PPS Sayed waqar Ahmad Shah, Chief Guest Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman BoG ISSI Ambassador khalid Mahmood, Director General ISSI Mr. Shoil Mehmood, Additional Foreign Secretary Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Ex Ambassador Afghanistan Mr. Mansoor Ahmad, International Conference on Strengthening Pakistan US Relations, Global and Regional challenges. At Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Pakistan.



Photo: Online

## Yasin Khan Baloch issues instructions to private schools to stop summer camps



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The School Education Department, Government of Punjab, had given permission to run summer camps in private and public educational institutions for only one month and this period has ended on July 20. Government orders will be implemented in every case possible.

Chief Executive Officer District Education Authority Rawalpindi Muhammad Yasin Khan Baloch said this in a meeting with Member District Registration Authority and President North Punjab All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association Abrar Ahmed Khan. He said that majority of parents have registered their complaints regarding summer camp in private educational institutions.

He issued instructions to Member District Registration Authority Rawalpindi Abrar Ahmed Khan and parents representative Raja Abdul Habib to play their full role.

Abrar Ahmed Khan said that most of the schools in Rawalpindi district are closed, but the educational institutions in which educational activities are going on should also follow the instructions of the School Education Department of Punjab. Abrar Ahmed Khan said that the CEO Education in a message issued to the heads of private educational institutions said that in the rainy season in the light of the instructions of the district administration, while strictly implementing the anti-dengue campaign, the roofs of the educational institutions, Do not allow water to accumulate in the pots and take care of thorough cleaning.

He also appreciated the efforts of Apsma Tehsil General Secretary Rawalpindi Adnan Nisaar for organizing breakfast organized by Al-Khaddamat Foundation for the children of nine schools in the morning.

## Renegotiations with IPPs on principles of transparency, accountability crucial to end capacity payments' burden: Dr Suleri

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Wednesday said that renegotiations of agreements with the independent power producers (IPPs) based on principles of transparency and accountability is crucial to end increasing burden of capacity payments on the masses.

In an exclusive chat with the SDTV here, the SDPI Executive Director provided a clear way forward to address the power sector crisis leading to increased tariffs hurting the common masses' incomes.

He said the IPPs were introduced as panacea in the beginning during the 15-16 hours electricity loadshedding occurring in the past, and were promoted as a remedy to make up that shortfall.

Dr Suleri noted that during the process of establishing IPPs, there were flaws in the policies that promoted prevailing elite capture prevailing, whereas proper procedures, due diligence and Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) rules should be followed in the renewal process of IPPs licenses and agreements.

Capacity payment charges, he said needs to be understood that it was like any resource hired for services was left unused but the lender was charging for that resource even if it was kept idle.

He suggested that the way forward is to introduce tariff rationalisation, more usage of electricity in the system, local IPPs irrespective of ownership will have to be brought on table to renegotiate tenor and capacity payment charges, terms and conditions, alongwith abolishment of dollar denominated returns and back door diplomacy for the Chinese IPPs under CPEC.

"Chinese never favour their partner countries with publicity. The Chinese have hundreds of investments under BRI in numerous countries and if they will do drumbeating on it then other countries will demand the same from them," he said.

During previous PTI regime, he said the Chinese government suggested the Pakistani government to negotiate with its local IPPs and increase tenure and tenor are successfully renegotiated with them then the Chinese would implement the same on their IPPs.

He recommended that the domestic players needs to be taken on board and all had to play their role as the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had to take up the matter productively and negotiate with the IPPs to end up their unjust agreements churning up billions of rupees of national exchequer and allow the country to grow.

He further suggested that the fossil fuel dependent IPPs needs to be retired and replaced with renewable energy projects to reduce their environmental impact and cost as well.

## MPA Tahsin Fawad appointed as Rawalpindi District Human Rights Commission President

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member Punjab Provincial Assembly and Senior Vice President of Rawalpindi City Begum Tahsin Fawad was entrusted with the post of President of Human Rights Commission District Rawalpindi. Begum Tahsin Fawad was entrusted with this responsibility by the National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony Pakistan and International Group Admin Civil Army NPCIHA of Pakistan International. On this, the political and social circles welcomed the appointment of MPA Begum Tehsin Fawad as the President of Rawalpindi District Human Rights Commission. And it is expected that she will play her key role in upholding human rights on a priority basis. In this regard, when Begum Tahsin Fawad was contacted, she said that Pakistan became independent due to the efforts of our forefathers. Now it is the duty of all of us to set the goals of development. The role of Pakistani forces in the development of Pakistan has always been a proud one. We stand with our army. We will all together fight internal and external conspiracies against Pakistan. I lived all my life in loyalty to this country and party. The determination to serve the country runs in my veins. I will perform my duties honestly. I will try my best to become the spokeswoman for human rights in Punjab district.



## Chinese Ambassador Briefed At Board Of Investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador H. E. Jiang Zaidong was given a high-level briefing at the Board of Investment in Pakistan which was conducted by Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi. In this session, the details of the establishment of industries from China to Pakistan under Matchmaking Industry were presented. In this briefing, 7 major sectors were finalized, which include medical equipment, plastic industry, textile, leather, edible meat, fruit & vegetables and waste.

While giving briefing to Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese delegation, Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said that there are opportunities in Pakistan to invest in infrastructure, housing and other important sectors. He invited more Chinese companies to come to Pakistan and invest here.

He assured that the Chinese brothers are our guests and their fool proof security would be assured



at all costs. Abdul Aleem Khan welcomed the participation of Chinese Ambassador H. E. Jiang Zaidong in the briefing session and said that Pakistan is extending business visa facility to investors from 124 countries including China. China's Ambassador H. E. Jiang Zaidong assured all possible support for investment in Pakistan and said that business organizations from China will fully participate in the promotion of trade here. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi said that with China Friendship, brotherly relations, investment is always the top priority for Pakistan. Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal said that Pakistan-China investment is a joint responsibility of the Board of Investment and the Ministry of Commerce, which will be fulfilled effi-

ciency. The Chinese Ambassador was accompanied by the Minister of Commerce, Consul, Second Secretary and other Chinese officials. French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey called on Federal Minister for Investment Board, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discuss bilateral cooperation and trade activities between both the countries. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan told Nicolas Galey that work is being done on road network from Karachi to Sukher and China including Central Asian states which will help to promote business volume.

He said that European countries are very important in terms of investment and economic activities in Pakistan. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that for the strength-

ening of the country's economy, the privatization of loss-burdened institutions already in process while all these institutions have the potential to earn profits and work in good manner. Expressing gratitude to the Federal Minister and President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan for participating in the reception of the National Day of France, Nicolas Galey invited him to visit France and meet the Business Association there.

French Ambassador also expressed interest in investment and partnership in business activities by his Government and private sector of France. In the meeting they both held detailed discussions on increasing trade volume between Pakistan and France and also discussed different important proposals.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
79,397.00	78,987.09
Day's High	Day's Low
79,704.36	79,704.36
Index Value	Change
6,721,427,140	+409.91
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	24 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,153.69	-13.68
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	24 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,043.15	-314.94
Percentage	Time
-0.78%	24 Jul, 1:26 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,154.85	-439.54
Percentage	Time
-1.11%	24 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.95	186.75
Bahrain Dinar	741.15	749.15
Canadian Dollar	203.65	205.65
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	301.75	303.85
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.25	917.35
Malaysian Ringgit	58.95	59.75
New Zealand \$	169.24	171.24
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.90	74.63
Singapore Dollar	202.4	204.4
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.65	77.4
UK Pound Sterling	356	360.25
US Dollar	279	280.75

# Masses haven't robbed resources, but face punishment, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, on Wednesday said that the risk of confrontation between the public and electricity companies is increasing due to inflated bills.

People now have to pay electricity bills that exceed their income, leading to quarrels in their homes, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflated bills are breaking relationships, and people are shedding blood over it.



The veteran business leader, speaking to the business community, claimed that capacity payments are penalising the general public and the industrial sector.

He warned that public anxiety and agitation could spiral out of control at any time, so the government should act quickly to stabilise the situation.

The business leader stated that the elites and the government own 80 percent of the IPPs established in the country, receiving far more in dollars than their rightful share.

He warned that this plunder of resources should end; otherwise, the country will plunge into lawlessness and will soon become bankrupt.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government can do a lot in this regard. The Prime

Minister has also issued directives to lower the cost of electricity for industries, yet a permanent solution to the losses and capacity payments in the electricity sector remains unattainable.

He stressed that the government's non-developmental expenditures are skyrocketing, making it impossible to fool the people as they perceive everything.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, following violent incidents, the power tariff has been reduced in some areas, implying that those living in other areas should also resort to violence for relief.

He stated that it's crucial to conduct a forensic audit of IPPs, noting that some individuals have profited greatly from the looting, and it's now time to put an end to it.

## Risk and saving

ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclist heading towards their destination along with Solar Panel in a risky way at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Spokesman by Sultan Bashir

## Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited and Yousuf Dewan Group Offers Motor Takaful for Shehzore and New EV Honri

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGT), a leading provider of Shariah-compliant General Takaful solutions in Pakistan and Yousuf Dewan Group have entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding to introduce a groundbreaking auto Takaful product tailored specifically for the newly launched electric vehicle Honri – both variants 2.0 and 3.0 – and Shehzore by the Auto Division of Yousuf Dewan Group.

This partnership marks a significant milestone as an auto assembler in Pakistan partners with a dedicated General Takaful operator, offering comprehensive Takaful coverage for electric and commercial vehicles.

The MoU, signed by the Chairman of Yousuf Dewan Group Mr. Dewan Muhammad Yousuf and CEO of Pak-Qatar General Takaful, Mr. Saqib Zeeshan, underscores their commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions in the automotive sector. The signing ceremony was also attended by Mr. Kamran Saleem, Director, Pak-Qatar Group, Dr. Usman Hayat, Group CEO Yousuf Dewan Group, Mr. Mehmood Arshad, Executive Director Pak-Qatar Takaful, Ms. Saleha Hasan, Head of Marketing, Yousuf Dewan and other senior



officials from both organizations.

Mr. Saqib Zeeshan, CEO of PQGT, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, "We anticipate forming a lasting partnership with Yousuf Dewan Companies to expand our Takaful coverage to include electric vehicles, alongside private and commercial vehicles. This collaboration will ensure a significant milestone in elevating motor Takaful coverage, offering comprehensive coverage for a wider audience of vehicle owners nationwide."

Mr. Dewan Muhammad Yousuf, Chairman of Yousuf Dewan Group, emphasized the strategic benefits of this partnership, "We are pleased to join hands with Pak-Qatar General Takaful to enhance

customer satisfaction through motor Takaful coverage for our electric and commercial vehicles. This partnership is a testament to our commitment towards delivering exceptional Takaful protection and service excellence to our valued customers."

The newly launched Honri EV by Eco Green Motors Limited represents a pioneering leap forward in the local automotive industry, combining advanced technology with environmental sustainability. The exclusive auto Takaful product offered through this collaboration aims to provide peace of mind to customers, covering various aspects including theft, damage, and third-party liability.

## RCCI and Ministry of Climate Change join hands for climate action, environmental protection

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), and Ministry of Climate Change will join hands to address challenges faced by Pakistan due to Climate Change and both reiterated their resolve to put joint efforts to cope with the impact of climate change. These commitments were expressed at a meeting of RCCI delegation headed by President Saqib Rafiq, with Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coor-

dinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC) in Islamabad.

The primary focus of the discussion revolved around collaborative efforts on climate change initiatives, with particular emphasis on carbon/plastic credit mechanisms and cooperation in climate programs. Ms. Romina Khurshid expressed her commitment and cooperation from her office to work closely with RCCI

towards sustainable environmental practices and enhancing climate resilience in Pakistan. "Pakistan is among the countries most adversely impacted by climate change, but it is now leading the way with its climate diplomacy, she added."

President Saqib Rafiq highlighted the RCCI's ongoing efforts and initiatives in promoting environmental sustainability within the business community. He extended an invitation to Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam to partici-

pate in an upcoming event on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) organized by the RCCI. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam appreciated RCCI's proactive approach and assured the Ministry's full support in advancing joint climate action programs.

Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh and executive committee member Mr. Asad Aftab, and Women Executive Members Ms. Gul Zeba and Ms. Sadia Zia were also present on the occasion.

## Pakistan Needs Business-Friendly Policies to Overcome Prevailing Crisis: ICCI President



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called for a forensic audit of Independent Power Producers (IPPs), decriing the annual payment of Rs.2000 billion in capacity charges as "daylight robbery." This, he argues, deprives consumers of their hard-earned income and putting them severe hardships to meet their day to day affairs.

In a statement issued here at Islamabad on Wednesday, Bakhtawari lamented that 25% of industries have already shut down, resulting in widespread unemployment and the sale of machinery at drastically reduced prices.

He emphasized that the Rs.2 trillion being

paid to 40 companies in capacity charges is severely hampering the national economy, even when no electricity is generated or supplied.

Bakhtawari stressed the need for cheaper electricity sources, as current high tariffs hinder export growth. He urged the government to review all agreements with IPPs and procure electricity from cost-effective sources for the national grid.

He said that Pakistan needs business-friendly and long-term economic policies to wriggle out of the current crisis and promote business and investment activities.

He urged that businessmen should be encouraged as role models in society as they are playing a vital role in the development of the country.

## CAT Upholds CCP's Order against Media Industry Giants

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a decisive ruling, the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has dismissed the appeal filed by the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), upholding the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) directive to major media industry players to refrain from violating competition laws.

The CCP's action resulted from a thorough enquiry initiated by a complaint from M/s Bol Media Network, M/s Labbaik (Pvt) Limited, and M/s Bol Enterprises (Pvt) Limited against PBA, Broadcaster Advertisers Council (BAC) and Medialogic (Pvt) Limited. Bol alleged in its

complaint that Medialogic had denied it ratings through an arrangement concealed within three distinct agreements involving the PBA, BAC, Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS), and Medialogic.

The CCP declared the three agreements null and void, finding them to be anti-competitive and in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. These agreements effectively excluded non-PBA and non-BAC members from receiving ratings and services from Medialogic, creating barriers to entry for non-members and new entrants. Medialogic was also threatened with monetary penalties if it provided ratings to non-PBA members.

## Combating poverty and sustaining businesses through eradicating forced labor

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The eradication of forced labor in the brick kiln sector is vital for ensuring the sector's sustainability and reducing poverty. This was highlighted by EFP Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali during a capacity-building workshop organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) with the support of the International Labor Organization (ILO) under the BRIDGE Project for members of the Brick Kilns Owners Association Pakistan (BKOAP) in Lahore. The goal of the session was to empower BKOAP members to better understand the concepts and challenges related to forced and bonded labor and to implement measures for its eradication in the brick kiln industry.

Shoaib Niazi, Chairman of the Pakistan Brick Kiln Owners Association (BKOAP), expressed gratitude to EFP and ILO for organizing a capacity-building session for the BKOAP.

## Syngenta Pakistan's 'CropWise Grower' App becomes the biggest Agri-Tech app of Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta Pakistan, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company that provides crop protection, seeds, and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has introduced 'Cropwise Grower' application—a free-of-cost, highly innovative digital solution to engage & advise the Pakistani farmers to enhance their farm productivity. Within 1 year, the 'Cropwise Grower' has become Pakistan's Fastest Growing Agri-Tech App, offering multiple features including instant detection & diagnosis of crop-diseases, pests or other threats to the farmers' crops.

At the time of this publication, it is the Top Trending App on 'Android Play Store' in the 'Education Category' with 600,000+ downloads, covering over 4 million acres of farmland. Cropwise Grower app offers multiple features, including instant detection and diagnosis of crop diseases, pests and other threats to the crops. The App's 'scan, detect and diagnose' feature called Crop Doctor is powered by the most advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) based mechanism, which provides a one-stop solution to farmers to identify crop problems and address these problems efficiently. Besides recommending products suitable for various crop-growth stages, it provides crop-management information and tutorials on the timely identification of pests and diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, Zeeshan Hasib Baig (Country General Manager, Syngenta Pakistan) said: "Syngenta Pakistan's core strength lies in its close relationship with the growers. We are thrilled to share this important milestone which is a testament to the hard work of our team and the incredible support of our farmers. To further bring smart solutions closer to farmers and to enable them to be more self-sufficient, we will continue to provide the best services to our growers as we reach even greater heights."

# 10 sports academies to be established to groom talent of youth: Mashhood

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday said that the present government is going to establish 10 sports academies to groom and nurture the talents of youth.

He said this while speaking during the visit to the sports facilities here at the NED Engineering University.

Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said that the funding for the biomechanics laboratory at the NED Engineering University is being provided under the Prime Minister Youth Program.

He said, "We are pursuing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of youth empowerment because the youth of Pakistan is very talented and they only need more opportunities."

Speaking about the biomechanics laboratory at NED Engineering University, he lauded the NED Engineering University for its contribution in the



education sector and said, the varsity is also contributing in the field of sports. Sports is now emerged as an industry in the civilized societies in the world, he

observed.

He said that the gadgets and equipment at the biomechanics laboratory will help the sportsmen to learn about their own movements and actions so as to make changes and polish their skills.

He said that the government is determined to support the information technology (IT) for further growth of the sector. Large number of youths are making their lives better through E-Rozgar program, he noted.

Later, Rana Mashhood was briefed about the functioning of various equipment of biomechanics laboratory, which he highly appreciated.

On the occasion, the Chairman PMYP also visited the sports facilities built for the students at the NED Engineering University.

Coordinator for PMYP Sindh Fahad Shafiq, Vice-Chancellor NED University of Engineering & Technology, Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi and other notables were also present on the occasion.

## Coaching Course & Seminar Organized by Taekwondo Karachi



**Tahir Amin Malik**

Taekwondo Karachi (TK) hosted a highly successful Certified Coaching Course & Seminar, attracting over 75 participants from various cities including Sukkur, Hyderabad, Larkana, and Karachi. It was organized by Taekwondo Karachi Coaching Association under supervision of Sindh Taekwondo. The full-day event aimed to enhance coaching skills and promote advanced techniques among Taekwondo practitioners across Sindh.

The course & seminar was inaugurated by the President Taekwondo Karachi Mr. M. Faraz Usman along with Head Coach Sindh Taekwondo Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed and Head Referee Sindh Taekwondo Mr. Khurram Rasheed Khan. Also present on the occasion were Mr. Fasihuddin Head Coach TK, Mr. Saqib Ikram, Secretary TK, Mr. Noor Ahmed Vice Chairman TK and Mr. Jawed Khalid Head School Association TK.

The seminar was graced by esteemed dignitaries in the Closing Ceremony, with Mr. Jalaluddin Mehr, Secretary Sports, Government of Sindh as the Chief Guest. The event's Guest of Honors included Mr. Syed Akhtar Meer, Provincial Secretary Boy Scouts Association; Mr. Ahmed Ali Rajput, Secretary Sindh Olympic Association; Mr. Kamran Qamar, President Sindh Taekwondo; Mr. Ismail, DSO East; and Ms. Hajra Nawab, DSO Central.

Participants eagerly engaged in a series of interactive sessions led by seasoned instructors and experts in Taekwondo coaching. Topics covered included advanced rules, categories, grading, sparring techniques, effective coaching methodologies, sports psychology, and injury prevention strategies.

Mr. Jalal Mehr praised the initiative and emphasized the importance of such seminars in fostering talent and promoting sports in Sindh. "It's heartening to see such dedicated efforts in promoting sports education. This seminar will undoubtedly contribute to the development of Taekwondo in our province," he remarked.

The Guest of Honors commended Taekwondo Karachi for organizing an impactful event that not only enhanced coaching skills but also fostered camaraderie among participants from different cities.

The seminar concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, where participants were recognized for their active participation and commitment to advancing their coaching expertise.

Taekwondo Karachi plans to continue organizing similar seminars and courses to nurture Taekwondo talent and promote excellence in coaching across the region.

## Techstirr National Juniors Tennis Championship from 28th July



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Karachi Tennis Association Under the auspices of Pakistan Tennis Federation and Sindh Tennis Association will organize Techstirr Pvt. Ltd. National Juniors Tennis Championship 2024 from 28th July at DA Creek Club

Sponsor of this National Championship are Techstirr Pvt. Ltd. Events to be contested are Juniors Under 18 Singles and Doubles, Girls Juniors Under 18 Singles and Doubles, Boys Under 14 Singles and Doubles, Girls Under 14 Singles and Doubles, Boys Under 12 Singles and Doubles, Girls Under 12 Singles and Doubles, Future Stars (invitational) Singles Under 12.

Give Aways and Trophies shall be awarded to winners and runners-up of all events as per PTF Rules. All the main Draw out station players shall be entitled to Travelling Allowance as per PTF Rules.

Organizing Committee comprises. Sarwar Hussain (Tournament Director), Muhammad Khalid Rehmani (Referee), Abrar Qureshi, Organizing Secretary,

Last Date of Entry is 25th July,

Entries can be sent to Muhammad Khalid Rehmani (Referee) at WhatsApp number 0300 3607209.

ITF and PTF code of conduct shall strictly be followed and PPIN is mandatory to take part in all national tournaments.

Those who do not have PPIN

Must send B Form soft copy with their entry at given WhatsApp number and carry hard copy and pics when reporting for their matches for issuance of PPIN.

# Embrace the Spirit of the Steppes at the World Nomad Games

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: It is widely recognised that preserving cultural heritage is crucial, as it shapes a nation's identity and defines its future. Countries around the world have maintained historical sites, protected languages, and conserved natural sites. In Central Asia, the protection of cultural heritage is equally important, given the region's rich and diverse history, which dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE.

As the summer sun begins its descent and the breeze of autumn sweeps across the Kazakh steppe, Astana will come alive with the spirit of our nomadic ancestors as we host the Fifth World Nomad Games from September 8-13. This event will transform our vibrant capital into a bustling arena of culture, competition, and camaraderie. I am thrilled to extend a heartfelt invitation to to join us in celebrating this grand event.

For us, these Games are as significant as the Olympics are to the world. They are a testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and traditions of the nomadic cultures. For the world, they are an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the culture and history of nomadic peoples. They offer a unique window into the heritage that has shaped our identity and continues to influence our way of life.

The Fifth World Nomad Games in Kazakhstan, first held in 2014, will bring together over 2500 participants from around 100 countries. As a country experienced in hosting major global events, Kazakhstan looks forward to welcoming over 100,000 domestic and foreign tour-



ists to celebrate our culture and foster international friendship.

A key aspect of the World Nomad Games is the preservation of ancient sports and cultural practices. The culture of nomadic peoples has not been widely popularised globally so far. These games will change this by allowing visitors to witness rare sports and become immersed in our traditions. Twenty-one kinds of sports will be on display in Astana, including horse racing, traditional intellectual games, martial arts competitions, national bird hunting, and other folk games.

One of the most anticipated events is Kokpar, a thrilling and dynamic sport akin to polo, but with a distinctly nomadic twist. Teams on horseback vie for control of a goat carcass, displaying remarkable skill, strength, and strategy. This sport, along with many others featured at the Games, highlights the central role of horses in our culture.

They were indispensable companions in daily life, including for migration, warfare, hunting, and trade. Kazakh people hold the distinguished honour of the fact that horses were first domesticated around 5,500 years ago within what is now modern-day Kazakhstan. In fact, horses are considered one of the seven sacred treasures of the Kazakh people. This long-standing bond between Kazakhs and their steeds will be vividly brought to life through the equestrian events at the Games.

In addition to Kokpar, spectators will be treated to a variety of traditional sports such as archery, wrestling, and eagle hunting. Each sport carries its own historical significance and showcases the diverse skills honed by our ancestors to thrive in the vast and challenging landscapes of Central Asia.

Moreover, daily cultural events will be held at the unique "Ethnoaul," where the past will meet the present in a harmo-

nyous display of tradition. Here, visitors will be able to marvel at the largest exhibition-fair of Kazakh craftsmanship, where master artisans will display their works and share the secrets of their craft through engaging master classes.

One of the highlights of the cultural programme is Aitys, the traditional musical competition of akyns (Kazakh folk poets and singers). This poetic duel, where leading and novice aityskers (participants in Aitys) showcase their wit and lyrical prowess, is a beloved tradition that continues to captivate audiences with its blend of creativity and competitive spirit. Meanwhile, fashion enthusiasts will be delighted by the ethnic fashion festival, featuring a runway adorned with samples of ethnic clothing.

The festival of national cuisine promises to be a feast for the senses, offering master classes where visitors can learn to prepare traditional Kazakh dishes and beverages, experiencing firsthand the renowned hospitality and warmth of the Kazakh people.

The World Nomad Games this September promise to be an unforgettable experience, blending the thrill of competition with the richness of cultural heritage. The event offers a chance to strengthen cultural ties among nations. As a country that is home to over 100 ethnicities and one that values inter-ethnic harmony, we look forward to welcoming people from all over the world to Astana, where the spirit of the nomads lives on. Let's celebrate history, culture, and sports and be part of an event that honours our shared human heritage!

# Pak coaches to train Afghan blind cricket players

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) will send two national coaches, Masood Jan and Sanauallah Marwat, to Jalalabad next month to train the Afghan blind cricket team.

PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah said, the Afghanistan Blind Cricket Association requested Pakistan's assistance in training their players.

Shah, who also the President of World

Blind Cricket Limited, said Afghanistan Blind Cricket Council was also given a temporary membership in the World Blind Cricket Limited executive committee meeting so that their players can also participate in international competitions.

Afghanistan will become the 11th country to participate in blind cricket and we will also try to include Afghanistan in the T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, he said.

The training camp, sponsored by PBCC, will provide coaching to 35 Afghan blind players and three coaches.



This initiative aims to prepare the Afghan team for international competitions.

The PBCC has assured its full cooperation in this endeavor, further solidifying Pakistan's commitment to promoting blind cricket in the region.

This is not the first time Pakistani coaches have shared their expertise with neighboring countries. Previously, they have trained blind players from Nepal and Bangladesh as well, he said.

# Brook attains career-best third position in ICC Rankings

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: England batter Harry Brook has achieved a career-best third position in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings after notching a century in the second Test of the three-match ICC World Test Championship series against the West Indies which the home side won by 241 runs to go to 2-0 up.

Brook, who scored 36 and 109 in Nottingham, advanced four places while his team-mates Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope have also made significant gains in the latest weekly update to the men's rankings which are carried out on Wednesdays across formats, said a press release.

Left-handed opener Duckett has progressed six places to 16th position after notching scores of 71 and 76 while Player of the Match Pope has advanced

from 29th to 21st with scores of 121 and 51.

Chris Woakes is back into the top 20 of the bowling rankings for the first time since September 2021 after finishing with four for 84 and two for 28 in the match while spinner Shoaib Bashir has advanced 18 slots to 53rd position after he took his third five-wicket haul in just his fifth Test.

For the West Indies, captain Kraigg Brathwaite has moved up two slots to 40th position with scores of 48 and 47 while wicketkeeper Joshua de Silva (up seven places to 61st), Jason Holder (up two places to 70th) and Kavem Hodge (up 21 places to 75th) have also made good progress.

West Indies' new-ball bowlers Alzarri Joseph and Jayden Seales have made notable improvements to their rankings, Joseph up two places to 33rd after

finishing with five wickets in the match and Seales up from 44th to 34th with six wickets.

In the ODI rankings, Namibia left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz has attained a career-best sixth position after finishing with three for 23 against Scotland in an ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 match.

Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus and Scotland's George Munsey are among those to move up the batting rankings following their performances in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2. Erasmus is up four places to 27th and Munsey up seven places to 41st position.

In the ICC World Test Championship standings, England are placed in sixth position while the West Indies are ninth as per the percentage points that determine qualification.



## TAPI New Era

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkmenistan State Minister Maksat Babayev shake TAPI hands at the signing ceremony of a joint implementation plan to expedite the gas pipeline project on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to expedite TAPI pipeline project

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkmenistan have agreed to expedite the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, affirming their resolve for continuous engagement.

This agreement was reached during a meeting on Wednesday between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik, and Turkmenistan's Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, who is on a two-day visit to Pakistan.

The Turkmen delegation accompanying Rashid Meredov included Ata Haljanov, head of the International Economic Coopera-

tion Division at Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Eziz Nazarov, head of the Legal Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Muhammetmyrat Amanov, Chairman of the Board and CEO of TAPI Pipeline Company Ltd; Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan; and Eldar Permatov, Third Secretary of the Embassy of Turkmenistan. Pakistani officials present at the meeting included Additional Secretary Hasan Yousafzai, Joint Secretary Shabbaz Tahir, and MD of Interstate Gas Systems Limited, Nadeem Bajwa.

Dr Musadik Malik welcomed the Turkmen delegation and expressed his gratitude for the hospitality offered by the Turkmen side during his

last visit to Turkmenistan.

He said the visit of the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan marks a significant milestone in the strengthening of diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations.

TAPI pipeline project, the minister said, will lower energy costs, which can boost industrial growth, create jobs, and foster economic development. Reliable and affordable energy supplies are vital for industrial sectors and overall economic stability, he added.

This project, he said, aimed at fostering economic integration and energy security, has witnessed substantial progress through collaborative efforts and resolved continuous engagement among both countries.

He further added that Pakistan is fully committed to this project which is significant for regional energy cooperation and infrastructure development.

Rashid Meredov expressed his profound appreciation for the warm welcome extended by the Pakistani side. "Together we will chalk out a roadmap for cooperation between both countries" he added.

Muhammetmyrat Amanov, CEO of TAPI Pipeline Company Limited mentioned that with the special interest of Petroleum Minister and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) TAPI has seen significant progress and is on the right track.

Speaking on the developments, officials from both

Pakistan and Turkmenistan emphasized the project's strategic importance in enhancing regional connectivity, promoting economic growth, and meeting the energy demands of participating nations. They underscored their commitment to continued cooperation and mutual support to overcome any remaining challenges. Continuous diplomatic efforts and political commitments are beneficial for ensuring a conducive environment for project advancement.

The TAPI project remains a testament to the enduring partnership between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, reflecting shared goals of regional stability and prosperity through sustainable energy solutions.

## German envoy for developing synergies for bilateral trade expansion

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: German Ambassador Mr Alfred Grannas stressed on developing synergies in bilateral trade expansion, mutual capacity building in textile sectors and bilateral exchange of business delegations to identify trade and investment options.

He visited the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) office here on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Ms Jenine Rohwer, First Secretary Economic & Political and Dr Sebastian

Paust, Head of Development Cooperation.

APTMA Chairman (North) Kamran Arshad welcomed him on the occasion with other senior members of the association.

The envoy said the government of Pakistan should ensure implementation of GSP Plus options.

He said there was also a need on part of Pakistani exporters to understand the supply chain regulations in Germany to increase exports.

According to him, the German Development Coop-



eration will set up a help desk in Pakistan.

Kamran Arshad offered the premises of the APTMA Lahore for the same with full logistic support.

Regarding delay in issu-

ance of visas for Germany, the ambassador explained in detail the procedure for obtaining business visas. He assured that visas for business purposes will be issued with two weeks time if the prescribed procedure was followed by the applicants.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the chairman APTMA said the EU's extension of the GSP plus for another 10 years would bring enormous benefits to Pakistan economically and make improvements in human rights, labour rights, environments, good governance and transparency etc.

According to him, the Euro 45 million Technical Cooperation Agreement between Pakistan and Germany should focus on enhancing bilateral trade.

He also underscored the need of mutual capacity building in the textile sectors and training on the new EU Digital Product Passport requirements besides orientation programme on the new EU Green Deal regulations. He also emphasized on developing a mechanism for prompt issuance of visas to APTMA members.

## International Conference on 'Strengthening Pakistan-U. S. Relations' (Inaugural Session)

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Beaconhouse National University (BNU) Lahore, hosted an International Conference on July 24, 2024, titled "Strengthening Pakistan-U. S. Relations." The event featured distinguished diplomats, practitioners, and academics from both Pakistan and the United States.

The keynote speaker, H. E. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, discussed the importance of the U. S.-Pakistan relationship, emphasizing the long history of partnership and cooperation between the two nations. He highlighted the U. S.'s recognition of Pakistan's potential, particularly its dynamic young population and economic opportunities. Ambassador Blome appreciated Pakistan's contribution to counter-terrorism and underscored the U. S.'s commitment to supporting Pakistan in various areas, including countering regional threats, economic collaboration, renewable



energy, climate management, and education. He underscored that the U. S.-Pakistan partnership goes beyond security and includes significant investments in health, trade, and development sectors.

Ambassador Mariam Madiha Aftab, Additional Secretary (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the U. S.-Pakistan relationship is dynamic and multifaceted, covering areas such as health, trade, defense, and energy security. She emphasized the importance of economic collaboration, security cooperation, educational exchanges, and climate change initia-

tives. Ms. Aftab also addressed regional dynamics, stressing the need for the U. S. to play a crucial role in fostering peace and stability, and called for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with UN Security Council resolutions and will of the Kashmiri people.

Ambassador Mansoor Khan, Director of the Beaconhouse Center for Policy Research (BCPR), emphasized the multifaceted nature of Pakistan-U. S. relations, highlighting political, security, defense cooperation, and economic ties. He announced the launch of a new undergraduate course on Pakistan-U. S. relations at BNU.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives at ISSI, noted the significant contributions of the U. S. to Pakistan's development in sectors like education, healthcare, and climate change. She stressed the need for mutual respect and cooperation to address contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General of ISSI, provided an extensive overview of the historical

and current dynamics of Pakistan-U. S. relations. He acknowledged the evolving nature of the partnership, with a shift in focus from security to areas like trade, investment, energy, and people-to-people exchanges. He noted the cyclical pattern of bilateral relations, shaped by external factors, regional developments, and a narrower security-centric focus over the past many decades. Stressing the importance of realistic expectations, he called for greater attention to Pakistan's historical role and cumulative power potential in the emerging global order and the need for the U. S. to focus on Pakistan's preoccupations and interests. Relating to regional concerns, particularly the impact of U. S.-India strategic partnership on Pakistan's security especially within the 'Indo-Pacific' construct, he called for a responsive approach from Washington.

The inaugural session concluded with Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, presenting shields to the Chief Guest and Keynote speaker, followed by a group photograph.

## Foreign Secretary inaugurated the two-day Regional Conference on Export Control Programme

**City desk**

ISLAMABAD: Co-organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad and the European Union, the Regional Conference brings together Senior officials and Experts from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the US, the EU, the UN and representatives of multilateral export control regimes and other international organizations. The participants will discuss national approaches on strategic trade controls with a view to promoting international cooperation on trade of goods and technologies, in line with the relevant United Nations Resolutions, particularly UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1540.

At the inaugural session, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi underscored the right of developing countries to access dual-use



goods & technologies for socio-economic development and urged striking a balance between protecting national security interests and facilitating legitimate trade. He stated that Pakistan is diligently fulfilling all its obligations pertaining to nonproliferation and disarmament.

In his welcome address, Director General SECDIV, Haroon Rashid, briefed the participants on Pakistan's extensive legislative, regulatory and administrative framework for exercising controls over the transfer of sensitive goods and technologies to prevent their diversion to non-peaceful uses.

## AJK PM attends cake-cutting ceremony to mark 37th anniversary of District Press Club Kotli

**Bureau Report**

KOTLI: Prime Minister Azad Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Wednesday attended the cake-cutting ceremony to mark 37th anniversary of District Press Club Kotli.

On this occasion, the PM was accompanied by government ministers including Colonel (ret'd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Javed Iqbal

Badhanvi, Minister of Rehabilitation, Minister of Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik, Minister of Public Health Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali and Director of Information Raja Shahid Hussain Khokhar. Whereas Presidential Adviser Chaudhry Muhammad Mehboob, president Press Club Shahnawaz Butt and other office bearers were also present.

## FFC and AKBL Sign MOU to Empower Farmers through Financing Solutions



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) as the nation's Partner in Prosperity, has entered into a strategic partnership with Askari Bank Limited (AKBL) to enhance agricultural financing in Pakistan. The MOU signing ceremony took place at FFC Head Office on Wednesday, 24th July 2024.

Through this collaboration, FFC and Askari Bank aim to provide easier access to credit and tailored financial solutions for farmers, promoting the adoption of modern agricultural practices.

This initiative underscores FFC's

commitment to supporting agricultural development and improving farmer livelihoods across the country. Askari Bank's participation signifies a joint effort towards fostering sustainable growth in the agricultural sector by facilitating enhanced financial inclusion and productivity.

Senior Management from both the parties expressed their enthusiasm for the collaboration, highlighting its potential to drive transformative change in farming communities across Pakistan, whilst reaffirming their dedication to fostering a conducive environment for agricultural innovation and growth.

## Birth and death certificate services suspended in Islamabad

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Islamabad are facing difficulties obtaining birth and death certificates due to the suspension of services by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

The suspension is a result of the Islamabad Municipal Corporation (MCI) failing to pay NADRA a debt of Rs2 million.

Sources indicate that the MCI's inability to settle its dues has led to the suspension of services, leaving

citizens struggling to obtain essential documents for over a week.

NADRA has confirmed that the service suspension is due to the MCI's outstanding debt.

The suspension of birth and death certificate services has caused significant inconvenience to residents, who are now facing delays and complications in various official processes.

The MCI has yet to issue a statement regarding the situation or provide a timeline for resolving the issue.