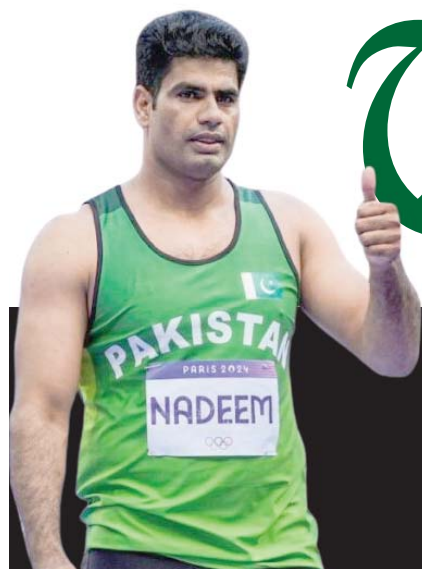


# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے عبدالمعزین بن جعفر نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سے ثابت بنی نے بیان کیا اور ان سے اس نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا جس نے مجھے خوب میں دیکھا تو اس نے واقعی نہیں دیکھا کیونکہ شیطان میری صورت میں نہیں آسکتا اور میں اس خوب نبوت کے چہرے میں حصوں میں سے ایک ہر وہو ہوتا ہے۔  
(بخاری: ص ۶۹۹)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Pakistan welcomes Olympian Arshad Nadeem with grand celebration

Pakistan welcomed its national hero, Arshad Nadeem, with grand celebrations as he returned to the country with a gold medal after a 40-year-long wait in the Paris Olympics 2024. Arshad Nadeem has set a new Olympic record by throwing the javelin at a distance of 92.97 meters ... (Details on Page 7)



## CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Vision: Plant for Pakistan Drive to Start on 14th August

According to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a unique Independence Day is being celebrated for the first time in the history of Punjab. On the direction of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, plantation will be undertaken under "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" across the province. The Azadi float from Rawalpindi to Lahore will reach Minar-e-Pakistan on the night of August 13. (Details on Page 2)

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## National Minorities Day

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony organized in view of National Minorities Day on Sunday.



Photo: PID

### PM-Minorities

# Prime Minister reaffirms commitment to minority rights

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of minorities as enshrined in the 1973 Constitution.

Addressing a gathering at the Pakistan Muslim League (N) headquarters here on Sunday on Minorities Day, the Prime Minister emphasized the significance of August 11, a date that commemorates Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic speech advocating equal rights

for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

In his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed minority representatives and military officers, highlighting the diverse makeup of the nation. He reiterated that Quaid-e-Azam had envisioned a Pakistan where everyone, including Muslims and minorities, would enjoy complete freedom to practice their faiths, a vision that continues to guide the country today.

He condemned the ongoing violence in Gaza, denouncing the atrocities committed by the

Israeli government under Prime Minister Netanyahu. He criticized the global community's muted response to these acts, calling it a grave failure of international organizations tasked with maintaining global peace.

Reflecting on the contributions of Pakistan's minority communities, the Prime Minister acknowledged their significant role in the country's progress and prosperity. He highlighted the contributions of Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Parsi communities to various sectors, including education, defence, trade, and justice. The

Prime Minister paid special tribute to minority figures who have served the nation in times of war and peace, citing examples such as Cecil Chaudhry and Justice Cornelius.

He reiterated the PML-N's longstanding support for minority rights, stating that the party, under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, has always advocated for the inclusion and protection of minorities. He concluded by reaffirming the government's dedication to upholding the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and ensuring that

minorities continue to play an integral role in the nation's future.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Ch Salik Hussain also spoke.

Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, senior PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique and other federal and provincial ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of minorities, senior civil and forces officers and a number of citizens attended the ceremony.

## Injured Pak army officer in Khyber gun battle embraces martyrdom

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Injured Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik succumbed to wounds and embraced martyrdom at Combined Military Hospital, Peshawar today.

According to ISPR, on Friday last, fire exchange took place between security forces and Khawarij at three different locations in Tirah Valley of Khyber District.

At one of the locations in Bagh, Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik, leading his troops from the front, fought bravely and sent four Khawarij to hell. However, during intense fire exchange, the officer got critically injured and was under treatment at CMH Peshawar.

Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the



country and such sacrifices of our brave officers and soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Earlier, the security forces gunned down four khawarij in three different intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that the security forces, three brave sons of soil also embraced martyrdom. The ISPR's statement read that 37-year-old Havildar Inam Gul, 29-year-old Sepoy Muhammad Imran, and 22-year-old Sepoy Iltaf Khan, having fought gallantly embraced Shahadat.

## President, PM saddened over martyrdom of Lt Uzair Mehmood Malik

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed deep grief over the martyrdom of Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik.

In their separate condolence messages today, they prayed for higher status in heaven for the departed soul of Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik Shaheed.

The President and the Prime Minister also commiserated with the bereaved family and paid tribute to

Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik Shaheed for presenting supreme sacrifice in the defence of the motherland.

President Asif Ali Zardari, in his message, expressed the resolve to continue actions against terrorists.

In his statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said officers and jawans of the Pakistan Army are actively busy in purging the Pakistani soil of Fitna Alkhawarij. He said the entire nation, including him, is standing should to shoulder with the armed forces in the war on terror.

## Pakistan condemns the Israeli attack on Al-Tabeen School

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli attack on Al-Tabeen School in eastern Gaza on Saturday, which led to the death of over 100 civilians, injuring many more.

Attacking an overcrowded school sheltering displaced persons, particularly when they were performing morning prayers, is a horrific, inhuman, and cowardly act. The indis-

criminate targeting of civilian populations and facilities is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes war crimes.

Israel must be held accountable for these war crimes and genocide in Gaza.

We call on the international community, especially the United Nations and backers of Israel, to take immediate steps to bring an end to the Gaza genocide and to protect the people of Gaza.

## Mohsin Naqvi pays homage to martyred Leut Uzair Mahmood Malik

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday paid homage to Lieutenant Uzair Mahmood Malik, who was martyred in an fire exchange with terrorists in Tirah Valley, the other day.

He expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of the martyred Lieutenant.

Mohsin Naqvi said that Lieutenant Uzair Mahmood Malik bravely confronted the militants and sent four of them to hell. He further said that Lieutenant Uzair Mahmood Malik sacri-

ficed his life in foiling the nefarious designs of the terrorists. The interior minister saluted the great sacrifice of Lieutenant Uzair Mahmood Malik. He stated that Lieutenant Uzair Mahmood Malik achieved the highest rank of martyrdom and we are proud of such brave sons

of the soil.

The minister said that the brave officers and soldiers of the security forces had made unforgettable sacrifices in the war against terrorism and they had created history.

He expressed that the sacrifices of the martyrs would



always be remembered.

## Atta Tarar vows to protect minorities' rights at every forum

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Ullah Tarar Sunday vowed to raise his voice at every forum to protect the rights of minorities.

Addressing a ceremony regarding Minority Day held here at Model Town, he added, "We are proud of the minorities of Pakistan, the white color in the Pakistani flag represents the minorities, and the minority communities in Pakistan have always played a positive role in the development, prosperity and establish-



ment of peace in the country."

The Federal Information Minister assured that the government would raise its voice at all

forums to protect the rights of minorities, asserting that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has clearly instructed the

parliamentarians to play an active role in the protection of minority rights in and outside the parliament, as the government is the guarantor of the protection of rights of every citizen of Pakistan. He mentioned that he is an MNA of Lahore's constituency where he represents 70,000 Christian voters. "I have received more love from this community than anyone else, and I am always in need of their support and guidance," he added.

He said that when there is an incident or the community feels little fear, "then we encourage

them and help raise their voice", adding that Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has always given the message of tolerance for the promotion of interfaith harmony.

Atta Ullah Tarar also thanked all the participants in the ceremony, especially the minority communities for their presence. "Pakistan also belongs to the minorities and our flag, in which the white colour represents you, we are also proud of you," he said. He also recited some poetry of a Sikh poet and chanted the slogan of "Long live Pakistan, long live the minorities of Pakistan."

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Vision: Plant for Pakistan Drive to Start on 14th August

Bureau Report

LAHORE: According to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a unique Independence Day is being celebrated for the first time in the history of Punjab. On the direction of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, plantation will be undertaken under "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" across the province. The Azadi float from Rawalpindi to Lahore will reach Minar-e-Pakistan on the night of August 13. The Azadi float features cultural representation of the four provinces, the Parliament of Azad Kashmir and a model of the Amburgir Mosque in Gilgit-Baltistan.

On the directions of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a plantation marathon competitions among all the districts will be held. There will also be a 'Mushaira' and a musical concert at



Minar-e-Pakistan. After six years, a new song will also be launched under the auspices of the Information and Culture Department. Assembly members, civil society will participate in "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" drive

at the divisional, district and Tehsil level. For the first time, free plantation will also be done at the Union Council level. Plantation will also be done in hospitals, Fountain House, Old Age Home, Darul Shafaqat and other

institutions with private collaboration. Videos and photos of the plantation will be uploaded on PITB's plantation dashboard.

The Chief Minister will award the district with the highest number of plantations. Flag hoisting ceremonies will be organized at all divisional, district and tehsil headquarters. Cricket, hockey, football, volleyball and kabaddi competitions will be held on the eve of Independence Day. Local players will also be invited to plant trees under "Plant a Tree for Pakistan". Government buildings will be illuminated with white and green lights. Prominent private buildings across the province will also be illuminated with white and green lights. National flags will be displayed on prominent roads and sites. National anthems will also be played at prominent boulevards.

## RPO issues security instructions for Independence Day celebrations in Faisalabad region

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan while issuing instructions to CPO Faisalabad, DPOs Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chinot said that the celebrations in connection with the Independence Day have started. It will be organized with enthusiasm, in which public rallies, seminars, conferences, sports competitions and official functions will be held. A large number of people participate in such events to show national unity and highlight the national identity. Apart from this, prayer ceremonies are also organized in mosques and open spaces, in which prayers are offered for peace and safety of the beloved country. are requested.

He said that in view of the current security concerns, every possible effort should be made to organize the expected events within the four walls, however, for events held in open places, traditional rallies, the CPO and the relevant DPOs should issue a security plan in advance. Adequate traffic arrangements should be implemented where events are being held so that there are no problems in the flow of traffic. In this regard, traffic plans should be issued in advance. A zero-tolerance policy should be adopted against one-wheeling, hurling, firecrackers, aerial firing and trespassing in crowded areas, molestation of women and children and youths who harass them. Special squads should be formed and they should be arrested immediately. In this regard, all the SPs, DSPs and SHOs should make the police patrol effective and play their role to eliminate them. By implementing the given instructions, the district heads should make the security arrangements foolproof so that any untoward incident does not occur.



## Pakhtunkhwa radio WANA broadcasting, salaries stopped for six months

Correspondent

WANA: Pakhtunkhwa radio station WANA has been broadcasting off air for the last six months due to a faulty transmitter, causing several problems for the radio staff.

Rather, they have faced severe difficulties due to non-payment of salaries for six months, while Pakhtunkhwa radio station WANA has been facing difficulties for the last six months due to lack of a permanent station Manager/producer.

It is noted that five Pakhtunkhwa radio stations were established in newly merged districts by the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which included Bajaur, Mohmand, Kurram, North Waziristan, Razmak and South Waziristan, Wana radio stations.

In this regard former provincial assembly candidate Taj Wazir told Dawn on Sunday that here the staff of Pakhtunkhwa radio station Wana is facing various problems.

The Directorate of Information and Public relations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not providing any kind of support.

Taj Wazir added that the radio has a lot of unresolved issues, there is no permanent producer, the transmitter is broken for six months.

He said there is no carry box vehicle for the staff, the salaries of the staff are withheld for the last six months, the staff are forced to pay the telephone bills from their own pockets.

On the other hand, Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana staff said that we operationalized Pakhtunkhwa radio station under their own help but unfortunately the cooperation from the information department is not enough.

The radio staff added that we more Due to compulsion, they are unable to operate the radio station as it has become not difficult but impossible to do duty without salary.

Former provincial assembly candidate Taj Wazir and radio staff strongly demanded from Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary KP, Information Advisor of Government KP and Secretary Information Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, that the issues of Pakhtunkhwa radio station Wana should be taken notice and the staff should be provided facilities like other radio stations.



## Traders Convention

PESHAWAR: President of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Traders Association, Malik Mehr Elahi, addressing the Traders Convention of the Jamiat Business Forum, while Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan's Maulana Fazlur Rehman is present.



## Dr. Khurram Tariq declares 10 paramedic students as family members

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khurram Tariq has taken 10 orphaned and deserving paramedic students under his care at Mujahid Hospital and declared them as his family members. In this regard, a prestigious function was organized at Mujahid Hospital in which President Chamber of Commerce and CEO Kay & Emms Textile Mills Dr. Khurram Tariq and President of Mujahid Welfare Council Anjum Iqbal Butt besides members of Muja-



hid Hospital Management and paramedics students also participated. Addressing the participants of the event, Dr. Khurram Tariq told the spon-

sored students that from today all your educational needs are under my responsibility. I am Sarcastic and he is my family member. From today you can

feel free to share your problems with me. I will try to take proper care of your education and training. On this occasion, he also distributed scholar cards

among ten sponsored students. Speaking at the event, Mujahid Welfare Council President Anjum Iqbal Butt paid tribute to the good spirit of Dr. Khurram Tariq and said that God will reward him. He said that the role of paramedics is more important than doctors. Doctors go after visiting the wards, the real role is of paramedics who are busy day and night in serving patients. He said that we are trying our best to ensure that the training of the paramedic staff is of such a standard that these children are able to cope with all kinds of situations.

## Pakistan Youth Parliament Delegation visits National Assembly

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In a momentous event, a 70-member delegation from the Pakistan Youth Parliament visited the National Assembly on Friday 09th August 2024, marking a significant occasion in the realm of youth engagement and parliamentary democracy. The delegation, comprising young leaders from all provinces and regions of Pakistan, including overseas members, was honored to witness a historic parliamentary session in the esteemed presence of Imam Masjid e Nabvi SAW, Dr. Salah bin Mohammad Al-Budair, and the Saudi delegation.



The delegation was warmly welcomed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, who expressed his admiration for the youth's commitment to understanding and participating in the democratic process. The session provided the delegation with an invaluable opportunity to observe the proceedings of the house and witness

live debates, offering them a firsthand experience of parliamentary operations and decision-making.

A particularly memorable highlight of the visit was the live recitation of the Holy Quran by Imam Masjid e Nabvi SAW, a moment that profoundly moved and

inspired all attendees. This solemn occasion underscored the significance of faith and its integral role in the cultural and spiritual ethos of the region.

The delegation, led by Muhammad Abubakar, the Founder and President of the Pakistan Youth Parliament,

engaged in meaningful interactions with various parliamentarians. The discussions provided young leaders various insights into legislative processes and functioning of democratic institutions, fostering a deeper understanding of governance and public service.

Founded by Muhammad Abubakar, the organization seeks to foster leadership, civic responsibility, and political awareness among youth across Pakistan. The National Assembly of Pakistan, being the lower house of Parliament, plays a crucial role in shaping the country's legislation and governance, overseeing the executive branch, and reflecting the democratic values of the nation.

## Peoples Party to work for uplift of Pashtuns: Tariq Khan

Correspondent

TAKHT BHAI: President of Pakistan Peoples Party, Kpk Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, said that the People's Party made the province autonomous through the 18th amendment during its tenure and gave the province the name Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, giving identity to the Pashtuns and practicing the 60-year struggle of the ANP. Provincial autonomy, NFC Award, 18th Amendment, and Benazir Income Support Program are the achievements of the People's Party. Workers should unite and spread the party's message door-to-door. The future is once again of the People's Party. The People's Party will start more public-friendly projects for the poor people of this country after coming to power.

He was addressing a lunch hosted by District President Asad Khan at Elite Marriage Hall, Shergarh. A large number of workers were present on the occasion. Senator Robina Khalid, Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Program, District President Asad Khan, and others also addressed the gathering. Javed Baizee, Haider Ali Advocate, Aslam Khan, Provincial Vice President Shoaib Alam Khattak, District General Secretary Irfan Mahmood, Tehsil Takht Bhai President Javed Iqbal, Syed Bacha Mehmood, Sajid Paidakhel, Imran Mehmood, and Nasser Khan were also present.

He said that the People's Party has always worked for the welfare of the people and will continue to do so. The party will not leave the poor people alone and will always stand by them. He appealed to the workers to unite and work hard to make the party successful. He said that the future of the country is with the People's Party and we will make Pakistan a prosperous country according to the vision of Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

## BMP wants practical steps to achieve \$60b export target for three years

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel has stressed the need for taking practical steps to achieve the government exports target of \$60 in next three years, putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing incentives to the industry.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar lamented that the economy is facing multiple challenges of stagnant exports, high inflation, low growth and declining foreign reserves, with fiscal accounts under immense pressure on account of heavy interest payments.

He said that the present situation shows the government would find it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and export target, leading to more pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the country. He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as the country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:55 am  
Zohr ..... 12:13 pm  
Asr ..... 5:01 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:58 pm  
Isha ..... 8:30 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04

*A grand ceremony of Independence Day will be held in Islamabad: Sarfraz Mughal*



City Desk

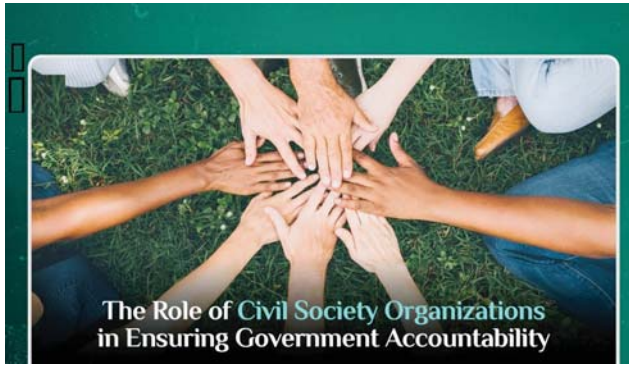
ISLAMABAD: Executive President of Organization Mughlia Islamabad Rawalpindi Center and prominent businessman and social leader Sarfraz Mughal has said that on August 14, a wonderful celebration of the independence of the dear country of Pakistan will be held in Islamabad with full glory under the auspices of organization Mughlia Islamabad Rawalpindi Center. Invitations are being issued. Representatives of the Hindu community, the Sikh community and the Christian community have also been invited in this event, because we all have a common Pakistan, the status and rights of minorities are equal. Literature will be heard and read with reference to the celebration of independence. They will express solidarity for national security and pay homage to the martyrs and sacrificers of the Pakistan Movement and pray for forgiveness. Happy Independence Day to the nation on August 14. In the grand ceremony, in the spirit of patriotism, there will be a renewal of the pledge to serve the beloved country Pakistan and the nation and a prayer for the security, development and prosperity of the country and the nation.

# Civil society calls for strong local government system to help ensure healthy democratic discourse

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The leading civil society organizations under the aegis of Pakistan Development Alliance, led by AwazCDS-Pakistan, called for a robust local government system in the country to ensure healthy democratic discourse. Addressing the participants of a planning meeting held here at Islamabad regarding the role of civil society in strengthening local governments, Zia ur Rehman, the Chief Executive of AwazCDS-Pakistan highlighted the challenges of democratic unrest and polarization in the country. The situation is looming because of a dysfunctional and disempowered local governance system. There is a dire need to amend Article 140-A of the

Constitution of Pakistan so as each Province in its jurisdiction and the federal government in Islamabad Capital Territory and the Cantonments shall, by law establish a local government system and devolve political and administrative powers with a local cadre of services and financial responsibility and authority through the Provincial Finance Commissions to elected representatives of the local governments. He further shared that almost all the major political parties have committed enhanced political, administrative, and financial autonomy for local governments in their manifestoes of recent general elections in 2024. The time has come that political leadership and the Parliament abide by the commitment they made, he stressed. Address-



The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Ensuring Government Accountability

ing the participants, Syed Ishtiaq Gillani, Chief Executive Officer of UGOOD Islamabad, said that the local government system in federal capital is confusing as Capital Development Authority is not willing to share their powers there-

fore people of federal capital are badly suffering. Humera Malik Program Manager, HomeNet Punjab demands for an inclusive local governance system to ensure the representation of all marginalized groups including women, older people, minorities, youth, and labourers. Zia ullah Khan

Team Lead, HARD Balochistan shared that Quetta is the only district in Balochistan that has no local government whereas the local bodies elections in rest of the districts in Balochistan were held last year. However, the distribution of resources among different districts is highly discriminatory and not through any provincial finance commission award. Malik Tahir Mahmood, Executive Director Legal Rights Forum, Sindh, highlighted the need for capacity strengthening of local councillors and local government authorities for a more functional local government system in Sindh. He praised the role of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation for their cleanliness drives in recent times. Qamar Naseem, Program Manager, Blue Veins

from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that the political mandate of local government is not fully explored yet in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the provincial assembly is not willing to shed its powers. Elected leaders of Tehsil and Neighbourhood Councils were given their honorariums after six months of their struggles. Mariam Amjad Khan, Program Team Lead, AwazCDS-Pakistan shared that we would continue our efforts to build the understanding of Parliamentarians and other stakeholders on the importance of an empowered local government system in the country. We will reach out to provincial assemblies, concerned standing committee members and related departments to further strengthen local governments in Pakistan.

## Cooking class

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Chef of Masala TV and his Team with former Chef Israr at the cooking class held at Legend Islamabad.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

## Dr. Ishratul Ibad says hope of nation in jeopardy: 'urgently need for accountability'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Governor Sindh Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan has said that the loss of hope in the nation is the biggest challenge at this time, the state and the people are getting the punishment for the incompetence of the government, spreading hatred between the army and the people in the country.

It is the common responsibility of all of us to thwart the conspiracy of the people. The unilateral agreements with the IPPs are oppression and abuse of the people. It should end.

There should be a forensic audit of the IPPs. All political parties should have a grand dialogue to get the country out of crises. There is a dire need for accountability without discrimination for the



betterment of the country. Former Governor of Sindh Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan expressed these views in the National Press Club Islamabad from the platform of "My Identity Pakistan" regarding Pakistan Day and the forces.

Addressing a program organized to pay tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan through a video link from Dubai, he further said that at present Pakistan is suffering from immense problems and it has many serious problems such as "inflation, deterioration of the economy, political We are facing instability, this inflation is having a direct effect on the people due to which the people are feeling disappointed and hopeless and seventy percent of the youth of the country are trying to leave the country. Democracy is a social contract between the people and the state. If the government fails to perform, then the people have to bear the loss.

Our forefathers made this promise to Allah. We had to fulfill this promise. The fact is that we do not even realize this promise. Our leader realized this, he said, "We did not demand Pakistan just to get a piece of land, but we want to get a laboratory where we can test the golden principles of Islam." Now it was our duty to complete Pakistan, to make Pakistan an Islamic model, to make a practical effort to implement Sharia law and to work day and night for the development of Pakistan. They have the right to celebrate

## Women Advocates to celebrate Independence Day on August 14: 'Respect your country'

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Women Advocates High Court of Rawalpindi District Bar speaking at the Forum of Pakistan's Establishment and Objectives said that on August 14, 1947, Pakistan established its feet on the map of the world. On August 14, the people of Pakistan celebrate Independence Day at the national level. This Independence Day reminds us of our goal of freedom, to reflect on how successful we are in our goal and how well we are pursuing our goal. This Pakistan was not achieved because Allama Iqbal had a dream at night and it became Pakistan in the morning. Behind this freedom are the eternal sacrifices of our elders.

Women lawyers Henna Nauman, Nargis Shabbir Alvi, Abida Rafiq Awan, Nargis Shahzeb Kazmi, Sanasarfaraz Ahmed, Amber Parvez, Ayesha Manzoor Abbasi, Zubaidah Khanum, Naila Faisal, Sajal Nauman said independence of the country of Pakistan is based on the two-nation theory. Independence must be celebrated. Living nations celebrate their independence day with enthusiasm and resolve that we have to do our best for the welfare of our country. Protect your country from harm. Every voice raised against our country has to be suppressed. We have to do something that does not disrespect the country. Independence Day is very important in the life of nations.

Are we a living nation? Do we have unity? What do we want to renew our commitment to? Do we even remember our purpose, are we using the blessings that Allah has given us in the land properly and in the interest of the nation and the country? The truth is that we have forgotten the purpose of establishing Pakistan, do you remember? Does our new generation remember? The Muslims of the subcontinent had promised Allah that we would make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state.

Our forefathers made this promise to Allah. We had to fulfill this promise. The fact is that we do not even realize this promise. Our leader realized this, he said, "We did not demand Pakistan just to get a piece of land, but we want to get a laboratory where we can test the golden principles of Islam." Now it was our duty to complete Pakistan, to make Pakistan an Islamic model, to make a practical effort to implement Sharia law and to work day and night for the development of Pakistan. They have the right to celebrate

## One killed, other injured in different incidents

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: One person was killed while another was injured in two different incidents in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a recklessly driven dumper crushed to death a motorcyclist on GT road near Manooanagar. Sources said that 36 years old Jamshaid Khan- who works as a cook at local hotel was going on his motorcycle when a speedy dumper recklessly driven by an unknown driver knocked him resultantly he died on the spot. Later his body was shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital. Separately, in-laws shot and injured a man for contracting marriage at his free hill in mohalla Sabirabad.

Hameed Ullah has reported to police that he contracted love marriage with the daughter of Noor Gull. On Sunday, Gull along with his wife and brother came to his house and wanted to take his newly-wed wife with them and he revisited their move, they shot him and fled away.

Police registered two separate cases and started further investigation.

## PhD thesis successfully defended

# Dr. Waseem Khokhar conducted his research on 'America in Post-9/11 World Order: Challenges and Opportunities'

*"The research primarily explores U. S. hegemony, the protracted wars on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, U. S. foreign policy, the relative decline of the United States, and the rise of China as a major challenger etc"*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Waseem Khokhar has successfully defended his PhD thesis in the discipline of International Relations/American Studies at the public defence held at Area Study Centre for

Africa, North and South America, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, and qualified for the award of doctorate degree.

He did his research on the topic "America in Post-9/11 World Order: Challenges and Opportunities" under the supervision of Prof.

Dr. Tahir Jamil. Prof. Dr. Adam Saud, Dean Social Sciences, Bahria University Islamabad, and Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood, Director, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, International Islamic University Islamabad served as their external examiners. Distinguished Prof. Dr. Muhammad Islam and Prof. Dr. Noman Sattar also graced the event with their presence. The honorable Professors commended the scholar on successfully defending dissertation, which primarily explored U. S. hegemony, the protracted wars

on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, U. S. foreign policy, the relative decline of the United States, and the rise of China as a major challenger etc. Earlier, his dissertation was endorsed by the leading political scientists of the United States of

America. In the defense seminar, Dr. Waseem Khokhar successfully defended his thesis by answering the questions raised by the worthy participants and external exam-



iners, and qualified him for the award of PhD. degree. The public defence was attended by the faculty members and students.

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# Explanation Sought from Teachers Regarding Poor 9th Grade Results

The District Education Officer for Secondary Schools in Layyah issued a letter numbered 4535 yesterday, demanding an explanation from the heads of government high and higher secondary schools regarding the poor results of the recent 9th-grade examinations. The letter stated, "The higher authorities have taken serious notice with great concern of your school's 9th-grade results for 2024, which are very poor, while the overall Board percentage is 52.78%. You have completely failed to improve the quality of education, which has adversely affected the reputation of the Education Department, especially the image of public schools." The letter further mentioned that if you do not clarify your position with a proper explanation within two days, by August 12th, disciplinary action will be taken against you under the PEEDA Act, 2006.

Various opinions have emerged regarding these 9th-grade results. When we gathered information about these results from Layyah district and other districts, certain factors surfaced that suggest headmasters or government school teachers should not be held solely responsible for these outcomes. A senior citizen remarked that parents of the old-fashioned mindset, like myself, still exert some control over their children, but from my observation, most parents have lost control over their children. As a result, students are out of control both at school and at home. They are being drawn to easy ways of earning money through TikTok and other social media sites, which has diverted their attention

away from education. Following the recent 9th-grade results, government school teachers have come under heavy criticism, with their poor performance being blamed for the students' poor results. Even the government is of the same opinion, and the district administration is demanding explanations. No one is considering that teachers, in addition to teaching,

are also assigned other duties. The government frequently assigns teachers non-teaching duties on an emergency basis, keeping them occupied for days and causing disruption to students' education. The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Ifikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, ruled in R. P. 37/2012 that "teachers' duties should be confined to the school only," but this practice continues nonetheless. In civilized countries, teachers' duties are confined to the school, and they are not entangled in non-teaching matters, ensuring that students' education is not disrupted. In our country, the situation is the opposite. If there is any issue in the country, government employees are the first to be assigned duties. They are given duties for polio campaigns, elections, census, house-to-house surveys, private school surveys, and even agricultural surveys in rural areas. They are deployed for dengue and other clerical activities or election duties. Then, if the educational results deteriorate due to the examination system or national circumstances, fingers are

pointed at the teachers. If one looks beyond the lens of criticism and blame, one finds that almost half of the high schools in District Layyah, for both boys and girls, do not have headmasters. The headmaster posts are either vacant, or staff members are acting as in-charge heads. The remaining staff is in an even worse state. For instance, where there are science teachers, there are no arts teachers, and where there are arts teachers, there are no science teachers. Overall, the number of teachers is also insufficient, and there are delays in their appointments, causing problems for students. When one teacher is burdened with multiple classes and a large number of students, how can they possibly do justice to their work?

Having been associated with the education sector, I can say from experience that in foreign countries, when a child is taken for school admission, they are first given a test. However, in our government schools, there is no such practice. According to government policy, it is mandatory to admit all students. Students who fail to perform well in private schools' 5th and 6th grades are expelled and turn to government schools for admission. Government schools are bound to admit these students, and when these students are enrolled in government educational institutions, they are unable to produce good results in board exams. The heads of educational institutions and headmasters in our country receive

reasonable salaries, yet they prefer to be occupied with office work and examination duties rather than teaching students themselves. As a result, their focus on teachers diminishes, and during this time, teachers also engage in activities of their choice and do not pay attention to the students, which leads to poor exam results. The government needs to devise a system that makes the heads of educational institutions accountable for ensuring 100% results from their schools.

One teacher (U) from a government school suggested that if educational boards recruit part-time staff to conduct exams, it may lead to an improvement in government school results. Otherwise, it is unlikely because when the academic session is at its peak, all SST teachers, who teach board classes (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th), are sent off for examination duties. After they leave, there are no additional teachers in the school to guide and teach the students. Furthermore, when the academic session starts, these same teachers are busy conducting practical exams. Teachers receive substantial compensation for board duties, and this lure of money has brought government school results and standards to such a low point that district officers are sending letters demanding explanations. The teacher suggested that, given the high unemployment rate, with millions of master's degree holders available, if the compensation currently given to teachers for examination duties is instead provided to these educated individuals by hiring them part-time, it would ensure transparent exams, keep teachers in school, achieve educational targets, and prevent disruption to students' education.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

## Israeli Aggression: 'Another day of horror'

The UN Human Rights Office, OCHRC has condemned the increasing frequency of Israeli military bombardments on schools, where hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced Palestinians have sought shelter, with the latest attacks killing dozens at a Gaza City school.

At around 4:30 am during fajr prayer on Saturday, a mosque inside Al Tabaeen School was struck by the IDF "at least three times", the OHCHR in the Occupied Palestinian Territory said in a statement on Saturday, adding that the attacks were "conducted with apparent disregard for the high rate of civilian fatalities".

An initial report showed the strikes killed at least 93 Palestinians, including 11 children and six women, but workers are still digging up bodies.

Between 7 October and 8 August, at least 39,699 Palestinians were killed and 91,722 were injured in the ongoing war, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health.

More than 90 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has been displaced, many multiple times, since 7 October.

Schools, UN facilities and civilian infrastructure should not be targets, Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN relief agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, reiterated in a social media post on Saturday.

"Another day of horror in Gaza, another school hit with reports of dozens of Palestinian killed among them women, children and older people," he said, adding that parties to the conflict must not use schools and other civilian facilities for military or fighting purposes and must, at all times, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

"It's time for these horrors unfolding under our watch to end," he said. "We cannot let the unbearable become a new norm. The more recurrent, the more we lose our collective humanity."

The majority of fatalities resulting from the Saturday IDF strikes appear to have been inside the mosque performing their prayers, OHCHR reported. Dozens of others were reportedly seriously injured, mostly children, women and older people.

This is at least the 21st strike on a school, each serving as a shelter, that the UN Human Rights Office has recorded since 4 July. These strikes have resulted in at least 274 fatalities, including women and children.

"Despite IDF statements that all measures are taken to avoid civilian harm, the repeated strikes on shelters [for displaced people] in areas to which the populations have been forced to move and the consistent and predictable impact on civilians suggest a failure to strictly comply with obligations required by international humanitarian law," OHCHR stated.



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

## AJK Excels in Key Indicators Compared to IIOJK and Pakistan - I

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a region administered by Pakistan, part of the larger Kashmir area, which has been a source of conflict between India and Pakistan since the partition of British India in 1947. Located in the Himalayan region, AJK borders the Indian illegally occupied Kashmir to the east, and the Pakistani provinces of Punjab to the south and southwest, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west. AJK has its own president, prime minister, legislative assembly, and high court; however, Pakistan retains significant influence over defense, foreign affairs, and economic policies. The economy of AJK is mainly driven by agriculture, services, tourism, and remittances from Kashmiris living abroad, and the region holds substantial potential for hydropower generation due to its abundant water resources.

The primary issue concerning AJK is the broader Kashmir dispute. After India gained independence, the Maharaja of Kashmir chose to accede to India. This decision sparked an armed rebellion, leading to the intervention of Kashmiris with support of Pakistani forces. The 1949 ceasefire divided Kashmir into IIOJK and AJK. This dispute has resulted in several wars between India and Pakistan and continues to be a major point of disagreement. The people of AJK have their own visions for the future, with the majority supporting accession to Pakistan. The aspiration for self-determination and the right to shape their own destiny resonate strongly among Kashmiris.

The Kashmir region's history is intricate, characterized by ethnic, religious, and political strife. India's administration of IIOJK has faced oppo-

sition from various Kashmiri groups, resulting in decades of armed conflict. Human rights organizations and global bodies have reported significant human rights violations in IIOJK, with numerous civilians, including women and children, losing their lives at the hands of Indian security forces. Many Kashmiris have vanished without a trace, while detainees have faced severe torture and ill-treatment. A large number of Kashmiris remain in custody without fair trials, and rigid curfews and lockdowns have severely limited freedom of movement and expression. Allegations of sexual violence against women by Indian security forces also persist. The ongoing hostilities and human rights violations have inflicted substantial suffering, displacement, and economic challenges upon the Kashmiri people. The psychological impact of violence and uncertainty has further burdened the civilian population. The international community has raised significant concerns regarding the situation in IIOJK, with human rights organizations and governments calling for independent investigations into these violations. Nonetheless, India frequently dismisses these appeals, maintaining that the situation is a domestic issue.

Conversely, in AJK, the population enjoys the freedom to live and work throughout Pakistan without fear for their safety and property. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a key component of Pakistan. The country has consistently offered political, diplomatic, and economic assistance to the people of Kashmir, grounded in historical, political, and humanitarian reasons. Pakistan has actively raised the Kashmir issue on international platforms, advocating for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

It has provided steadfast moral and political support for Kashmiris, acknowledging their unique status and aspirations. Additionally, Pakistan is responsible for the defense and security of AJK, acting as a protective barrier against potential threats. Significant investments have been made in developing AJK's infrastructure, including the construction of roads, bridges, hospitals, and educational institutions. Various financial aid and development initiatives have been implemented to enhance AJK's economy and elevate the living standards of its residents. Pakistan has worked alongside AJK to tap into its hydropower potential, fulfilling the energy requirements of both regions. The country has welcomed millions of Kashmiri refugees fleeing Indian atrocities, offering them shelter, education, and healthcare. Furthermore, Pakistan has provided assistance to AJK during natural disasters, facilitating relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The Pakistan Army has played a crucial role in protecting Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Acting as the frontline against Indian aggression, the army has not only defended the region but has also made significant contributions to its socio-economic development. The strong presence of the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control (LoC) has deterred Indian aggression, preventing large-scale incursions and safeguarding the civilian population. The army has been actively involved in counter-terrorism operations, neutralizing threats from militant groups in the region. It maintains vigilant surveillance over the LoC to prevent infiltration and cross-border terrorism. Beyond its military duties, the Pakistan Army has been a driving force for development in AJK, playing a key role in constructing roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, thereby enhancing the quality of life for the residents.

To be continued

## Empowering Future Generations - I

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Education is the cornerstone of any nation's development, and in Pakistan, it holds even greater significance. The country is home to a burgeoning youth population, with over 60% of its citizens below the age of 25. This demographic dividend presents both an opportunity and a challenge. To harness the potential of its young people, Pakistan must invest in education that not only imparts knowledge but also equips them with the skills, values, and attitudes necessary to navigate the complexities of the 21st century. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a critical component of this effort, as it empowers future generations to lead the way in addressing the country's socio-economic and environmental challenges. Pakistan faces numerous development challenges, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The country's education system has traditionally focused on rote learning, neglecting critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. However, ESD offers a transformative approach that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions to foster a more sustainable future. Incorporating ESD into its education policy, Pakistan can equip its students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address the country's development challenges.

ESD is not merely about imparting knowledge about sustainability; it is about empowering students to become active participants in the development process. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and innovation, enabling students to develop solutions to complex problems. Moreover, ESD promotes values such as social justice, equity, and environmental stew-

To be continued

# Palestine calls for urgent int'l intervention to stop the crimes of colonialist gangs

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Gangs of extremist colonialists continue to commit more crimes, attacks and violations against Palestinian citizens, their land, homes, property and crops throughout the length and breadth of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, in a continuing racist colonial escalation under the protection of the occupation army and the political level in the Israeli government, especially with the support, support and instigation of Ministers Smotrich and Ben Gvir. Whether it is related to burning agricultural lands and trees, or throwing stones at citizens' vehicles, breaking them and burning them, or controlling the main roads, closing them and preventing citizens from using them in full view of the occupation army, as the crimes of the occupation forces and colonists during the month of last July,

according to the report of the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission, amounted to about 1,110.

While the Ministry condemns in the strongest terms the crimes of the occupation forces and colonizers, it emphasizes that their continuation is clear evidence of the failure of the international community to respect and implement its relevant resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution 2334, and also reflects the weak level of international reactions towards settlement and the attacks of settlement associations and their elements, including: This is due to the inadequacy of the sanctions taken by some countries against a number of these terrorist elements.

The Ministry calls on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures imposed by international law to ensure the implementation of its decisions. It also calls on countries

to place colonial associations on their terrorist lists and to prosecute and hold accountable colonial war criminals, especially those who hold the nationalities of those countries.

In this context, the Ministry continues its efforts at all international levels to expose these violations and crimes, and demands real international pressure on the occupying state to rein in the colonists and put an end to their escape from any law. It reaffirms the illegitimacy of the settlement and its racist colonial system and calls for the rapid dismantling of its terrorist organizations that commit attacks against Our people, drying up their sources of funding, and removing political and legal protection for them, and believes that stopping the war of genocide against our people and stopping settlement is the correct approach to restoring the political horizon for resolving the conflict.



## Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina alleges US involvement in her ouster

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Former Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accused the United States of playing a role in her removal from power, alleging that she could have remained in office had she been willing to compromise the country's sovereignty.

Hasina, who is currently residing in India, made the startling claims in a statement quoted by the Economic Times. According to the former prime minister, she was pressured to surrender the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allow increased US influence in the Bay of Bengal.

"I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal," Hasina



said and urged her countrymen not to be manipulated by radical elements.

The small three-square-kilometre Saint Martin Island, located near the southern tip of Bangladesh, has long been a point of contention in the region.

Hasina, who resigned from her post on August 5 amid growing student protests against the controversial quota system for government jobs, expressed deep sorrow over the violence and unrest that followed her decision.

"I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it," the former prime minister stated.

Hasina was reportedly airlifted from the capital on a military aircraft and is now under protection at an undisclosed location in India.

She expressed her grief over the violence, stating: "My heart cries upon receiving news that

many leaders have been killed, workers are being harassed, and their homes are subjected to vandalism and arson."

While addressing the student protests, the Bangladesh PM clarified that her previous comments had been distorted to incite unrest.

"I have never called you Razakars. My words were distorted to incite you. Conspirators have taken advantage of your innocence and used you to destabilise the nation," she said and urged the students to consider the full context of her statements.

In Bangladesh, the term "Razakar" is described as traitors. The term originated during the 1971 war when, according to the country's history, a group of armed men supported the Pakistan army. The group was called "Razakar".

## Yasin Malik to represent himself in terrorism case

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Yasin Malik, a prominent Kashmiri leader and chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, has chosen to represent himself in his ongoing trial in the Delhi High Court, refusing legal representation.

This decision comes amidst growing concerns about the human rights situation in Indian-administered Kashmir, where Malik and other Kashmiri leaders are imprisoned without substantial evidence.

Malik, who is facing charges of terrorism and financing terrorism, has been imprisoned since 2019. His trial, which resumed on August 8th, saw him reject the services of a lawyer, opting to defend himself.



The court has adjourned the hearing until September 25th.

His decision to represent himself is seen as a symbolic act of resistance against the Indian government's policies in Kashmir. Malik believes that appointing a lawyer wouldn't guarantee a fair trial, highlighting his distrust in the Indian legal system.

This move also aims to expose the political nature of his case and the Indian government's attempts to silence dissent. By presenting his own arguments, Malik hopes to shed light on the truth behind the allegations and expose the injustice he faces.

Since the revocation of Kashmir's special status in 2019, India has been

accused of systematically oppressing the Kashmiri Muslim population. The region has been under a heavy military lockdown, with arbitrary arrests, torture, and restrictions on fundamental rights becoming commonplace.

The imprisonment of Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders, who are fighting for their right to self-determination, is a stark reminder of the ongoing human rights violations in Kashmir.

International organizations, including the United Nations, are urged to take a firm stance against India's actions in Kashmir. The current situation, marked by oppression and denial of basic rights, poses a significant threat to peace and stability in the region.

## A protest to be held on 15th August in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels



Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmiri Council Europe (KC-EU) would organize a protest demonstration to mark the "Black Day" on 15th August 2024 (Thursday) in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels, the European Headquarters and capital city of Belgium.

It is important to mention that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the Indian Independence Day as "Black Day" on Aug 15 every year.

KC-EU has invited a number of political and social organizations and other sympathizers of the Kashmiris to attend the protest gathering.

In a statement from Brussels, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Mr Ali Raza Syed said, purpose of our protest is to raise our voice against Indian atrocities on Kashmiris.

According to him, India is involved in the extreme atrocities against Kashmiris. Indian state terrorism against the people of Occupied Kashmir has been increased over the past few years and due to this, the oppressed Kashmiris are suffering from various problems, important political leaders and human rights activists are detained and imprisoned in the Indian jails. India is committing genocide of Kashmiris on a large scale and trying to erase the identity of Kashmiris by changing the population ratio in the occupied Kashmir valley.

Ali Raza Syed determined that the peaceful struggle for liberation of Kashmir would be continued.

He called for immediate international attention on the existing situation in Indian occupied Kashmir. Chair of KC-EU specially urged the international community to stop Indian state terrorism and human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and play its effective role for a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.

## Protest at Torkham border enters second day



Commerce Desk

TORKHAM: Protests by traders and transporters demanding a streamlined process for temporary entry permits at the Torkham border crossing entered their second day on Monday.

The demonstration, organized by the Customs Private Clearance Agents Association and the Transporters Union, saw participants demand a more efficient system for issuing temporary entry documents for cargo vehicles traveling between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Protesters claim that drivers often face delays of several months in obtaining these Temporary Admission Documents (TADs), hindering bilateral trade. The lack of TADs has resulted in thousands of vehicles being stranded on both sides of the Torkham border for the past month.

While acknowledging the recent easing of visa policies and the introduction of temporary entry permits for vehicles, protesters emphasized that the delays in issuing these documents continue to cripple trade.

Pakistan thwarts attempt to smuggle weapons from Afghanistan Customs arrest govt official at Torkham border with \$70,000

They demanded an immediate end to these delays to prevent further damage to bilateral trade.

The protesters have issued a deadline until Tuesday, threatening to launch a complete wheel-jam strike if their demands are not met.

## Kamala Harris promises tax relief ahead of presidential election

With US presidential election just around the corner, Democratic candidate Kamala Harris promised to eliminate taxes in an effort to win over service workers.

"It is my promise to everyone here when I am president we will continue to fight for working families, including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers," said Harris while addressing a campaign event in Nevada on Saturday.

Earlier on Friday, the vice president made a successful impact in Arizona, along with her running mate Tim Walz, Reuters reported.

Harris said she would work to drive down consumer prices, vowing to "take on big corporations that engage in illegal price-gouging" and corporate landlords that unfairly raise rents on working families, as well as going after big pharmaceutical companies to drive drug prices lower. In regard to this, Republican candidate Donald Trump accused Harris of stealing his policy proposal to end taxation.

"Kamala Harris, whose 'Honeymoon' period is ENDING... just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," Trump said on his Truth Social app. "The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!" Additionally, a Harris campaign official said her proposal would require legislation to be passed by Congress.

"As president, she would work with Congress to craft a proposal that comes with an income limit and with strict requirements to prevent hedge fund managers and lawyers from structuring their compensation in ways to try to take advantage of the policy," the official said.

# Technological Advancements Threaten Pakistan's Revenue Collection

Ahmad Rizwan

As the global landscape shifts towards renewable energy and advanced technologies, Pakistan's traditional revenue collection methods, heavily reliant on indirect taxes from fuel and electricity, face unprecedented challenges. The rapid adoption of solar power, electric vehicles (EVs), and emerging technologies like hydrogen energy is poised to disrupt the very foundation of the country's fiscal stability. To safeguard its economic future, Pakistan must rethink its tax strategies and draw lessons from global leaders who have successfully navigated similar transitions, while also addressing the need to broaden the tax base, particularly in agriculture and retail sectors.

For decades, Pakistan has depended on taxing fuel and electricity as a reliable source of revenue. However, the rise of solar energy is beginning to undermine this model. With the cost of solar power systems plummeting, more households and businesses are generating their own electricity, reducing reliance on the national grid and diminishing the tax revenues associated with traditional energy consumption. Germany, a pioneer in solar energy adoption, addressed this issue by introducing a levy on electricity consumers, channeling funds into renewable energy development while ensuring continued revenue flow. Pakistan could explore similar green energy funds to balance sustainability with fiscal needs.

The automotive industry is also undergoing a transformation. Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, promising to reduce carbon emissions but also threatening the government's income from fuel taxes. Norway, a leader in EV adoption, countered the potential loss by introducing toll charges specifically for electric vehicles, while still offering incentives to encourage their use. This dual approach has allowed Norway to maintain revenue while promoting cleaner transportation. For Pakistan, developing a taxation framework that includes user-based fees for EV infrastructure could be a viable solution.

Hydrogen energy, though still in its nascent stages, presents another potential disruption. As countries like Japan invest heavily in hydrogen technology, traditional fuel revenues are likely to decline. Japan's approach—providing incentives for hydrogen production while contemplating future tax models—offers valuable insights. Pakistan must prepare for a future where hydrogen plays a key role in its energy landscape by investing in infrastructure and creating a tax structure that captures value from this emerging technology.

Moreover, advances in energy efficiency, such as LED lighting and smart appliances, are reducing overall energy consumption, further eroding the tax base derived from electricity. Japan has tackled this by introducing energy efficiency standards and carbon taxes, both promoting sustainable practices and generating new revenue. Pakistan could adopt similar measures, aligning with global sustainability goals while securing its fiscal position.

In addition to these technological shifts, Pakistan must address the significant untapped potential in its agricultural and retail sectors. Despite being a major part of the economy, agriculture remains largely outside the formal tax net. By introducing a more comprehensive taxation system for agriculture, Pakistan can ensure that this crucial sector contributes fairly to national revenue. Similarly, the retail sector, which often operates in the informal economy, should be brought under the tax umbrella through the implementation of Point of Sale (POS) systems. These systems, already successful in countries like India, can help track sales and ensure tax compliance, thereby broadening the tax base and increasing revenue from one of the country's most dynamic economic sectors.

The way forward for Pakistan involves a multi-faceted approach. First, there is an urgent need to broaden the direct tax base, reducing the reliance on indirect taxes that are vulnerable to technological shifts. Drawing from Germany's focus on direct taxation and India's success with taxing digital services, Pakistan can expand its tax net to include the burgeoning digital economy, capturing revenue from e-commerce and online platforms.

Second, modernizing tax structures is essential. By gradually reducing indirect taxes on fuel and electricity and introducing carbon pricing mechanisms similar to those in the UK, Pakistan can incentivize green technologies while maintaining a steady revenue stream.

Investing in renewable energy infrastructure through public-private partnerships, as Germany has done, can also create new opportunities for revenue generation.

Finally, advanced tax techniques must be employed to stay ahead of emerging technologies. The European Union's taxation of tech giants and Canada's resource tax strategies offer models for Pakistan to follow. By exploring green bonds, carbon credits, and resource taxes, Pakistan can diversify its revenue sources and align itself with global best practices.

In conclusion, the technological advancements transforming the global economy present both a threat and an opportunity for Pakistan. By learning from the experiences of countries like Germany, Norway, and Japan, and by broadening the tax base in agriculture and retail through strategic measures such as POS systems, Pakistan can modernize its tax system, secure its revenue streams, and position itself as a leader in the adoption of green technologies. The time to act is now, and the government must embrace these changes to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.

Author is an Engineer and graduate from UET Lahore, He have 25 years experience in engineering

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,569.58	77,874.22
Day's High	Day's Low
78,823.13	78,051.08
Index Value	Change
9,690,245,992	+695.36
Percentage	Time
+0.89%	9 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,168.10	+23.13
Percentage	Time
+0.28%	9 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,553.18	+106.69
Percentage	Time
+0.27%	9 Aug, 1:18 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
35,025.00	+193.85
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	9 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.75	187.56
Bahrain Dinar	739.12	744.62
Canadian Dollar	204.25	207.70
China Yuan	38.3	38.7
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	304.60	306.81
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.65	911.80
Malaysian Ringgit	58.75	59.55
New Zealand \$	169.15	171.15
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	725.45	729.82
Qatari Riyal	76.29	77
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.55
Singapore Dollar	202	206.3
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.75
Swiss Franc	319.35	325.35
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.65	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	355.65	357.65
US Dollar	279.30	280.40

# 9th Footwear Manufacturers Show, 25 Cos Exhibited Leather Products

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan while addressing the 9th Footwear Manufacturers Association Show said that the present Government intends to increase investment in the country and for this purpose we are making serious efforts to put more investment. They added that the positive results have also started to emerge and the participation of more than 800 investors and companies from 70 countries in the recent conference in Karachi is proof of this. Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said that our companies should market their brands to other countries in a good manner and take positive steps keeping in view the competitive atmosphere, international standards and modern trends. He said that the bilateral partnership of Pakistani companies and Chinese institutions has been already started through mutual investment while there is



sufficient scope for export of leather industry, footwear and sports goods for which the Board of Investment will provide all kinds of facilitation. Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan said that China and Pakistan can prove to be a big market for each other in various products and the

Ministry of Commerce is providing full support to the investors of both countries in the light of the orders of the Prime Minister. Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan inspected the products displayed in the 9th Pakistan Footwear and Manufacturers Show and

appreciated the standards of Pakistani companies where 25 prominent Pakistani and Chinese companies participated. The China Association invited Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan and Jam Kamal Khan to visit China. Later, Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan and Abdul Aleem Khan partic-

ipated in the B2B meeting between Chinese and Pakistani companies where they said that the visit to China of last month led by the Prime Minister has been very beneficial and the Pakistani Embassy in China has increased the number of Commercial and Trade Officers up to 20 in order to promote trade activities between the two countries. Senior persons of Chinese Companies presented shields to the Federal Ministers and appreciated their cooperation.

Federal Minister for Privatization that all the state owned enterprises in deficit will be privatized as doing business is the domain of private institutions and not the Government. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan said in his media talk that the energy crisis will have to be dealt with for the promotion of commercial activities, as well as the ease of business and issues related to FBR have to be resolved. The Federal Minister for Commerce said that things are rapidly improving and especially the arrival of 800 companies from more than 70 countries to Pakistan is encouraging and good omen.

## Solar Awards 2024

KARACHI: Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Minister Energy Sindh launched International SolarPower Conclave & Solar Awards 2024. On this Occasion Managing Editor Energy Update M. Naeem Qureshi, Ruqiyah Naeem, Nadeem Ashraf, Mustafa Tahir, Saleem Shaikh, Engr. Mehfooz Kazi, Tariq Ali Shah MD TCEB also present. This Event will be held on August 28th at Nishat Hotel, Lahore.



Photo: Online

## Sheikh Waheed salute sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs on Independence Day

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Abdul Waheed, President of Central Traders Association LiaQat road and Inter City Hotels Association, said that Independence Day is a day to remember the sacrifices of those who sacrificed their lives and wealth for our freedom. On the occasion of Independence Day, let us promise our motherland that we will do everything possible to strengthen and preserve our Islamic traditions, culture and our national values. On the occasion of Independence Day, every member of the nation will have to take oath of allegiance for the completion of Pakistan.



On the occasion of August 14th, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, president of Central Anjuman Tajran LiaQat road Rawalpindi and Inter-City Hotels Association, said that Pakistan has a unique position among Muslim countries, which is unique in terms of its geography and

is also a nuclear power. No one has the courage to make any conspiracy against Pakistan successful, because Pakistan is the name of a free and strong state. Every citizen of Pakistan is its protector. Our beloved country has been blessed by the ALLAH PAK with unlimited blessings. We have to appreciate it. Our students should be made aware of the importance of Pakistan. Every citizen of this country should show loyalty to Pakistan beyond their own self. He said that Every conspiracy to play with the integrity and economy of Pakistan must be exposed, which is not possible by mutual concern.

## Minority community has a significant role in the development and prosperity of the country: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Regarding the National Day of Minorities, FPCCI officials in their message paid tribute to the minorities living in Pakistan for their service to the country.

President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh has said in a message regarding the National Day of Minorities that the Constitution of Pakistan provides complete protection to the rights of minorities. Peace and stability in the country, unity and harmony among religions is possible only through harmony. The founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his speech on August 11, 1947, declared minorities as equal citizens. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted to make



Pakistan a great country in the world. Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik has said that the minorities living in Pakistan consider themselves safe. Pakistanis follow the orders of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In the wake of the August 11 speech, National Minorities Day is celebrated on August 11 every year.

Vice President FPCCI Tariq Jadoon has said that minorities in Pakistan have full religious freedom. The people of Pakistan, including the government, fully protect the rights of minorities.

Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail said that the best legislation regarding minorities was made in Pakistan. The National Day of Minorities is celebrated in Pakistan in a grand manner.

## All minorities including Muslims have equal rights in Pakistan, Ahsan Bakhtawari

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The enemy is erecting a wall of hatred between us in the name of religion, we have to unite and thwart these conspiracies, Zafar Bakhtawari.

The services of the minority community for the development of the country are appreciable, said the speakers at the ceremony held on the National Day of Minorities in ICCI.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Bakhtawari has demanded from the government to increase the quota of jobs for the minority community in CDA and other institutions and said that all nations and minorities living in Pakistan have equal rights.

The treatment of minorities especially Muslims in India is in front of everyone. In India, Muslims and animals are forced to drink water from the same place. This is not the time to ask the country, but to give something to the country. Let us pledge to do what we can for the country.

President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari

further said in his address that the heart cried tears of blood over the tragedy of Jardanwala, who are these people who are dividing us. He said that there is no competition for the blessing of freedom.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that today we all have to think about what we are giving to the country, let's take a pledge to do whatever we can for the country. He said that the children of the minority community can be contacted for solving any problem including financial for higher education.

Addressing the event, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that my heart is filled with love for you people. According to the decree, after the formation of Pakistan, now we all have equal rights.

First we all are equal as humans and Pakistanis then Muslims or Christians, we have to make our people human first. He said that unfortunately our enemy is erecting walls between us in the name of religion.

In 1971, Indira Gandhi had said that



the idea of Pakistan has been buried, but what is happening in Bangladesh today has revived the idea of Pakistan.

Zafar Bakhtawari said that the chamber belongs to all of us, why can't someone from the minority community become the vice president or president of the chamber, you people should bring forward a talented person from among you, the chamber will make him vice president and president.

On this occasion, President Blue

Area Traders Association Yusuf Rajput and President Real Estate Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood addressed the ceremony and said that we are all Pakistanis and we all have equal rights, all citizens living in Pakistan should be treated equally. Rights are earned. Speaking at the event, Shahbaz Chauhan said that the services of the Bakhtawari family for the minority community are not hidden from anyone. Advocate Saron Kumar, Ashraf Farzand, Tanveer Bhatti, Sadaf Shan, Sonia Rashta, Mehwish Raffakat, Shah Ron Arif, Shams Gul and Saima Shehzad also spoke on this occasion while on this occasion Chaudhry Ishaq Gibran George, Pastor Binyamin Rafiq, Jameel Khokhar, A large number of people from minority communities including Simon Sahotra, Parvez Azvi, Arshad Chauhan, Dr. Dia Chaudhry, Maria Rafiq and Aamir Javed participated.

## Mazhar Hussain Thathal Hosts Business Lunch for Pakistani-French Business Delegation to Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mazhar Hussain Thathal, Chairman and CEO of the Global Trade & Expo Centre Pakistan and Director of the Pakistan-France Business Alliance (PFBA), hosted a distinguished business lunch in honor of a 24-member delegation from the Pakistani-French Business Community. The event, held at Islamabad Club, was led by Sardar Zahoor Iqbal, Chairman of the delegation and CEO of Shama Group & Companies, France.

The event was graced by several prominent figures, including Patron-in-Chief of PBF France Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, CEO of Dar Group France; President of PBF France M. Aslam Chaudhry, CEO of Diamond Excellency Europe; Secretary International Affairs M. Salman Aslam, CEO of Silver Line & Legal Way France; Head Sectors PBF Yasir Qadeer; CEO of Innovat Naem Akhtar; Shahid M. Jamal, CEO of Italian Metal World (Italy); Saeed Ahmed, CEO of Oakland Group (UK); Zahid Mehmood, CEO of Agrimec Srl (Italy); Naveed Farooq, CEO of Effene (Italy); Ch M. Tahir, Chairman of Punjab Cash and Carry; Zaheer Iqbal Khan, Vice Chairman of Punjab Cash and Carry; and Malik M. Bashir, Director of Shama Royal City. Zahid Mehmood from Italy was also in attendance.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by Liaqat Ali, Director of International Trade & Relationships at the Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan. The event saw the presence of the Malaysian High Commission Head of Mission Mohd Syafik Firdaus, Faisal Zahid Malik, Chairman and Chief Editor of Pakistan Observer, Farzana Shaheen, Former Vice President of Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Shahid Bhatti, President of Islamabad Rotary Club, Sheikh Asad Advocate Legal Advisor GTEC, Tauseef Zaman Former VP Islamabad Chamber of commerce, Tahir Ashraf Mughal, CEO and Founder of Sky Navigation Travel & Tours, Ayesha Khan, CEO of Skyline Trading, Sami Khan, and Saleem Muhammad, Election Commission Officer of Pakistan.

# Pakistan welcomes Olympian Arshad Nadeem with grand celebration

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan welcomed its national hero, Arshad Nadeem, with grand celebrations as he returned to the country with a gold medal after a 40-year-long wait in the Paris Olympics 2024.

Arshad Nadeem has set a new Olympic record by throwing the javelin at a distance of 92.97 meters in the javelin throw competition of the Paris Olympics 2024.

The flight of Arshad Nadeem, who made the nation proud with his exceptional performance in the Olympic Games Paris 2024, landed at Lahore Airport at 12:45 AM.

A large crowd, including family members, federal ministers, and dignitaries, gathered at Lahore Airport to greet the champion, while people from his hometown, Mian Channu, also reached Lahore to participate in the celebrations.

The security arrangements at the Allama Iqbal Airport are very strict as a heavy police force and ASF personnel

took over the positions.

As Arshad Nadeem's flight entered Pakistani airspace, the air traffic controller extended a warm welcome, praising him for bringing honor to the country.

The excitement and pride in the air are evident as the nation comes together to celebrate the achievements of the national hero.

Speaking to the media at the airport, Arshad Nadeem reflected on his journey, emphasizing that his victory was the result of relentless hard work and dedication from both him and his coach.

"This success represents a long journey of perseverance," he said, expressing gratitude to the Pakistan Sports Board and his coach for their unwavering support.

**Olympic gold medal**

Arshad Nadeem became the first-ever individual gold medalist in the Olympics for Pakistan.

In the first stage, the star javelin player failed to make a mark in his first attempt, however, he made a remark-



able recovery with 92.97m in his second attempt, a new Olympic record.

He surpassed Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen, who threw farthest at 90.57 during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Following his triumph at the Paris

Olympics 2024, Punjab government announced Rs100 million for Arshad.

Sindh government had also announced a Rs50 million reward for Pakistan's star athlete Arshad Nadeem. **Special postal stamp issued to honor**

**Arshad Nadeem**

On the occasion of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to issue a special postage stamp titled "Azam-e-Istehkam" to pay tribute to Pakistan's

star javelin thrower, Arshad Nadeem.

The stamp serves as a symbol of Pakistan's commitment to development, stability, and the enduring spirit of its people.

The stamp not only celebrates the athletic achievements of Arshad Nadeem, who recently set a new Olympic record by throwing the javelin a remarkable distance of 92.97 meters at the Paris Olympics, but it also highlights the country's historic struggle for independence.

**Hilal-e-Imtiaz**

President Asif Ali Zardari has directed for conferment of Hilal-e-Imtiaz upon athlete Arshad Nadeem for record performance in Paris Olympics 2024.

"The President will confer the civil award upon Arshad Nadeem during a special ceremony to be held in recognition of his prominent performance in sports. The President will confer the civil award under Article 259 (2) of the Constitution," President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release, on Saturday.

## Gold medalist Arshad Nadeem arrives in Mian Channu to hero's welcome



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Olympian Arshad Nadeem was greeted with cheers and tributes by a massive crowd as he reached his hometown Mian Channu on Sunday.

Nadeem arrived in Pakistan early on Sunday to a rousing welcome after winning a gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

Arriving on a Turkish flight, slightly delayed, he was greeted with a shower of petals, drumbeats, and patriotic chants from his enthusiastic fans.

The flight was given a water cannon salute upon its arrival as well.

Federal Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Prime Minister Youth Program Chairman Rana Mashood, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima and Khawaja Saad Rafique were present on the airport to greet Nadeem.

In an interview with the media, Nadeem expressed his gratitude to the nation for their unwavering support, acknowledging the crucial role of his coach in his record-breaking achievement.

He also extended his thanks to his doctor, Ali Sher Bajwa, the Pakistan and Punjab sports boards, and Akram Sahi,



former president of the Athletics Federation of Pakistan.

Reflecting on his journey, Nadeem shared that his elbow injury prevented him from reaching his full potential at the Tokyo Olympics, despite his strong performance.

However, he was humbled by the continued support and respect he received from fans and the nation. He credited his doctor's tireless efforts in addressing his fitness issues and highlighted the invaluable guidance of his coach, Salman Butt.

Nadeem further revealed that his participation in the Diamond League,

facilitated by the federation, played a significant role in boosting his morale and preparing him for the Paris Olympics.

The airport was abuzz with excitement, with a large crowd including Nadeem's family, relatives, and prominent figures from the sporting world, such as his former coach Fayyaz Bukhari and fellow javelin thrower Yasir Ali. Ali, who secured a silver medal at an Asian championship, expressed his inspiration from Nadeem's record-breaking victory, emphasizing its revitalizing impact on the sport in Pakistan.

## Alpine Club Holds Sport Climbing Azadi Cup



Muhammad Amin

ISLAMABAD: The Alpine Club of Pakistan, national climbing federation proudly hosted the "Sport Climbing Independence Day" Azadi Cup in Islamabad, celebrating the nation's spirit of adventure and athleticism. Held at ACP's climbing wall in the premises of Pakistan Sports Board, a large number of athletes from participated and showcased their climbing skills.

Athletes demonstrated their passion and commitment to the climbing. The vibrant atmosphere was filled with cheers and applause as climbers show significant improvement. Mir Abu Zar Faiz, stood 1st whereas Mr. Zaheer Ahmed and Huzaifa Imran stood third.

The jury was comprised of Mr. Rehmatullah Qureshi, Mr. Najeeb Khattak and Mr. Waqas Abbas.

Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President, ACP praised the efforts of the athletes for which is witnessed with their improvement. He encouraged and motivated the athletes for their regular training and further progress so that they could also be sent abroad for competitions. By quoting the example of Arshad Nadeem, Mr. Sadiq highlighted that how he was able to bring this glory despite challenges most the athletes are facing. He further stressed the need of dedication and devotion of the athletes. Mr. Najeeb Khattak and Rehmatullah Qureshi also appreciated for regular training and encouraged the athletes for higher level of achievements.

## Imane Khelif begins legal action over gender harassment in Olympics

Reuters

ALGERIA: Imane Khelif, the Algerian boxer at the centre of a gender dispute at the Paris Olympics, has filed a formal legal complaint, citing being the victim of online harassment, her lawyer said on Saturday.



Khelif, who won the gold medal in the women's welterweight category on Friday, has along with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting been in the spotlight at the Games in a dispute that has dominated headlines and been the subject of heated debate on social media.

Khelif's lawyer Nabil Boudi told Reuters the complaint was filed on Friday.

"All that is being said about me on social media is immoral. I want to change the minds of people around the world," Khelif said on Saturday.

She made a statement on her womanhood after beating China's Yang Liu to take the welterweight Olympic gold medal, sending her newfound devotees into delirium on Friday.

Algerian boxer Khelif eyes gold amid gender row.

## Pakistan Test squad carries out fielding practice ahead of Bangladesh series

A Sports

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Test squad engaged in fielding practice to prepare for the upcoming series against Bangladesh on Sunday at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The players participated in a two-hour-long training regime under the supervision of the head coach Jason Gillespie to hone their fielding skills.

Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood, as well as senior players Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi, participated in the practice session.

Abrar Ahmed, Abdullah Shafiq, Salman Ali Agha, Khuram Shahzad, and Aamer Jamal partook in the training.

Meanwhile, eight players of the Test squad are part of Pakistan Shaheens' squad for the first four-day match against Bangladesh A.

Saud Shakeel will lead the Shaheens



squad, which also features Kamran Muhammad Hurraina, Naseem Shah, Saim Ghulam, Mir Hamza, Muhammad Ali, Ayub and Sarfraz Ahmed.

The players in the Shaheens' squad will join the Test squad after the conclusion of the first four-day match, which is scheduled to be played from 13 August to 16 August.

The Test series between Pakistan and Bangladesh will kick off on 21 August in Rawalpindi with the first Test, that will run till 25 August, while the second match will be played from August 30 to September 3 in Karachi.

**Pakistan squad for Test series against Bangladesh**

Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamer Jamal (subject to Fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khuram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraina, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

## Bangladesh team to reach Pakistan 'early' for two-match Test series

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that the Bangladesh men's cricket team will arrive early in Pakistan to prepare for the two-match Test series, scheduled to commence on August 21.

The two-match series is part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) and will be played in Rawalpindi and Karachi from 21-25 August and 30 August-3 September, respectively.

Originally scheduled to arrive on 17 August in Islamabad, the Bangladesh team will now land in Lahore on the morning of 13 August.

Bangladesh team will train at the Gaddafi Stadium from 14-16 August before travelling to Islamabad on 17 August to hold practice sessions at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 18-20

August.

The PCB had extended an invitation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to send their team earlier, ensuring they have adequate and fair training opportunities ahead of the ICC World Test Championship matches.

"Sports is not only about winning and losing, it's also about comradery. I remain confident that the extra training sessions in Lahore will allow the players to showcase their best skills and talent on the global stage," said PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer.

"We are delighted that the BCB have accepted our offer and we look forward to welcoming the Bangladesh men's cricket team in Lahore on 13 August with our traditional hospitality. This will allow them to have three additional days of training and practice at one of our iconic venues before proceeding to Islamabad

as originally planned," he added.

BCB Chief Executive Nizam Uddin Chowdhury thanked the PCB for providing their national team with an ample opportunity to train adequately for the upcoming series.

"We thank the PCB for giving the Bangladesh cricket team the opportunity to have additional training in Pakistan. This will certainly help the players to acclimate to the conditions and prepare better for the ICC World Test Championship series."

This will be Bangladesh's first tour of Pakistan since 2020 when they played three T20Is in Lahore and one-off Test in Rawalpindi. Bangladesh also played two ACC Asia Cup 2023 matches in Lahore against Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Bangladesh is one of the seven sides that will feature in next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan. The



other six sides are Afghanistan, Australia, England, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Ir Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmat Paçaci on Sunday.



Photo: PID

## NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Expressed Grief Over The Martyrdom of Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed grief over the martyrdom of

Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik who sustained injuries in an attack by "Khawarij" (terrorists) on forces in Tirah Valley of Khyber District on 9th August 2024.

While paying rich tribute to the martyred Army Officer for sacrificing his life while defending the country, he said, "Pakistan owes its existence to the matchless sacrifices

offered by brave personnel of our Armed forces." He prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of ranks of the martyred and grant of patience to the bereaved



family.

## JI warns of nationwide protest if govt fails to adhere agreement

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami has issued a stern warning that if the government does not adhere to the agreement made with the party, caravans from all over the country will march towards Islamabad for protest.

Speaking to the media, the Naib Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, Liaqat Baloch, expressed dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the recent sit-in, stating that



while negotiations and agreements have been made, the rulers often make decisions under external pressure.

He revealed that a task force has been established for the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which is

expected to submit its findings within a month.

Baloch emphasized that if the government fails to implement the agreement, the next phase of their protest will involve a nationwide mobilization towards the capital.

Praising Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal for Pakistan in the Paris Olympics, Baloch welcomed him back to the country, highlighting that his success demonstrates the immense potential of Pakistani youth.

He urged the government to invest in sports beyond cricket to nurture such talent.

On the subject of minority rights, Liaqat Baloch reiterated that minorities in Pakistan are respected and have full rights, including representation in the assemblies.

He emphasized that Islam is a strong advocate for the protection of minority rights and affirmed that no one should be coerced into changing their beliefs.

## 785th Urs of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria's started in Multan: Makhdoom Zain Qureshi

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The celebrations of the 785th annual three-day Urs Mubarak of the great spiritual leader of the Indian subcontinent, Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakaria Multani, have started.

Multan: Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain, the son of Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressed at the opening session of the National Zakaria Conference on the first day of the 785th annual three-day Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakaria Multani, the great spiritual leader of the Indian subcontinent. Qureshi said that Ghous Pak's Astana is the center of guidance. All who come here are blessed. Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria Multani preached and promoted the revival of Islam. His teachings are not for any one school of thought.

Rather, they are for all humanity. This is the reason why not only Muslims but also Hindu and Sikh Pilgrims participate in the auspicious occasion of Ghous Pak.

By following your teachings, the trends of extremism and sectarianism can be eradicated. He said that in these blessed gatherings only those who are called by Ghous Pak come.

Makhdoom Zain Qureshi conveyed the message of Sajjada Nashin Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi to pray

for him during the blessed celebrations of Urs Mubarak. I am present with all of you not physically but spiritually. Despite the severity of the weather, the participation of thousands of pilgrims in Urs is encouraging. I prayed to Allah Almighty for the charity of Hazrat Ghous-ul-Aleem for our difficulties. This is the second Urs Mubarak in which the absence of Makhdoom Shah



Mahmood Qureshi is being keenly felt. He is the adornment of these gatherings.

I hope Shah Mehmood Qureshi will be among us soon. Addressing the conference, Allama Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi, the main leader of Jamaat Ahlesunnat, said that Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi always served for the unity of the Ummah and the nation. Rulers, despite all their efforts, cannot

unite the nation. It is the charisma of these religious elders that all regional and ethnic prejudices disappear at their shrines. And from here we get the lesson of the unity of the Ummah. Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi is being subjected to government repression and violence in his innocence. I hope his spirits remain high. And he will continue to raise the word truth and righteousness.

Khawaja Moinuddin Koreja, the Sajjada Nashin of Hazrat Khawaja Ghulam Farid's Darbar, said that he has been participating in Urs celebrations for 27 years. Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi's absence is being felt acutely this time as well. I pray to Allah to ease his difficulties. And may he be released as soon as possible. Mufti Muhammad Usman Pasruri said that the khatam e Nabuwat is the foundation of our religion. In this regard, no amendment or change in the constitution will be tolerated.

He paid great tribute to the courage and perseverance of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Secretary General and Stage Secretary of Pakistan Zakaria Academy Professor Muhammad Siddique Khan Qadri said that the scope of the teachings

and services of Hazrat Ghous Bahauddin Zakaria covers the entire South Asia including the subcontinent. His wealth of knowledge and spirituality will remain forever. Other scholars addressed the ceremony and shed light on the services and teachings of Ghous Alamin. Al-Mani, Muhammad Qasim Rahman, Sufi servant Hussain Qadri, Bab Muhammad Arif presented Hadya.

Earlier, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, the son of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the patron of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria, along with Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi and other senior members of the family, started the celebrations of the 785th annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria by bathing in Mazar Sharif and prayed. On this occasion, members of the National Assembly Malik Amir Dogar, Lal Mallhi, Moin Riaz Qureshi, Nadeem Qureshi, Brigadier (R) Maqsood Qureshi, Chaudhary Khalid Javed Waraich, Malik Zahoor Bhutta, Malik Zahoor Mahay Mustafa Nawaz Qureshi, Peer Saif Qureshi, Dr. Asif Qureshi, Peer Mohammad Shah, Zonal Administrator Rana Tariq, Sheikh Shahid Muzaffar, Zain Baloch, Sheikh Tahir and other personalities were present.

## Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci at the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. Furthermore, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of security, police, and civil armed forces. It was also decided to send Pakistani police officers to Turkey for training under the exchange program. On the occasion, the Federal Minister for Interior said that from August 14 this year, Turkish citizens will be able to obtain free online visas. He added that this step will make it much easier for Turkish brothers and sisters to visit Pakistan. He further stated that he will visit Turkey in October at

the invitation of the Turkish Government, where productive steps will be proposed to increase mutual cooperation. The Federal Minister for Interior mentioned that Pakistan is consider Turkey as their second home. He added both countries have long-standing religious, cultural, and trade ties and we are desirous of further strengthening these relations. The release of Pakistani prisoners in Turkey was also discussed in the meeting and it was agreed to soon finalize the agreement in this regard. Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci said that Turkey renders huge importance to the brotherly relations with Pakistan and will continue the cooperation with Pakistan in various fields. Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Secretary Interior Riffat Mukhtar Raja were also present on the occasion.

## Supreme Court to announce verdict on recount of votes today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A three-member Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa would deliver the judgment on the recount of votes in three National Assembly constituencies on Monday (today).

The apex court would rule on the appeals filed regarding the recounting of votes in three National Assembly constituencies. Objections were raised in NA-154 Lodhran, NA-81 Gujranwala, and NA-79

Gujranwala.

This comes after concerns were raised about the integrity of the voting process in above-mentioned constituencies during the recent general elections.

Last month, the SC bench completed the proceedings in an appeal for the recounting of votes in the NA-81 constituency. The appellant Azhar Qayyum Nagra, who had lost the February 8 election to independent candidate Chaudhry Bilal Ejaz, had sought a recounting of votes.

## Ministry to hold 'Health Week' in Islamabad from August 12

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Health has announced a Health Week initiative scheduled from August 12 to August 17 to improve healthcare access for the slum areas of Islamabad.

According to Health Ministry Spokesperson Sajid Shah, this initiative will see the establishment of health camps aimed at providing essential medical services to the residents, with a particular focus on the health of mothers and children.

Under the directive of the Federal Secretary for Health Nadeem Mahboob, at least 10 health camps

will be set up across various areas in Katchi Abadis in Islamabad. These camps will be staffed by doctors and paramedical personnel who will ensure the delivery of necessary healthcare services to the local community.

"Health awareness activities will focus on the well-being of mothers and children during this week," stated federal Health Secretary Nadeem Mahboob. In addition to healthcare services, the health camps will also provide safe drinking water, with water purification tablets distributed to residents to ensure hygiene standards are met.

## Electricity prices jacked up 14 times within 12 months

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The electricity prices in Pakistan jacked up for 14 times in last 12 months, increasing a major burden on Pakistani citizens.

As per details, a total of 14 adjustments made from July 2023 to August 2024, resulting in an additional cost of over Rs 455 billion to consumers.

The adjustments have led to a significant increase in power prices, with the highest increase of Rs 7.06 per unit in March 2024.

The constant changes have made it challenging for citizens to manage their expenses, and the government is urged to review the fuel adjustment mechanism to provide relief to the public.

Here is a breakdown of the monthly adjustments:

July 2023: Rs 1.90 per unit increase  
August 2023: Rs 1.81 per unit increase  
September 2023: Rs 1.46 per unit increase  
October 2023: Rs 1.71 per unit increase  
November 2023: Rs 0.40 per unit increase  
December 2023: Rs 3.08 per unit increase  
January 2024: Rs 4.13 per unit



increase

February 2024: Rs 4.57 per unit increase

March 2024: Rs 7.06 per unit increase

April 2024: Rs 4.92 per unit increase

May 2024: Rs 2.84 per unit increase

June 2024: Rs 3.33 per unit increase

July 2024: Rs 3.33 per unit increase

August 2024: Rs 2.56 per unit increase

In the aftermath of the continues hike in the power tariff, a man killed his brother over an electricity bill dispute in Gujranwala.

The two brothers lived with their elderly mother and had a dispute over the payment of the electricity bill, which had exceeded Rs 30,000. The argument escalated, resulting in one brother stabbing the other with a sharp-edged knife.