



**Biden reveals he stepped back from reelection bid to 'defeat Trump'**  
US President Joe Biden has given his first interview since abandoning the presidential election race and delved into details of why he decided to quit re-election bid. Biden went on record on the CBS News Sunday Morning show and revealed that his decision to drop out of the US election race was solely made so that the Democratic Party could deal with the most immediate task at hand without distractions and that is to defeat Donald Trump on November 5.



**MQM-P threatens to quit coalition govt over 'unilateral decision' on Sindh governor**  
Amid the ongoing ambiguity surrounding the future of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, the MQM-P has said that it will have no reason to be part of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government if any unilateral decision is made regarding the said Constitutional post. "The Sindh governor belongs to the MQM-P. It was decided [in meetings] with the PML-N that Tessori would remain the governor," senior MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar said.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Inauguration**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, at the International Youth Day ceremony on Monday.



Photo: PID

**PM Shehbaz Sharif pledges support for youth to transform Pakistan into a developed nation**

**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday pledged to allocate ample resources to the nation's youth to help transform the country into a thriving, developed nation. Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he recalled his service as Chief Minister of Punjab under the leadership of President Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He aimed to provide opportunities for the youth to change the country's destiny as prime minister. "The country's youth have the potential to elevate the nation to new heights, if given access to modern education and resources," he added. He expressed his vision of equipping talented youth with modern education, Information Technology, and Artificial Intelligence to spark a revolution in the country, similar to the progress seen in China. He highlighted his previous efforts in providing modern facilities to students at Danish Schools. He stated that this year, the federal government will provide one million smart-phones, tablets, and laptops to top-performing students across the country, including those from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and remote areas of Balochistan. Additionally, each province has its separate programs to support students, he added. "The prime minister announced that he will personally fund the education of 1,000 agricultural graduates in China, aiming to equip them with modern technology to boost agri production. Huawei has also committed to sending 200,000 youth for IT training and advanced education," he said adding that he will unveil a comprehensive development plan for the country on August 14. "The prime minister stated that nothing was impossible in this world and emphasized the need to progress by learning from past mistakes. He assured that the country's hockey will be revived. Praising javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, he noted that Nadeem had won a gold medal for the country after a drought of over 40 years. Later, the Prime Minister presented awards to successful young entrepreneurs."

**Ex-ISI chief Lt Gen (R) Faiz Hameed taken into custody, court martial process initiated: ISPR**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
ISLAMABAD: Former Inter-Services Intelligence director general Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed has been taken into military custody and the process of field general court martial has been initiated against him concerning the Top City housing scheme scandal, the military's media wing said on Monday. "Complying with the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain the correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed," the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement. Appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against

the former spymaster under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act. "In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established," it said. In April, an inquiry committee was formed against Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hamid after a request from the owner of a private housing society. He was accused of misuse of authority in the housing society. Sources told Aaj News that the committee would investigate allegations of the misuse of powers in the Top City housing scheme and prepare a report. It was formed in light of the directives of the higher judiciary. The committee was headed at the senior level by a major general. It was reported that the panel would present its recom-



mendations to the authorities once the allegations were proven. Last year, the Supreme Court said that allegations against the former spy chief were of an "extremely serious nature" and "cannot be left unattended." "The allegations are of an extremely serious nature, and if true, undoubtedly would undermine the reputation of the Federal Government, the Armed Forces, ISI and Pakistan Rangers," the apex court said in the written order for the November 8 hearing of the petition filed by Moez Ahmed Khan. A three-member bench of the SC on November 8 disposed of a petition accusing Lt Gen Hameed (ret'd) of abduction and land grabbing without getting into the merits of the case. The bench, led by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa and including Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aminuddin Khan, took up a petition filed by Moez Ahmed Khan. The petitioner's lawyer had told the court that Khan was abducted along with five members of his family by the former spymaster on May 12, 2017. He accused the retired general of taking land in return for their release. The petitioner requested the court to order the Ministry of defence to take action against Gen Hameed (ret'd). The bench disposed of the petition and told the petitioner to approach other forums.

**DPM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties with Turkiye**



**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations with special focus on trade, investment, IT and defence cooperation. He expressed these views during a meeting with Turkish Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nuh Yilmaz who called on him, Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X account.

**Will former ISI chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed get a chance for pardon?**

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army has initiated court martial proceedings against former ISI chief Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court. He has been taken into custody by the military. But the question now arises whether the ex-spy-master can appeal against this action. Anchorperson Piracha, who hosts Rubaroo on Aaj News, explained that as per the Military Act under which this trial is being conducted, the first appeal goes to the

**Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue meets with the PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA**

**Commerce Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Mr. Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa at Finance Division today. The Finance Minister welcomed Mr. Willemssen and provided an update on Pakistan's economic progress. He highlighted recent improvements, including increased foreign exchange reserves, decreased inflation, and stable currency. The Minister attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability. The Federal Minister also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate under-taxed and untaxed entities into the tax net. He appreciated the PepsiCo's



**PTA gets data from NADRA to block illegal SIMs**

**Commerce Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has launched a comprehensive plan to combat the illegal use of mobile SIM cards. The initiative aims to enhance security and protect citizens' data by identifying and blocking unauthorized SIMs. The PTA has obtained data from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to identify SIMs registered with fake, expired, or deceased individuals' CNICs. To ensure a smooth transition, the PTA has launched a public awareness campaign, urging subscribers to verify and update their SIM data. This information will be used to systematically block illegal SIMs in three phases. The first phase, commencing on August 16, will target SIMs registered with fake or canceled CNICs. The second phase will focus on SIMs registered with expired CNICs, followed by the third phase which will block SIMs registered in the names of deceased individuals.



# AJK PM hails role of women lawyers in ensuring rule of law

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that women Lawyers' role was crucial for establishing rule of law, merit and constitutional supremacy in the state.

The PM said this while talking to a delegation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Women Lawyers Forum that called on him here today. Led by advocate Bilqis Rashid Minhas the delegation was comprised of Kausar Parveen Awan Advocate, Alia Abdul Rehman Advocate, Barrister Maham Fadia Advocate, Rubiya Butt Advocate, Syeda Samia Shah Advocate, Quratul Ain Mehr Advocate and Maryam Farooq Advocate.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM appreciated women Lawyers' significant contribution to society. He said that women lawyers can play their pivotal role in bringing a positive



change in the society.

He said that a spirit of unity and togetherness was required to strengthen the system and state institutions. "It is high time that we must stop playing petty politics that thrives on communalism, regionalism and bigotry", the PM said.

He said that concerted efforts were needed to eliminate injustice and deprivation from the society. The Prime Minister said that he didn't believe in empty assurances but actions. He said that people's tax money was being spent on the welfare of people.

"Recruitments are being made on merit through the Public Service Commission and NTS", he said, adding that additional funds have been provided to improve health care facilities across the state. He said that the government has adopted a zero tolerance approach to corruption and its trickle down effect was being felt at gross root level.

The PM said that his sole mission was to provide a dignified life to the downtrodden section of the society. He said that special fund worth 5 billion rupees has been allocated to address growing unemployment in the region. "Under this scheme interest-free loans will be provided to skilled men and women so that they could earn a dignified livelihood", he said. On this occasion, the visiting delegates appreciated the incumbent government's good governance initiatives and people-friendly policies.

## Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a souvenir to H.E Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands on Monday.



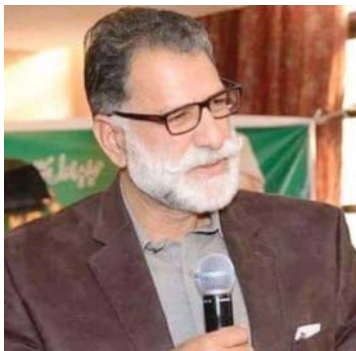
Photo: PID

# Former PM AJK Sardar Abdul Qayyum makes surprise visit to Kotli District

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

KOTLI: President of Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi suddenly visited Kotli District and organized a rally of PTI workers took from Kotli city to Rolly. The number of workers echoed with the slogans of prison 804.

The former chairman of People's Party Youth Saudi Arabia, Javed Nazir Badalvi, surprised the central leadership by gathering hundreds of people in the Tehreek-e-Insaf joining program. Organizer Hameed Puthi, Senator Vice President, Member Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Rafique Nayyar, Dabang Leader Former Government Minister, Central Information Secretary Maqbool Gujjar, Member Kashmir Council Sardar Razak, Deputy Secretary Raja Sabeel Riaz, Western President Raja Aftab Akram Advocate, Iqab



Hashmi, Professor Habib Malik, Zafar Yab Rathore Subhani, Iqab Hashmi Advocate, a large number of workers were present, the central president of Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir, former prime minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi said that all party officials, workers, all wings should be ready.

The time has come for us to come out

for the release of our founder Chairman Imran Khan, until Khan is released, no one will sit from China. Ring road, all. Mega projects will change the destiny of Kotli by giving it to Kotli, Tehreek-e-Insaf is continuing its political journey according to its manifesto.

Javed Nazir Badalvi's joining the party has given more political oxygen to the party in district Kotli, activist. You are my capital, I appreciate the enthusiasm of the players from the heart, as long as I am alive, I will continue to be a soldier of Imran Khan and contribute to his struggle.

Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi welcomed Nazir Badalvi on joining PTI and said that I congratulate Nazir Badalvi for becoming Imran Khan's player, Imran Khan is a great leader of the Muslim Ummah. As the prime minister, he raised the prestige of the country of Pakistan,

Imran Khan laid the foundation of the welfare state in the true sense. Free treatment facilities were provided to the poor through health cards, and the epidemic like Corona was fought with the best strategy. Represented Kashmiris, Palestinians and the Muslim Ummah at all international forums including the United Nations.

The fake and bogus cases against Imran Khan should be terminated and released immediately so that Imran Khan can raise his voice for the oppressed Palestinians and Kashmiris. According to the vision of Imran Khan, PTI has become the strongest party in Azad Kashmir.

Soon the big leaders will become Imran Khan's players. Hameed Puthi, Chaudhry Maqbool Gujjar, Rafiq Nayyar, Javed Nazir Badalvi and other leaders said in their address that we are all Imran Khan's soldiers and we have only one leader by his name.

# Shabir Ahmed Shah tributes to Shaheed-e-Azeemat Sheikh Abdul Aziz

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: Senior Hurriyat leader and Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Shabir Ahmed Shah has paid glowing tributes to renowned Kashmiri leader Shaheed-e-Azeemat Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his martyrdom anniversary.

In a message from Tihar jail the incarcerated APHC leader, while highlighting the supreme sacrifices rendered by the martyred leader, said that Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Aziz was truly a man of honesty and integrity who devoted his entire life for the Kashmir cause.

Referring to the martyred



leader's role in the ongoing liberation struggle, Shah said that he was one of the pioneers of the freedom movement who went through trials and tribulations during his years' long struggle for right to self-determination.

Shah said that Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shaheed would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history for his indomitable role and peerless contribution in the

freedom struggle.

In a separate statement, the DFP acting Chairman Mehmood Ahmed Saghar also paid glowing tributes to Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Aziz and said, "The struggle and sacrifices of Shaheed-e-Azeemat Sheikh Abdul Aziz is an unforgettable and glowing chapter of our history".

"The martyred leader's proud legacy will continue to inspire the coming generations who believe in freedom and justice", Saghar said.

Highlighting the sacrifices of the martyred leader, the APHC leader said, "Sheikh Sahib was a man of honesty and integrity, he always remained ready to

sacrifice his life for the sacred cause. He proved this by facing the bullets while leading a historic march towards Muzaffarabad 11th of August 2008", he added.

He said that the best way to pay tributes to Kashmiri leaders was to remain steadfast in our resolve and take the ongoing movement to its logical end.

Recalling the incarcerated party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah and his long association with Sheikh Aziz, Saghar said, "Shah Sahib and I have had the honour and privilege to work together with Sheikh Aziz Sahib. He was truly a man of principles".

## Karachi Arts Council signs MoU with Dow University

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dow University about the "Youth Ambassador Program". President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah and Registrar of Dow University of Health Sciences, Dr. Ashar Afaq, signed the MoU. Vice-Chancellor Professor Saeed Qureshi was also present on this occasion. President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed Shah, stated that the purpose of the Youth Ambassador Program is to connect the younger generation in educational institutions with cultural activities. Students from fields such as International Relations, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Law, Health and Sciences, and other disciplines will be able to participate in this program. He added that it is an honor for the Arts Council to collaborate with such a prestigious institution. The Youth Ambassador Program will prove to be an excellent platform for the youth of Sindh. The program will be held from Sukkur and Obaro to Karachi while the first phase begins in Karachi.

He mentioned that the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is the first cultural institute in Pakistan. We are restoring all the arts councils across Sindh, where we have fine arts and music teachers to whom we pay regular salaries. We have also organized the Pakistan Literature Festival in Lahore, Sukkur, Quetta, Multan, Karachi, and Muzaffarabad in Kashmir. Muhammad Ahmed Shah said that we are creating a data bank in which young people will be categorized according to their creative abilities. We will organize the World Cultural Festival in September, where artists from 33 countries will perform at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, and workshops will also be held. Vice-Chancellor of Dow University of Health Sciences, Professor Saeed Qureshi, expressed pride in having their students become part of the Youth Ambassador Program.

## Faisalabad International Airport set to be regional hub with significant upgrades and expansions

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad International Airport is set to become a regional air travel hub with significant upgrades and expansions, according to Ms. Tasneem Akhtar Jameel, Airport Manager. During her visit to the Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) & Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), she discussed these developments with, rs. Rubina Amjad President FWCCI, President Dr. Khurram Tariq and other key members, of FWCCI & FCCI. The plans include extending the runway to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft, upgrading the terminal with additional lounges, conveyor belts, and improved infrastructure to handle multiple flights simultaneously.

Ms. Jameel highlighted the need for extra land to facilitate these expansions and emphasized the importance of the local business community's support, particularly in enhancing the cargo complex and beautification efforts. Currently, the airport operates 32 weekly flights, including four domestic ones, but more airlines are expected to join, increasing this number.

## Faisalabad traffic chief urges staff to perform their duties diligently and honestly

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Traffic staff should perform their duties diligently and honestly. The department is following the "Zero Tolerance Policy" on any kind of corruption. Strong measures will be taken for the welfare of the force. If any traffic officer faces any problem, the doors of my office are open at all times. These views were expressed by the Chief Traffic Officer Farhan Aslam addressing the traffic general meeting in which DSP Headquarters Khalid Aleem, DSP Traffic Sadar Muhammad Ijaz Shah, DSP City Saad Saud Safdar Wahla and DSP Traffic Civil Lines Muhammad Nawaz. Apart from Kamuka, a large number of Traffic Wardens, Traffic Wardens and Lady Traffic Wardens also participated on this occasion, Chief Traffic Officer added that Additional Inspector General of Police Traffic Punjab Mirza Faran Baig and City Police Officer DI. Yes, according to the opinion of Kamran Adil, apart from ensuring the flow of traffic, no effort should be left to serve the citizens on the roads.

## UAJK to celebrate Independence Day with grand festivities

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is set to mark Pakistan's Independence Day with a series of grand celebrations, meticulously planned to honor the spirit of freedom and national pride. Under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, the university has finalized an impressive lineup of events for August 14, 2024, ensuring that the day will be commemorated with great enthusiasm and reverence.

The day's festivities will commence with a major flag-hoisting ceremony at 9:30 AM in front of the Administration Block at UAJK's Chehla Campus. This solemn occasion will be graced by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, alongside faculty members, administrative officers, and the entire university staff. The flag-hoisting will be followed by special prayers, invoking blessings for the nation's progress and stability, as well as for the liberation of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The centerpiece of the day's events will be a central seminar titled "Independence Day of Pakistan: A Message for the Freedom of Kashmir," scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM in the Education Hall. The seminar will feature an illustrious panel of speakers, including former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan, seasoned politician and former Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chief Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Hussain Gilani, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Minister for Government Mrs. Taqdees Gilani, Director of the Kashmir Policy Research Institute Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi.

## Abbasi acquitted in illegal recruitment case

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and all other defendants were acquitted in a reference pertaining to illegal recruitments in the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) by the Accountability Court in Karachi. Abbasi stated that the case was not about corruption but misuse of authority, and called for the abolition of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The Accountability Court heard the reference regarding the illegal appointment of the Managing Director of PSO. The court granted the NAB officials' request to withdraw the reference, ordering its return to the NAB Chairman. Besides Abbasi, other acquitted individuals include former MD PSO Sheikh Imran Haq, former Secretary Petroleum Arshad Mirza, and former MD PSO Yaqub Sattar. Speaking to the media outside the Accountability Court, Abbasi expressed his joy at the acquittal, stating that it had taken four years and two months for NAB to withdraw the reference. He highlighted that the judge had acquitted four defendants in the case, while another individual had been facing charges for 12 years.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:56 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:00 pm
Maghrib	6:57 pm
Isha	8:29 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

**SECP Revokes Registration of M/s EFU Health Insurance Limited as an Insurer**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), has revoked the registration of M/s EFU Health Insurance Limited as an insurer under sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Insurance Ordinance 2000.

The registration is revoked by SECP in light of the scheme of arrangement whereby EFU Health Insurance Limited is to be amalgamated with EFU Life Assurance Limited.

M/s EFU Health Insurance Limited, is no longer authorized to carry on insurance business in Pakistan and, as per scheme, any business activity carried by it or any liability incurred by it shall be payable by M/s EFU Life Assurance Limited. Consequently, all policyholders of EFU Health Insurance Limited may contact M/s EFU Life Assurance Limited for any claim or liability with respect to their insurance policies.

The SECP has issued a notification - 1170(I)/2024 dated August 2nd, 2024, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 10 of the Insurance Ordinance, 2000.

**Save tourism**

# Business communities adopt unanimous resolution against the closure of Monal, La Montana

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The business leaders of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have sought the review of the supreme court of Pakistan decision pertaining to the closure of Monal and La Montana. The largely attended convention of business communities from all the tiers of the twin cities held here in Islamabad on Monday which unanimously adopted a resolution pleading the apex court to review the closure verdict in the interest of the community as well as the country.

In his address Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry by urging the need of unity in the ranks of the business community for the solution of its problems emphasised the government to regulate both the entities instead of their closure. He said that both Monal and La Montana are the highest tax payer organizations of the capital and that when the local investors are meted out such a humiliating attitude how the foreign investors will come forward for investment.

President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saqib Rafiq said that government should facilitate the business community and give protection to entities like Monal and La Montana for the promotion of the soft image of

Pakistan in the world. Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tariq Jadoon said that the business community of the entire country is already suffering from the illog decisions of the government and the closure of these two most visited sites of the capital will add their miseries. Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is the blessing of Allah Almighty which was created by our forefathers after immense sacrifices and that he was sure that we will pull it out unitedly from all the odds.

Former President ICCI Sardar Yassir Ilyas by terming Manal as the international brand of hospitality said that government should provide level playing field to the business community. President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch said that Manal and La Montana are brand names which are paying Rs. 300 million annually as tax. He impressed upon the CJP, PM and Army chief to pay heed to the problems of the business community because more than 1.6 million people have already left the country in sheer disappointment.

President Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajraan Pakistan Kashif Chaudhry said that it is the prime and fore-



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Save Monal and La Montana Restaurants seminar participants: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President ICCI, RCCI President Saqib Rafique, President of All Pakistan Anjuman Tajraan Ajmal Baloch, FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Former ICCI President Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President Ijaz Abbasi, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of Estate Agents Association - Kashif Chaudhry, President of Tradesmen Association, Hamza Sarosh, NPC President Azhar Jatoi, Secretary Nayyar Ali, Saifur Rehman Khan, Ameer Hamza Luqman Afzal, Dr. Amjad, Zia Chaudhry, Habibullah Zahid, Khurshid Qureshi and other

most duty of the government to protect business community which is the biggest stakeholder of country's economy.

President Islamabad Estate Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mahmood said that the government must exercise wisdom and shun the discriminatory attitude towards the business community

of Islamabad if it really wants to attract foreign investment in the country.

Chairman Islamabad Restaurants Association Habib Ullah Zahid by terming the closure of Monal and La Montana as the economic murder of 7000 individuals asked ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari to

convene a meeting on this burning issue to find out a suitable solution at the earliest.

Council Member ICCI Nasir Qureshi called for a sympathetic review of the issue for the win win position of all the sides.

Earlier Chairman Manal Luqman Afzal and Chairman La Montana Dr. Amjad apprised the

participants in detail of the actual background and their efforts to develop the sites as international brands.

President National Press Azhar Jatoi and Secretary Nayyar Ali expressed their fullest solidarity with the business community for the growth of business in twin cities.

## Jashan-e-Azadi Cycle Rally

RAWALPINDI: The participants of Jashan-e-Azadi Cycle Rally organized by Pakistan People's Party, starting from Lahore Kasur city, are passing through Liaquat Road Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's place of Martyrdom.



Photo: Online

## Arshad Nadeem is Our Hero: RPO Sohail Chaudhary

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary has arrived at District Khanewal (Mianchanno). District Police Officer Khaniwal Ismail Kharak was also present. He went to Olympic champion Nadeem Arshad's check number 101 and congratulated him on his historic achievement,



garlanded him with flowers and also gifted him a portrait of Arshad Nadeem. He said that Arshad Nadeem is not only our hero but also the hero of the whole nation who has made Pakistan proud by using his talents. He also met Arshad Nadeem's father and congratulated him on his son's success. Arshad Nadeem took a selfie with RPO and they both sat together and ate sweets

## LMKR, PULSE Partner up to Transform Punjab's Land Record System with Next-Gen LRMIS



City Desk

PAKISTAN:-LMKR has signed an agreement with Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement (PULSE) to develop and implement a next-generation Land Record Management Information System (LRMIS).

Initiated on July 26, This transformative initiative will modernize land record management in Punjab, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accessibility for landowners and stakeholders.

The new LRMIS will create a unified, centralized database encompassing all land records across the province, including rural, urban, peri-urban, and Katchi Abadi areas. By integrating traditional land records with advanced GIS technology, LMKR will deliver a robust and scalable solution that addresses the complexities of the existing system.

"We are excited to partner with PULSE on this groundbreaking project," said Nasir Tanveer, VP Technology Business & Alliances at LMKR. "By leveraging our expertise in geospatial technology, we will deliver a transformative LRMIS that empowers Punjab's citizens, brings transparency, and improves access to funding. This application will be instrumental in transforming the socioeconomic landscape of the province and driving economic growth."

## Political, social leader to mark success of Arshad Nadeem in Paris Olympics



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Political and social leader Hamida Khanum organized a ceremony to celebrate the historic and record-setting success of national hero Arshad Nadeem in the Paris Olympics, in which a large number of women and people from different fields and children participated. Speaking on this occasion, political and social leader Hamida Khanum said that Arshad Nadeem, the national hero who made a record by winning the gold medal in the Olympics and brightened the name of the country, has made the entire nation proud, his victory has multiplied the joy of Independence celebration, Arshad Nadeem raised the green flag in Paris Olympics and provided a chance for happiness to the nation, which has been longing for happiness for a long time, for which we pay tribute to him. Arshad, born in a small village in Mianchan, faced many challenges including lack of resources and limited training facilities, but with his passion and talent, he achieved this great success. has proved that there is no shortage of talent in Pakistan, however, there is a need to strengthen the sports structure, the government should take steps to promote sports, so that following the footsteps of Arshad Nadeem, young people will follow in the footsteps of young people all over the world. A large number of local people and children including Nadia Qaiser, Manza Karzama, Dua Moeed, Miss Abida, Miss Arooj, Miss Farzana, Miss Sadra, Miss Sabega, Miss Zainab, participated in the ceremony. On this occasion, sweets were distributed among the participants and the entire area. The children paid tribute to Arshad Nadeem by singing songs and hymns.

## IIUI female campus hosts plantation drive as part of independence day celebrations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD:- In a bid to promote environmental sustainability and mark Independence Day, the Directorate of Students' Affairs (Female Campus) at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), in collaboration with the Global Human Rights Network, organized a two-day plantation drive from August on Monday.

The event was part of the university's ongoing commitment to fostering a greener campus and contributing to the national vision of a Green Pakistan.

The drive commenced with an opening ceremony, where Dr. Sumayya Chughtai, Incharge of the Female



Campus, addressed the participants. In her remarks, she emphasized the crucial role of environmental sustainability and encouraged students and

staff to take active part in the plantation efforts. Over 200 saplings were planted across the campus, significantly enhancing its natural beauty and contributing to climate change mitigation and biodiversity promotion.

Dr. Sadia Saleem, Students' Advisor for the Female Campus, expressed her appreciation to all participants and extended special thanks to Ms. Maryam Idrees, Chairperson of the Global Human Rights Network, for her invaluable support in making the event possible. She said the event was a resounding success, with strong participation from the IIUI community.



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# Victory Has Many Fathers, but Defeat Is an Orphan

It was deeply disheartening and revolting to witness the way our politicians, bureaucrats, and elites swarmed around Arshad Nadeem like vultures, each trying to claim a piece of his unprecedented victory at the Paris Olympics. As soon as he landed, he was handed a prepared statement to read during interviews, and Mr. Rana Mashood whispered in his ear to praise the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister of Punjab. The Information Minister of Punjab held an exclusive press conference, attributing Arshad's success to the Youth Festivals organized by Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz, claiming that the Punjab Government had sponsored him. The PTI social media brigade was quick to post pictures and videos of Arshad with Imran Khan, asserting their share in his triumph. The media seized the opportunity to use his arrival and victory to boost viewership, creating media products around him to mint money. Social media influencers also jumped on the bandwagon, eager to associate themselves with his success.

The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (Sports Ministry) underscored their role in Arshad Nadeem's success. Similarly, the Sports Minister pointed to improvements in sports infrastructure and training facilities as pivotal to Nadeem's achievement. The PTI claimed that their administration's efforts in increasing sports funding and establishing new academies were instrumental. The PML(N) stressed that the groundwork for sports advancements was laid during their governance. The PPP emphasized their long-standing

support for athletes, focusing on their athlete-centric policies that have fostered talent across the nation. The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Pakistan both underscored their roles in providing training facilities. Corporate sponsors and private sports academies also highlighted their contributions.

Ironically, none of them had the courage to admit and own the defeat of our other forgotten players who participated in the Olympic Games but failed to secure any medals. They failed to acknowledge their lack of leadership, their inability to create a robust system in the country to promote sports and sports education, and their lack of vision to discover and nurture talent from an early age. They did not admit to their failure in continuously grooming athletes until adulthood, which would multiply their chances of showcasing top-notch performances.

Contrary to the grandstanding, in a press conference held at the Embassy of Pakistan in France, Mr. Arshad Nadeem highlighted that his journey to the Paris Olympics was fraught with challenges, impediments, and a severe lack of resources. His story is a reflection of the government's total failure and our society's inability to support and nurture talent adequately.

This is the ripe moment for civil society to come forward and compel the government, instead of capitalizing on the hard

work of others, to benchmark the best practices of a successful country like China and build a diverse and all-inclusive sports ecosystem in the country.

Pakistan can significantly enhance its sports development by emulating China's successful strategies. China's remarkable transformation from an underdeveloped nation to a sports powerhouse is largely due to strong government support, effective policy implementation, and substantial investment in sports infrastructure and athlete development programs.

Civil society should pressure the government to prioritize sports in its national agenda, ensuring sustained investment and creating policies that support long-term athlete growth. Establishing grassroots development programs similar to China's, with a focus on early talent identification and specialized coaching, can provide young athletes with the necessary support to excel.

Civil society should also press the government to invest in professional coaching and provide athletes with international exposure through competitions and training camps abroad. Additionally, developing a comprehensive athlete support system, including access to sports science, nutrition, psychology, and medical care, is essential.

The government must be urged to provide the best possible care and resources to maintain peak physical and mental

condition for athletes in diverse sports, not just cricket and hockey. Establishing a well-structured competitive sports system with regular local, regional, and national competitions will help athletes hone their skills and prepare for international events.

The private sector in Pakistan can significantly enhance the sports ecosystem to produce world-class Olympic players by investing in high-quality infrastructure, providing financial support through sponsorships, and establishing talent identification and development programs. Partnerships with educational institutions can integrate sports into the educational system, while bringing in professional coaches and sports experts can elevate training standards. Additionally, investing in sports science and medicine will ensure comprehensive athlete support. Organizing local and national competitions can create a competitive environment, and media and marketing efforts can raise public awareness and interest. Incorporating sports development into corporate social responsibility initiatives and collaborating with the government and NGOs can further strengthen these efforts, creating a synergistic approach to fostering athletic excellence in Pakistan.

Let us work together to create a system where not only victories are celebrated and capitalized, but defeats are also acknowledged and transformed into triumphs through collective national efforts.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Chinese citizens celebrate Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal in Paris Olympics

The Stade de France witnessed Pakistani javelin star Arshad Nadeem's remarkable throw of 92.97 meters in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 men's javelin throw final.

In a thrilling performance, Nadeem secured the first-ever individual gold medal for his country, setting a new Olympic record to beat defending champion Neeraj Chopra from India. Nadeem's achievement resonated far beyond the stadium, capturing the hearts of sports enthusiasts worldwide, including Chinese netizens.

Chinese viewers expressed their joy and admiration for the "Ba Tie" – meaning "Pakistani Iron Brother" – on social media platforms.

A China Central Television commentator enthusiastically shouted out Nadeem's monster throw, and comments flooded in, saying, "He has given wings to the javelin", and "Incredible! He's a hero!" "92.97 meters! Bravo! Congrats Iron Brother! First gold! NEW OLYMPIC RECORD!"...

Chinese netizens on Weibo, China's version of X, even created a trending tag: "Nadeem surprises his coach's sunglasses off". The tag garnered tens of millions of views, with one user humorously remarking, "OMG the coach's reaction is adorable; he couldn't believe his eyes!"

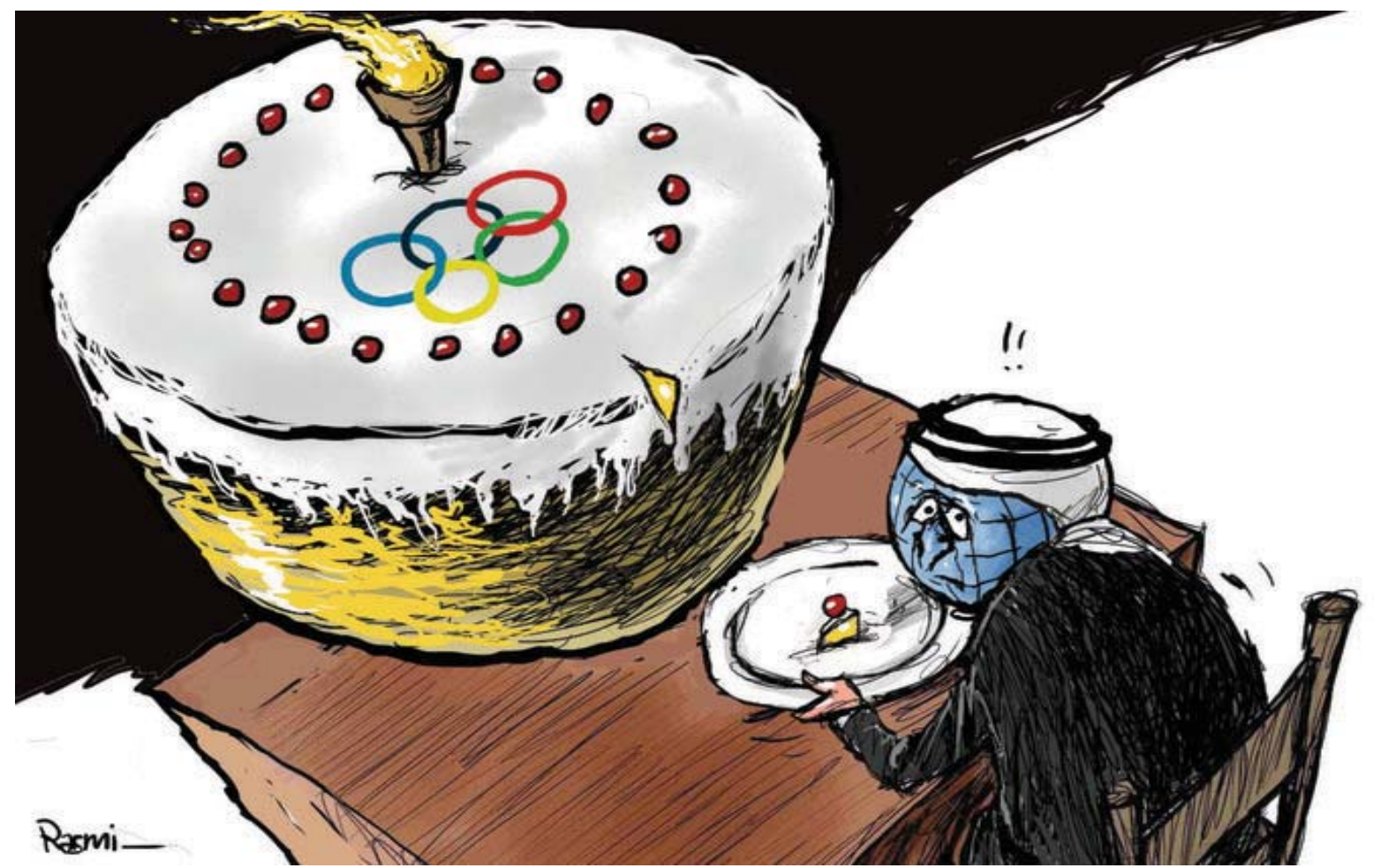
Since its Olympic debut at the London Games in 1948, Pakistan has earned a total of 11 medals over 76 years. However, the last time Pakistan claimed gold was four decades ago, during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, when the men's field hockey team secured the top prize, CEN reported on Sunday.

Arshad Nadeem's remarkable victory in the javelin throw at the Paris Olympics finally breaks the country's 40-year wait for a prestigious gold medal in its Olympic journey.

Nadeem's throw shattered the previous Olympic record of 90.57 meters, set by the Netherlands' Andreas Thorkildsen at the Beijing 2008 Olympics. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to social media to congratulate Nadeem, writing, "You've made the whole nation proud young man".

Furthermore, the Arshad Nadeem who won gold medal in javelin throw for Pakistan in Paris Olympics arrived in Lahore last night from Paris by way of Istanbul and received a grand welcome in Lahore. He left for his ancestral home Mian Channu Chak No. 101 via GT Road, then thousands of people from Lahore to Mian Channu were there to welcome Arshad Nadeem.

People were walking along with his car and expressing their love for Arshad Nadeem. People were eager to catch a glimpse of Arshad Nadeem and he was showered with flower petals. As soon as Arshad Nadeem's convoy, which consisted of more than 100 vehicles, reached the limits of Multan Division, On this occasion, on the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Commissioner Multan Division, Mrs. Maryam Khan, Regional Police Officer Captain Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary, and district administration of Khanewal, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were also there to welcome Arshad Nadeem, Commissioner Multan Division. Commissioner Multan Mrs Maryam Khan and Regional Police Officer Captain Sohail Chaudhary garlanded Arshad Nadeem and after that his convoy was on its way.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

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

In times of natural disasters, the army has led rescue and relief efforts, providing vital assistance to affected communities. It has also established educational institutions and medical facilities, contributing to human development in the area. Through various civil action programs, the army has engaged in community development initiatives that empower local populations.

Some anti-state elements propagate misleading information suggesting that AJK lags behind both Pakistan and IIOJK in several key indicators, which is completely inaccurate. The data clearly demonstrates that the conditions and statistics for AJK are significantly better than those for IIOJK and Pakistan. With a population of 241.49 million in Pakistan, AJK's population stands at approximately 4.45 million, accounting for 1.8% of the total, and 2.45 million, or 1.01%, when excluding the diaspora. A population growth rate indicates a more favorable economic and educational profile, although it also places additional pressure on the economy, job market, and housing. The existing road network spans 8,865 km, giving AJK a road density that is double that of Pakistan and superior to that of IIOJK. The 13th Amendment (2018) transferred financial and legislative powers from the AJK Council to the AJK Legislative Assembly, enhancing autonomy in alignment with other provinces. While the population of AJK is smaller than that of District Rawalpindi, its administrative structure and civilian government are comparable to those of a province. AJK has a road density of 0.66, compared to 0.32 in Pakistan and 0.52 in IIOJK. The literacy rate in AJK is 76.8%, in contrast to 62.3% in Pakistan and 67% in IIOJK. The school-to-pupil ratio in AJK is 1:49, while it is 1:16 in both Pakistan and IIOJK. The teacher-to-student ratio stands at 1:7 in AJK compared to 1:44 in Pakistan and 1:20 in IIOJK. The tax-to-GDP ratio in AJK is 7.77%, compared

to 10.4% in Pakistan. The poverty/unemployment rate is 22% in AJK, 23.1% in IIOJK, and 43% in Pakistan. AJK has a 7% employment quota in the army. The price of 40 kg of wheat flour is Rs 2000 in AJK, Rs 4680 in IIOJK, and also much lower than in Pakistan. Approximately 3.24% of the population is employed in the Army/CAFs. Thirty percent of the population holds government jobs, which accounts for a significant portion of the annual budget. The per-unit electricity tariff is Rs 3-6 in AJK, compared to Rs 3.95-42.70 in IIOJK and Pakistan. AJK and GB are the only regions with 100% telecom density. Independent quality of service surveys show that over 90% of residents have confidence in 3G/4G signal strength in AJK, with SCO and Zong providing the best webpage loading times. AJK has a significantly higher number of telecom towers compared to IIOJK and Pakistan. Although AJK's population is smaller than that of District Rawalpindi, its administrative structure is equivalent to a province, constraining financial resources for priority sectors. Approximately 35.24% of the population is employed in the Army, Civil Armed Forces, Federal, and AJK Government, demonstrating the state's commitment to its people. Modern-day AJK was liberated by local Kashmiris rebelling against the Maharaja's exploitative and cruel governance, primarily targeting Muslims. The relationship with Pakistan has always been vital, with Kashmiris deeply committed to unification with Pakistan. The narrative of an 'Independent Kashmir' is not supported by facts.

The stark contrast between Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is a testament to the stark differences in governance, human rights, and overall quality of life. While AJK, under Pakistani administration, has made significant strides in development and democracy, IIOJK continues to grapple with

oppression, human rights violations, and a stifling atmosphere. Azad Jammu and Kashmir, stands as a beacon of hope for the Kashmiri people. The region has made considerable progress in various sectors. AJK enjoys a democratic system with elected representatives, ensuring people's participation in decision-making. The region upholds fundamental human rights, allowing freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. Significant investments have been made in education and healthcare, leading to improved literacy rates and healthcare access. AJK has witnessed substantial infrastructure development, with improved roads, communication networks, and public facilities. The region's economy has shown steady growth, creating employment opportunities and improving living standards. In stark contrast, IIOJK remains under the iron grip of Indian occupation.

The region has been subjected to Human Rights Violations including Mass killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and arbitrary detentions are rampant. Frequent curfews and lockdowns stifle basic freedoms and hinder economic activities. Internet shutdowns and restrictions on media coverage are used to suppress dissent. Kashmiri political leaders are often incarcerated or exiled, denying the people their right to representation. The region's economy has been crippled by conflict and Indian policies, leading to high unemployment and poverty rates.

The disparity between AJK and IIOJK clearly highlights the impact of India's oppressive policies in the region. The international community must pressure India to respect human rights, end the occupation, and allow the Kashmiri people to determine their own future. The superior development indicators in AJK demonstrate Pakistan's prioritization of AJK's development and progress over other parts of the country. The Kashmiris, particularly those in AJK, recognize and appreciate Pakistan's significant contributions and reject all propaganda and misinformation intended to sow hate and despair among the people.

## Empowering Future Generations - II

**Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq**

To fully harness the potential of ESD, Pakistan must address several challenges. These include the lack of trained teachers, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient resources. Moreover, the country's education system is often plagued by inefficiencies, corruption, and a lack of accountability. To overcome these challenges, the government must invest in teacher training, infrastructure development, and resource allocation. Moreover, it must promote a culture of transparency and accountability to ensure that ESD is implemented effectively.

Empowering future generations through education for sustainable development is critical for Pakistan's development. By integrating ESD into its education policy, Pakistan can equip its students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address the country's development challenges. The benefits of ESD extend beyond the classroom, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and promoting a culture of sustainability.

While challenges remain, Pakistan has made significant progress in promoting ESD, and with continued investment and commitment, the country can lead the way in education for sustainable development. The importance of ESD cannot be overstated. As the world grapples with the challenges of climate change, inequality, and social

injustice, education has a critical role to play in fostering a more sustainable and equitable future. By empowering future generations through ESD, Pakistan can create a better future for all its citizens, and contribute to a more sustainable and peaceful world. In the words of Malala Yousafzai, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world." By investing in ESD, Pakistan can unlock the potential of its young people and create a brighter future for all.

Malala Yousafzai's words are a powerful reminder of the transformative power of education in shaping the future of a nation. By investing in Education for Sustainable Development, Pakistan can unlock the immense potential of its young people and create a brighter future for all. ESD has the potential to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to address the complex challenges facing the country, drive economic growth and development, and promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

As Pakistani looks to the future, it is imperative that education remains at the forefront of the national agenda, and that the country invests in the education of its young people, for they hold the key to a brighter, more sustainable future. The time to act is now. Pakistan must continue to prioritize ESD, invest in its education system, and empower its future generations to lead the way in sustainable development. The country's future depends on it.

*Writer is Post-Doctorate (Affiliate) with International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan*



# Transition to green economy not possible without gender equality, women empowerment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a high-level regional moot said Monday that gender empowerment is vital to successfully transitioning to a green economy. Without ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the green economy, we cannot achieve more sustainable, inclusive and effective environmental and economic outcomes.

The two-day event 'Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy' was organized here by the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority, UN Fund for Population Activities, Pathfinder, The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and other international non-governmental organisations.

Speaking as a chief guest, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that gender empowerment for achieving green economy goals is both timely and essential for our collective

and sustainable future.

Through progressive laws and dedicated parliamentary forums, such as the Women Parliamentary Caucus and the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, we are integrating the agenda of the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 in Cairo into our national policies, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted.

Highlighting Pakistan's activism for women empowerment in all spheres of life, he informed the participants, "The country has championed laws addressing gender-based violence, ensuring equal safe workplaces, and enhancing women's socio-economic and political participation."

Despite women producing up to 80 percent of food in developing countries, they lack equal access to resources like land and technology, he added.

In her welcome remarks, the Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that the green economy is not merely an environmental plan; it is a transformative approach aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth while mitigating environmental risks and ecological scarcities.



She highlighted that women, constituting half of the world's population, are crucial to achieving green economy goals. Minister of State of Japan on Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Toshiko Abe San said that Japan has increasingly recognized the importance of women's empowerment in driving the green economy.

"While the country has faced challenges in gender equality, significant steps are being taken to integrate gender

perspectives into environmental and economic policies," the Japanese state minister informed the meeting participants.

Deputy Representative of UNFPA Pakistan Ms. Latika Maskey Pradhan said that despite progress on the ICPD action programme, gender inequality persists as women and girls face discrimination violence and limited opportunities in various aspects of life especially education, employment and

decision-making. She urged parliamentarians from Asia region to champion the cause of women's empowerment in the context of the green economy.

"Your political will is essential in creating an enabling environment where women can thrive and contribute their full potential to sustainable development," she stressed while addressing the parliamentarians from various Asian countries including Japan, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Tajikistan,

Thailand, Cambodia, Jordan, Mongolia, Maldives, Egypt.

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Pathfinder International Dr. Tabinda Sarosh said that the deliberations during the course of the two-day regional conference would effectively help push for mainstreaming gender into the green economy agenda through policymaking and implementation of relevant laws for women's enhanced socio-economic empowerment in the Asian countries.

## Embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands contributes to the resounding success of FoodAg 2024

Bureau Report

Karachi: The Embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands is proud to announce its significant contribution to the success of FoodAg 2024, an international exhibition held in Karachi from August 9-12.

The event, organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), has once again showcased Pakistan's ability to host world-class events that highlight the rich and diverse agricultural products of the country on the global stage.

The Embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands played a pivotal role in promoting FoodAg 2024 within the Dutch market through a series of strategic initiatives.

The Embassy's efforts culminated in leading a strong delegation of Dutch buyers, investors, and experts to FoodAg 2024. This delegation, led by the Embassy's Counsellor for Trade & Investment, Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, was not only the largest from any EU Member State but also



ranked among the top ten delegations globally. The significant presence of Dutch businesses at the exhibition underscores the growing interest in Pakistan's agricultural sector and the

potential for deepening trade relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

During the exhibition, Counsellor for Trade & Investment, Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, participated as a

panelist in a discussion on enhancing exports of sustainable rice to the European Union. His presentation highlighted the rising demand for sustainable food products, including rice, in the Netherlands and emphasized the vast opportunities for increasing Pakistan's agro and food exports to the EU.

The Dutch delegation also held a productive meeting with the Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal during which they expressed strong interest in purchasing Pakistani food products, including rice, and exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan's dairy sector.

The Embassy of Pakistan in the Netherlands remains committed to supporting TDAP's efforts in promoting Pakistan's agricultural exports and fostering stronger trade ties with the European Union. The success of these initiatives highlights the importance of continued collaboration between TDAP and the Trade Mission in the Netherlands to enhance Pakistan's presence in the EU market.

## CPEC hydropower project's 1st unit connected to grid in NW Pakistan

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: The first unit of the Chinese-built Suki Kinari Hydropower project in northwest Pakistan was connected to the grid for power generation on Monday.

It marks that the project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has taken the most critical step towards commercial operation.

He Xiongfei, deputy general manager of China Energy Construction Overseas Investment Company Ltd., which invests in and implements the project, told Xinhua that the hydropower station began transmitting clean electricity to the locals after the first unit was connected to Pakistan's national grid.

The project is expected to provide more than 1 million Pakistani households with affordable clean electricity each year in the future, the Chinese manager said.

It will contribute to Pakistan's adjustment of national power energy structure, reducing the gap between electricity supply and demand, and helping promote infrastructure and economic development in the South Asian country, he added.

Located in the Mansehra district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the 884-megawatt hydropower project, which has installed four impulse units, started construction in January 2017.

Once becoming functional later this year, it will generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, according to the Chinese manager.

## All Pakistan Private Schools' Association lauds PM for urgent action on education



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said that education is a matter of life and death for us. Among the Quaid's priorities were first the educational revolution in Pakistan, then the economic revolution and finally the strengthening of defence. All the doors of success and development are opened through education. Arshad Nadeem doubled the joy of Independence Day by winning the gold medal. The implementation of the educational emergency by the Prime Minister of Pakistan is welcome, but practically everything remains to be done.

These views were expressed by All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab President Abrar Ahmad Khan, Vice President Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Qazi Noor Al Hasan, Abrar Ahmad Advocate, Kamran Saif Qureshi and Adnan Nisar in a meeting held on the occasion of Independence Day. They said that Quaid-e-Azam realized that the nations which give priority to education make their defense stronger and stronger by moving towards economic development. Currently, the biggest problem of Pakistan is the exclusion of 26.7 million children from the education process.

## JUI demands strong government based on public opinion: Salimullah Aluzai

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The central leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Salimullah Aluzai said that Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam wants the establishment of a strong government in the country based on public opinion. The improvement of the people and the country lies in transparent and free elections, towards which we are ready for all kinds of cooperation. The government that came into being as a result of rigged elections, the JUI never recognized it as a democratic and people's government. The martyrdom of Ismail Haniya is no less than a great loss for the Muslim Ummah. JUI appreciates all the Islamic and Jihadi services of Ismail Haniya



Shaheed and stands with his Jamaat and his family.

The central leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Salimullah Aluzai said in his important statement that JUI has always been a people's representative party believing in democratic values. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has always opposed and resisted interference in politics by non-political forces and parliamentary politics in an undemocratic manner. He said that In the past, 12 million marches across the country and Islamabad's Azadi March were a link in this chain. He said that friendly relations built on the basis of equality with neighboring and other developed countries should be on priority basis. He further said that the role of all

democratic forces should be included in the development of the country. He said that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and its leadership are still in the field of action and are actively fighting the democratic cause of the people of Pakistan, Alhamdulillah.

Salimullah Aluzai said that as far as the current government policy is concerned, we refuse to recognize the democratic side of the government or the people's government side. He said that basically the current government is completely unable to give a better economic direction to the people of Pakistan. Peace is the basic need of the country, it is also being sabotaged by unnecessary and illogical operations under pressure.

## Pakistan Red Crescent Society Commemorates International Youth Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) celebrated International Youth Day with a vibrant event at the Fatima Jinnah Auditorium, located at the PRCS National Headquarters, on Monday. The event was attended by PRCS staff, representatives from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, students from various educational institutions, and a large number of volunteers.

International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, highlights the contributions of young people to societal development and raises awareness of the challenges they face.

In his address, PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari

remarked, "On this International Youth Day, we stand with the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our youth. This year's theme, 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development,' emphasizes the vital role that digital literacy and innovation play in building a more equitable and sustainable future."

Chairman Laghari affirmed PRCS's commitment to creating an environment where youth can thrive, innovate, and lead. He noted that through various programs, initiatives, and capacity-building trainings, PRCS equips the younger generation with the tools and knowledge necessary to overcome challenges and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. "We take great pride in our youth, and

their significant contributions across all sectors of society are well recognized," he added.

He also urged all stakeholders, governments, civil society, the private sector, and educational institutions to invest in enhancing the digital skills of young people. "Let us work together to ensure that the digital pathways they pursue today lead to a more prosperous and sustainable future for all," Chairman Laghari concluded.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and the distribution of certificates to outstanding young participants. The PRCS Youth and Volunteer Department continues to run mentorship programs throughout the year, with active participation from students across various educational institutions.





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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
77,980.29	78,569.58
Day's High	Day's Low
78,886.46	77,940.52
Index Value	Change
11,177,755,137	-589.29
Percentage	Time
-0.75%	12 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,210.25	+42.15
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	12 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,300.08	-197.46
Percentage	Time
-0.50%	12 Aug, 1:50 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	183.4	187.00
Bahrain Dinar	738	743.50
Canadian Dollar	202.65	207.00
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	303.20	305.35
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.35	910.50
Malaysian Ringgit	58.75	59.55
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.45	728.75
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.90	74.60
Singapore Dollar	202	204.00
Swedish Korona	26.27	26.57
Swiss Franc	318.25	324.25
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.80	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	355.1	357.1
US Dollar	279.30	280.40

# Parties linked to IPP did not participate in protest: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the current price of electricity is harmful for production, business, employment, and exports.

He said that the destructive policy of continuous increases in energy prices makes it impossible to reduce inflation and improve people's living conditions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that official data on inflation is not in line with ground realities, as people are suffering more than seen by authorities.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that essential commodities cannot be affordable when energy



prices are continuously increasing. The price of all essential commodities is subject to the cost of energy and transport, and giving some kind of relief to the people by

increasing the cost of energy can only be possible in rhetoric, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the electricity prices and taxes on them have affected the people badly, and they have not been able to meet their other monthly expenses.

People are taking out loans and selling jewelry and other household items, but this method of raising funds to pay bills cannot last for long.

Now the situation is that electricity prices have pushed forty percent of people below the poverty line, and their number continues to increase. Instead of eradicating poverty, the impoverished face trials.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Jamaat-e-Islami's protest against electricity rates and taxes was a very positive step. This protest was not intended for political purposes, but rather to alleviate the nation's suffering, and those who colluded with IPPs have exposed themselves by not participating.

As soon as Jamaat-e-Islami's protest over the government's assurances ended, the government proved its helplessness in front of the people by increasing the electricity rate by 2.56 rupees.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the current situation, neither the government is doing anything to reduce inflation nor the efforts of the State Bank are getting any benefit.

Only by putting aside the mafia's interests and initiating trade with India, which offers numerous food items at significantly lower prices than Pakistan, can we reduce inflation.

The importation of food from India will break the back of the Pakistani mafia, which is not acceptable to some people.

Similarly, smugglers only benefit from the cheaper goods in Iran and Afghanistan. Legal trade with neighbours can balance imports and exports to some extent, saving millions of dollars.

## Illumination

ISLAMABAD: A view of illumination of ZTBL building as light and firework shows are held to mark Pakistan Independence Day celebrations in Islamabad.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## SECP interact with Pakistan's African missions for investment facilitation

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in furtherance of its agenda of investment facilitation and supporting the Federal Government in attracting foreign investment, held its second online awareness session with Pakistan's diplomatic/consular offices in African countries, in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), on August 7, 2024. The first session of this kind was held with Pakistan's diplomatic/consular offices in the European Union.

The session was attended by representatives of MOFA and Pakistan's missions/consulates in African countries with participants attending from Pareps/Pahics, Rabat, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Djibouti, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Dar Es Salam, Port Louis, Harare, Pretoria, Kijali, Kampala, Abuja, Niamey, Accra, Abidjan and Dakar.

The representatives of SECP gave an overview of the reforms introduced to promote ease of doing business in Pakistan, and emphasized that investment facilitation has become increasingly crucial to attract foreign investment in today's highly competitive global business environment.

Participants appreciated SECP's efforts towards conducting the awareness session. MOFA and SECP agreed to collaborate for similar sessions in the future.

## Supreme Court upholds CCP's order and maintains penalty

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the Competition Appellate Tribunal's (CAT) order imposing a penalty of PKR 6 million on a local restaurant chain for deceiving consumers by fraudulently using "STARBUCKS" branding for selling its coffee.

STARBUCKS, a globally recognized chain of coffeehouses registered in the State of Washington, filed a formal complaint that the Lahore-based restaurant, Options International, was selling "Starbucks Coffee" while fraudulently using "STARBUCKS MARKS" in its branding.

The Supreme Court ruled that the appellant, "Options International," put itself forward by selling its products under the international brand name Starbucks and by using its logo, which must have had the effect of distorting competition within Pakistan because a local vendor selling

similar products, as those being sold by the appellant, would be at a serious disadvantage and not be able to compete therewith since the understanding public would believe, understand, or perceive the same to be the genuine products of Starbucks.

The CCP's enquiry concluded that Options International had prima facie deceived its consumers and harmed the business interests of their competitor by disseminating false and misleading information. During the enquiry, Options admitted to the violation. In its order, CCP's bench noted that although Options had stopped using STARBUCKS MARKS and committed to complying with the Commission's directions, the unauthorized use of STARBUCKS MARKS spanned a substantial period.

The CCP bench, besides barring M/s Options International from using STARBUCKS MARKS, imposed a penalty of PKR 5 million on M/s Options International. Additionally, the bench directed

Options International to inform the general public through newspaper advertisements for three consecutive days about its fraudulent use of STARBUCKS MARKS.

Options International filed an appeal against the CCP's order before CAT, which dismissed the appeal and increased the penalty amount from PKR 5 million to PKR 6 million and modified the daily penalty. Subsequently, M/s Options International has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the CAT's order, which the court dismissed.

Using distorted or misleading information and trademarks for marketing of products violate competition laws as it can influence consumer decisions and may prevent them from considering alternative products. The CCP is committed to safeguarding consumers and businesses from deceptive marketing practices through spreading awareness and strict enforcement of competition laws.

## Maryam Govt's Green Tractor Scheme to Bolster Agricultural and Industrial Economy: PAAPAM

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has lauded the recent agricultural initiative spearheaded by Maryam Nawaz, aimed at providing subsidized tractors to farmers in Punjab. In a recently held executive committee meeting, PAAPAM's leadership, including Chairman Mr. Abdur Rehman, Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Mumshad Ali, and Vice Chairman Mr. Taufiq Sherwani, expressed their support for the scheme, noting its potential to significantly enhance Punjab's agricultural economy, thereby contributing to the overall national economy.

The leadership drew parallels between this initiative



and similar efforts made by the previous PML-N government under Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. They emphasized that the current government's approach of directly supporting farmers through subsidies is far more effective than the previous practice of providing support via wheat price guarantees, which often resulted in inefficiencies, corrup-

tion, and misallocation of funds. PAAPAM representatives highlighted the broad impact of this subsidy, which extends beyond agriculture to bolster Punjab's industrial base. The scheme supports over 250 part suppliers to the two major tractor assemblers in the province, Millat Tractors and Al-Ghazi Tractors. These companies are responsible for producing some of the most

affordable and durable tractors in the world, with a strong sale and service network across Pakistan. The tractor industry in Punjab, employing thousands of skilled and semi-skilled workers, is a cornerstone of Pakistan's engineering sector, contributing not only to the domestic market but also to exports and other industries, including automobiles, motorcycles, and home appliances.

Mr. Mumshad Ali noted that the contribution of the tractor parts industry to the national economy is often underappreciated. He emphasized the significant progress Pakistan's engineering sector has made since independence, evolving from a cottage industry into a vital component of the national economy.

## NTDC adds another 250 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer at 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhpura

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has successfully added a 250 MVA autotransformer at 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhpura to enhance its power transmission capacity.

The augmentation work of existing 160 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer (T-8) with 250 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer has been completed by Project Delivery (North) Lahore, the autotransformer successfully energized, today. A shutdown was approved up to 14-08-2024 for this work, however, NTDC team completed the project 03-days before the scheduled shutdown period

by deploying extra resources. The augmentation of this autotransformer will enhance the loading capacity of 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhpura and provide relief to the areas under Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO). The enhanced capacity of this grid station will ensure smooth power supply, which will benefit the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers.

Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto and Deputy Managing Director (P&E), Engr. Qaiser Khan appreciated the Project Delivery (North) Lahore team for successful completion of the project.

## Lahore Chamber celebrates Minority Day

LAHORE, AUG 12 (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) organized a special event to commemorate Minority Day, aimed at highlighting the importance of minority rights in Pakistan and acknowledging the contributions of various communities.

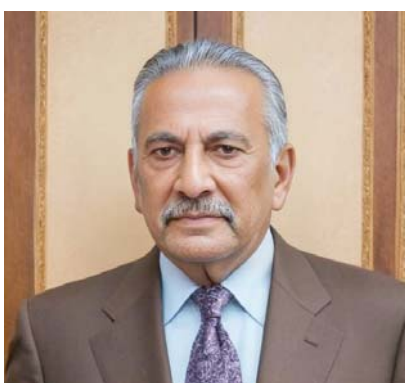
A large number of individuals from different religious backgrounds attended the event and appreciated the LCCI's initiative.

The Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Sardar

Ramesh Singh Arora was the chief guest, while LCCI President Kashif Anwar delivered the welcome address. Notable attendees included LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Sardar Bishan Singh, Bishop Sohael Yousaf, Pandit Amarnath Randhawa, Professor Mahmood Ghaznavi, Qari Khalid Usman Nori, Professor Shabbir, and a significant number of religious scholars.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar emphasized the strength that comes from unity among all segments of society.

## Continued sugar exports will cause a national disaster: Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt



**Commerce Desk**

Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that continued exports of sugar have increased its price across the country.

He stated that the Cabinet should ban sugar exports because they will cause a national crisis.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that since the government allowed the export of sugar, the price of sugar has been continuously increasing across the country.

He stated that the government had decided to halt sugar exports if the country's sugar price rose, but this has not happened, and the market price of sugar has already risen by five rupees per kg.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the sugar mills had assured the government that there is a large quantity of surplus sugar in the country, and that exports will not increase prices in the local market.

He stated that if the government grants the sugar mills permission to export 15 lakh tonnes of sugar, it will lead to a serious sugar crisis in the country. He said that the wrong decisions are continuously harming the economy. Every sector of the economy is in decline, and people are suffering because of inflation and inflated power bills.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that not only India, the Philippines, Egypt, and Bangladesh are better than Pakistan in terms of exports, but recently bankrupt Sri Lanka has also far surpassed Pakistan.



# Mountaineer Murad Sadpara passes away

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a heartbreaking incident, prominent Pakistani mountaineer Murad Sadpara died while descending from Broad Peak, which stands at 8,047 metres, Alpine Club of Pakistan said in a statement on Monday.

Sadpara, well-regarded for his bravery in rescue missions and commitment to mountain clean-up efforts, was severely injured during his descent when a loose rock struck him on the head at camp one.

Despite the urgency of the situation, rescue efforts were hampered by the harsh conditions on the mountain, leading to a delay. The Broad Peak Rescue Team, dispatched from the base camp earlier in the day, confirmed the tragic news upon their arrival at camp one.

This year, Sadpara had been leading a cleanup expedition on K2, following his recent successful mission to recover the body of Hasan Shagri, a fellow mountaineer, who had died on K2 the previous year. His dedication to keeping the world's second-highest peak clean and safe was evident in his tireless efforts to bring down the remains of fallen climbers and clear the hazardous routes



used by many adventurers.

Unfortunately, this year's mission ended in tragedy. After successfully retrieving Shagri's body, Sadpara embarked on another expedition to summit Broad Peak, this time accompanied by a Portuguese mountaineer. However, their ascent was cut short when the Portuguese climber fell ill,

forcing them to turn back. It was during their descent that the fatal accident occurred, with the falling rock causing severe injuries to Sadpara. Despite efforts to save him, the difficult environment and logistical challenges made a quick rescue impossible.

Sadpara's body has since been moved to the Japanese camp, where it will

remain until it can be transferred to the base camp. It is expected to arrive at the base camp by today, after which it will be transported to Skardu via an army helicopter.

At just 35 years, Murad Sadpara had already established himself as a brave and dedicated mountaineer, passionately advocating for the protection and preservation of Pakistan's mountainous regions. He spent his summers on the peaks, while his winters were devoted to supporting his family by driving tractors. He leaves behind three daughters, a son, and a lasting legacy of courage and selflessness.

Sadpara's heroism was widely recognized last year when he successfully retrieved the body of an Afghan mountaineer from camp three of K2. His death is a sobering reminder of the extreme risks, involved in high-altitude climbing, where the line between life and death is often perilously thin.

Murad Sadpara will be remembered not only for his remarkable climbing achievements but also for his unwavering dedication to his fellow climbers and the mountains he loved so deeply. His death is a huge loss to the mountaineering community and to all who knew him as a humble, committed individual.



Dr. Usman Rasheed Chaudhary Clinical Community Psychologist & Wellbeing Consultant his wonderful memory while delivering the lecturer to Pakistan Junior Athletic team Olympic Title holder of Javelin Throw Arshad Nadeem is also standing.

## Conducting U-19 camps across Pakistan is a good initiative by PCB: Nadeem Omar President RCAF



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: 40-day camp for U-19 players all over Pakistan is a good initiative of Pakistan Cricket Board, players should not take full advantage of it. And the hard work and responsibility with which they are performing their duties with the staff is commendable, these views were expressed during the visit of Karachi Region Under-19 Players' Academy at Hanif Muhammad High Performance Center organized by PCB. Speaking on the occasion, Nadeem Omar, President of Regional Cricket Association Karachi, Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee RCAF, in his address, paid tribute to Nadeem Omar, President of Regional Cricket Association, and said that all seven zones Under the leadership of Nadeem Omar, they are united and are continuing their efforts for the promotion of cricket in Karachi, and the series of victories that the teams of Karachi started, the players will continue this series with their game.

So Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary RCAF expressed his views and said that U-19 players will bring victories to Karachi region by showing their best game. On this occasion, he appreciated the services of Azam Khan, with whose support big problems have been solved and cricket tournaments are going on in Karachi.

Earlier, head coaches Iqbal Imam and Agha Sabir welcomed all the guests and said that the players have three sessions in a day, in which besides bowling, batting and fielding, much attention is paid to fitness, in which our other coaches and the staff cooperate with us. He specially thanked Azam Khan on this occasion for his efforts PCB provided all the accommodation and other facilities for all the players and staff at Hanif Muhammad High Performance Center. For which PCB is grateful, a week's worth of performance videos were shown on the screen to the guests. A large number of zonal officials of RCAF and players participated in the event.

## Independence Day Open Girls Tape Ball Tournament held at Dialdas Club

**Sports Desk**

HYDERABAD: In a thrilling display of sporting spirit, the two-day Independence Day Open Girls Tape Ball Tournament was organized at the Dyaldas Club Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Friends Table Tennis Club Hyderabad and a renowned private sports company.

Former Chairman of Site Association Muhammad Amir Shahab graced the occasion as a special guest, while the President of Friends Table Tennis Club Muhammad Shahid Qaim Khani, Qasim Qureshi, and other esteemed members of the organizing committee also attended the event, lending their support to the talented young participants.

A total of 8 teams, including the formidable Friends Table Tennis Club, Gul Sports team, Al Qureshi team, Seven Sports team, Hayat team, Wims Academy, Seven Sports 2, and MNC Women Cricket, are competing for top honours in the tournament, showcasing their skills and determination.

Speaking to the media, Mohammad Amir Shahab said that talent is abundant among the female students of Sindh in cricket activities. "Today, he had the pleasure of witnessing the girls participating in the cricket tournament, playing with remarkable enthusiasm and skill, which will undoubtedly improve their physical and mental well-being through sports activities", he said.

He emphasized that female students have the potential to make the name of their institutions, cricket academies, and the country shine bright in the future. Such sports activities are essential for girls, cricket eagerly girl students should be encouraged to participate in these activities for their progress and development at national and international levels, he added.

# Pakistan WAPDA beat Army to win 25th Men's Parco National Rugby Championship



**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Pakistan WAPDA won the 25th Men's Parco National Rugby Championship 2024 for the first time after defeating the Army team 17-0 in the final.

A large number of spectators and families attended the Sunday's matches of the Parco National Championship, including female rugby players who came to support the teams.

In the first semifinal, Pakistan Army defeated Punjab Yellow, while in the second semifinal, Pakistan WAPDA overcame Islamabad Jinns. Punjab Yellow demonstrated impressive gameplay in the third and fourth positions, defeating Islamabad Jinns 15-10 in the final moments.

In the final, WAPDA players showcased exceptional performance from the very first half. WAPDA's Amsal scored a

try in the second minute of the first half, and in the ninth minute, Aamir scored another try, which was converted by Amsal to make the halftime score 12-0.

Despite considerable effort from the Army team in the second half, WAPDA's Afzaal scored another try early on, which remained intact until the end of the match and Wapda clinched the championship by beating the defending champions Army 17-0.

The closing ceremony was graced by Sharon Dias, General Manager of Group Corporate Affairs at Parco. The event was also attended by Chaudhry Arif Saeed, President of the Pakistan Rugby Union, Chairman Fauzi Khawaja, Secretary Salman Sheikh, and a large number of officials from WAPDA Sports Board, Pakistan Army Sports Board, and former rugby players.

# Top Teams Advance to Semi-Finals of Independence Day Basketball Championship

**Sultan Bashir**

ISLAMABAD: The top two teams from each pool have advanced to the semi-final round of the Independence Day Inter-Provincial Men's and Women's Basketball Championship, organized by the Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad.

In the women's category, the semi-finals will take place today. The first match will feature Punjab against Sindh, followed by a clash between Islamabad A and Islamabad B. The championship is being held under the supervision of the Federal Basketball Association (FBBA).

In the men's category, Islamabad A



will face Punjab in the first semi-final, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will go head-to-head with Islamabad B in the second semi-final.

On the final day of the pool round, Sindh's women's team secured their place in the semi-finals with a 45-18 victory over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sindh's Shafa Afzal, Aqsa Hanif, and Maryam Zahid each contributed 10 points. In another match, Punjab dominated Balochistan with a resounding 78-8 win, driven by standout performances from Khadija Mushtaq (22 points) and Nilofar Helen (17 points).

The finals of both the men's and women's categories will take place on August 14, supported by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

# Former World Champion Qamar Zaman calls for unity, sacrifice on Independence Day

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan prepares to celebrate its 77th Independence Day, former World Squash Champion Qamar Zaman has urged citizens to come together and work collectively to take the country forward.

He expressed his deep love for Pakistan and emphasized the need for collective effort to ensure the country's safety, survival, and security.

Zaman, who reached the semifinals of the British Amateur Championship at the United Kingdom in 1973, said, "This country has given us so much, and now it's our turn to give

back. We must celebrate Independence Day with a renewed resolve to make sacrifices for Pakistan's dignity and identity."

He recalled an incident in Great Britain where an Englishman waved the Pakistani flag after his title win, saying, "That moment was a testament to the pride and recognition that comes with representing Pakistan abroad."

Zaman credited Pakistan for his achievements, saying that representing the country at the global level has been a matter of pride.

"I am where I am today because of this country. Pakistan has given me so

much, and I feel honored to have had the opportunity to represent it on the world stage," he said.

Zaman said it is the duty of everyone to protect and uphold the country's dignity and identity. "Pakistan is abundant with talent, boasting a plethora of skilled individuals across various fields, including sports, medicine, and engineering etc. All these talented individuals should channel their skills with dedication and passion towards the betterment of the country.

By doing so, they can harness their potential to make a meaningful impact and contribute to Pakistan's progress and prosperity," he said.

Zaman, who in the 1975 British Open, stunned and beat the defending-champion Geoff Hunt of Australia in the quarter-finals, and went on to win the title, urged political leaders to work together, tapping into the abundant talent in Pakistan, and guiding the youth to contribute positively to the nation.

As Pakistan celebrates its Independence Day on August 14, Zaman's message echoes the sentiment of many, urging to put aside differences and work together for the country's prosperity and progress.

It may be mentioned that, Zaman has reached the British Open final on four occasions. He was runner-up to



Hunt in 1978, 1979 and 1980, and to Jahangir Khan in 1984. He was also runner-up at the World Open four times, losing to Hunt in the finals of 1976, 1979 and 1980, and to Jahangir in 1984.



## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif meets Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan committed to protection of minorities' rights, ensure equal opportunities: President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath of my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation".

He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities' Day at the official



level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan.

Pakistan committed to

protection of minorities' rights, ensure equal opportunities: President

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the

minorities in different government's departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota.

Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan and future builders of the nation.

Stressing upon the significance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully emulate his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society.

The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulema, religious

leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities.

Comparing the current situation in India, the president said "Modi's India is not a safe haven for the minorities," and lauded Quaid's farsightedness and leadership who had realized the future fate of minorities in India.

President Zardari said the people of Pakistan always felt the pains of sufferings of humanity and for those lying lowly in society and accorded due respect and space to all the minorities living here because such a message of human consideration had been embedded in their religion and culture.

## Minister Finance chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSEs) at Finance Division today.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Law & Justice Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Deputy Chairman Planning



Commission, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries/divisions.

The Cabinet Committee approved the proposals of Finance Division and Power Division for the appointment of candidates as independent directors/chairman on the boards of ZTBL and NTDC respectively. The Committee also considered the proposal presented by the Ministry of Housing & Works and decided to categorize Pakistan Housing Authority - Foundation (PHA-F) as essential with further directions to present a revised plan of PHA-F to the Committee.

## Mushaal urges world to take notice of Yasin's fast deteriorating health condition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussain Mullick has expressed grave concerns over the fast deteriorating health of her husband Yasin Malik who has been languishing in solitary confinement at Tihar Jail Delhi.

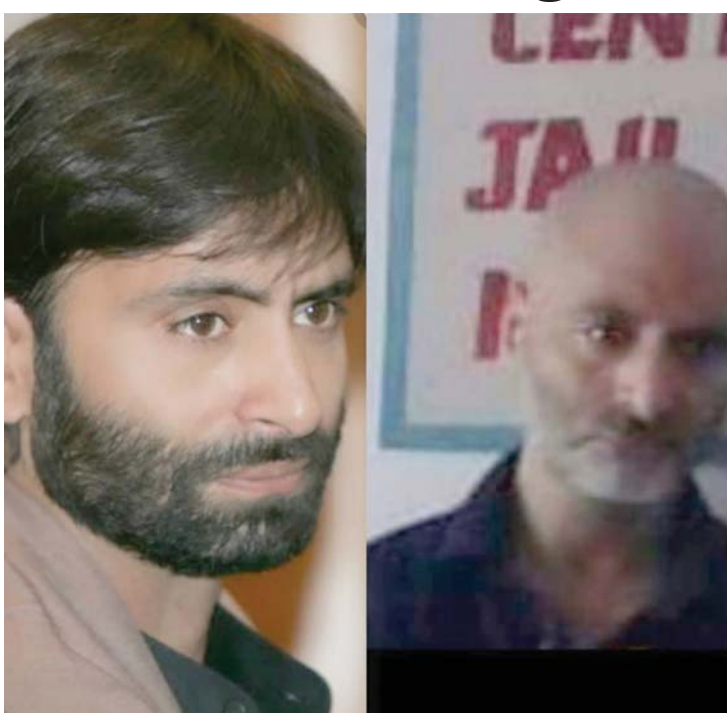
Mushaal in a statement on Sunday asked the world leaders and Indian government for providing necessary medical facilities to incarcerated Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Muhammad Yasin Malik. She said that Yasin Malik's body weight has receded to 65kgs during the last two months, adding that the incarcerated JKLF chairman is also a chronic heart patient.

Mushaal said that her husband in the recent hearing of the case tried to draw the attention of the judges towards his deteriorating health condition but unfortunately the judges didn't pay any attention in this regard.

Mushaal lamented that the Indian judiciary was toying the line of the

government instead of doing justice especially when it comes to the Kashmiri pro-freedom leaders.

Former SAPM on Human Rights Mushaal Mallick said that Geneva Convention and other international covenants make it mandatory for all signatory countries to provide every medical facility to political prisoners but it seems that the international community especially the champions of democracy and human rights have given India a free license to violate all these conventions and covenants.



## Defence Minister visits Naval Headquarters

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called-on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. During the meeting, matters pertaining to Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of Pakistan Navy were discussed. Naval Chief apprised the Defence Minister on maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's preparedness to meet them. Defence Minister was also briefed on Pakistan Navy's future capabilities

enhancement and modernization plans.

The Defence Minister took keen interest in details of recent acquisitions of state-of-the-art platforms and equipment which will further strengthen the seaward defence of the country.

The Defence Minister also acknowledged the importance of Pakistan Navy to safeguard maritime interest of the country. He assured that his Ministry will make all efforts to meet the requirements of Pakistan Navy despite the prevailing economic constraints.

## BISP and PSDF discuss skill training programme

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Punjab Skill Development Fund (PSDF) held an important meeting at BISP Headquarters to discuss the progress of the BISP Skill Training Programme. The meeting was attended by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP, Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad, and Mr. Ahmed Khan, CEO of PSDF.

The meeting focused on the progress of the Skill Training Programme, which aims to provide skill development opportunities to BISP beneficiaries and their family members across various trades. Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of offering

top-quality training courses that are recognized internationally. She pointed out that such training could help beneficiaries find jobs abroad, improving their economic situation and allowing them to contribute to the country's economy.

She also mentioned the increasing need for skilled workers in areas like hospitality management, home care, and receptionist roles. She stressed that trainees should learn basic work ethics and hygiene practices.

Mr. Ahmad Khan assured full support from PSDF in providing assistance for the skill training of BISP beneficiaries and their family members. He reiterated PSDF's commitment to ensuring the success of this programme.

## OGDCL Announces Commencement of Production from Pakistan's First-Ever Tight Gas Project

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of Tight Gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tight Gas project, Nur West Well-1 at the Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL), located in the Sujawal district of Sindh.

The Nur West Well-1 is currently producing 1.5 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas with a wellhead flowing pressure of 1050 PSI. The gas is sourced from the Lower Guru formation (A' Sand) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network. This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure

and contribute to the stability of Pakistan's energy supply.

During drilling, initial conventional testing methods did not provide favorable results, consequently, the hydraulic fracturing technique was employed to achieve production viability. This innovative approach underscores OGDCL's commitment to exploring and developing advanced techniques to maximize resource potential.

OGDCL has formulated a comprehensive Tight Gas exploration and development roadmap, which is currently under implementation. This roadmap reaffirms the company's commitment to expanding energy resources, securing national energy requirements, and promoting sustainable development across Pakistan.

## Aurangzeb chairs a Meeting at FBR HQs

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb visited Federal Board of Revenue Headquarters today and chaired a meeting which was attended by State Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Ali Pervez Malik, Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Members and other senior officers of the Board.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister acknowledged the services and contributions of the former Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana especially his role in budgeting process and IMF negotiations.

The Minister also welcomed the new Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial and expressed confidence in his abilities to lead the organization and achieve the assigned targets.

On the occasion, Member Inland Revenue (Operations), Mir Badshah Khan Wazir and Member Customs (Operations), Mr. Ashhad Jawwad gave detailed presentations about their respective domains.

The meeting also deliberated upon strategy to achieve the current financial year's revenue collection targets. The Federal Minister appreciated the FBR Team's persistent efforts for maximising revenue and broadening the tax base for sustained economic development.

## Will former ISI chief Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed get a chance ...

Continued from Page 1

But Piracha clarified that it was not the case of an ordinary soldier and they do not yet know what specific charges under the Military Act have been levied against Hameed.

In a shocking development on Monday, the military's media wing said that Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed has been taken into military custody and the process of field general court

martial has been initiated against him about the Top City housing scheme scandal.

"Appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against the former spymaster under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act," the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement.

According to the ISPR, the action was taken following the Supreme Court orders into the case.