

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
عائشہ نے فرمایا کہ جسیر رسول اللہ ﷺ کی وفات ہوئی تو آپ کی بیویوں نے چاہا کہ عثمان رضی اللہ عنہ کو ابو بکر رضی اللہ عنہ کے پاس بھیجیں، لیکن ہیرات طلب کرنے کے لیے پھر عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے یاد دلایا۔ کیا یہی کہیم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے نہیں فرمایا تھا کہ ہماری ہر اہل تقسیم نہیں ہوتی، ہم جو پاکہ چھوڑ جائیں وہ سب سمدقہ ہے؟  
(بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6730)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Khawaja Asif hints at Imran Khan's 'open trial' in military court

Responding to incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's demand for an "open trial" of ex-spymaster Faiz Hamid, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Wednesday that Imran Khan's trial will be open if it is held in a military court in connection with May 9 riots.



## Cristiano Ronaldo's YouTube channel draws over 4.5m subscribers within hours

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo launched his YouTube channel on Wednesday and hundreds of thousands of subscribers signed up within a couple of hours. The 39-year-old five-time Ballon D'Or winner is currently playing for Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr. "The wait is over. My @YouTube channel is finally here! SIUUUbscribe and join me on this new journey," Ronaldo posted on his social media accounts. (Details on Page 7)

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## National Youth convention

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir distributing laptops among the high achievers during National Youth Convention held on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# United efforts, youth empowerment, imperative for country's progress: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that youth empowerment and the united efforts by the politicians and the national institutions, were inevitable to put the country on the course to progress. "If we resolve to change Pakistan, it will not be too far when the country will emerge as a great nation. Today's Pakistan and its prevailing circumstances necessitate politicians and national institutions to serve the country unitedly while observing their constitutional limits. If we do so, history will remember us forever otherwise the future generations

will never forgive us," he said addressing the National Youth Convention. The Convention was attended by federal ministers, Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, teachers, vice-chancellors and students from across the country. He said it was the government's responsibility to equip the youth with modern education, technology and skills to enable them to change the country's fate and bring about a 'revolution' of progress and prosperity. He said the country's youth

had immense potential as for the last three years, Pakistani students were among the top achievers of the foreign scholarships. Calling the 1973 Constitution a binding force for the nation, he said Pakistani nation also showed unity when the country carried out the nuclear tests in 1998 to make its defence impregnable, setting aside the serious challenges. He assured that despite the challenges of electricity, revenue receipts and exports, the government would dole out maximum funds for youth empowerment

and recalled the PML-government's pro-youth steps in the past including the merit-based distribution of laptops, establishment of Punjab Education Endowment Fund to distribute scholarships worth Rs22 billion, and numerous schemes for skill development. Urging the youth to go into the SME sector, he said the State Bank of Pakistan has been asked to instruct the commercial banks to allocate 40% of their loans for the SME sector. About Bangladesh, he referred to the demolition of Sheikh Mujeebur Rehman's statue

during the recent political unrest and said the one who spearheaded an anti-Pakistan movement met his fate. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the federal government had announced Rs 50 billion relief package for electricity consumers using up to 200 units for a three-month period. He said the Punjab government has also announced a Rs 45 billion package to give Rs 14 per unit subsidy to the consumers using 200-500 units which should also be replicated by other provinces, instead of politicking on the issue.

## State needs to protect people from ills of social media: Army Chief

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Asim Munir reassured young Pakistanis that the country's future is in 'safe hands'. He emphasized the importance of unity, education, and resilience in the face of challenges. The Army Chief highlighted the importance of understanding the value of an independent state, urging the youth to learn from the struggles of people in Libya, Syria, Kashmir, and Gaza. He stressed that the state has a responsibility to protect its citizens from the harmful effects of social media. Addressing concerns about the country's economic situation, the COAS pointed out that those who had predicted Pakistan's default were now silent. He urged the youth to remain optimistic, reminding them that as Muslims, they are forbidden from despair.

The Army Chief emphasized the importance of the youth as Pakistan's most valuable asset, promising to protect them from any harm. He stressed the need for a strong bond between the people, government, and the army, stating that this unity is crucial for the country's security and progress. Addressing the recent unrest in Parachinar, the Army Chief stated that the army is committed to helping the tribes resolve their disputes through dialogue and reconciliation. He lauded the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their unwavering support in the fight against terrorism, comparing them to a iron wall standing alongside the army for the past 22 years. The Army Chief concluded his address with a message of hope and faith, expressing his belief that Allah will grant Pakistan victory over terrorism.

## Imran demands open trial for Faiz Hameed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has demanded an open trial for retired Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, who was recently arrested for violations of the army act. Khan, currently imprisoned in Adiala Jail, made these remarks during an informal conversation with journalists on Wednesday. Khan asserted that the case involving General Hamid and himself was a local matter not a national security matter. He argued that the trial should be open to the public, allowing the world to witness the truth. "I demand an open trial for General Fayaz Hamid," Khan stated. "This is not a matter of national security, it's a local issue. An open trial will bring the facts to light." Khan further claimed that all cases against him have collapsed and that he had no contact with General Hamid after his retirement. He alleged that the May 9th riots were orchestrated to justify his arrest, and that he knew who ordered his arrest.

When asked who gave the order for his arrest, Khan responded, "The one who controls the Rangers, number 1." Imran Khan claims plot being hatched to try him in military court, use Faiz as approver. Ex-PM Imran Khan claims to be 'unfazed' by former spymaster Faiz Hamid's arrest. When pressed further to name the individual, he referred to them as the "king, the super king," but hesitated to provide a name. Khan also questioned the motives behind General Hamid's alleged involvement, stating, "What benefit could a retired General provide me? These are foolish people who say General Faiz benefited me." Khan directed his demand for an open trial towards the army chief, emphasizing that the matter was not an internal affair of the military. He reiterated that taking a former prime minister to a military court would negatively impact Pakistan's image.

## Pilgrims' bus accident: Embassy in constant contact with Iranian authorities: Dar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the Pakistan Embassy in Tehran was in constant touch with the Iranian authorities in Yazd city, following a tragic bus accident in which 28 Pakistani pilgrims lost their lives. The deputy prime minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of Pakistani pilgrims who lost their lives. "We are also gravely concerned about the safety and welfare of injured pilgrims," he remarked.

## Mohsin Naqvi expresses deep sorrow over tragic bus accident in Iran

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of 35 Pakistani pilgrims in the tragic bus accident in Yazd, Iran. In a message issued on Wednesday, Mohsin Naqvi expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased pilgrims. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and said that the loss of precious human lives in the bus accident in Iran is deeply saddened. "All sympathies are with the families of the deceased and the injured," said Mohsin Naqvi adding that the families of the deceased are equally involved in the grief.

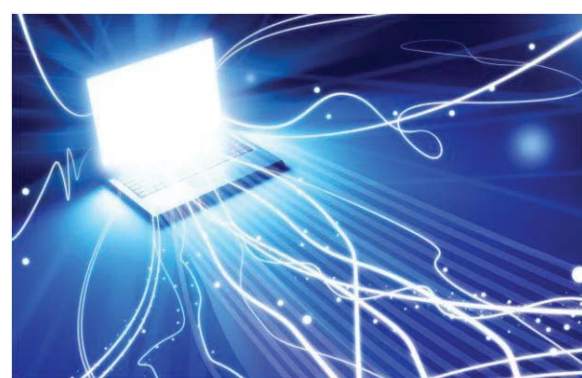
## New Justification Pakistan blames submarine cable fault for recent internet disruptions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has claimed that a fault in a submarine

particular cable is expected to be repaired by August 27.

The PTA chairman refuted earlier claims made by the Minister of State for IT, Shaza Fatima, that the widespread use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) was to blame for the internet issues. Hafiz Rahman clarified that the submarine cable fault was a localized problem for Pakistan



and not a global outage. Responding to questions from the committee members, the PTA chief acknowledged the impact the disruption has had on local internet services and freelancers. He reassured that the authorities are closely monitoring the situation and taking necessary steps to restore full connectivity as soon as the damaged is repaired.

## At least 35 killed as bus carrying Pakistani pilgrim overturns in Iran



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At least 35 people were killed and 20 others were injured when a bus carrying Pakistani pilgrims was involved in an accident in Yazd, Iran. According to Iranian media reports, the ill-fated bus overturned and caught fire near the Taftan-Dehshir checkpoint. The bus, which had 53 passengers onboard, met with the accident late last night. After being notified, police and rescue officials rushed to the scene and transported the bodies and injured individuals to the hospital. An emergency response has been activated at hospitals across the city to provide treatment to the injured passengers.

## PTI founder meddles in military affairs with demand for Faiz Hameed's open trial: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaulah Tarar on Wednesday said PTI founder had meddled in the affairs of Pakistan Army by demanding an open trial for ex-Spy Chief. The minister, in a news statement, regretted that the PTI founder had made multiple

attempts to make the matter related to Faiz Hameed controversial. Instead of giving statements in defense of Faiz Hameed, the PTI founder should better made his position clear in the 190 million pounds case, Tarar said, adding his controversial statements showed that he was suffering from "serious anxiety and uncertainty". The minister said the PTI founder was reluctant to accept that the issue of Faiz Hameed was internal matter of the Army, which proved that the ex-spy chief was his "asset". He said it seemed that the PTI chief was in mental disarray as sometime he called Faiz Hameed an "asset or a hero", while on some occasion took completely an otherwise stance.



# Chairman Senate to address civic issues of citizens in Multan after completion of fly-overs

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani directed the departments concerned to resolve the civic issues faced by the citizens to facilitate them.

He issued the instructions during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Wasim Hamid Sandhu, DG MDA, Rana Saleem Khan, DG NADRA, Syed M. Tanveer Abbas, and CO Metropolitan, Iqbal Khan, who called on him at Circuit House here on Tuesday.

He stated that the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) outdated pipelines should be replaced on priority so that citizens may not face water stagnation on roads and drainage problems in streets especially in the rainy season.

He asked DC to utilize union council funds in this connection and for its approval he would speak to CM Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, recalling that he had got the WASA issues fixed before construction of fly-overs in Multan when he was prime minister



in 2008.

Chairman Senate instructed officials concerned to expedite the renovation of the great saint, Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, and resolve the parking issue near the mausoleum besides water stagnation on the passage of Hazrat Yousuf Shah Gardez tomb.

He asked DG Multan Development Authority (MDA), Rana Saleem Khan, to work for beautification of the city

and added that he should contribute to Multan as authority head.

The DC, DG NADRA and DG MDA briefed him about the public service delivery of their departments and informed that they would work for the betterment of the public in their capacity.

Mr Gilani reminisced that education and health sector services his forefathers extended for masses of South

Punjab especially for Multan.

He stated that they had constructed Multan International Airport (MIAP), Head Muhammad Wala Bridge, flyovers and improved the overall infrastructure of the city as former PM which resulted in uplifting the city's face.

Former MPA, Dr Javid Siddiqi, PPP leader Naeem Khan and others were in attendance.



President PPP Narawal Syed Hussain Rizvi meets Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider during the visit of Syed Hussain Rizvi House at Narowal.

## India continues to block Kashmiris' right to self-determination: Taqdees Geelani

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAF-FARABAD: Azad Kashmir's Minister of Small Industries, Trade and Travel Professor Taqdees Geelani and Director General South Asia Mr Ilyas Nizami held a meeting at the Foreign Office. Discussion on matters of mutual interest including the Kashmir issue was centered around in detail.

Speaking on this occasion, Minister of Small Industries Professor Taqdis Gilani said that the Kashmir issue has been on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for more than 7 decades. India continues to block Kashmiris' right to self-determination as recognized by the United Nations. The worst violations of human rights continue in the occupied valley. On August 5, 2019, India abolished the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and started demography change measures. Efforts are being made to suppress the voice of Kashmiris by force. She said that Pakistan is the only country in the world which has always supported Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally. Kashmiris value the sentiments of Pakistanis. He said that the officers and men of the Pakistani forces are sacrificing their lives against Indian aggression on the Line of Control, of which we are proud. The occupying army of India has heated the market of cruelty and brutality in Occupied Kashmir. On the other hand, the Pakistan Army is the guarantor of the freedoms of the citizens of Azad Kashmir and the protector of our borders. Speaking on the occasion, Director General South Asia at the Foreign Office Ilyas Nizami said that the Kashmir issue has always been the center of Pakistan's foreign policy.

## First merit list for admission to BS, MPhil and Ph. D. has been displayed in Women's University

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Merit list for admission to BS, MPhil and Ph. D. has been displayed in Women's University Multan. According to the spokesperson, the first merit list has been displayed for admission to MPhil and PhD in Women's University Multan. The entrance test was conducted for the session of Ph. D. After compiling the list of successful candidates for admission, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha and Registrar Dr. Maimona Khan said that merit is the first condition for admission to Women's University, which is being ensured as much as possible. Quality education and research is coming out by following which is being appreciated not only in Pakistan but all over the world. Due to transparent selection of candidates, quality research is coming out. Mentoring has helped the scholars in doing excellent research due to which women researchers now want to pursue higher education from Women's University.

## High Court Bar applauds South Punjab Bar for successful work in revising Finance Act Bill 2024

Ayyaz Ali Sheikh

MULTAN: Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla, president and member of the negotiation committee of the High Court Bar Association Multan, General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi, Mohammad Rafiq Dogar and Zohaib Hasan said while addressing the press conference in connection with the negotiations with the government regarding Finance Act Bill 2024. High Court Bar Multan and South Punjab Bars have played an important role in revising the Finance Act Bill 2024 increase in court fees by the Government of Punjab and withdrawing the increase in one week through the Ordinance High Court Bar Multan, High Court Bar Rawalpindi, High Court Bar, Bahawalpur Tehsil Bars, members of Pakistan and Punjab Bar Council, this success is a living example of the unity of lawyers, for which they congratulate the participants of the South Punjab Bar Convention. In response to a question, they said that if the government Of Punjab does not fulfill its promise, once again a representative meeting of the bars of the entire Punjab will be held and a comprehensive protest plan will be prepared. 21.08.2024

## RTA meets to review road safety and pollution in Attock: ADCG

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Meeting of Regional Transport Authority Attock was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed. Secretary Regional Transport Authority Zaheer Ahmad Khan, chief officers, traffic police and representatives of other departments were present in the meeting. Overcharging, registration of rickshaws, smog, installation of road signs and other issues were discussed. The Accident Review Committee reviewed road safety and accidents, fitness of commercial vehicles, axle load, improvement of bus stands, illegality of rickshaws. Parking and other matters were reviewed. Secretary RTA Zaheer Ahmed Khan briefed the participants. Speaking on the occasion, ADCG Attock Anil Saeed said that providing safe travel to the people is the first priority of the district administration and All resources will be utilized in this regard.

## Protest

LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Masiha Millat Party hold a banner during protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# PM AJK says all sections of society to benefit from reforms

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that all sections of the society will benefit from the reforms introduced by the present government during its 15-month rule. He expressed these views while interacting with various delegations that called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that every citizen of the state was duty bound to fulfill his responsibilities and play a constructive role in development and prosperity of the region. Terming taxation as fundamental to sustainable development, the PM said that no government or state can survive without taxes. "It is very strange that the people who are not ready to pay three rupees per unit electricity bill



expect that the state should provide them quality life, education and health-care facilities at par with international standards", the PM said, adding that it

was quite impossible. "We all have to contribute to the national treasury by paying our fair share of income tax", he added. He said that Pensions of Munic-

ipal Corporation employees would be paid through the Accounts Office. Voicing his serious concerns over misuse of authority by the concerned authorities of the Mirpur development Authority, the PM said. "Of those who were part of these delegations included government officials, lawyers, councilors, Mangla Dam affectees, transporters, and members of the journalist community. Meanwhile, the PM Haq visited the shrines of Hazrat Baba Pir Shah Ghazi alias Damri Wali Sarkar and Mian Muhammad Bakhsh offered Fateha at their graves. On this occasion, the PM was accompanied by the government ministers including Waqar Ahmad Noor, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, and several others.

# WASA strikes to end after demands are accepted in talks: union leaders

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The strike of the Grand Alliance of Wasa Unions was successful, the union officials announced the end of the protest and sit-in after the demands were accepted in the negotiations. In favor of the anti-labour policy and other demands of the officers in WASA, the Grand Alliance was going on strike for the last two days, and the employees also demonstrated and staged a sit-in outside the WASA head office, on which Director General/Secretary Housing Rana Saleem, MD Wasa Khalid Raza Khan reached the sit-in of the employees and the union leaders leading the sit-in were Haji Iqbal Ghuman, Muqdad Hussain Siddiqui, Hidayatullah Khan, Malik Munir Hussain Hans, Ishaq Bashir, Sub-Engineers Association, Malik Ramzan Obhaya, Mehr Umar Hayat



Haraj, Mehr Ghazanfar Abbas Bati, Hidayatullah Khan, Malik Shafiqat Samra, Adil Rajput, Mujahid Pasha, and Chaudhry Ashraf, Shafaqat Samra, Makhdoom Arslan Akhtar and others negotiated with the union leaders.

T DPC on non-discrimination employees, double duty allowance of water supply employees, previous arrears, overtime of WASA drivers, dangerous allowance of sewermen and provision of safety equipment,

payment of Eid allowance, MDA style But there were demands like sending two WASA employees on Umrah, restoring the seats of WASA patrollers and suspending WASA officers Abdul Salam, Muhammad Arif and Saeed Dogar from their seats.

Unanimously announced to accept all their demands, upon which a wave of joy spread among the employees and they shouted slogans and distributed sweets. Addressing the occasion, union leaders Secretary Housing Rana Saleem and MD WASA Khalid Raza Khan thanked the Rector Azam Ahsan Bilal Qureshi for accepting the legitimate demands of the employees, they also congratulated the workers for raising their voices unitedly for their rights and expressed their determination. Will unity be demonstrated in the same way to achieve their rights in the future.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:05 am  
Zohr ..... 12:11 pm  
Asr ..... 4:53 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:47 pm  
Isha ..... 8:16 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway 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

*Al-Sadiq Institute, SECP stage seminar on role of scholars in Islamic financial institutions*

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Al-Sadiq Institute of Islamic Banking Finance and Takaful and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SCCP) organized a seminar titled "Role of Scholars in Islamic Financial Institutions" in Jamiat Al-Kawsar Islamabad. In this seminar, Sheikh Dr. Shabir Hasan Maithmi (Chairman, Al-Sadiq Institute and Shariah Advisory Committee Member State Bank of Pakistan) Maulana Syed Mazhar Abbas Zaidi (Member Executive Committee Al-Sadiq Institute) Tariq Naseem (Head Islamic Finance Department SEC) P) Syed Murtaza Abbas Naqvi (Joint Director SECP) and Zahid Latif Khan (CEO Zahid Latif Khan Islamic Financial Services) addressed the students in which the need and importance of Islamic finance, Islamic finance so far. The efforts made and the role of scholars and religious students to build the economic system of Malik Godad Pakistan on Islamic principles were highlighted. Not only the students of Jamia Al-Kawsar but also the scholars and teachers of the Jamia participated in this seminar. Besides, professors of various universities, heads of banks, representatives of Pakistan Stock Exchange and other financial institutions also participated. Addressing the participants, Chairman Al-Sadiq Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance Allama Dr. Shabir Hasan Maithmi said.

# PC Rawalpindi, Foundation University Partner to Enhance Educational and Professional Development

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi, the city's premier 5-star luxury hotel under the Hashoo Group, has entered into a strategic partnership with Foundation University, aiming to bridge the gap between academia and the hospitality industry. This collaboration promises to benefit not only the two organizations but also the broader community.

The partnership will focus on a range of initiatives, including tailored professional training programs, skill development projects, and knowledge exchange workshops. Additionally, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Rawalpindi will offer exclusive deals and discounts to students and faculty members of Foundation University, further strengthening this alliance.

The official launch of this collaboration was marked by a ceremony held at Pearl-Continental Hotel, Rawalpindi. The event was graced by senior executives from both Hashoo Group and Founda-

tion University, including Bastien Blanc, CEO of the Hospitality Division at Hashoo Group, and Major General Muhammad Kaleem Asif HI (M) (Retd.), Rector of Foundation University.

Speaking on this occasion, Bastien Blanc, CEO of the Hospitality Division at Hashoo Group, said, "Strong inter-industry linkages can create exponential impact and foster innovation. Through our partnership with Foundation University, we aim to achieve these results. This collaboration will unlock more growth opportunities for students in the tourism and hospitality sector through innovation and creative ideas."

Major General Muhammad Kaleem Asif HI (M) (Retd.), Rector of Foundation University, remarked, "This MoU marks a pivotal collaboration that will open new avenues for innovative learning and practical experiences for our students. Pearl-Continental's esteemed reputation in the hospitality industry makes them an ideal partner in our mission to bridge the gap between academia and industry."



## Heavy storm

ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy tree fell on a school children pick and drop vehicle at super market due to heavy storm in morning hours in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## SODISS Paving the Way for Occupational Health Reform

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Department of Community Health Sciences at Aga Khan University (AKU) hosted a dissemination seminar for the piloting of the "Sindh Occupational Diseases and Injuries Surveillance System" (SODISS). The project, conducted in collaboration with the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI), marked a significant step towards initiating occupational health surveillance

in Pakistan.

Dr. Asaad Ahmed Nafees, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of the SODISS project, provided an overview of the project, highlighting key findings and discussing the way forward.

"This project represents a critical step in understanding the health challenges faced by workers in key industries across Karachi.

The data we gathered will be instrumental in shaping future occupational health

policies and interventions," said Dr. Nafees.

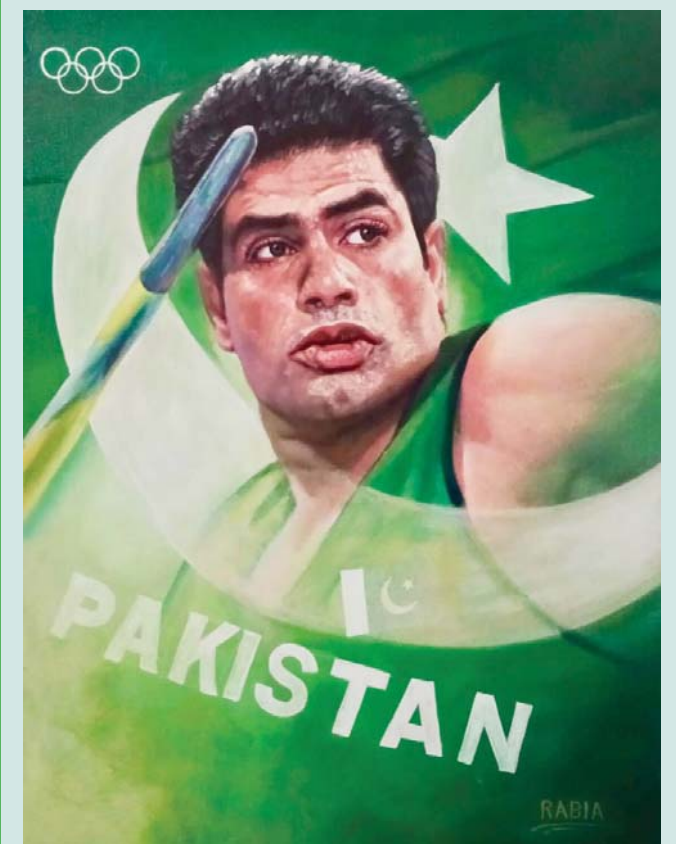
"The collaboration between SESSI and AKU has opened new avenues for improving worker health and safety in Sindh.

The data collected through SODISS will be helpful not only for better decision-making at SESSI but will also enable us to take informed actions for the protection of our workforce," stated Commissioner Rahojo.

Also in attendance were Ex-Medical Advisor SESSI, Dr. Azam Sulheri, representatives from the Labour Department, Government of Sindh, and ILO, and several occupational health experts including Prof Mohamed Jeebhay from the University of Cape Town.

Deputy Director Labour Department, Government of Sindh, Mr. Javed Ahmed, underscored the significance of the project for the broader labour community

## Rabia Zakir pays tribute to Arshad Nadeem through his portrait



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani painter Rabia Zakir pays tribute to national hero and champion Arshad Nadeem through her painting, depicting his portrait with the colors of the Pakistani flag, symbolizing his embodiment of the nation's spirit and values

Arshad Nadeem, you are the pride of Pakistan and strength of our nation.

Arshad Nadeem has proven that with perseverance, hard work, and determination, anyone can become a world record breaker and champion, regardless of their background or means.

Rabia Zakir is the first international artist to hold a solo exhibition in Madina Munawara. She has undertaken numerous projects for the Prime Minister's House, embassies, ministries, and armed forces. She has held over 150 exhibitions, including in Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, China, the United Arab Emirates, Central Asian countries, Gulf countries, and European countries. She is the Honorary Ambassador of Arts for an international magazine, and in 2020, her name was nominated for Pakistan's 100 Most Influential Women.

## SMEDA starts a program to make smes bankable in line with government vision

**City Desk**

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), as per direction of the Federal Minister Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister Finance Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, has launched a move to make the SMEs bankable for easy and increased access



to finance. As a first step in this regard, SMEDA inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Askari Bank Limited today at SMEDA head office. The MOU was signed by Mr. Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA and Mr. Hussain Ali Haider, Country Head-SME Division Askari Bank Limited at a ceremony held at SMEDA head office. The Signing Ceremony was also attended by Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad, GM Business and Sector Development Services, Ms. Farah Yasir, DGM-B&SD, Mr. Sheharyar Tahir, DGM-External Relations and Mr. Usman, Assistant Manager Financial Services from SMEDA. Whereas, from Askari Bank, the Country Head SME Division was accompanied by Syed Nauman Sajid, Regional Head SME Central and Mr. Awais Tahir, Senior Credit Head SME.

CEO SMEDA Mr. Socrat Aman Rana, while addressing the signing ceremony, said that the Government of Pakistan, top from Prime Minister to all economy related ministers, especially the Minister of Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain and Minister Finance Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb were committed to make SMEs bankable for enhancing SME access to government financing schemes and specialized financial products.

Mr. Hussain Ali Haider, Country Head SME Division of Askari Bank said, we shall be able to turn the table for enhancing SME lending in collaboration with SMEDA.

## Leading Pakistan's Tech Revolution with Huawei's Seeds for the Future

**Ahmed Younas**

ISLAMABAD: I am Ahmad Younas, a Software Engineering student from Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Pakistan, and I am thrilled to share my transformative journey with Huawei's flagship CSR initiative, "Seeds for the Future." This prestigious program selects young talents from around the globe for short-term training, global competitions, and ongoing alumni activities centered around digital technology. It provides a vital platform for understanding industry innovation, experiencing cross-cultural exchanges, and cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit.

Launched by Huawei in Thailand in 2008, "Seeds for the Future" has significantly expanded, with over 80 countries participating by 2016 and 141 countries by 2020. The program has positively impacted more than 18,000 students and received over 360 endorsements from senior officials and heads of state. It has established over 500 collaborations with universities and colleges

worldwide, demonstrating its widespread influence and commitment to nurturing global talent. (Please confirm these numbers)

The program's structure includes a comprehensive training program, the Tech4Good competition, and an active alumni community. Participants are immersed in the ICT industry, learning about the latest technologies and trends. They research and propose innovative solutions for global sustainability challenges and build connections with a network of elite professionals.

In 2023, I was honored to be selected as one of the top ten students from Pakistan's leading universities to participate in this esteemed program. My journey took me to Doha, Qatar, where I engaged in an intensive week of courses on artificial intelligence, 5G, and cloud computing. The program's dedication to diversity and inclusivity, with a participation rate of at least one-third female students, was evident throughout my experience.

One of the standout components of the program is the Tech4Good competition. Tech4Good is an entrepreneur-

ship initiative designed to help young adults learn about the latest trends in digitalization and explore how digital technologies can address common social issues. The program aims to raise awareness of local sustainable development challenges and supports participants in using their ICT skills to develop solutions that are both technically and commercially viable. This is achieved through intensive training and monthly workshops, participation in the T4G Global Competition, and providing incentive support to winning teams to help them achieve business success with their unique ideas.

Leading Team Pakistan in the Tech4Good competition, we earned a distinguished place in the top ten, showcasing our skills and creative problem-solving abilities. I was particularly honored to receive the popularity award, which highlighted the impact and dedication I brought to the competition.

After returning to Pakistan, I continued my involvement with Huawei by joining the Global Ambassador program, becoming the first-ever Global Ambassador from Pakistan. In this role,

I mentor the next Seeds for the Future team, preparing them for the upcoming Tech4Good competition in Uzbekistan. My objective is to guide them with the same passion and leadership that I experienced during my time in the program.

My recent digital ICT tour in China further enriched my expertise. Visiting Huawei's headquarters, tech hubs, flagship store, and the Mobile World Congress (MWC) provided me with invaluable insights into cutting-edge technological innovations. These experiences have positioned me to effectively support and guide the next Seeds team representing Pakistan.

My journey with Huawei's Seeds for the Future has been an extraordinary experience, highlighting exceptional talent, leadership, and vision. I hope my story serves as an inspiration for others to engage with this esteemed program and contribute to Pakistan's technological advancement. If you are interested in learning more about how Seeds for the Future can shape your future, I encourage you to explore the program and consider joining this transformative initiative.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.  
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 Email: [spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com](mailto:spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com)  
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

# Strict Measures Needed for Rioters and Propagandists

Countries often implement strict measures to address rioting and propaganda. For instance, Russia has taken a firm stance against both through legal and state control measures. The Russian government has used substantial force to suppress violent protests and public demonstrations, such as during the 2011-2012 anti-government protests, where authorities dispersed crowds with police force and arrested many participants. The legal system has imposed fines and prison sentences on those deemed responsible for unrest. Russia's 2019 "fake news" law targets individuals spreading what the government considers false information, and the state controls major media outlets. Turkey has also faced challenges related to riots and propaganda and has responded with a range of strict measures. In response to the 2013 Gezi Park protests, the Turkish government implemented extensive police measures to manage the unrest. This included the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and arrests to quickly suppress the protests and maintain public order. Following the protests, legal actions were taken against protest leaders and activists, including arrests and prosecutions.

Turkey has enacted stringent laws to control and address propaganda. The government's crackdown on dissent includes the 2016 anti-terror law, which has been used to target individuals and

organizations accused of spreading propaganda or supporting terrorism. Additionally, the state has exerted control over media outlets and imposed restrictions on online freedoms to limit the dissemination of dissenting views. Iran's approach to managing rioting and propaganda reflects its strict governance style, characterized by significant control. In response to protests like the 2009 Green Movement and the 2019 fuel protests, the Iranian government has employed severe measures, including deploying security forces to suppress demonstrations, arresting protesters, and imposing harsh sentences. Tactics such as the use of force and shutting down communication channels have been commonly used.

Iran has implemented stringent laws against what it deems subversive propaganda. The government closely monitors and controls media and internet access, censoring content that is considered a threat to national security. Individuals involved in spreading dissent or anti-government sentiments face arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment.

Egypt's response to rioting and propaganda also emphasizes security and control. The government has addressed unrest, such as the 2011 Arab Spring

protests and subsequent demonstrations, with severe security measures, including deploying security forces, using live ammunition, and conducting mass arrests of protesters and activists. Legal actions have been taken against those accused of inciting unrest. Additionally, the Egyptian government has imposed strict controls on media and online platforms, enacting laws against "false news" and anti-government propaganda, and penalizing those who disseminate information considered harmful to state interests. The government also monitors and censors online content to prevent the spread of dissenting views.

In the UK, recent riots have also made headlines. On July 29 this year, a knife attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga event resulted in the deaths of six-year-old Bebe King, seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, and nine-year-old Alice da Silva Aguiar, with eight other children and two adults injured. Police arrested a 17-year-old from a nearby village and stated that the incident was not being treated as terror-related. Immediately following the attack, social media posts falsely speculated that the suspect was an asylum seeker who arrived in the UK in 2023, spreading incorrect names and unfounded rumors,

including that the suspect was Muslim. In reality, media reports revealed that the suspect was born in Wales to Rwandan parents. The police urged the public to avoid spreading "unconfirmed speculation and false information."

The following evening, more than a thousand people attended a vigil for the victims in Southport, where violence erupted near a local mosque. Rioters threw bricks, bottles, and other missiles at the mosque and police, set a police van on fire, and injured 27 officers. The disorder was widely condemned, with local MP Patrick Hurley criticizing "thugs" who exploited the tragedy for political gain and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer denouncing the "marauding mobs" in Southport. By August 6, police had made over 400 arrests, including children as young as 11. Sir Keir Starmer condemned what he described as "far-right thuggery," vowing that charges and convictions would follow regardless of the apparent cause or motivation behind the violence. He warned that those involved in the violence, including those inciting it online, would face serious consequences. The government announced that a "standing army" of specialized officers would address the disorder, and police forces would collaborate to share intelligence on violent groups. Additionally, efforts are underway to work with social media companies to remove misinformation and disinformation. The government also pledged to create over

## PM Shehbaz set to address UNGA on Sept 27

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly's annual General Debate on September 27, the Pakistan Mission to the UN announced Wednesday.

The change in the date of the prime minister's speech on September 26, given on Tuesday in the UN's provisional list of speakers, was sought by the Pakistan Mission.

The high-level debate of the 193-member Assembly's 79th session will take place from September 24 to 30.

It will be the second time Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will deliver a speech to the General Assembly — the UN's main policy-making organ — he last addressed it in 2022.

More than 130 world leaders have so far confirmed their participation in the debate, according to Monica Greylay, the spokesperson for the UN General Assembly. They will be addressing international peace and security issues.

The Assembly's 79th session, which actually opens on September 10, will be meeting amid heightening tensions in the world with several active conflicts, including in Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan. But the Assembly's heavy agenda also aims to set the stage for building a new global development framework which both protects the planet and promotes equity, justice and prosperity for all people.

Brazil, which traditionally opens the debate, will commence the high-level session on September 24.

This will be followed by the United States, the host country, with President Joe Biden delivering final address of his presidency to global leaders from the iconic UN General Assembly hall.

Ahead of the session, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will present his report on the Work of the Organization covering the events in the preceding year.

Guterres is also convening the ambitious Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters during the week. The Summit is scheduled for September 22-23.

It is expected to adopt the Pact for the Future, which will include a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations as annexes. The UN described the Summit as a high-level event aimed at forging a new international consensus on delivering a better present and safeguarding the future.

"Effective global cooperation is increasingly critical to our survival but difficult to achieve in an atmosphere of mistrust, using outdated structures that no longer reflect today's political and economic realities," according to the UN.

Other key meetings scheduled are: High-level plenary meeting on addressing the existential threats posed by sea level rise: Wednesday, September 25; High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: Thursday, September 26; and High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance: Thursday, September 26.



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

## Reviving Pakistan-Bangladesh Maritime and Cultural Collaboration

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik.

On 5 August, 2024 Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fled away to India after ruling the country for twenty years. The protests against her government converted into a full-blown mass uprising, which eventually culminated in her resignation and fleeing to India. Since 1971 Awami League had been supporting the pro-Indian and anti-Pakistan guerilla groups known as 'Mukti Bahinis' for their covert efforts to get independence from Pakistan by keep a separate job quota for even the generations of 'Mukti Bahinis' hence willfully ignoring the rights of other Bangladeshis; who were called as "Razakars" for supporting Pakistan Army during 1971. It is noteworthy that the protesting students have been chanting slogans in favour of Pakistan and for "Razakars". Now once the people in Bangladesh have ignored the Indian propaganda and have realised the value of Pakistan and true independence; it is the right time to make efforts to revive the relations between the two countries through strategic collaboration in all spheres. This article will suggest a few vital facets of an earlier collaboration. First, is the aspect of Maritime Cooperation, considering the geopolitical and strategic locations of both countries, religious affinity among two nations and possession of over 1000 km of coastline by both Pakistan and Bangladesh it will be prudent to collaborate in merchant and military maritime domains. As far as military naval cooperation is concerned, initially Pakistan and Bangladesh should conduct common naval drills and establish a Naval Fusion Center at Gwadar. Both countries should conclude a naval logistics support agreement and should cooperate in merchant naval sectors. More-

over it will be prudent for Pakistan to learn the value of "Brown Water Navy"; there by making use of rivers for logistics and transportation like Bangladesh. It is noteworthy that Bangladesh Inland Water Transport plays a vital role in national transportation, which has always been a natural and relatively cheaper means of transport. The total length of inland waterway in Bangladesh is about 13,000 km. The network consists mostly of passenger vessels, cargo vessels, tankers, tugboats and dumb crafts. In 2000, the number of registered passenger vessels was



1,868, cargo vessels 2,160, dumb craft 760 and towing vessel 194. Approximately 65% of the country boats are passenger boats and the rest are cargo boats. Inland Waterways of Bangladesh are estimated to carry about 14% annual passengers (87.80 million per year) and 35% annual freight volume. Secondly, it is imperative to know that both countries are part of Chinese venture of Belt and Road Initiative with ramifications far beyond the borders. Bangladesh being is part of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which was subsequently included as one of the six economic corridors under the Belt and Road Initiative. Such a collaboration between both nations can not only enhance and improve the Chinese BRI but will also meet challenges related to it. Thirdly, considering the global geo-politics, Chinese emergence is global powers, and its concerns in contempo-

rary maritime affairs of Indo-Pacific Scenario, locations of both countries and their right; it will be pragmatic for both Pakistan and Bangladesh to ask for Chinese support to get their rightful portion Andaman Nicobar Islands, which at the time of distribution of sub-continent during 1947, handed over India by British colonial government, India later on with a view to averting political turmoil; declared these islands as its Union Territory in 1956. Presently India has based a Brigade size force with 30 ships moreover will soon commission the new base, called INS Kohassa, about 300 km north of the archipelago's capital, Port Blair to dominate 'Six' and 'Ten' degree channels west of Malacca Strait which is vital for Beijing too to avert the US domination. Moreover Pakistan and Bangladesh can assert combined efforts against Indian claims over Bangladesh's Bhola Island. Fourthly, People to People cooperation is one the most vital component of collaboration, and in case of Bangladesh with present scenario it will be easier to develop strong relations between the Muslim citizens of two countries. Sports, student and cultural exchange initiatives will prove to be prudent. More over social and governmental media can play a vital role to enhance people to people and all kinds of collaborations. Pakistan should not waste any more time and must make all out efforts to make use of contemporary friendly scenario in Bangladesh to establish collaboration with Bangladesh.

Writer is Ph. D in International Relations, Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK), Member Board of Advisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College, Fellow Research Member with Environ Monitor, Fellow Research Member with National Foundation for Environment Education & Research, Research Member with ResearchGate, Director Thinkers Forum of Pakistan

### Letter to the Editor

#### Struggle for Effective Waste Management in Karachi

Karachi.

Saleet Fatima, Karachi  
[alect.sheikh01@gmail.com](mailto:alect.sheikh01@gmail.com)

The Editor, As a concerned citizen and resident of Karachi, I would like to acknowledge the struggle and challenge people faced due to the mismanaged waste system.

Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, has always been a city with high population density facing a serious waste management crisis, as the population grows so does the amount of waste people produce. On a daily basis approximately 12,000 tons of solid waste are produced but only 40 to 50% of it is managed properly. Most of the waste includes plastics, as plastic products are used everywhere and have become an important part of our daily lives.

In many areas the streets are filled with trash, mostly plastic bags, wrappers, and bottles, they clog the drains and waterways, which leads to sewage problems. When authorities don't act properly, locals burn the trash on their own, the plastic present in it releases toxic gases, which harms the environment and causes health issues. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is often found to be underfunded and ineffective. Moreover, the rapid growth of the city has resulted in a shortage of space for proper storage of solid waste.

The government needs to establish a proper solid waste management system to address this issue. Sadly, not much effort has been made to address the issue of managing plastic and solid waste effectively. Authorities need to take immediate action on illegal dumping and initiate public awareness campaigns to educate them about simple recycling methods, planting trees, and protecting mangrove forests.

Collective efforts from citizens can also make a positive impact to make the future more sustainable.

Together, we can create a cleaner, healthier

#### Yahya Sinwar as the new leader of Hamas.

Dear Editor, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to highlight an important issue that I believe deserves attention in your newspaper. The news pertains to the appointment of Yahya Sinwar as the new leader of Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement.

It has been officially announced that Hamas has selected Yahya Sinwar as their new leader following the assassination of the previous head, Ismail Haniyeh, on 31st July 2024. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas announced the selection of Commander Yahya Sinwar as the head of the Political Bureau of the Movement, succeeding the martyr. Yahya Sinwar, known for establishing the internal security forces for Hamas, is one of the founding members of Hamas's military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades. He has been involved in the organization for a long time and has a personal relationship with the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Despite being labelled a terrorist by Western countries, Yahya Sinwar has played a significant role in Hamas's military and political strategies. His leadership style is expected to be more rigid and heavy-handed, especially with his close ties to the military wing, compared to his predecessor, who was considered more flexible and diplomatic.

It will be interesting to see how this new leadership will impact the dynamics within Hamas and the broader geopolitical landscape.

I will be grateful if you consider this topic for publication in your newspaper.

Sincerely,

Ajeefa Adil  
 Intern Press Network Pakistan  
[ajfaadilkhan@gmail.com](mailto:ajfaadilkhan@gmail.com)



# International Islamic Banking Forum Successfully Concluded in Ethiopia

*Interest-Free/ Islamic Finance Set to Transform Africa: Hassan Mohammed, State Minister of Industry, Ethiopia*

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The 5th International Interest-Free Banking & Takaful Forum, organized by AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE), successfully took place from August 20th to 21st, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event brought together an array of industry leaders, scholars, and practitioners from across Africa and beyond to discuss and explore the burgeoning potential of Islamic finance in the African continent.

This monumental occasion was made possible through the collaborative efforts of esteemed sponsors Ethiopian Insurance Corporation, Dahabshil Bank International, Shabelle Bank, MYTM, ZamZam Bank and Global Insurance Co. S. C. The event was supported by numerous partners, including the Somaliland Banker's Association, Islamic Finance Research Institute-Ghana, AL BARAKAH Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited, Azerbaijan Fintech Association, and Africa Fintech Network. Media partners included Adsolute Communications Plc, IFING-MEDIA, Mesofinance Monthly, and Financial IT. Ethiopian Airlines served as the event's official partner airline.

The Forum aimed to facilitate a dynamic exchange of ideas and promote the growth of Interest-Free finance in Africa, a region poised to become a



new frontier for Islamic banking and Takaful. The event featured in-depth discussions on critical topics such as the regulatory landscape of Islamic finance in Africa, investment opportunities in Interest-Free banking, the role of Takaful in financial inclusion, and the impact of Islamic fintech innovations on the African market. These discussions were instrumental in mapping out the strategic direction for Islamic finance in the region.

In a keynote address, H. E. Hassan Mohammed, State Minister of Industry,

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, emphasized the Ethiopian government commitment to development an encouraging environment for the expansion of Interest-Free finance. He stated, "Interest-Free finance offers a viable pathway to economic growth and financial inclusivity in Africa. Ethiopia, with its rich history and strategic location, is poised to be a leading hub for Islamic finance in the region."

H. E. Hassan Mohammed further highlighted the role of Interest-Free finance in promoting financial inclu-

sion and stability, especially in Ethiopia's rapidly evolving economy. He noted, "The risk-sharing nature of Interest-Free financial instruments can help mitigate systemic risks and reduce the likelihood of financial crises, making it an essential tool for economic resilience."

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE, expressed his deep appreciation to all participants, sponsors, and supporters for their invaluable contributions. He remarked, "Africa is a new destination

for Interest-Free finance, and Ethiopia is at the forefront of this transformation. The success of this Forum is a testament to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in advancing the Islamic finance industry in Africa."

The 5th International Interest-Free Banking & Takaful Forum concluded with a prestigious award ceremony honoring exceptional institutions and individuals in the African Islamic finance landscape. The event served as a pivotal platform for forging strategic partnerships, exploring innovative solu-

tions, and laying the groundwork for the future of Islamic finance in Africa.

To further enhance the capacity of the African Islamic finance industry, a one-day post-forum workshop was included, equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge in Islamic banking and Takaful.

This event highlights AlHuda CIBE ongoing commitment to promoting the global growth of Islamic finance by providing an invaluable opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaborative development.

# Millennials shine in Cambridge Exams 2024 with Record-Breaking Results

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Continuing a legacy of excellence, Roots Millennium Education Group and Future World Schools & Colleges achieved remarkable academic success in the Cambridge Assessment International Education CAIE Examinations 2024 says a press release.

This resounding achievement stands as a testament to Roots Millennium Education 36-year journey of academic excellence and quality education.

Millennials, with their exceptional performance and persistent hard work, have once again secured remarkable results in the IGCSE and A Level May-June 2024 Series, scoring over 7284 A's and As. This achievement not only adds another accolade to The Millennium Education repertoire but also showcases the unwavering commitment of the school community and teaching fraternity to effective teaching and learning.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, CEO of The



Millennium Education Group, congratulated all the learners on these signifi-

cant achievements and urged them to continue pushing boundaries for a

brighter future. He emphasized that dedication and learning yield excel-

lent outcomes, affirming our stance as one of Pakistan's best private schools & colleges, committed to holistic growth. These remarkable IGCSE and A Level result are indicative of our learners' readiness for Higher Education. He also expressed his gratitude to all the parental community for their continuous support and to the teaching faculty for their dedicated efforts.

Mrs. Erum Atif, Director Teaching and Learning at The Millennium Education Group extended her heartfelt congratulations to young talented learners. She highlighted the transformative power of education, stating, "School is not just a place to earn good grades; it's a realm where the journey of self-discovery and personal growth unfolds." She underlined that examinations are not the culmination but a steppingstone for our learners, propelling them forward on a path to embrace greater challenges and assume greater responsibilities. Moreover, she commended the learners for their dedication and diligence, acknowledging

that their commitment is a testament to their aspirations for excellence. She encouraged them to carry the torch of curiosity and knowledge forward, reminding them that every experience in their educational journey shapes them into well-rounded individuals ready to make meaningful contributions to society.

The CAIE examination result 2024 speaks volume about the A Level and IGCSE programs offered at The Millennium Education Group and Future World Schools & Colleges. The Millennium Education Group cultivates critical thinking, real-life application, and innovative ideas, preparing learners to thrive in the 21st century. Throughout their academic journey, learners are empowered with the mindset and skillset essential for success.

As true trailblazers, The Millennium Education Group extends heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the learners, teaching faculty, and parental community for their future endeavours.

# Pakistan's Climate Crossroads: OICCI Highlights Private Sector's Role in Mitigating Climate Change

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Despite contributing only 0.9 per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan faces severe climate vulnerabilities and is ranked 5th most affected country. This underscores the urgency of its climate action plans and the pivotal role of the private sector. To provide a roadmap emphasising public-private partnerships to mitigate climate change, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has launched an insightful report titled, 'Pakistan's Climate Crossroads: Private Sector Solutions to Pakistan's Climate Challenges'.

Commenting on the report, OICCI

President Rehan Shaikh emphasised, "Given the climate vulnerabilities threatening Pakistan, business growth cannot come at the cost of the climate anymore. We need to link returns on private sector investments with sustainability and consider the green transition to provide new jobs and livelihoods."

The report highlights essential components of Pakistan's climate strategy, encompassing climate action plans, needs assessment, vulnerability analysis, resilience, and climate mitigation and adaptation plans. The private sector is recognised as critical in driving climate solutions forward.

During the launch of the report, Sustainable Development Policy Insti-

tute (SDPI) Executive Director and International Advisory Committee Member of COP29 Dr Abid Suleri said, "Addressing Pakistan's climate challenges requires urgent but collective action." He stressed the need to change the perception of the private sector, and maintained that the private sector should be seen as part of the solution rather than part of the problem, given its pivotal role in driving sustainable solutions that can secure Pakistan's future.

The OICCI Climate Report also discusses how corporates can integrate climate actions into their business operations by adopting sustainable supply chain management, adhering to ESG criteria, promoting investment in carbon

markets, and fostering public-private partnerships for green development. The report highlights OICCI members' initiatives in these areas.

"As Pakistan is among the five most vulnerable countries, there is some urgency needed to focus on sustainable solutions that consider local contexts and materials," said OICCI Managing Committee member Andrew Bailey. "The country's focus should be on investing in ideology, research, and long-term solutions rather than on quick fixes," he added.

With knowledge partnership with the SDPI, the report builds on insights from the OICCI 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference held in 2023. The conference



featured global climate experts, policymakers, and corporate decision-makers, including former finance minister Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, Group CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bill Winters, WWF President Adil Najam, and Managing Director of GuarantCo Philip Skinner.

As Pakistan navigates its climate crossroads, the collaborative efforts of the public and private sectors, bolstered by international support and commitments made at COP28 held in Dubai, are pivotal in advancing its climate journey and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050.

# Females receive four times more impacts of heatwave than males: Study

*Climate Anxiety among females post-disaster needs policymakers' attention: Speakers*

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a seminar on the psychological impacts of climate change on women underscored that women received four times more impacts of a heatwave than males increased climate anxiety among women, a serious issue affecting their health post disasters, and needs attention of the policymakers.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organised a seminar titled "Climate Anxiety and its Impact on Women: Addressing the Silent Crisis" that provided an open platform for women hailing from different fields and backgrounds to share their insights on the study done on climate anxiety prevalence in Pakistan.

Dr Shafiqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI said

that climate anxiety in the context of women showed that she faced anxiety twice once during her suffering and the other if her family member was impacted by any disaster.

In urban areas, women are facing climate anxiety but in rural areas and others where women have no voice, no idea of climate anxiety that needs to be probed and further studied to bring tangible outcomes for enhancing women's resilience, he added.

Dr Shafiqat mentioned that the study would serve as a baseline data for further rollout of the research in the rural areas.

Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow SDPI while presenting the key study findings said that the country in 2020 realized that the region was facing the highest temperatures as compared to the preceding years. However, recent projections indi-

cate that the rising temperature might cross human bearable thresholds in the long run.

"Climate Change has increased heatwave and floods' intensity with extreme prevalence of anxiety disorders that directly linked mental disorders to climate change. In 2019, mental disorders affected 301 million people around the globe," she said.

Women, youngsters, and children from impoverished communities were more prone to bear the impacts of climate disasters, whereas people with mental illness were three times more prone to risk of death than people without mental illness, she added.

"One percent increase in suicides with an approximate one-degree increase in temperature above local ambient threshold revealed that hotter cities were more violent than cooler cities," Zainab said.

Zainab Naeem said that the objective of the study was to assess the linkage of climate change with mental health of the masses and for that an online survey was done that received 500 responses. However, the respondents hailed from different occupations comprising 65% females and 35% males from age cohorts expanding from 18 to 60 years.

"38.3% of the respondents claimed that heat almost directly impacted them, whereas 43.3% got psychological symptoms post extreme climate events. 91.5% of them read or watch climate news regularly," she said.

Humaira Jahanzeb, Team Lead at the Living Indus Initiative said the study shared useful findings and recommendations that should be shared with the policymakers, relevant ministries, and departments for effective interventions.

"We cannot ignore the impacts of climate change on people whether they are in rural or urban centers. Food insecurity, employment opportunities, and health crisis in the aftermath of climate change are interlinked and demand stakeholder engagement," she added.

Zofeen Ebrahim, Environmentalist and Journalist said that Karachi has over 60% population living in an informal setup and women there are uneducated with poor access to the internet and have much stress in their lives.

Halima Khan, Head of Corporate Affairs, Energy Update said there was a need for awareness and education on mental health impacts of climate change which needs to be shared with the government authorities for proper policymaking.

Aftab Alam Khan, an international development consultant

said interaction with women from different strata of society indicates challenges and problems faced by them amid the climate crisis whereas role of individuals at different levels in society was imperative to educate women on the health impacts of climate change.

Climate Change is exacerbating other issues related to women during disasters whereas it was necessary to engage women from the most impacted regions in research and solution-finding endeavors.

Sidra Riaz, Lecturer at NUML said the methodology of the study can be improved on the South Asian context as most of the evidence on subject matter was from the global north and no information existed from South Asia.

Sher Shah Khan Bangash, Climate Activist said women

in leadership roles for climate forums and policy-making reduces climate anxiety, and gender justice was important to be focused as underscored in the study.

"We need to work on training more women as climate advocates to better collect effective evidence and data on ground from vulnerable and impacted population cohorts," he added.

Jeya Jaggi, Rights Activists said lack of data on gender pertaining to climate catastrophes in the region was bottleneck towards effective policy actions a most of the evidence was developed by non-native entities and individuals.

She added that inclusion of rural voices in the study was important as many climate catastrophes had lost their cultural identities which was a serious issue.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,260.85	77,745.52
Day's High	Day's Low
78,457.37	77,968.74
Index Value	Change
6,733,383,080	+515.33
Percentage	Time
+0.66%	21 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,283.43	+10.11
Percentage	Time
+0.12%	21 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,880.26	+45.29
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	21 Aug, 1:32 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,951.80	-111.12
Percentage	Time
-0.29%	21 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.55	189.15
Bahrain Dinar	734	739.50
Canadian Dollar	202.55	206.9
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	306.3	308.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.97	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.45	910.60
Malaysian Ringgit	58.99	59.59
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.4	728.50
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.72	74.42
Singapore Dollar	202.1	204.1
Swedish Korona	26.25	26.55
Swiss Franc	319.4	324.4
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.80	76.42
UK Pound Sterling	360.1	362.4
US Dollar	279.6	280.3

# Permanent electricity solution, reduced industry bills needed: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, on Wednesday said that it is a valuable decision of the government of Punjab to give relief to the people in electricity bills.

He said the opposition's agitation on the move is unjustified, and the objection to Punjab's decision is anti-people.

Mian Zahid Hussain said it would be better if other provinces followed this decision and used surplus funds to relieve the people. This can also be done by making a small cut in the

capital funds given to the assembly members for the development budget.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the IMF should support the Punjab government's decision because it is using its resources for this relief. Not a single penny has been taken from the centre.

The central government should also consider giving relief to the people by cutting the development budget of the assembly members, he demanded.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of objecting to Punjab's decision, other provinces should imitate it so that the people can get some relief. Different regions have resources; they can also gain political benefits by helping the people in this difficult time.



Under the National Finance Commission, the provinces are paid trillions of rupees, much of which is wasted on politics.

He said that apart from relieving people for two months, it is also essential to find a long-term solution for the expensive electricity for all consumers to improve the situation. The closure of factories can be stopped.

The Punjab Government has started correspondence with Lahore Electric Supply Company, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company, Multan Electric Supply Company, Gujranwala Electric Supply Company, and Islamabad Electric Supply Company to give them advance payment for two months of relief.

All the issues will be finalized soon, reducing consumers' bills by up to Rs 14 per unit.

## Transparency to be ensured in privatization: Abdul Aleem Khan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In the 222nd meeting of Privatization Commission Board chaired by Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in which important decisions regarding the ongoing process of privatization of various Government Institutions and financial & technical aspects were approved. In the Board meeting, decisions on appointment of Financial Advisors for PIA, DISCOs, Roosevelt Hotel in New York and other decisions were unanimously approved by PCB, as well.

Privatization Commission Board approved the selection of six (06) companies/firms as prequalified Financial Advisors for the Privatization Program. The PC Board was also presented with the Transaction Structure Report on the Roosevelt Hotel Corporation (RHC), New York by Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc (JLL), the Financial Advisor for the transaction. The Board recommended "Joint Venture" as the best suited transaction structure for the Roosevelt Hotel in line with the Transaction Structure Report submitted by JLL. The six companies/firms approved for the panel of prequalified Financial Advisors



include Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. UK, J. P. Morgan, Alvarez & Marsal, UAE, EY Consulting LLC Dubai, PWC-A. F. Ferguson & Co. and BDO Ebrahim & Co., Pakistan. These prequalification of Financial Advisors will enable the Privatization Commission to timely engage Financial Advisors for various upcoming privatization transactions.

The consortium of Jones Lang LaSalle

Americas, Inc (JLL) was appointed as the Financial Advisory Consortium (FAC) for Roosevelt Hotel transaction on 28th November, 2023 and the Financial Services Agreement (FASA) was signed on 2nd February, 2024. As part of its deliverables the FAC was required to submit a Transaction Structure Report suggesting alternate transaction structure options for the mixed use development of the Roosevelt Hotel.

## Blue Economy must be priority of SIFC: Majyd Aziz

**Commerce Desk**



KARACHI: Majyd Aziz, Former President Employers Federation of Pakistan, proposed that along with Agriculture, Mining, and Information Technology, the Blue Economy should be a vital priority and focus of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The Blue Economy is also indigenous and Pakistan is blessed with over 1000 km of coastline. Blue Economy is an ocean-oriented sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improving livelihood, and creating job opportunities. He was speaking at the COLMAB 2024 (Conference on Logistics, Maritime Affairs, and Blue Economy) in Karachi.

Majyd Aziz added that Pakistan's share in world exports in the Blue Economy is just 0.25%, which is the minimum in the global export market. However, Pakistan needs to immediately improve and modernize the Fishery Sector through adoption of the latest technology, equipment, and processes. Pakistan can also promote renewable energy, maritime transport, and tourism under the Blue Economy. He advised the Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, that the majority of Boards of Trustees of KPPT and PQA should be nominated by Port users rather than appointing irrelevant persons, instead on political basis or their high profile. Moreover, the Chairmen of both Boards should be from the private sector.

## From Lahore to Vietnam: Pakistani Sellers Gear Up for Alibaba.com KEL Awards Regional Finale

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce, today hosted the finale of the Pakistan round of its Key E-commerce Leader Awards (KEL Awards) in Lahore to celebrate the exceptional e-commerce sellers of Pakistan. The event showcased the remarkable talents of six top country finalists each delivering insightful presentations that highlighted their achievements and the strategies that fueled their success on the Alibaba.com platform.

The competition concluded with the selection of all six finalists, as Alibaba.com Pakistan Ambassadors for 2024. Tayyub Hussain from Norwich Streetwear and Muzafar Hussain, from



JNM Leather Safety Gloves were honored as Alibaba.com Pakistan Key E-commerce Leaders for 2024 and will represent Pakistan in the KEL Awards Regional Finale, set to take place in Vietnam later this year. Additionally, today's event in Pakistan featured a People's Choice Award for 2024, with Tayyub Hussain

from Norwich Streetwear receiving recognition based on audience voting.

Rocky Lu, Head of Pakistan Business at Alibaba.com, emphasized the significance of the awards, stating, "The Pakistan KEL Awards are a testament to the entrepreneurial excellence present in this country. We are proud

to provide a platform where sellers here can showcase their success and have the opportunity to be recognized on a regional stage. It is not merely a competition. It is a celebration of the ingenuity and resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are pushing the boundaries of global trade.

Through this initiative, we hope to inspire and help even more SMEs to seize opportunities in the global marketplace."

Rafia Syed, Director General of TDAP, emphasized the importance of showcasing local businesses on a global stage. "The KEL Awards, hosted by Alibaba.com, mark a significant milestone in nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit within Pakistan's e-commerce sector.

## FBR Task Force on digitalization presents initial findings, aims to achieve sustainable growth in national revenues

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The second meeting of the Task Force on Digitalization of Federal Board Revenue (FBR) was held on Wednesday, chaired by Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaz Malik and co-chaired by DG C41, Major General Syed Ali Raza.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman FBR Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Members and other senior officers of the Board, said a news release.

Alongwith Task Force members including Ghazi

Akhtar from Lotte Akhtar Beverages Ltd, Javed Ashraf from National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Fareed Zafar from LUMS while Asif Peer from Systems Ltd, Amir Malik CEO PRAL, Waqas Ul Hasan and Ms. Tania Aidrus joined virtually.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Finance recapitulated that the Task Force is mandated to come up with practicable recommendations to transform FBR into a modern and digitalized organization to achieve sustained growth in national revenues.

## PCP Chairman visits ICCI: Assures Business Community's Representation in Press Council

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) Arshad Khan Jadoon reaffirmed the Council's commitment to safeguarding freedom of expression and upholding media ethics in Pakistan. He assured that the dissemination of accurate information and the curbing of fake news would be prioritized at all costs.

During a meeting with Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at the Chamber House, Jadoon highlighted the PCP's pivotal role in promoting press freedom and media ethics in line with the Code of Practice. The meeting

also focused on addressing the challenges faced by journalists and resolving them on priority basis.

Jadoon emphasized the importance of collaboration in combating the complications affecting the country and enhancing its global soft image. He promised to induct a representative from the business community into the Press Council to foster closer ties and address its grievances more effectively.

Furthermore, Jadoon stressed the need for close coordination between PEMRA and the PCP to tackle issues like fake news by strictly adhering to standard operating procedures (Sops).

On his part, President ICCI

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari commended the Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) for its efforts in promoting the right to expression while maintaining a positive and constructive narrative. He suggested that the inclusion of representatives from the business community in the PCP would enhance its dynamism and effectiveness.

Bakhtawari said that the country is passing through the most difficult time and needs concerted efforts to pull it out of the existing impasse by stressing the importance of avoiding negativity in news coverage, particularly in reports related to business and the economy, as these are badly harming the country's economic interests. At the



same time he also emphasized the need to address the challenges faced by the journalists' community.

Those present on the occasion include Malik Shabbir

Awan, Dr. M. Usman, Sajid Iqbal, Khawaja Mir Hassan, Zia Chaudhry and others.

*Mobilink Bank revolutionizes financial independence for women with an industry-first inheritance calculator*

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has launched an easy-to-use in-app inheritance calculator made accessible through its Dost app. The cutting-edge financial tool is designed to empower individuals, especially women, by providing clear insights into their inheritance share. The calculator's launch is a testament to the organization's commitment to promoting financial inclusion and social justice through this initiative.

Mobilink Bank and JazzCash are at the forefront of women empowerment in Pakistan, driving transformative change through their compelling initiatives. The Bank's Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program has enabled 15,000 women through customized training interventions, propelling them to financial independence and economic success. JazzCash is consistently working to enhance its female customer base from 30% to 50%. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and a vast network, Mobilink Bank and JazzCash are breaking down barriers and unlocking opportunities for women to achieve their digital and financial goals.

The inheritance calculator is integrated into the Bank's consumer app, Dost App and addresses the longstanding inequity in inheritance distribution. By democratizing access to financial information, the calculator simplifies the complex process of determining potential inheritance shares or amounts.

With a steadfast commitment to building an inclusive environment, the Bank offers a comprehensive suite of products and services designed to meet the diverse needs of its growing customer base.

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



# WAPDA presents cash award of Rs 5 million to Arshad Nadeem

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: WAPDA presented a cash award of Rs. 5 million to its athlete Arshad Nadeem on his historic performance in Paris Olympics 2024.

Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd), who is also Patron-in-Chief of WAPDA Sports Board gave away the cash award to Arshad Nadeem in a ceremony arranged by WAPDA Sports Board in his honour at WAPDA Auditorium, WAPDA House.

Cash awards were also given to WAPDA's Nooh Dastagir on winning gold medal for Pakistan in the Strongman Games 2024 held at Uzbekistan; and Sybil Sohail, Veronika Sohail and Twinkle Sohail on winning gold medals in the Classic Powerlifting Championship 2024 held at South Africa.

A large number of renowned WAPDA sportspersons, Member (Finance), Member (Water), Member



(Power), Secretary WAPDA/GM (Admin) and President WAPDA Sports Board attended the ceremony.

Congratulating him on winning the first-ever Olympic gold medal in athletics for Pakistan, the Chairman said that

Arshad Nadeem had made the nation proud. "Nations and their sports rise and fall together, which is why, WAPDA has been making significant contribution for promotion of sports in Pakistan for more than half a century", he added.

Representing Pakistan in international events, WAPDA sportspersons have been bringing laurels to the county, he said. They won 44 gold medals, 15 silver medals and 22 bronze medals in individual and team events at various

international championships, which included Commonwealth Games, Islamic Solidarity Games, Asian Games, etc. During the last two years, the Chairman further said.

Speaking on the occasion, Arshad Nadeem thanked WAPDA Sports Board for arranging the ceremony. Highlighting the contribution for well-being of sports persons, he said that WAPDA Sports Board has not only helped groom him but also hundreds of other players by providing them employment opportunities and imparting training at its sports facilities across the country.

It is important to note that WAPDA is the largest employer of sportspersons in Pakistan, as about 1900 players and sports officials are associated with various units of WAPDA Sports Board. WAPDA has 66 teams in all - 36 of men and 30 of women. At present, WAPDA is national champion in 36 and runners-up in 21 games.



Pakistan F Class long range shooter Mohsin Nawaz Presenting the Sports Times International Magazine to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in event.

## Saud Shakeel joins Saeed Ahmed to score fastest 1000 Test runs

### Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's rising star Saud Shakeel on Wednesday etched his name in the annals of cricket history by becoming one of the fastest players to reach 1,000 Test runs.

Saud reached the coveted 1,000-run mark against Bangladesh on the first day of first Test match at Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi, accumulating unbeaten 57 runs off 92 balls.

The 28-year-old left-handed batsman accomplished this feat in just 20 innings, placing him alongside Pakistan cricket legend Saeed Ahmed, who achieved the same milestone on December 4, 1959 against Australia in Karachi.

The achievement not only highlights his personal dedication and hard work but also places him in an elite group of cricketers who have reached this landmark in a short span of innings.

Saud's journey to this milestone has been nothing short of spectacular. Since making his Test debut against England on December 1, 2022, he has consistently displayed a blend of solid technique and composure under pressure. His ability to adapt to different conditions and formats has made him a key asset for Pakistan's Test side.

His innings have been characterized by a keen understanding of the game, an astute shot selection, and a temperament well beyond his years.



# Cristiano Ronaldo takes YouTube by storm

## A Sports

Star Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo set YouTube ablaze with his channel, titled "UR · Cristiano," where he will discuss football, family and nutrition among other topics.

Considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time, the football star is the most followed person on social media with 917 million followers across various platforms.

Thanks to his astounding fame, his channel "UR Cristiano" took just five hours to reach one million subscribers, the numbers, however, are growing rapidly and at the time when this story was filed his channel's subscribers tally was nearing the three-million mark.

Ronaldo, who leads Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia and Portugal's national side, will be seen chatting with guests about "family, wellness, nutrition, preparation, recovery, education, and business," according to the news announcement.

Reacting to the launching of his YouTube channel, the 39-year-old said that the project was on his mind for a long time.

"Finally, we have the opportunity to make it real. I have always enjoyed having such a strong relationship with fans on social media and my YouTube channel will give me an even bigger platform to do so and they will learn more about me, my family, and my views on many different subjects. I am also looking forward to sharing conversations with guests that will no doubt surprise people!" he added.

In his first-ever video on "UR · Cristiano," the football star is seen rating his best Euro goals.



Ronaldo's football career spans more than two decades in which he played for clubs including Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus.

Throughout his career, Cristiano Ronaldo has won 33 trophies, five UEFA Champions Leagues, five Ballon d'Or awards and a record three UEFA Men's

Player of the Year Awards.

The Portuguese footballer holds the record for most appearances, goals and assists in both the Champions League and European Championship, along with the most international goals and international appearances.

Cristiano Ronaldo has scored more than 890 official senior career goals for both club and country, making him the

top goalscorer of all time.

Earlier this year, Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career.

Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr as Forbes said that the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in the region of \$260 million, an all-time high for a soccer player.

# Four Pakistan fighters reach Asian MMA Championship Final

## Sports Desk

LAHORE: A total of four Pakistan fighters, three men and a woman, qualified for the final stage of the ongoing Asian MMA Championship in respective categories.

An eventful Day 3 of the Asian MMA Championship, which featured 38 matches, saw Pakistan's Abdul Manan, Zeeshan Akbar, Shahab Ali and Bano Butt emerging triumphant and taking Team Pakistan into the finals.

In the third round of the women's Atomweight bout, Bano outclassed India's Khushboo Nishad via a knockout.

"I worked hard for the semi-final," said



Bano after the win.

"My category was junior but my coach asked me whether I could compete in the senior's category. I responded positively because I wanted to test myself.

Bano further lauded Indian rival

Khushboo and asserted that the latter is like her elder sister.

"The Indian rival is like an elder sister to me but in the cage, nobody's your friend.

Bano butt then went on to express her determination to win the Asian MMA Championship Gold medal for Team Pakistan.

Meanwhile, in the Men's Lightweight category, Shahab Ali downed Team Lebanon's Fadi Jaber while Abdul Manan knocked out Abdulla Ismael to make his way into the final round of the Flyweight category.

Continuing Team Pakistan's dominance, Zeeshan Akbar made Kutberdi

Kurdutulov tap via a rare-neck choke to advance into the final round of the Bantamweight division.

The final round of the Asian MMA Championship 2024 will be comprised of 22 bouts in different divisions.

A total of six Pakistan fighters, three men and as many women, will feature in the final as Eman Khan and Bushra Ahmed had already progressed on technical grounds.

The Asian Championship of MMA is being held in Pakistan for the first time, while Brave Combat Federation marked its return to Pakistan after a six-year gap.

# Saim, Saud show resilience on challenging opening day of first Test

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Despite early fall wickets, Pakistan managed to score 158 runs in the delayed Test against Bangladesh due to wet outfield at the Pindi Stadium on Wednesday.

Pakistan lost three main key players in nine overs after put into bat but Saim Ayub and Saud Shakeel took Pakistan out of trouble by hitting half-centuries helping Green-shirts to finish 158 for four in 41 overs on a shortened opening day of the first Test.

Ayub went on to score his maiden Test half-century (56 runs) on 98 balls including four 4s and a six while Shakeel remained unbeaten on 57 runs providing a 98-run fourth-wicket partnership. The rescue act between the two southpaws was

spread on either side of the tea interval as they batted together for 22.5 overs.

Pacers Shoriful Islam and Hasan Mahmud did the magic for Bangladesh as they bagged two wickets each for 30 and 33 runs, respectively. Bangladesh bowlers reduced Pakistan to 16-3 in 8.2 overs. Abdullah Shafique was the first to depart as he was caught at gully against Hasan Mahmud in the fourth over.

Skipper Shan Masood hit one boundary during his 11-ball stay before falling prey to Shoriful Islam for six runs in the seventh over. Babar Azam was dismissed in the ninth over falling for a two-ball duck off the bowling of Shoriful with Litton Das taking his second catch of the innings.

Saud Shakeel (57 not out, 92b, 5x4s) and Mohammad Rizwan (24 not out, 31b, 2x4s) will stand

guard for Pakistan at the beginning of day two.

Saud contributed 42 runs in the stand with Saim before stitching an unbeaten 44-run partnership with Mohammad Rizwan till the close of play.

Saud who is also Pakistan's Test vice-captain also completed 1,000 runs in the longest format during his first innings in the game and became the joint-fastest Pakistani batter to reach 1000 runs in Test cricket, achieving this feat in just 20 innings. Meanwhile so far, Pakistan has played 13 Tests against Bangladesh, winning 12 and drawing one.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Saim Ayub spoke after the end of Day 1, about his batting approach in the ongoing Test match against Bangladesh, saying, "My goal was to prolong my innings, but some-

times things don't go as planned."

Saim acknowledged the challenging conditions early on but credited his partnership with Saud for making batting easier. "We had a good partnership, and I enjoy batting with everyone," he said.

Regarding the unpredictable nature of Test cricket, Saim noted, "The behavior of the wickets changes, and sometimes the red ball favors us, while other times it doesn't. It's part of the game."

Bangladesh's Hasan Mahmud praised his team's bowling efforts and said, "We tried to bowl accurately on our length, and the pitch will help seamers if it becomes harder."

Hasan emphasized the importance of taking quick wickets, stating, "We'll come up with a plan to take Pakistan out as



quickly as possible."

He also commended his team's fielding, saying, "The boys are excellent in the field, taking

wonderful catches. It's great to get help from your fielders."

Scores in brief: Pakistan 158-4, 41 overs (Saud Shakeel 57 not

out, Saim Ayub 56, Mohammad Rizwan 24 not out; Shoriful Islam 2-30, Hasan Mahmud 2-33).



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: President Elect of Oxford Union, Mr. Israr Khan Kakar, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

## PM directs institutions to accelerate efforts to do away with smuggling

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressing satisfaction over the reduction in the smuggling, instructed the relevant institutions to accelerate their efforts to purge the country of this menace in toto.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the measures for the elimination of smuggling, reiterated that the government would never allow the smugglers to damage the national economy.

He said the government utilized modern technology to curb smuggling and instructed to apprehend the people involved in smuggling, their facilitators and confiscate the transport vehicles used for the



purpose.

He also asked the federal Board of Revenue, interior ministry and other relevant departments to improve their

coordination and sought a comprehensive strategy to create employment opportunities in the frontier regions. During the briefing, the

prime minister was told that the interior ministry was running a countrywide campaign and effective measures were being taken to curb

the smuggling of petroleum products, cigarettes, mobile phones, gold, tea, clothes, commodities, vehicle tires and spare parts.

It was told that web portal to curb the smuggling of urea and sugar had been launched and 54 joint checkpoints had been established as per the prime minister's directives.

Federal ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Dr Musaddik Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and provincial chief secretaries attended the meeting.

## Pakistan committed to further strengthen ties with Belarus: Ayaz Sadiq

## Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday said that Pakistan is committed to further strengthening bilateral ties with Belarus, particularly through enhanced parliamentary engagement.

In a meeting with Igor Sergegenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk, Ayaz said "This visit marks an important step forward in our bilateral relations. We deeply appreciate your hospitality and are eager to build on the foundations laid over the past 30 years of diplomatic relations".

The speaker emphasized



the need to deepen parliamentary relations between Paki-

stan and Belarus, focusing on expanding the legal framework

for cooperation, said a news release received here.

"We are committed to revisiting and updating existing agreements to ensure they are more effective. Our Parliament will actively work on these frameworks to facilitate closer interaction," Ayaz Sadiq said.

Mr. Igor Sergegenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belarus, expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's consistent support at international forums.

He welcomed the visit of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation comprising Members National Assembly M. Asalm Ghumman, Syed Tariq Hussain, and Syed Hafeezuddin noting it as a significant milestone in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

## Jam Kamal Khan engages with industry councils to boost export sector

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan conducted virtual meetings with key industry representatives from the Sectoral Council for Surgical Instruments and the Council for Marble, Granite & Minerals.

During these separate meetings, Minister Jam Kamal Khan urged both councils to submit comprehensive proposals detailing their primary challenges, potential solutions, and strategic recommendations. The objective is to secure the necessary support to address the pressing issues faced by



these sectors and to create an environment conducive to business growth and export enhancement.

The minister highlighted that involving these councils in the policymaking process could significantly boost the

export potential of these billion-dollar industries. He emphasized the importance of keeping the private

sector engaged, noting that it is the main stakeholder in these efforts.

"The proposals, key issues, and recommendations from these councils will be carefully reviewed and included in a strategic report," the Minister stated.

"This report will be submitted to higher authorities for approval, ensuring that the concerns of these sectors are adequately addressed."

These meetings underscore the government's commitment to collaborating with industry stakeholders to formulate policies that align with the needs of the business community.

## Youth empowerment, key to Pakistan's bright future, says President Zardari

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that the youth had significant potential and could greatly elevate country's reputation if given appropriate opportunities.

In a conversation with Asrar Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of the Oxford Union Society, the president extended his congratulations on his election to the coveted position.

The president highlighted that

Asrar Kakar, a resident of Balochistan province, had attained a significant honor through his election and that his achievement would inspire other young people.

He expressed the optimism that Israr Khan would continue to bring honor to the country with his future achievements.

The president recalled that former Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was the first Asian woman to serve as President of the Oxford Union.

## Chairperson BISP called on Sindh Minister for health



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Rubina Khalid called on Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho at her office in Karachi on 21st Aug 2024. Both lawmakers discussed health indicators going on under their respective organizations to uplift the lives of the people.

Chairperson BISP along with her team, briefed the Minister about various programs especially Benazir NashoNuma program in the domain of health being going on in the province of Sindh. The program aims to prevent malnutrition in Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and Children under two years of age within the BISP Kafaalat Program households. The comprehensive package of interventions is being implemented

through "Facilitation centres" established on the premises of Tehsil/Taluka/District level government health facilities (including 35 mobile sites in Sindh).

Dr. Azra Pechuho, lauded BISP for their efforts of intervention to prevent stunting in children, improve weight gain of pregnant women, reducing anemia and micronutrient deficiencies and improving awareness of maternal and early child health/nutrition. Owing to her vast experience in health sector, she further guided the Senator and her team to extend such program to Basic Health Units through PPHI and other partnering health organizations. To make this program more focused and beneficial, she offered access to the EPI data and also extended her every possible help and support to the BISP.

## MoFA unveils Apostille Convention to simplify document authentication

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) launched the Apostille Convention on Wednesday in Islamabad, aiming to streamline the authentication process for public documents intended for international use.

With the formal launch of Apostille certification, the MoFA and its liaison offices in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Gujrat will now accept documents for Apostille attestation through the five courier companies that have already been notified.

Deputy Prime Minister

and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the launch ceremony, which was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information Technology, and the National Information Technology Board (NITB).

Speaking on the occasion Dar stress the government's commitment to enhancing public facilitation and highlighted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' efforts to improve public service delivery by simplifying document attestation and legalization. He urged Ministry officials to be more proactive in ensuring efficient service provision.

## Finance minister sees IMF approval for \$7 billion bailout package next month

The government in Islamabad has said it is making good progress with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and hopes to get board approval in September for a new \$7 billion loan programme.

"We are making good progress with the IMF for Board approval in September," Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Wednesday in a text message to Reuters.

The federal minister's remarks come as the country is so far unable to sign a Letter of Intent (LoI) for making a formal request to the Washington-based lender's executive board for considering approval of \$7 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme.

A day earlier, The News report stated the country is yet to secure confirmation on an external financing gap of \$3 to \$5 billion, despite passage of five weeks after striking a staff-level agreement under a fresh



EFF bailout package.

The finance czar and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor Jameel Ahmad are supposed to sign the LoI on behalf of the government and the commitment would be dispatched to the IMF's executive board with a request for approving \$7 billion under the EFF programme of 37 months.

It should be noted here that Pakistan and the IMF had struck a staff level agreement on the 37-month loan programme on July 12, 2024, with the country hoping that its request would be considered for approval by the IMF's executive board in four to six weeks.