



**PML-N working towards economic stability: Irfan Siddiqui**

Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, said on Friday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was working towards economic stability. During the leadership of Nawaz Sharif the country was on the path of progress and prosperity, he said while talking to a private news channel.



**Pakistan-Ethiopia Fraternity Park to be established in Islamabad next month**

Pakistan and Ethiopia on Friday announced to establish a dedicated park in Islamabad next month to foster fraternity and brotherhood between the two countries under the ongoing bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change. The announcement to this effect was made during a press briefing jointly addressed by H. E. Jemal Bekir Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, H. E. Romina Khurshed Alam, Coordinator to the PM on Climate.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority on Friday.



Photo: PID

**President Zardari summons Senate session on August 27**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of the Senate on Tuesday (August 27) at 05:00 pm.

The president summoned the session of Upper House in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 54(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



**Utility stores employees to strike over government plans to close USCs**



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Utility Stores Employees Union announced a nationwide strike and protests in Islamabad on Monday in response to the government's decision to shut down utility stores and eliminate subsidies.

This comes after the federal government decided to shut down utility stores and discontinue subsidies, triggering waves of anxiety among the over 11,000 employees, who have now threatened to go on strike.

Despite rising inflation, subsidies for general consumers at utility stores were removed a year ago. Only those registered in the Benazir Income Support Program were receiving a 25% subsidy on five basic necessities. Now, even that is set to be discontinued, angering the citizens.

Across the country, the prices at 4,400 utility stores have already exceeded open market rates. The price of a 10kg bag of flour has risen from Rs650 to Rs1,500, ghee from Rs380 to Rs450, and sugar from 109 to Rs160—all about Rs10 higher than regular market prices.

The government has given a two-week deadline to close down the utility stores, prompting employees to start preparations for protests. Following the decision, all utility stores in Lahore have already been shut down.

Raja Maskin Ali, the union secretary general, said in a statement they would stage a sit-in at the D-Chowk in the federal capital on Monday and "will strongly resist the decision."

**PM orders immediate constitution of SMEDA, other vital institutions' Boards**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting on matters related to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), emphasizing the crucial role of SMEs in Pakistan's economy.

He said the small and medium enterprises act as the back bone of the country's economy. Expressing dismay over the

non-functioning of the SMEDA Board, the prime minister directed its immediate constitution, stressing that boards of all institutions vital for the country's economy, should be established without delay.

Additionally, he called for promoting sub-contracting in industries and taking all possible measures to integrate Pakistani industries into the global supply chain. The prime minister also

ordered to take necessary steps to ensure appointment of the SMEDA's Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, he also directed to include the people from the private sector in the steering committee.

During the briefing, the prime minister was informed that for the first time, SMEDA Development Fund had been launched for which an amount of Rs 30 billion had been allocated for 6 years. Out of the total, Rs 5 billion have

already been provided for the year 2024-25, the meeting was told.

It was informed in the meeting that, there were currently 5.2 million small and medium enterprises in Pakistan, which account for 40 percent of the country's GDP whereas 31% of country's exports depend on the SMEs.

Apart from non-agricultural employment, SME sector provides 72% of employment while some Rs 491 billion have been provided in the form of bank

credit for the SME sector so far, but the bank credit for the SME sector needs to be taken up to Rs 800 billion, the meeting was told.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, PM's Coordinator Rana Ishaan Afzal, and other relevant high officials.

**PTI founder speaks up on Islamabad power show, 'open trial' demand**

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan opened up on postponing the Islamabad power show which was scheduled to take place in Tarnol on August 22, ARY News reported.

In an informal interaction with media inside the Adiala Jail's courtroom, Imran Khan said he had called a meeting with Azam Swati and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan to postpone the rally, citing concerns of potential violence saying "I was informed about possible violence at the



rally day."

He said that Islamabad power show was postponed to avoid another incident like the one that occurred on May 9. PTI founder stated that the

incumbent government is planning to extend CJP Isa's tenure and disrupting the seniority protocol for the appointment of the next chief justice.

When asked about his response to the security agencies' comments on his demand for an open trial of former ISI chief Faiz Hameed, Imran Khan said that as the head of the country's largest political party, he has the right to demand an open trial.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced to postpone the Islamabad power

show scheduled in Tarnol after the Islamabad administration cancelled No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the public gathering.

The announcement was made by the PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan saying that the Islamabad power show has been postponed on the direction of the party founder Imran Khan.

However, the deputy commissioner allowed PTI to hold rally in Islamabad on September 8 and the NOC has also been handed over to PTI leaders.

**Another autopart manufacturer shuts down plant in Pakistan**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The auto sector in Pakistan faces another blow as Bolan Casting Limited, a manufacturer of bus and truck parts, has announced the indefinite shutdown of its production plant, ARY News reported on Friday.

This decision follows the recent closures of the Suzuki Karsaz plant and Millat Tractor, marking a troubling trend in the industry.

In a letter addressed to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, Bolan Casting Limited cited a significant decline in the sales of trucks and buses, leading to severe financial difficulties.

The lack of demand has forced the company's management to halt operations for an indefinite period, effective from August 26, 2024.

This development adds to the growing concerns within Pakistan's auto sector, which has been struggling with dwindling demand and financial instability.

The shutdown of Bolan Casting's plant underscores the broader challenges faced by the industry, raising alarms about the future of auto manufacturing in the country.

**JUI to observe 'Day of Gratitude' in Pakistan after Supreme Court ruling**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) has announced that it will observe a "day of gratitude" on Friday, August 23, to celebrate the recent Supreme Court decision in the Mubarak Sani case. Addressing a press confer-

ence, JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman praised the role of the Pakistani parliament and Supreme Court in the ruling, stating that "no power in the world can conspire against the belief of finality of Prophet-hood."

He congratulated the Muslim Ummah, the nation, and reli-

gious parties on this "great achievement."

Rehman said the JUI has organized a public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore on September 7 to mark the golden jubilee of the parliament's 1974 decision declaring Ahmadis and Lahoris as religious minorities. He emphasized that the day



will be commemorated as a "day of victory," with the Supreme Court's recent ruling further amplifying the significance of this milestone.

**Finance Minister meets with delegation from Pegasus Airlines and Lucky Cement**



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Mehmet T. Nane, Chairperson of Pegasus Airlines, accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Ali Tabba, CEO of Lucky Cement Limited.

During the meeting, Mr. Mehmet T. Nane presented an overview of the Turkish aviation strategy, highlighting key aspects that could benefit Pakistan's aviation sector. He elaborated on how Pakistan could leverage Turkey's experience and expertise to advance its own aviation industry.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the success of Turkish aviation industry and added that

collaboration in the aviation sector with Turkiya was an important part of the bilateral relations, noting that it aligns with the Prime Minister's vision to enhance Pakistan's aviation industry.

The Finance Minister also recalled a recent meeting with the Turkish Trade Minister, where both sides discussed various avenues for trade and business collaboration. This meeting, he noted, is part of the broader strategy to strengthen ties between Pakistan and Turkey in multiple sectors, including aviation.

The discussions today were deemed highly fruitful, marking a step forward in Pakistan's efforts to boost its aviation capabilities and foster stronger economic ties with Turkiya.

# Funeral prayers of 12 police martyrs were performed

Asim Tanveer

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The funeral prayers of the police officers who were martyred in the firing of dangerous robbers and the attack of rocket launchers in the Mashka area of Kachha of the Indus River last night were performed at the Police Line Rahim Yar Khan. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the funeral prayer of police martyrs. IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar, Secretary Interior and Home Noor Alamin Mengal, Additional IGC CTD Punjab Maher Waseem Syal and Additional IG South Punjab Kamran Khan besides officers and staff of Pakistan Army and Rangers and other security forces participated. The Chak and Choband squad of the police saluted the martyred policemen in Mashka and wreaths of flowers were also placed on their shrouds by the Punjab Police. On the occasion of the funeral prayer, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and EAG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and Interior Secretary Punjab said that a major operation is being launched soon against bandits with the cooperation of all security forces in the Kachha areas of the Indus River. Police



and other security forces will completely wipe out dacoits and criminals from Kutch area. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that indiscriminate action will be taken against those who support the robbers. Meanwhile,

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that the blood of police martyrs will not go in vain. The Chief Minister of Punjab has fixed the price of the head of the robbers at Rs 1 crore and the head of other robbers from Rs 500,000

to Rs 500,000. The Chief Minister of Punjab further said that the Punjab government will provide full financial assistance to the families of the police personnel who were martyred in the firing of robbers in Mashka.

## Security concerns

KARACHI: A view of heavy shipping containers placed at M.A Jinnah Road for road block due to security reasons during Chehlum procession, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# 07 members of 3 gangs arrested in Multan in ongoing operation against criminals: DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Police Officer DIG Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, SSP Investigation Rana Muhammad Ashraf, SP City Hasan Raza Khakhi and ASP Anum while addressing the press conference said that Police Station Setal Mari Multan arrested 07 members of 03 gangs wanted in the incidents of robbery, robbery, theft and motorcycle theft. Stolen property worth more than 25 lakh rupees including 15 motorcycles, 12 lakh 70 thousand rupees in cash was recovered, 35 cases were traced.

Police station Setal Mari arrested 07 members of 03 gangs wanted in the cases of robbery, robbery, theft and motorcycle theft and stole property worth more than 25 lakh rupees, including 15 motorcycles, 12 lakh 70 thousand rupees. Cash included exported 35 cases of robbery, robbery, theft and motorcycle theft were traced from the arrested accused.



03 pistols, 30 bore and 17 live weapons were recovered from the accused

Among the arrested gangs:  
4- Saeed gang 02 members  
5- Adnan gang 03 members

6- Umar alias Umari gang 02 members

According to the orders of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, the operation against the criminals of Multan Police is going on under the supervision of SP

City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi in the limits of Setal Mari police station under the supervision of ASP New Multan Dr. Anam Tajmal, HO Setal Mari Umar Farooq along with sub-inspector Aleem Haider and his other teams traced and arrested the wanted gangs. The accused were arrested using modern technology including CCTV cameras and other traditional methods.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar along with SSP Operations Multan Arslan Zahid, SSP Investigation Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf and SP City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi said in a press conference that robbery, robbery, theft, including motorcycle theft. Actions are being taken to prevent further incidents. More suspects will be arrested soon. CPO Multan Sadiq Ali handed over the recovered property to the original owners who expressed their happiness on getting their property and thanked CPO Multan.

# New Library Block inaugurated at Old Campus Women University Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: A Newly constructed library extension building completed at the Women University Multan. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha inaugurated library extension block based on modern facilities at Katchery campus with an estimated cost of Rs2.48 million. On this occasion, Sub engineer Mr. Tahir given a brief presentation that this block has been completed under the project titled "Building Women University" funded of Higher Education Department, Punjab. He further said its a multi three storey building,



which include halls, computer lab, staff offices, kitchen and toilet block. The covered area calculated is 7000 sq ft. Addressing the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor

Prof Dr. Kalsoom Prof. said that quality research facilities have been provided at the Women University and digital library equipped with modern facilities

will enhance knowledge seeking skills of students. We should take advantage of modern technology. The importance of the book in research and teaching is well noted. In this era of information & technology, along with the traditional library, the digital library can maintain the relationship of the reader with the book. On the occasion, dua was held where Vice-Chancellor Dr Kalsoom Pracha and staff members prayed for further development of the university. The ceremony was attended by Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan, PD Asad Ali, Librarian Ms. Gulnaz Batool, Ms. Sumera Rasool, chairpersons and staff members.

## Strengthening Community Resilience, IRC completes WASH Initiatives in Badin District

Correspondent

BADIN, SINDH: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Pakistan marked a significant milestone today with the inauguration of a rehabilitated large-scale water supply scheme and improved WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure in schools across the Badin district, Sindh. These initiatives are a crucial component of IRC's ongoing post-flood recovery efforts, aimed at supporting communities impacted by the devastating 2022 floods in Pakistan.

The rehabilitated water supply scheme is set to benefit over 1,500 households, providing much-needed access to clean water that was severely disrupted by the floods. Key improvements include the solarization of the system, the installation of a high-efficiency water pump, the construction of accessible pathways for use during flooding, and the reinforcement of a retaining wall to protect the water sources. The Water Supply Scheme was inaugurated by Sabir Ali Memon, Director Technical PHED, and Yasmeen Shah, Member of the Provincial Assembly.

In his remarks, Sabir Ali Memon emphasized the importance of rehabilitating the water supply scheme for the resilience of the community. He assured that with the scheme now handed over to PHED, its ongoing operations and maintenance would be prioritized, ensuring reliable access to clean water that will support the community's health and development for years to come.

Yasmeen Shah in her remarks noted that "Ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities is not just about improving health and hygiene; it's about empowering girls to stay in school and achieve their full potential. This intervention by IRC is a significant step towards creating an environment where our children, especially girls, can thrive."

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, IRC Provincial Head Shama Shaikh underscored the vital importance of WASH infrastructure in mitigating community vulnerability to climate impacts. She emphasized that such infrastructure plays a key role in addressing gender disparities, enhancing health and education outcomes, and fostering economic inclusion.

Sanullah Leghari, representative from the Rural Development Foundation, emphasized that these initiatives were driven by the local community's needs, and upon completion, the community will take ownership and sustain these facilities.

## JI Multan condemn the robbers attack on police convoy and 12 police men martyrs

Kiran Asim



MULTAN: The martyrdom of police personnel in Rahim Yar Khan is condemnable and regrettable. If the government of Pakistan had taken timely action against the bandit rule in these areas, such a big tragedy would not have happened today. There is still time to learn a lesson from this tragedy and initiate action against these dacoits. These views were expressed by Ameer-e-Jamaat-e-Islami

Multan Dr. Saifdar Hashmi, Mian Asif Ikhwani, President of National Unity Council South Punjab, Khawaja Asim Riaz, Hassan Ikhwani and other officials in their condolence message. He said that these are not 12 testimonies, but 12 families. At the time when 2 workers of Jamaat-e-Islami were martyred, Siraj-ul-Haq demanded that action should be taken against these dacoits. The result of this laziness is that 12 families were destroyed today. We pray for and strongly demand the Punjab government and the federal government to provide full financial assistance to the police martyrs in Rahim Yar Khan Kacha area.

## Nila Butt Day has historical significance: Pakistan Muslim Conference

Abdul Majeed Tahir



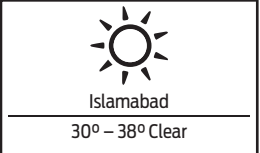
DHIRKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Nila Butt Day has historical significance, as a result of the movement started from Nila Butt on August 23, 1947, this region was liberated and its

Thanks to the sacrifices of our forefathers, today we are breathing in free atmosphere. The leadership of the Muslim Conference determined the destiny of the state by giving the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan, this day is our historical day and is of utmost importance in the context of the freedom movement of Kashmir. These views were expressed by Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan in his message on the occasion in connection with Nila Butt Day. He said that the movement started by Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan from Nila Butt is still going on today. On his movement, all the political parties, not only the Muslim Conference, but also the leaders and workers of all the political parties should gather at Neela Butt to pay homage to him. He said that it is the duty of every conscious Kashmiri to carry the movement led by Mujahid e Awwal to its logical conclusion enlighten the struggle and sacrifices. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory according to the resolutions of the United Nations, the future of which is yet to be decided. The Kashmiri people have been struggling for their basic recognized right to self-determination for the past 77 years, and have created eternal stories of sacrifices. During this seven-decade struggle, millions of Kashmiris sacrificed their lives, millions endured the hardships of imprisonment, thousands of chaste women, children and the elderly faced difficulties for this movement, but this freedom movement could not weaken.

## Azad Kashmir to provide free electricity to mosques as part of its vision of Islamic welfare state

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Information Minister of Azad Kashmir Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah said that the government of Azad Kashmir has approved the supply of free electricity up to 200 units in mosques across the state to realize the dream of an Islamic welfare state. In this regard, the Department of Religious Affairs has issued a notification. According to the notification issued by the Department of Religious Affairs, the government will pay up to 200 units per month for all the mosques in Azad Kashmir that have electricity meters installed and are working. The government will install solar panels in mosques across Azad Kashmir in a phased manner. Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah further said that the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque has decided to make the Azad region a welfare state in the true sense. It is only a historic move but a clear example of love and attachment to Islam. He said that despite the severe financial crisis with the support of the federal government, provision of cheap flour to the people, allocation of serious funds for projects like social protection for the orphans, widows, poor and marginalized people of the society are historical initiatives of the Azad Kashmir government which will always be remembered. The people of the entire state have praised this initiative of the government and termed it as a good initiative for the promotion of Islamic system. The people of Azad Kashmir have thanked Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq and Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah for taking practical steps to promote Islam he added.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 4:07 am  
 Zohr ..... 12:11 pm  
 Asr ..... 4:52 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 6:45 pm  
 Isha ..... 8:13 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

*Drama artist Fiza Arshad is committed to great achievements*



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani artist Fiza Arshad, who looks like Indian actress Bipasha Basu with deep dark eyes, shapely body and smile bookish face and charming features, is a beautiful addition to the new actresses. Started his artistic career from, worked with Mawra Hussain in the drama Ashina, then worked as a coordination assistant for dialogue delivery in Ashina and gave opportunities to the new talent of Rawalpindi, Islamabad. She is also waiting for the legendary Producers and those directors who gave the television screen and film industry such timeless artists who awakened the magic of their artistic abilities and the magic of these artists spoke loudly even across the border. Fellow artists who have worked with Fiza say that Fiza, though shop is new to her world, but Fiza's dialogue delivery, facial expressions and timing are like those of a seasoned artist. A lively role has been found, she has to create a sensation because one cannot guess that she is a new artist by watching Fiza act. Fiza belongs to the same area of Rawalpindi where film star Jon Rambo Afzal Khan lived—He has expressed his determination that this year will prove to be successful for her.

# NAB announces successful completion of 10th 'Investigators Basic Induction Course'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A passing out ceremony on the successful completion of 10th "Investigators Basic Induction Course, (IBIC-X)" was held at NAB Hq on 22nd August, 2024. Chairman NAB Lt Gen \* Nazir Ahmed awarded certificates to the successful participants and shields to the position holders of the course. NAB officers, participants and their parents/ family members attended the ceremony.

It was the first time in the history of NAB that a tailor made- course keeping in view the organizational needs and evolving trends of corruption prac-

tics, was conducted using NAB's own expertise and resources by Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA). This 18 week long course was joined and completed by 14 officers including 11 Assistant Directors recommended by FPSC and 3 serving NAB officers at NAB's own academy. Assistant Directors Mr. Tariq Rajpar, Mr. Waqar Ahmed and Mr. Sanaullah secured the top three positions respectively during the course.

Chairman NAB Lt Gen \* Nazir Ahmed congratulated the officers who completed their training successfully and urged them to perform their

duties with complete honesty, integrity and diligence without succumbing to any pressure, temptation or personal connection. Moreover, the Chairman NAB exhorted the officers to perform investigation work with impartiality and in the broader interest of the country and nation. The Chairman NAB advised the young officers to conduct investigations using scientifically advanced methods to ascertain the truth of the matter and adopt a policy of seeking out-of-box solutions to issues. He further emphasized upon the young officers to maintain NAB's glorious traditions through their hard



work; by enhancing their professional skills, by preserving their character and by gaining excellence in professional work.

Chairman NAB also extended congratulations to the parents of the young officers who have completed the IBIC-X course.

Earlier Mr. Irfan Naem Mangi, Director General, Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy thanked the Chairman NAB for his unwavering support and stated that trainee officers received practical training on the investigation of white collar crimes keeping in view the relevant laws.

## Pet lover

PESHAWAR: A pet lover purchasing a green parrot at Chargano Market in the provincial city.



# AEO Study Abroad Expo successfully organized across major cities of Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: AEO Pakistan has successfully launched the country's largest study abroad expo, spanning 10 major cities, including Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur, and Hyderabad. This landmark event provides prospective students across the nation with an invaluable opportunity to receive expert guidance and free counselling on applying to top-ranked universities in Australia, the USA, Canada, and the UK. Representatives from over 15 prestigious universities and institutions are participating, offering insights and support to students planning their academic futures. Attendees are also benefitting from information on IELTS testing and preparatory classes available at the expo.

The expo continues with upcoming events scheduled in Multan on August 24th at Hotel One Tariq Road, Karachi on August 24th at Serena Hotel, Abbottabad on August 24th at Hotel One, Peshawar on August 25th at Serena Hotel, Hyderabad on August 25th at Indus Hotel, and Bahawalpur on August 26th at Ajwa Garden Hotel & Restaurant. Entry to the exhibitions is free, and scholar-



ships are available for eligible students.

With a history of over 5,000 alumni and 300,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan has firmly established itself as a leading authority in Australian and global education and as the most trusted IELTS and OET test centre in the country. As the official liaison office

for over 40 top Australian universities and institutions, AEO Pakistan has been facilitating student enrolments for more than two decades. Since 2002, AEO's bi-annual Australian Education Expos have empowered thousands of Pakistani students to pursue higher education abroad.

## We welcome the decision to delete the controversial provisions of the judgments in the Mubarak Sani case: Allama Riyaz

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: It is commendable behavior of Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa to admit his mistake in the Mubarak Sani case and correct it. His positive attitude has raised the prestige of the judiciary. We welcome the decision to delete the controversial provisions of the February 6 and July 24 judgments in the Mubarak Sani case.



These views were expressed by Allama Syed Riyaz Hussain Shah, the patron of the Supreme Institution of Islamic Education Khayaban Sir Syed and Aqash Masjid Model Town Lahore, in his Friday sermon. He said that instead of making this sensitive religious issue a problem of ego, the Supreme Court correctly interpreted the sentiments of the Muslim Ummah. Since the federal and provincial governments have become parties to this case, the role of scholars and elders of all schools of thought and especially the public has been exemplary. He said that the belief in the finality of Prophethood is one of the basic beliefs on which there has been total agreement and absolute consensus of the Ummah for 13 centuries despite differences. Just as for a Muslim, the monotheism of Allah and the prophethood of the Holy Prophet do not require any evidence, similarly the belief in the finality of the Holy Prophet is also indisputable. Syed Riaz Hussain Shah said that the owner of the earth and sky has written that Muhammad is the last prophet. No prophet will come after him. No power in the world can deprive us of this faith.

## Zindigi Prize 2024 Regionals Kick Off at GIKI



**City Desk**

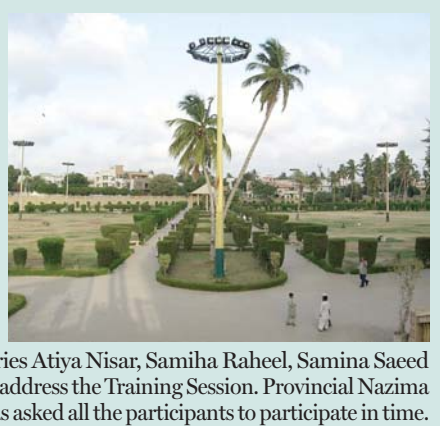
ISLAMABAD: Witness the electrifying Zindigi KPK Prize Regionals at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology from August 23rd to 25th, co-hosted by the Directorate General of Science & Technology (Govt of KPK) and The Catalyst.

Embarking on a quest to revolutionize the startup landscape of Pakistan, Zindigi Prize offers appealing seed funding and priceless mentorship opportunities, propelling ventures towards unparalleled triumph. Encompassing 160 universities in Pakistan and 15 Universities across Kenya, and captivating over 5000+ startups, Zindigi Prize has ignited a fiery passion among aspiring young entrepreneurs. More than 85 captivating and diverse entrepreneurial ideas will be presented at the KPK regionals.

## Training workshop to be held at Idara Noor Haq in Karachi

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A two-day training workshop for district Nazimat of Sindh province is starting from 24th and 25th of August in Idara Noor Haq in Karachi under the Women's Wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. General Secretary Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Dr. Humeira Tariq, Deputy Secretaries Atiya Nisar, Samiha Raheel, Samina Saeed and other mentors will address the Training Session. Provincial Nazima Rukhshanda Munib has asked all the participants to participate in time.



# Police in Swat ready to respond to any threat in the region: RPO

**Correspondent**

SWAT: Regional Police Officer Malakand Division, Muhammad Ali Khan, has stated that the police force in Malakand Division is fully equipped to handle all kinds of situations and has been provided with modern weapons. He added that there have been reports of a few terrorists entering Swat, but the police are working to apprehend them.

During a meeting with senior journalists in Swat, he said that the terrorists who entered Swat are hiding in the mountains and attempting to launch attacks. To counter



this, police search operations are underway in various areas, and plainclothes officers have

been deployed to apprehend these individuals. He emphasized that

complete peace prevails in Swat, which is evident from the large number of tourists

visiting the area. Compared to last year, a higher number of domestic and foreign tourists have visited Swat's beautiful regions, and the influx of tourists continues.

In response to a question, he stated that a special operation is underway across Malakand Division to eradicate ice (methamphetamine) trafficking, resulting in the arrest of dozens of dealers so far.

He concluded by saying that the public has complete trust in the police, which has boosted their morale, and the police will continue to play their role in maintaining peace in the region

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# Digital Punjab Police with outdated techniques of investigation - I

The Punjab Police is a law enforcement agency in Punjab, Pakistan. Under the command of its Inspector General (IG), it administers all criminal cases under the Police Acts of 1861 and 2002. The force was introduced in its modern form under British rule, and colonial influence continues. On January 23, 2023, Dr. Usman Anwar was appointed as the Inspector General of Punjab Police.

The Mughal Empire arranged law enforcement according to land ownership. Zamindars were in charge of executing other policing tasks as well as capturing those who disturbed the peace. The village headman was responsible for carrying out these tasks at the local level. Kotwals, or town officials, handled revenue collection, law enforcement, and local government in big towns. Armed forces often dealt with violent, organised crime, and watchmen were on patrol. The British government instituted the current policing structure.

The British government replaced the zamindars with magistrates who had daroghas and other lower-ranking officers, relieving the zamindars of their police duties. The Military Preventive Police and the Civil Detective Police were the two branches that made up the Punjab Police. However, this arrangement proved to be insufficient, and the government of In 1860, British India pressed Punjab's government to look

into the province's enforcement structure.

Owing to the significance of the matter, a commission was created by the central government to look into policing in British India. The Calcutta Police Commission of 1860 advocated for the elimination of the police's armed branch, the formation of a provincial inspector general of police, and district superintendents to oversee police in their respective districts. The commission suggested that the district magistrate be the only person authorised to carry out law enforcement duties.

The Indian government proposed a bill that became Act V of 1861, the Police Act of 1861, based on the commission's recommendations. The act's organisational framework is still in place. The 1933 Punjab Police Rules provided written instructions for the then-current police procedures and implemented policies aimed at enhancing management and operational efficiency. According to the regulations, the Punjab Police was a professional police force by 1934, had a thorough understanding of the criminal population and criminal activity in the province, and had established efficient protocols and practices for handling a wide range of criminal activities.

The disciplinary and administrative duties of the force were also explained. They remain in effect and served as the model for comparable regulations in other Pakistani provinces. In 1947-1948, the Punjab Police was instrumental in managing the refugee issue. Up until 1955, when it was combined with the police of other provinces to form the West Pakistan

Police, it operated as a distinct organisation. Inayat was the deputy inspector general for West Pakistan. In the 1950s, Qurban Ali Khan served as the IG to whom the DIGs for East and West Pakistan answered. In the 1950s and 1960s, numerous failed attempts were undertaken to examine and improve police performance and organisation.

The Devolution of Power Plan, which was put into effect between 2001 and 2006, had a significant impact on the legal structure governing the Pakistani police. A large portion of provincial government power and duties were transferred to the districts under the plan, which also made police accountable to the public. The Punjab Local Government Ordinance of 2001 established a district government system. The Police Act 1861 was superseded by the Police Order in 2002 as part of the plan, which significantly altered

the police. Public accountability was introduced by the new law in the form of district, provincial, and federal Public Safety Commissions.

The Police Order of 2002 also established a distinct Police Complaints Authority, gave the Inspector General of Police more authority, and divided investigation from other police duties. Counterterrorism activities in the province are being carried out by the Punjab Police.

In this context, Punjab is the largest province in Pakistan in terms of population. Punjab Police took the initiative to meet world standards and introduced a new project, which was the digital Punjab Police, under the umbrella of a special initiative of Punjab Police. In this project, they are building front desks, a waiting area, receiving online applications, CCTV cameras, and furnished investigation rooms. The clerical system is also digital and paperless, and the services are available on an immediate basis without any wait. People can avail themselves of all the facilities on the Punjab Police app, where all services are mentioned. The Khidmat centre has been opened on Tehsil level, where character certificates, driving licenses, tenant registration, FIR registration, and many more services will be available for Punjab. In this context, all matters are resolved without any pressure or hesitation, according to the legal advisory.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Ejaz Khan

## Sit-in protest in Chicago

A group of delegates at the Democratic National Convention started a sit-in protest outside the convention hall in Chicago Wednesday night, saying they will stay put until US Vice President Kamala Devi Harris, who is set to be nominated the party's presidential nominee, allows a Palestinian to speak on the main stage, according to media reports.

"It is unacceptable for a Palestinian person to not be accepted on stage," Abbas Alaweih, a Palestinian activist who is a delegate from Michigan, was quoted as saying.

Approximately 30 uncommitted delegates are attending the convention this week. The group has hosted daily events, pleading with the Biden-Harris administration to end the Gaza war and stop U. S. arms shipments to Israel.

On Wednesday night, the convention featured a speech by Jonathan Dekel-Chen, whose son Sagui is a hostage in Gaza. "The time is long past due to end this war," Dekel-Chen said in an interview with USA TODAY, a daily newspaper.

But no Palestinian-American was permitted to make the same case, it was pointed out.

Alaweih and other uncommitted delegates held a press conference on the sidewalk outside of the convention center not long after the parents of American hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin addressed the crowd.

Alaweih said he would remain in front of the convention center until Vice President Harris and party leaders change their minds and allow for Palestinian voices to speak about Gaza in the same way the Goldberg-Polin's were given the opportunity to speak about Hersh and call for a hostage deal.

Alaweih said that the group of uncommitted delegates "strongly supports" Israeli families on the convention programme, but he criticized the Democratic Party for not showing that Palestinian and Israeli lives were of equal value.

"We are the most powerful nation supplying billions of dollars to a country that is waging genocide against people who have been occupied, who have faced apartheid, who have been displaced," Congresswoman Ilhan Omar of Minnesota at a press conference Wednesday afternoon. "I beg Vice President Harris to not lose our democracy by not changing our policy towards Israel because the people behind me are not undemocratic."

More than 40,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been reported killed in relentless Israeli bombing since Oct. 7.

As protesters outside the convention hall struggled to make their voices heard, Alaweih said it was wrong that not a single Palestinian anti-war voice was heard on the floor.

Alaweih and a few other of the 30 uncommitted delegates then sat down outside on the street, where they were later joined by Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

"We're not going anywhere. Our movement is winning," Alaweih said. "People see their humanity in the children whose limbs are being blown off in Gaza."



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

## The Epic of Mughal Saga (III): Akbar The Invincible

On the noon of Friday, 14 February 1556, the time and date was considered astrologically auspicious, in the small town of Kalanaur on the Ravi river in Punjab, an illiterate and unruly youth of 14, Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar, was enthroned as the Mughal Emperor on a hastily built platform. Thus began, in a bleak setting, the region of the greatest ruler of Hindustan after Ashok, the celebrated Buddhist Emperor of the 3rd Century BCE.

Akbar, however, was not ready to assume such responsibility, and for the time being left the governance entirely to his guardian, Biram Khan, a polished Persian noble of exceptional ability. For 4 years Biram Khan ruled as the de facto emperor while Akbar remained behind the veil. But despite his seeming disinterest in government, Akbar was all the while observing, learning, and quietly preparing himself for the role that destiny has assigned to him.

By 1560, he was ready. That year Akbar dismissed Biram Khan from his service, and shortly thereafter, in what seemed like a ravenous earth hunger, launched a rapid series of conquests which enlarged the Mughal kingdom in India into a vast subcontinental empire. Entirely fearless, and blessed with phenomenal physical prowess and stamina, he invariably led his army from the front, impetuously plunging in where the fight was the fiercest.

Enthusiastic physicality characterized in his youth. As he grew older, however, his life became more and more austere, and he revealed himself to be a man of considerable cultural interests and insatiable intellectual curiosity. Though as a child he had stubbornly refused to learn to read

and write despite the persistent efforts of erudite father, and would remain formally illiterate all his life, he now had his officers read regularly to him from the books in the vast royal library, and in time he became quite a philosopher.

Akbar was eclectic in his taste, liberal in his outlook, and entirely open-minded, without any prejudice of race, religion or culture. In 1564, when he was twenty-two, he took the bold step of abolishing jizya, thus ending a major discrimination against Hindus in his empire. Later, he invited to his court leaders of diverse religions- Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis- and with them often held night long discussions. There was also a small group of Jesuit missionaries in his court, and he paid careful attention to their expositions as well, once even attending service in their chapel.

However, what Akbar sought was knowledge, not faith. "He is a man who makes justice the guide of the path of inquiry, and takes from every sect what is consonant with reason", he held. And it was the practical aspect of knowledge that interested Akbar.

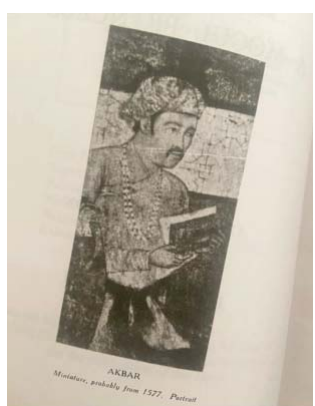
In 1582, when he was forty, Akbar took the revolutionary step -most unusual for a monarch - of founding a syncretic religious fraternity of his own called Din Ilahi (Divine Faith). "For an empire ruled by one head, it is a bad thing to have its people divided among themselves and at variance with one another", Akbar said, explaining his reason for founding the fraternity. "We ought, therefore, to bring them all; with the great advantage of not losing what is good in any one religion while gaining whatever is better in another. In this way, honour would be rendered to God, peace would be given to the people, and security to the empire".

Din Ilahi was more an elite socio-political brotherhood than a religious sect in the conventional sense. Its orientation was more towards rationalism than towards faith. It had no pantheon, no theology, no transcendental concerns. Its sole objective was to guide its followers to lead sensible, responsible lives as human beings and citizens. Religious tolerance was its bedrock. Akbar declared, "No one should be interfered with on account of his religion. Anyone should be allowed to go over to any religion he pleases".

Unfortunately, his doctrine did not survive Akbar. It could not - likes its creator, it was way ahead of its time. When Akbar died, the medieval culture of the age entombed Din Ilahi as well. However, on the whole, Akbar had a singularly fortunate career, and nearly everything in his life worked out perfectly for him - everything, except his own sons. Growing up in the remarkable shadow of the great emperor, the personalities of the princes became stunted and warped. Tow of them drank themselves to death in their youth, and his only surviving son, Jahangir, also became an alcoholic and opium addict.

Akbar in his final years was hardly the emperor, or the man, the world had known. Fortune no longer waited on his pleasure. Aggravations and misfortunes broke his once indomitable spirit, the emperor who never lost any single battle, lost on the account of his sons. His health collapsed and in October 1605, at the age of sixty-three, our beloved Emperor died, after a reign of forty-nine years.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi



### Women Safety under Threat: Urgent Action Needed To Curb Sexual Violence

The alarming rise in rape cases is becoming a severe threat to the safety of women across the globe, particularly in South Asia. Immediate and decisive action is needed to curb this disturbing trend and protect the rights and dignity of women. Despite numerous laws designed to protect women, the significant increase in sexual violence and harassment highlights the gap in our justice system. This issue transcends national boundaries and is fundamentally about the rights and status of women in society.

The recent case in Kolkata involving the rape and murder of a female trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College has raised widespread outrage and protests across India. The incident occurred on August 9, 2024, when the young doctor's body was found in a seminar hall at the hospital. She was brutally raped and tortured. The attackers reportedly confined her, inflicted physical injuries, and subjected her to extensive torture, which contributed to her death. There has been a noticeable rise in rape cases in Pakistan as well. The Lahore Motorway Gang Rape (2020), the Zainab Ansari Case (2018) and the Multan Gang Rape Case (2022) etc.

Additionally, many instances of sexual violence go unreported in the media, reflecting a larger issue of widespread, hidden abuse. There is an urgent need for comprehensive action to address and prevent rape cases. It is essential to enforce strict legal penalties, including capital punishment for the most severe

offenses, to deter potential criminals. Alongside this, improving victim support services and promoting fair justice.

Areebah Yasmeen, Multan  
 areebawarraich110@gmail.com

### Impact of Corruption on Economic development in Pakistan

Dear Editor,  
 I am writing to highlight the severe impact of corruption on Pakistan's economic development. Corruption distorts market mechanisms, leading to inefficiencies and misallocation of resources. This undermines productivity and discourages both domestic and foreign investment.

Firstly, corruption leads to economic inefficiency by distorting market mechanisms. Resources are misallocated, which hampers overall economic productivity and effectiveness. Secondly, the pervasive nature of corruption acts as a deterrent for both domestic and foreign investors, who are often discouraged by the uncertainty and additional costs associated with corrupt practices.

Moreover, corruption inflates business costs, impeding profitability and stifling economic growth. It also leads to poorly managed infrastructure projects, further delaying progress. The erosion of public trust in institutions weakens governance and deepens income inequality, benefiting only those with connections.

To address these issues, stronger anti-corruption measures, enhanced transparency, and improved accountability are essential. Effective reforms can foster a more stable economic environment, supporting sustainable growth.

I urge your publication to bring attention to this pressing issue and advocate for necessary changes.

Sincerely,

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 University of Karachi, Karachi  
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# Pakistan-Ethiopia Fraternity Park to be established in Islamabad next month

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on Friday announced to establish a dedicated park in Islamabad next month to foster fraternity and brotherhood between the two countries under the ongoing bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change.

The announcement to this effect was made during a press briefing jointly addressed by H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, H. E. Romina Khurshed Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, and H. E. Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Commissioner Islamabad.

The joint press briefing was held here at the Ethiopia Embassy Islamabad, which was followed by a tree plantation ceremony which was aimed at contributing to Ethiopia's record-breaking initiative of planting 600 million seedlings in one day under the globally recognized Green Legacy Initiative of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

Individuals from all walks of life including government officials, diplomatic community, academicians, religious and business fraternity, youth, civil society and media gathered at the Ethiopia Embassy Islamabad and planted saplings of fruits, vegetables and other species under the Green Legacy Initiative.

Addressing the press briefing, H. E. Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula expressed gratitude to the Government and the people of Pakistan for contributing to 600 million tree plantation initiative of the Government of Ethiopia.



Participants at the tree plantation ceremony.

The Ambassador recalled the launch of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity under the Green Legacy Initiative programme across Pakistan under which not only trees were planted across the country, but also Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Parks and Enclaves have also been established.

"Climate Change is no more a buzzword rather it is a reality and for that matter we all have to join our forces to deal with the looming threat which is taking more lives than any other global crises," said the Ambassador while announcing the launch of the 2nd round of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity under the

Green Legacy Initiative programme in Pakistan.

He announced that a dedicated park for Ethiopia-Pakistan friendship was being established in Islamabad in collaboration with the Climate Change Ministry and the CDA. The Ethiopian Embassy would look after the park after its establishment, he added.

Coordinator the Prime Minister on Climate Change H. E. Romina Khurshed said she and the Ambassador of Ethiopia initiated a collaboration in areas of climate change and sustainable development goals since 2022.

She recalled the launch of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Programme last year through a collaboration between her office and the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad under the Green Legacy Initiative of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, which is a laudable initiative.

"This Green Legacy initiative stands as beacon of hope for the world," she said, adding that Pakistan was looking forward to learn from the best practices of Ethiopia.

She said the Government of Pakistan was also scaling up the Green Pakistan programme which was launched under the leadership of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and received recognition



globally. The CDA Chairman appreciated Ethiopia Ambassador H. E. Jemal Beker for his efforts to tackle climate change which needed collective efforts for being a global problem.

He said the CDA would collaborate with the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad for promoting the green initiative.

The chairman highlighted selfie with plant initiative launched by the CDA to mobilize the people for plantation.

# Malaysia can help Pakistan deepen cooperation with ASEAN: High Commissioner

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia hold similar stances on key international issues, underscoring deep understanding between the two friendly countries. The elevation of Pakistan-Malaysia relationship to the level of strategic partnership in 2019, had provided a comprehensive bilateral cooperation framework that would continue reinforcing this commonality. H. E. Muhammad Azhar Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, made these remarks during his keynote address on "Fostering Multidimensional Malaysia-Pakistan

Relations in the Context of ASEAN" at the National University of Sciences & Technology. Organised by NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS), the keynote was attended by an overwhelming number of incumbent and erstwhile government functionaries, senior diplomats, veteran defence officials, academics, experts, researchers, and students. Excellency Khazhar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, also graced the occasion with his presence.

High Commissioner said that Malaysia would host ASEAN Summit 2025 under its chairmanship, opening up new vistas of growth, develop-

ment, and cooperation. The High Commissioner stressed that Pakistan had immense development potential, adding that Malaysia could help Pakistan deepen cooperation with the ASEAN community of 10 nations, comprising a population count of approx. 670 million people with over \$3 trillion in GDP. He maintained that ASEAN-Pakistan trade of nearly \$11 billion in 2022, could reach \$20 billion by 2030. The dignitary highlighted that while benefiting from the complementary strengths being natural partners for cooperation, both Malaysia and Pakistan ought to work in unison towards fostering partnerships in agri-

culture, education, IT, digital economy, capacity building, textile industry, Halal industry, tourism, green energy, and sustainable development. The keynote was followed by comments from the audience, highlighting the security, economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Earlier, Dr Osman Hasan, NUST Pro-Rector Academics, warmly greeted the High Commissioner upon his arrival at NUST. In his remarks, the Pro-Rector highlighted that Malaysia-Pakistan higher education cooperation was one of the key drivers of the long-term development of the bilateral relationship.



# Urban flooding, climate change impacts on urban centers need data-guided solutions: Experts

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a stakeholder dialogue advocating the importance of data for development, and resilience on Friday underscored that urban centers of the country are facing increasing risk of growing vulnerability due to climate disasters amid rising trends of urbanization and poor land use planning.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Forman Christian College Univer-

sity (FCCU) organised a dialogue titled 'Data for Development (D4D) Climate Change, Mega Cities and Urban Floods. Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Punjab Assembly, MPA Ahmed Iqbal says that not only policymakers but every citizen is facing the brunt of climate change.

"Climate change is a reality and it's a young people's issue as the more younger an individual is the more the impacts of climate change would be faced by him or her," he added.

Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI says plastic pollution is a crucial

part of urban flooding as in developing countries plastic bags are choking the drainage systems leading to urban flooding. "We are living in unprecedented times and witnessing abnormal rain as many megacities across the world are receiving a year's rainfall in 3-4 days.

Dr. Jonthan Addleton Rector, FCCU said data for development and decision-making is crucial amid climate change and urban flooding hazards. He mentioned that the urban flooding aspect in Lahore was common, and it was not a theoretical

issue for Pakistan as it had received disastrous floods in the past.

Tania Durrani, Development Professional at UNFPA claimed that the institute is working on core areas of population management, reproductive health, ending child marriages and gender disbalance, and reaching out to the most vulnerable groups mainly women, children, and persons with disabilities. Dr Sajid Amin, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI while introducing the D4D initiative said no development is possible without efficient data and information.

# Skills Gala 2024: A Triumph of Vision and Execution for a Skilled Pakistan and Growing IT Economy

By Tahir Amin Malik

Skills Gala 2024, Pakistan's largest tech skills and job expo, opened its doors today at the Pearl Continental Hotel Lahore to resounding success. The event, running from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on August 24th and 25th, is a testament to the unwavering dedication and vision of its founder, Ayesha Zaman, and her tireless team.

Skills Gala has rapidly evolved into a national-level platform, drawing thousands of aspiring young professionals and hundreds of leading companies from across the country. This year's event, endorsed by prestigious institutions like the Ministry

of IT, Pakistan Software Export Board, P@SHA, Prime Minister Youth Program, Punjab Information Technology Board, and many others, promises to be even bigger and better, featuring a diverse range of activities designed to bridge the talent gap and empower Pakistan's youth in the tech industry.

Ayesha Zaman, the driving force behind Skills Gala, has been lauded for her unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for young people in Pakistan. Her passion for skill development and her tireless efforts to connect talent with opportunity have made Skills Gala a beacon of hope for the nation's burgeoning tech scene.

# ISSI hosts book launch for 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of the book, 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development' edited by Dr. Rabia Akhtar and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chief Guest and Mr. Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor at the Embassy of China in Pakistan, as Guest of Honour. Distinguished reviewers included Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-i-Azam University; and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, former

CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the salience of the all-weather Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in Pakistan's foreign policy and of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its central component. He said that the CPEC, as a flagship project of BRI, connects China's western provinces through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. The project is transformative for Pakistan, addressing critical issues such as energy shortages and infrastructural deficit, and enhancing regional connectivity.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that this book emphasises CPEC's potential to drive sustainable growth. It highlights how CPEC could be transformed into

a green development initiative, aligning with global sustainability goals and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Felix Kolbitz, Country Director FES, expressed gratitude to the editor and authors of the volume and appreciated the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad for their support and collaboration.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi stated that it was difficult to come across an economic or connectivity project anywhere in recent times that evokes so many emotions and debates. In many ways, this was a function of the growing geo-political and geo-strategic tensions among major powers, where BRI and its related projects were also being targeted.

Dr. Salma Malik noted that

the book delves into the political, geostrategic, and environmental aspects of CPEC. It advocates for "Green CPEC" as part of CPEC 2.0 and emphasizes sustainable development by aligning projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN guidelines.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt focused on how one of the main aspects of CPEC has been the development of environmentally sustainable Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He recommended that the government should contribute the right policies to facilitate the private sector investment in SEZs.

Mr. Xu Hangtian, Guest of Honour at the event, said that the dedication of the authors and their detailed work have produced a masterpiece that will serve as a valuable resource on CPEC for years to come.

In his address, Chief Guest



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed recalled how China undertook massive reforms, achieved modernisation, and was now focused on 'peaceful rise.' China has the highest number of Fortune 500 companies and has helped 800 million people lifted from poverty, the biggest number in human history. He also noted that China's Belt and Road Initiative, despite being criticised

forming Pakistan's infrastructure and economy, while also looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities that lie beyond 2030.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood noted that CPEC is not an isolated phenomenon. It is the kernel of the wider Belt and Road Initiative which is the largest and most ambitious infrastructure development project in human history. The project indeed faces many challenges including opposition from many countries and requires building an effective counter narrative.

The book launch was attended by a cross-section of people including diplomats, practitioners, academics, think-tank experts, students and members of business community and the media.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,801.42	78,793.41	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,173.94	78,760.02	
Index Value	Change	
9,503,126,515	+8.01	
Percentage	Time	
+0.01%	23 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,327.78	+39.78	
Percentage	Time	
+0.48%	23 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
40,925.79	+213.01	
Percentage	Time	
+0.52%	23 Aug, 12:17 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,364.27	+153.26	
Percentage	Time	
+0.40%	23 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	189.83
Bahrain Dinar	737.2	742.29
Canadian Dollar	202.65	207.00
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	309.40	311.89
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.98	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.45	908.53
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	723.13	727.21
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.73	74.43
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	324	328.94
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.78	76.23
UK Pound Sterling	363.41	367.71
US Dollar	279.10	280

# Cutting back on Govt spending laudable: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that the government's decision to reduce expenditure is worthy of appreciation.

A reduction in government expenditure is important to revive the country's economy; without it, economic development is impossible, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that the people's condition is deteriorating due to the continuous increase in taxes, but the government's income is not improving because its expenses are continuously increasing.

Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that the continuous increase in expenditure is not only happening in the current government, but it has been going on for the last several decades, and no government has tried to reduce the expense.

Instead, all governments have increased their dependence on loans, causing the country to reach the bankruptcy threshold.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is possible to reduce people's problems only by reducing expenses, as it will produce other positive results.

He said that the PM had announced the elimination of one and a half lakh posts, the impending closure of several institutions or their mergers, and the imposition of a ban on new recruitments.

On the one hand, it has been decided to close the National Information Technology Board;



on the other hand, it has been decided to speed up the process of privatisation of institutions, which is welcome because the failed institu-

tions are causing a loss of trillions of rupees to the country every year.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, the Prime Minister has decided to increase the Gwadar port's activity and suggested that the port should handle half of the cargo, thereby alleviating the pressure on the Karachi port.

He further stated that if the government is slow to reduce its expenses and if the provinces do not cooperate, the economy and people's condition will continue to deteriorate.

Commoners, experts, and companies will continue to leave the country, and under no circumstances will the flow of capital cease.

As a result of the increase in inflation and poverty, unrest will increase, and no foreign company will be ready to invest in Pakistan, so the central and provincial governments should try their best to reduce their expenses to improve the overall situation, he demanded.

## Memento

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan is being presented with memento during his visit FPCCI Karachi on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Al-Ghazi Tractors Empowers Women in Agriculture with 'Khud Mukhtar Baa Waqar' Workshop

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Government of Sindh, proudly announces the successful completion of the transformative "Khud Mukhtar Baa Waqar" workshop, held from August 20th to 21st, with a closing ceremony on August 22nd, 2024, at Directorate Agriculture Research, Tando Jam.

This impactful two-day training brought together 43 ambitious young women, equipping them with essential skills to thrive in the agricultural sector. Through hands-on learning and practical sessions, these participants gained valuable knowledge on modern agricultural tools, particularly Al-Ghazi's range of tractors and implements, setting the stage for economic independence and sustainable farming practices in Pakistan. The closing ceremony of the event was attended by the Minister for Agriculture, Sports & Youth Affairs, Supply & Prices, Inquiries and Anti-Corruption-Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, Secretary Agriculture Sindh-Mr. Rafique A. Burero, Director General Agriculture Engineering Department-Shuhab Uddin Abro and AGTL officials.

Amna Baloch, a participant who comes from a farming background, said, "I have never received training like this before and never thought I could drive a tractor. Now, I feel excited and confident to contribute to my family's farming business."



Maham Nabeel, Head of Legal at AGTL, emphasized the importance of women's inclusion in agriculture: "Empowerment and inclusivity are more than just buzzwords—they are essential drivers of innovation and progress. In agriculture, where women are the backbone yet often overlooked, our mission is to ensure that their potential is fully realized."

The Minister of Agriculture, Anti-Corruption, Sports, and Youth Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, also addressed the event, highlighting the importance of such initiatives. He stated, "Women are the backbone of rural development, and it is crucial that we support these initiatives. We are aiming to work on policies to subsidize tractors for women,

empowering them to use these machines on their own farms or rent them out to others."

Certificates were awarded to participants, marking the successful completion of the workshop and celebrating their achievements. The event concluded with a collective commitment to continue supporting women's empowerment in agriculture.

The "Khud Mukhtar Baa Waqar" workshop reflects Al-Ghazi Tractors' ongoing dedication to driving sustainable development by empowering women in agriculture. As the agricultural landscape evolves, Al-Ghazi remains steadfast in its mission to equip women with the tools and knowledge they need to be at the forefront of this vital industry.

# Alfalalah Asset Management secures CCP approval for acquisition, strengthening market position

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the acquisition of management rights of certain funds of M/s. Faysal Asset Management Limited by M/s. Alfalah Asset Management Limited. This approval follows the execution of a Transfer of Management Rights Agreement between the two entities.

Alfalalah Asset Management Limited, a public unlisted company, is a prominent Asset Management Company (AMC) and investment advisor. The company operates under a license issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in accordance with

the Non-Banking Finance Companies (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2003.

Similarly, Faysal Asset Management Limited, also a public unlisted company, functions as an AMC and investment advisor under the regulatory framework of the SECP.

Under the terms of the Agreement, Alfalah Asset Management Limited will acquire the management rights of certain funds currently under the management of Faysal Asset Management Limited. The CCP, in its assessment, identified the relevant product market as 'Asset Management Services' and noted the horizontal nature of the transaction due to the overlap in operations between the

two entities.

Following the completion of the transaction, the market share of Alfalah Asset Management Limited is anticipated to experience a slight increase, while the market share of Faysal Asset Management Limited will correspondingly decrease. Crucially, the CCP's analysis has determined that this acquisition will not lead to market dominance by Alfalah Asset Management Limited in the relevant market.

The CCP's approval underscores its commitment to maintaining a competitive landscape in the financial services sector while ensuring sustainable growth and financial innovation in the asset management industry.

# Govt's proposed 5-Year economic plan crucial for long-term growth: Ahsan Bakhtawari

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Bakhtawari, welcomed the government's 5-year economic plan and the establishment of a high-powered committee comprising federal ministers. He emphasized the need for Focus on Agriculture, IT, and Minerals to Achieve \$60 Billion Export Target. He termed the government's actions as a precursor to the formation of long-term policies for economic recovery.

He stressed that the government's economic plan should prioritize reducing inflation, alleviating poverty, and providing employment opportunities. He also emphasized the need for consultation with all stakeholders on the economic roadmap and swift implementation of projects for the stability and growth of the national economy.

He suggested that government expenditures should be reduced and that priority actions should be taken to increase the growth potential of agriculture, livestock, information technology, foreign



investment, and small and large-scale industries.

He emphasized the need for digitalization and innovation to increase products, as well as agricultural innovation to focus on per-acre production. He also stressed the need for privatization of loss-making government institutions on a priority basis.

To achieve the government's set targets for GDP growth, exports, FBR targets, privatization plan, financial deficit control, primary balance surplus, PSDP, investment, overseas Pakistanis, and agriculture, all stakeholders need to work together. He also emphasized the need to continue the actions taken so far regarding energy reforms, expenditure reduction, farmer credit lending, and FBR digitalization.

# Artificial intelligence is reshaping talent and skills opportunities in accountancy

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Integration of AI in accountancy and finance presents both challenges and opportunities for the profession. But ACCA research suggests that while there is a need to continuously evolve the skillset and knowledge base, there are also strong foundations in place from which finance professionals can position themselves and their organisations for success in this new era.

An ACCA skills analysis of 25,000 accountancy-related jobs found that analytical and audit roles were most likely to require advanced capabilities – such as data

science knowledge – while data management skills were in greater demand for transactional roles.

Alistair Brisbane, Head of Technology Research, ACCA, said: "Data skills are always evolving and so it's no surprise to see that there is emerging demand for data science and engineering skills as well as data management skills by employers."

"That reflects the importance of data-driven decision making within organisations. But it also reflects a profession that is looking to become more pre-emptive in how we use data to solve challenges."

# SECP hosts awareness session on actuarial profession in collaboration with the Society of Actuaries

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) organized an awareness session in partnership with the Society of Actuaries (SOA) US, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of its employees. The SOA, one of the largest global actuarial bodies, educates, develops,

and regulates over 60,000 members worldwide. Actuarial professionals are pivotal in assessing, measuring, and mitigating financial risks and uncertainties, both short-term and long-term.

Mr. Zain Ibrahim, the SOA's Regional Director for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, delivered an in-depth presentation to SECP officers.

## Saeed Ghani, KATI top leadership to jointly inaugurate new GCT school



**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, will inaugurate on Saturday (today) the new charitable school of the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) in the Sharifabad area mainly to benefit the children of labourers working at the Korangi Industrial Area (KIA).

Korangi Association of Trade & Industry President, Syed Johar Ali Qandhari and KATI Deputy Patron-in-chief, Zubair Chhya, will be the guests of honour on the occasion. The event will be attended by a large number of concerned philanthropists and donors who firmly support charitable drives to enrol out-of-school children in Sindh.

The state-of-the-art school building in Sharifabad was built in just five months.

The new educational facility in the underprivileged neighbourhood of KIA will be the 17th charitable school of the GCT in Sindh having a total enrollment of over 32,199 students from the deprived families.

GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, expressed gratitude to the KIA's concerned industrialists and businessmen for extending unwavering support to his non-profit to establish new schooling facilities to enrol children of the labourers employed by them.

He said the GCT had been continuing with its educational mission continuously for the past 30 years based on the firm support from its concerned patrons and donors.

# CISM Pakistan Armed Forces tri services team won five medals

**Sports Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The 4th CISM (International Military Sports Council) World Military Cadet Games are being conducted in Caracas, Venezuela from 16-22 August 2024. Pakistan Armed Forces contingent is participating in Track, Field and shooting events only.

CISM Pakistan Armed Forces tri services team has won five medals in the event; Gold Medal in 400m race and Silver Medal in 200m race by Chief Warrant Officer Mueed Bloch, Pakistan Air Force and Bronze Medal in 5000m race and Silver Medal in 10000m race by Sep Muhammad Akhtar, Pakistan Army.

In 25 Meter pistol shooting rapid team events category, Nk Qasim Bilal, Sepoy Ismail Khan and Sepoy Muhammad Rashid of Pakistan Army won Silver Medal.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and all Services Chiefs have conveyed their heart felt congratulation to the team on their remarkable performance.



# Shadman falls shorts of century as Pakistan bowlers dominate

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Opener Shadman Islam innings led Bangladesh to finish the third day's play on 316 for five in the first Test against Pakistan at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi.

Pakistan had declared the innings on 448 for six while Bangladesh were 27 for no loss in their first innings on the second day.

Shadman was cleaned up by fast bowler Mohammad Ali after scoring an impressive and elegant 93 at Bangladesh's score of 199 for four. But the 98-run unbroken sixth wicket stand between Mushfiqur Rahim (55) and Litton Das (52) helped the tourists to reduce the first innings deficit to 132 runs with five wickets standing.

Mushfiqur's 122-ball innings is studded with seven fours, while Litton has faced 58 balls and struck eight fours and a six.

The two batters took full advantage of the tired Pakistan bowlers in the final session of an extended play by hitting some delightful strokes as the visitors added 117 runs in 26 overs.

Shadman, who featured in two Bangladesh 'A' v Pakistan Shaheens four-day matches in Darwin, Australia, faced 183 balls and struck 12 fours. It was his third half-century in 14th Test.

Bangladesh had resumed their first innings at 27 for no loss and slipped to 53



for two before Shadman and Mominul Haque rebuilt the innings with a 94-run third wicket partnership. Mominul scored 50 off 76 balls with five fours, before his off stump was sent on a walk by Khurram Shahzad, who finished the day with two for 47.

Pakistan bowlers toiled on a hot day and on a surface that didn't offer as much assistance as on the first day. Out of the 92 overs Bangladesh has faced to date, Pakistan's spinners bowled 20 overs with Saim Ayub picking up a wicket in his first over in Test cricket by dismissing Shakib Al Hasan (15).

Fast bowler Naseem Shah has been the most expensive bowler of Bangladesh's first innings to date with figures of 20-4-77-1. Shaheen Shah Afridi is

wicketless in figures of 18-3-55-0, while Mohammad Ali had figures of 15-2-42-1. Pakistan coach Azhar Mehmood said the match position is even at the moment. If we take early wickets on day 4 then we can get the match in our hands, he said.

He said the same team will be played in the second Test as well. We are playing a Test match after a gap of seven months. Our bowlers and fielding has the energy and I think everything is going in the right direction.

To a question, he said we want a wicket which can support all departments whether its spinners, batters, pacers in the second Test.

He said Shaheen Shah Afridi is playing Test cricket after a long time so

his rhythm didn't click that way but he's our best bowler and we have Naseem Shah who had also come back from injury.

He said we can only win a Test match when we will take 20 wickets and we felt we can take them by relying on our pacers. We can include a spinner or more but we need to think how we get 20 wickets, he said.

He also lauded Khurram Shahzad saying he was the pick of the bowler on Day 3. The way he trapped Shadman was a good sign on how to follow on your plan, he said.

Amir Jamal and Salman Ali Agha both are good all-rounders and Pakistan has a bright future. We have to patient and give chances to our all-rounders, he said.

Bangladesh's Mominul Haque said spinners might get some turn and bounce on the pitch. As an opposition I believe in positive thinking and Litton Das is a classic batsman and hopefully we will come strong on Day 4, he said.

Scores in brief (day 3 of 5): Pakistan (1st innings) 448-6d (Mohammad Rizwan 171 not out, Saud Shakeel 141, Saim Ayub 56, Shaheen Shah Afridi 29 not out; Hasan Mahmud 2-70, Shoriful Islam 2-77).

Bangladesh (1st innings) 316-5, 92 overs (Shadman Islam 93, Mushfiqur Rahim 55, Litton Das 52, Mominul Haque 50; Khurram Shahzad 2-47).

## Al Hussaini CC triumphs in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Al-Hussaini Cricket Club beat Shaheen Gymkhana by 31 runs in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at Asifabad Sports Ground.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Unbeaten Century 105 by Moin Khan.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricants. Scores in Brief:

Al-Hussaini Cricket Club 259 all out in 39.3 overs. Moin Khan 105 16x4 not out, Muhammad Hassan 62 11x4, Azmat Khan 36. Rizwan Yousuf 3/24, Zarak Khan 3/24.

Shaheen Gymkhana 228 all out in 37.4 overs. Haris Bin Tahir 77 14x4, Rizwan Yousuf 36 not out, Jam Jaffer 21, Zarak Khan 20. Jaffer Khan 3/45, Azmat Khan 2/33, Irfanullah 2/43, Moin Khan 2/52.

Fixture Monday 26th August

1) Late Ismail Jaffer vs Malir Sports at KCCA Stadium.  
2) SMS Gymkhana vs Recreation c.c. vs. at Eid Gah Ground Nazimabad.

3) Sun c.c vs. N. K. Rangers c.c. at Student Ground.  
4) Islam Gymkhana vs Surjani Sports at Afza Ground.

## Haider ready for 2024 Paralympics Games



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's renowned Paralympian, Haider Ali, has completed his preparations for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, and the nation is hopeful for yet another prestigious medal.

Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Muhammad Yasir Pirzada met with the celebrated Paralympian Haider Ali here at Jinnah Stadium, where they reviewed the preparations for the upcoming Paralympic Games scheduled for the end of this month in Paris, said a press release.

The DG PSB expressed his best wishes for Haider Ali's success in the upcoming event. It is worth mentioning that the PSB has established a special training camp for Haider Ali in Islamabad, providing him with airfare, daily allowances, and uniforms to ensure he is fully equipped to represent Pakistan at the highest level.

Haider Ali has made Pakistan proud on the global stage with his extraordinary achievements. His journey of success began at the 2008 Paralympic Games in China, where he won a silver medal in the long jump. For this outstanding performance, PSB awarded him a cash prize of Rs 100,000.

In 2016, Haider Ali further elevated Pakistan's reputation by winning a bronze medal in the long jump at the Paralympic Games in Brazil, earning him a cash prize of Rs. 2,500,000 from PSB.

Haider Ali's success continued at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Japan, where he won a gold medal in the discus throw, for which he was again awarded a cash prize of Rs. 2,500,000 by PSB. His achievements did not stop there; at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia, he won gold medals in javelin throw and discus throw, along with a bronze medal in the long jump, for which PSB awarded him a total cash prize of Rs. 1,100,000.

In 2019, Haider Ali won a silver medal in the discus throw at the World Para Athletics Championship in Dubai. The same year, he secured gold medals in both javelin throw and discus throw at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix Championship in China.

Haider Ali added another glorious chapter to his list of accomplishments by winning a gold medal in the discus throw at the 2023 Asian Para Games in China. His exceptional performances continue to bring pride to Pakistan.

## Al-Raed vs Al-Nassr match draws after Ronaldo's goal ruled out by referees

CR7 scores Al-Nassr's only goal as match ends up in 1-1 draw



Al-Nassr got off to an embarrassing start in the Saudi Professional League, failing to secure victory in their first match against Al-Raed on Thursday.

Cristiano Ronaldo's club were playing at home, and despite a strong start with CR7's help, Al-Nassr finished their match against Al-Raed with a 1-1 draw.

Ronaldo scored in the 35th minute, marking his 22nd goal of the year and his 50th goal in 49 games in the Saudi League.

The first half saw just one goal with Al-Nassr leading by 1-0, but just in the fourth minute of the second half, the visitors levelled the score.

Ronaldo struck again in the 75th minute but the goal was attempted from the offside so it was ruled out by the match referees.

The decision was deemed unfair by the football club's manager Luis Castro.

"The cancellation of Ronaldo's goal was incorrect, and we should have been awarded a penalty kick that wasn't given," he stated in the post-match conference.

Al-Nassr are on a cold streak as they have recently lost to Al-Hilal in the Diriyah Super Cup final by 4-1, with Ronaldo scoring the only goal for his team.

# The Millennium Education Triumphs at the World Robotics Olympiad 2024 Regional Round

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education Group is proud to announce a significant victory at the regional round of the World Robotics Olympiad 2024, held at NASTP Lahore and NASTP Karachi last day says a press release. Competing against top schools from across the nation, The Millennium Education's teams—Tech Titans, Robo Legends, and Robo Kings—emerged victorious in all three categories: Robomission Elementary, Junior, and Senior. Their stellar performance has earned them a place in the national finals and the honour of representing Pakistan at the international competition in Izmir, Turkey, this November.

The World Robotics Olympiad (WRO) is a globally renowned competition that challenges young minds to showcase their robotics and engineering skills through creative problem-solving. Founded in 2004, WRO has grown to become one of the most prestigious robotics competitions worldwide, with participants from over 95 countries. The competition features several categories, including Robomission, where participants design, build, and program robots to complete specific tasks autonomously, testing both their technical skills and strategic thinking.

The 2024 regional round of WRO in Pakistan saw participation from leading educational institutions, including Aitchison College Lahore, Roots Millennium Education Group, Beaconhouse School, Lahore Grammar School, Nexor College and many others. Despite the tough competition, The Millennium Education's three teams: Tech Titan, Robo Legends and Robo Kings distinguished themselves by excelling across all three categories. Tech Titans competed in the Robomission Elementary category,



showcasing a robot capable of executing a series of precise tasks. Robo Legends participated in the Robomission Junior category, impressing judges with their innovative solutions. Robo Kings took on the Senior category, demonstrating advanced robotics skills and strategic prowess. All three teams won their respective categories, securing the highest scores and qualifying for the national finals. Their success at both the Lahore and Karachi events underscores the strength of The Millennium Education's STEM Robotics Programme (STEM-R) and its commitment to fostering excellence in STEM education. The Millennium Education has long been at the forefront of providing a world-class education that prepares learners for the challenges of the 21st century. The institution's STEM Robotics Programme (STEM-R) is central to this mission, offering learners

hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology and a curriculum that is continuously updated to reflect the latest advancements in STEM education. "Our victory at the WRO regional round is a testament to the uniqueness and effectiveness of our STEM Robotics Programme," said Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, CEO of The Millennium Education Group Pakistan. "We are deeply committed to equipping our learners with 21st-century skills and preparing them to solve real-world problems. This achievement highlights our dedication to providing a future-focused education that empowers our learners to lead and innovate."

The success of The Millennium Education's teams at WRO 2024 highlights the impact of the institution's STEM-R programme. By integrating state-of-the-art technology and offering a

curriculum that is both challenging and engaging, The Millennium Education is ensuring that its learners are well-prepared for the demands of the modern world. As The Millennium Education's teams prepare for the international round of the WRO in Izmir, Turkey, the entire Millennium Education (ME) community stands united in support. Competing on a global stage will provide The Millennium Education's learners with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their skills and represent Pakistan with pride. This achievement not only elevates the status of The Millennium Education Pakistan but also serves as an inspiration to other institutions striving to integrate STEM education into their curricula. The Millennium Education's success at the WRO regional round is a clear demonstration of the power of a well-rounded, future-focused education.

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## District Education Performance Index Launched

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott jointly launched the "District Education Performance Index" on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Chinese premier says to promote high-level development of China-Belarus bilateral partnership

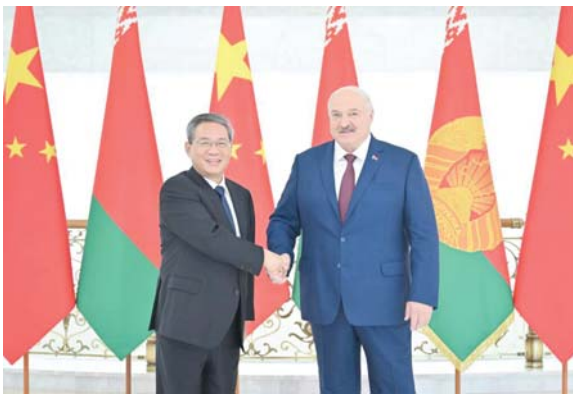
Xinhua

MINSK: Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here Thursday that China stands ready to work with the Belarusian side to push for the high-level development of their all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership.

Li made the remarks while meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko at the Palace of Independence in Minsk.

Li conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to Lukashenko. Li said that China-Belarus relations, regardless of how the international situation changes, have always shown vigor and vitality since the establishment of diplomatic ties 32 years ago.

The two sides adhere to mutual benefit and common development, and their practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results and brought



tangible benefits to the two peoples, Li noted, pointing out that the two heads of state met in Astana this July and made strategic arrangements on deepening bilateral relations.

China is willing to work with Belarus to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, continuously consolidate political mutual trust,

deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and push for the high-level development of the China-Belarus all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership to better benefit the two peoples, Li said.

Noting that China will continue to firmly support Belarus in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions, Li said that China

stands ready to further synergize development strategies with Belarus, solidly advance cooperation in various fields, steadily expand trade scale, effectively implement projects such as the China-Belarus Industrial Park, and continuously deepen people-to-people exchanges.

Li also said that China is willing to further strengthen multilateral cooperation with Belarus, jointly promote the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, promote the development of the global governance system towards a more just and reasonable direction, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

Lukashenko asked Li to convey his sincere greetings to Xi. Noting the two countries

have always firmly supported each other on major issues concerning each other's core interests, he said that the Belarus-China relations are enjoying a strong momentum of development and are at an all-time high.

The Belarusian side sincerely appreciates China's long-term selfless assistance to its economic and social development, Lukashenko said, adding that Belarus stands ready to maintain close high-level exchanges with China, deepen practical cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture, science and technology.

Belarus is willing to actively participate in the important global initiatives proposed by President Xi and make greater progress of the Belarus-China all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership, said Lukashenko.

## Report of ICJ on Israel's racial segregation, apartheid confirms Palestinian claim

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine welcomes the Report of the ad hoc conciliation commission on the inter-State communication submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel for violations of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The Commission confirmed the findings of the ICJ that the prohibition of racial discrimination is a peremptory norm and that Israel, the occupying Power, is in violation of its obligations under CERD and is imposing a situation of racial segregation and apartheid over the Palestinian



people and throughout the entirety of Palestine, based on race, colour, decent, and ethnic origin. The Commission also confirmed that all of

Israel's discriminatory policies and practices, including restriction of movement, theft of natural resources and land, and denial of basic funda-

mental rights, housing, education... in the State of Palestine are aimed at advancing its colonization of Palestine which makes it impossible to

ensure equality. The Commission also confirmed that right of the Palestinian people to self-determination is critical to ensure equality and sustainable peace and the importance of combatting impunity for Israel's racial segregation and apartheid policies.

The State of Palestine reiterates the request of the Commission that the international community, including the Security Council, has a role to end Israel's racial segregation and apartheid. States Parties of CERD have international responsibility and a duty to enforce the Convention, not to sponsor or be complicit in Israel's apartheid, and eradicate racial discrimination.

## Trade Council on Pharmaceuticals, Chemical Sectors held at TDAP HQ

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Two separate sectoral councils Meetings on Pharmaceuticals and Chemical Sectors were organized at TDAP HQ on Friday Aug 23, 2024.

Under Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF 2022-25), 16 sectoral councils were formed of different export oriented sectors on March 31, 2022.

From these 16 different sectors, two potential sectors are Pharmaceuticals and Chemical Industries who were

invited for meetings in TDAP.

These sectoral meetings were chaired by the Honorable Minister for Commerce, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan and other senior officers from Commerce Ministry, DRAP, Pakistan Customs. Key officials in attendance included Mr. Saeed Mangnejo, Special Secretary for Commerce; Mr. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of TDAP; Mr. Muhammad Ashraf, Executive Director General of Ministry of Commerce; Mr. Azhar Ali Dahar, Director General of the Engi-



neering & Minerals Division; Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Langah Director of the Engineering & Minerals Division; and Mr. Muhammad Yousuf, Assistant Manager and Secretary for the Sectoral Council.

The chairmen and council members on Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics were invited at TDAP HQ Sectoral Council on Pharmaceuticals to deliberate upon export enhancement strategies and main challenging areas which need to be addressed at policy level under federal government.

## UK expands eVisas to new biometric customers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The UK immigration system is going digital, meaning physical documents will be replaced with an online immigration status.

Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs), vignette stickers in passports or 'wet ink stamps' are among some of the physical documents that will no longer be needed. If you are granted a visa to stay in the UK for longer than 6 months – for example to work or study – you will now need to create a UKVI online account to access your eVisa. The account acts as an online record of your immigration status. For those granted a visa to stay in the UK for less than 6 months, for example as a tourist, you do not need to create a UKVI account.

High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMB OBE said "We are constantly innovating to make it easier for Pakistanis to travel to the UK. This new use of technology will streamline a key part of the visa process, make it

more secure and reduce the dependence on paper documents."

The process is free, secure, and straightforward. You can find out more, including how to create an account, on our website: gov.uk/eVisa. You must not travel to the UK until you have received your passport and valid UK visa back from the Visa Application Centre (VAC). Updating a physical document to an eVisa does not affect your immigration status or the conditions of your permission to enter or stay in the UK.

Upon arrival in the UK you will still be required to collect a BRP. All BRP cards are valid until 31 December 2024, but the expiry of your BRP card does not affect your immigration status. You can use your BRP card to create your UKVI account and access your eVisa. You should continue to carry your BRP until it expires, and take your BRP and your passport when travelling overseas to prove your permission to return to the UK.

## Interior Minister determines to take action against attackers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has pledged to take stern action against the attackers who killed 12 police personnel in the Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan.

Presiding over a high-level meeting at Rahim Yar Khan Airport on Friday, Naqvi emphasized the need for robust security measures and instructed authorities to equip operational forces with modern weapons and safety equipment.

Naqvi described the incident as a "sad tragedy" and directed all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

He ordered a coordinated opera-



tion against the perpetrators, stating that they would be dealt with "iron hands."

## SC issues written order in 21 year old murders case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday issued written order on an appeal in case of two murders of Wazirabad, Punjab.

It said that it is apologetic for the delay of 6 years in deciding the appeal from the Shariat Appellate Bench.

The accused Imran Alias Mani was accused of double murder and adultery 21 year back. The Supreme Court Shariat Appellate Bench acquitted the accused on the basis of lack of evidence.

The order said that the top court has admitted the appeal on September 18, 2018.

The judges should know their duties to deliver justice, unfortunately the Shariat Bench of the Supreme Court remained inactive for a long time.

The court said that there is no scope in the Constitution for the Shariat Bench of the Supreme Court to remain inactive.

The order states that judges must be available to hear criminal cases even during the summer vacation.

## Govt appears to be beneficiary of enforced disappearances: IHC



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) expressed serious concerns regarding the ongoing disappearance of two brothers of PTI leader, Azhar Mashwani, during a hearing on Tuesday. Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked that the government appears to be the beneficiary of enforced disappearances, as people vanish without a trace and the Chief Executive takes no action.

The court heard the petition filed by Azhar Mashwani's father, seeking the recovery of his two missing sons, who have been missing since June. The Additional Attorney General, Manzoor Iqbal Dogal, and the petitioner's lawyer, Babar Awan, appeared before the court.

Justice Aurangzeb questioned the progress made in the investigation, to which the Additional Attorney General responded that high-level contacts had been made and efforts were ongoing.

Babar Awan, in his arguments, highlighted the lack of clarity regarding the definition of "national interest" in Pakistani law. He argued that while laws address sedition and incitement, they fail to define what constitutes "national interest." He expressed confidence that the missing brothers would be recovered.

The Punjab Police, represented by the SP, informed the court that they had received CCTV footage from the family, but the low resolution prevented identification through NADRA or forensic analysis.