



**Iran will seek to 'manage tensions' with US: FM Abbas Araqchi**

Iran's new government will seek to "manage tensions" with its arch-enemy the United States to help reduce pressure and neutralise crippling sanctions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said. "What we have to do is manage the tensions and hostilities" between Tehran and Washington, he said in an interview late Friday on state television. Iran and the United States have had no diplomatic relations since 1980.



**NDMA issues flood warning amid heavy rain forecast in Sindh, Punjab**

The National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) on Saturday issued warning to relevant departments to stay alert in anticipation of torrential rains in Sindh and Punjab from August 26 to 29. "A strong system is active over parts of Sindh and may result in heavy downpour in short duration while in most parts of the Punjab isolated rainfalls are expected intermittently," it stated.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Electronic Procurement, e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System/e-PADS on Saturday.



Photo: Online

**PM directs for third party validation of development projects worth over Rs 2 bn**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the relevant authorities to conduct third party validation of all the development projects worth of over Rs 2 billion.

Chairing a review meeting regarding Electronic Procurement, e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System/e-PADS at the PM House, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to ensure third party validation to make the grievances and concerns redressal system effective in relation to the procurement process.

The grievance redressal system with respect to procurement process should not be under the procuring agency, he said. He also directed measures for amendments in the rules and regulations in this regard.

He said the government was taking measures to introduce transparent procedures for all types of government purchases.

The prime minister expressed anger over delay in implementation of the project and also showed concerns over its quality. He also ordered to complete the project within a month.

In the meeting, the prime minister was also briefed on e-procurement.

He was told that the e-procurement project was launched by Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in 2017 with World Bank funding worth USD 45 million.

The prime minister was informed that e-procurement had been implemented in 37 ministries and 301 procuring agencies of the federal government.

PPRA has so far trained some 8,988 officials of procuring agencies.

Furthermore, it was told that federal government's e-procurement volume was about Rs 1551 billion.

MoUs have also been signed with the governments of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir regarding e-procurement, the meeting was informed.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, PM's Coordinator Rana Ihsaan Afzal and other relevant high officials.

**PTA warns of 'telecom blackout', ATMs closure across Pakistan**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has warned that the non-renewal of licenses for Long-Distance International (LDI) operators may disrupt mobile and internet services and ATMs in the country.

According to a PTA document, 50% of mobile traffic and 10% of internet traffic likely to be affected by the licenses issue.

The document stated that several mobile towers may go out of service, and 40% of ATMs may stop working. The global traffic coming to Pakistan may also be impacted as shifting services to other operators may affect global communications.

The issue revolves around a dispute between telecom companies and the Ministry of IT over the payment of dues.

The ministry's steering committee has also failed to formulate a plan for the payment of dues, and the PTA has made the renewal of licenses conditional on the payment of these dues.

Furthermore, licenses for 3-4 LDI companies have already expired, and some others will expire in a few months. However, companies have approached the court to keep their services operational.

The document revealed that 9 telecom companies owe Rs. 24 billion to the Ministry of IT and Rs. 54 billion in late payment surcharges.

**Nearly 10mn Pakistanis left country since 2008**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Nearly 10 million Pakistanis have left the country in search of better opportunities abroad over the last 17 years, with the highest number of emigrants recorded during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) tenure from 2013 to 2018, a report issued by the Pulse Consultant read.

According to the report titled 'An Overview of Pakistani Emigration Patterns', a total of 9,556,507 persons emigrated from Pakistan over the last 17 years.

The year 2015 saw the peak of the migration wave, with over 900,000 individuals departing Pakistan in search of jobs. However, by 2018, this number sharply declined by 60 percent, with only around 300,000 people



emigrating for jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted migration trends, with a surge in numbers observed in 2022 as restrictions eased. The number of emigrants rose to around 800,000 in 2022 and 2023.

Interestingly, the proportion of highly skilled individuals emigrating has risen to 5 percent since 2022, compared to the previous rate of 2 percent. However, the majority of those leaving the country in the last two years have been blue-collar workers and labour class, with 46

percent being unskilled labourers, up from 41 percent during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) tenure.

Significant shifts have also been observed in migration destinations and job opportunities. While Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, and Qatar have traditionally been the top destinations for Pakistani job seekers, the post-COVID landscape shows a significant shift. The UAE saw a sharp decline in Pakistani workers, while Saudi Arabia experienced substantial growth.

The UK, Iraq, and Romania have also gained prominence as attractive destinations for Pakistani emigrants during the post-COVID period. This mass exodus raises concerns about the brain drain and the impact on Pakistan's economy and workforce.

**PTI fostering disruptive politics: Tarar**

LAHORE, AUG 24 (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar has strongly criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its founder, accusing them of fostering politics of disruption in the country.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, he referred to the PTI as "Tehreek-e-Inteshar" (Disruption Party), alleging that the party had engaged in activities detrimental to national interests.

"The Tehreek-e-Inteshar has consistently propagated against our national institutions and has never hesitated to damage the country's interests," said Tarar. He claimed that the PTI's founder divided society and incited people against one another, leading to internal conflicts within the party itself.

The minister also touched upon internal strife within the PTI, mentioning that the party was now engulfed in internal divisions. He alleged that Aleema Khan, sister

of the PTI founder, had informed Rauf Hassan that Bushra Bibi, the wife of the PTI founder, was spreading false news.

"Bushra Bibi is spreading a false narrative for sympathy," Tarar quoted Aleema as saying. He also highlighted the existence of various factions within the PTI, claiming that disinformation cells were actively operating within the party.

"One disinformation cell was run by Rauf Hassan and Aleema Khan, while another

was being managed by Bushra Bibi," he said. He emphasised that these internal divisions were symptomatic of the chaos and discord within the party.

Tarar concluded by warning that the politics of hatred and division never end well, and noted that efforts to harm the country for political gains were ongoing. "The party of those who engage in the politics of hatred and division is itself in disarray," he added.

**President Zardari visits Fazlur Rehman's residence**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at the latter's residence in Islamabad, ARY News reported.

President Zardari's meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman is currently underway as both leaders are discussing the country's political situation and matters of mutual interest, the sources said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi is also present on the occasion.

It is important to note that the president's meeting with the JUI-F chief is being held a day after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) delegation called

on Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Earlier on Friday, a delegation of PTI met with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman, seeking cooperation once again, ARY News reported citing sources.

Both parties are mulling to end differences and explore possibilities of collaboration, the sources privy to the development said.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the formation of committees to facilitate joint efforts. PTI reportedly requested in-house cooperation within the Parliament, expressing their stance that they could give the government a tough time if the two parties worked together.

**Deadly blast in Pishin claims young lives**

**Bureau Report**

QUETTA: A devastating explosion in Balochistan's Pishin district has claimed the lives of two children and injured 14 others, according to police officials.

The blast occurred near a police line in the city, with the injured individuals, including policemen, being rushed to the hospital. Some of the victims are said to be in critical condition.

Medical superintendent of Pishin Hospital, Dr. Wakeel Sherani, confirmed that 13 of the wounded were transferred to the hospital in Quetta for further treatment. The bodies of the two deceased children and one of the injured are being held at the Pishin Hospital.

Spokesperson for the Balochistan government expressed regret over the tragic loss of life, condemning the "terrorist incident" that led to this devastating loss.



This incident comes just months after two separate explosions in Balochistan in February, which killed 26 people and injured 50 others, targeting election candidates ahead of the general elections.

The Pishin blast reportedly took place outside the political office of an independent candidate, Asfand Yar Khan Kakar, in the Khanozai area. Authorities are currently investigating the cause and circumstances surrounding this latest attack.

This heartbreaking incident serves as a grim reminder of the ongoing challenges and threats faced by the people of Balochistan, as the province continues to grapple with the scourge of terrorism and violence.

**Utility stores being restructured to ensure subsidy to right people: Rana Tanveer**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Saturday that utility stores were being restructured to benefit the public in a more effective manner.

Talking to the media after inaugurating the 9th Colour and Chem Exhibition here at Expo Centre, he added that political stability is inevitable for economic development. Inflation has reduced due to the positive measures of the government, while the tax system is being simplified to restore the confidence of taxpayers and the investors, he mentioned and cited that during the previous government of the PML-N, the inflation and prices of everything

were well in control and the country's economy was in a position of take-off.

He said that government is restructuring the utility store to pass the benefits of subsidy on to the people in a transparent manner, asserting, "we are improving this system as there were complaints that the benefits of the subsidy are not reaching the right people fully, some employees are involved in it and the names of some officers are also in it who were taking the subsidy, so it was necessary to bring reforms, we are trying to provide the subsidy to the deserving".

Rana Tanveer said that the government was striving to get the country's economy on its feet again, and because of the positive measures taken

# CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz strongly condemns robbers attack on police convoy in Kacha Area Rahim Yar Khan

Asim Tanveer / Usman Shahid

RAHIM YARK HAN: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reached Rahim Yar Khan herself to boost the morale of the police. She Said Punjab Government Strongly Condemn the Robbers Attack on Police Convoy.

In District Rahim Yar Khan kacha Area, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Visited the Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan and visited the injured policemen in the attack of dacoits in Kacha Area incident. She prayed for the recovery of Waseem Arshad, Bilal, Farooq, Nabil Shehzad, Zahid, Saeed and Muhammad Ayub who were injured in the Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yarkhan.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also met the parents and families of the injured Police Men and Police

Officials. The injured Police Man Bilal expressed his determination and said that morale is high, congratulated Bilal and called him proud.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that the policemen are like brothers and sons. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also listened to the doctor and staff of the hospital and directed to solve the problem and Very Good Treatment Provide to the injured Brave Police Mens. Later, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz met the families of the martyrs at DPO office Rahim Yar Khan.

The police martyrs included Muhammad Imran, Rashid, Sajid, Ahmed, Zahid, Muneer, Nazer Abbas, Anas Sattar and Abdullah. The three Hindu Young Police Men Ajay Ram, Bairam Ram and Raja Kanwal. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met the parents, families and children of the



martyrs and prayed for forgiveness for the martyrs. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif consoled the bereaved families of the police martyrs, encouraged and hugged the crying widow.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif loved the young children of the martyred official and said that they will rectify the mistake and there will be no such incident in the future. She said that every martyrs is a hero of the nation. The bereaved family will be fully supported by Punjab Government.

Children of martyrs will be given free education, house and job. There are no words to describe the grief of the martyrdom of the policemen in the attack of robbers. Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif asked me to immediately go to the bereaved families as soon as I got the information.

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments cell of the CDA had demolished 200 chambers on the order of Supreme Court.



Photo: Online

## Punjab police spokesman says two terrorists killed in fierce encounter with police

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Punjab Police thwarted another attack by Khawarji terrorists in Dera Ghazi Khan Tehsil Taunsa Sharif.

According to the spokesperson of Punjab Police He Said two terrorists were killed in a fierce encounter between the Punjab Police and the terrorists. In the encounter, the terrorists used hand grenades and other heavy weapons.

SHO Wahowa Police Station Taunsa Sharif Sadiq Burmani, Police Officer Nazir were injured in the fierce exchange of fire.

Four attacks by Kharij terrorists on the check posts on the border of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa failed.

In view of the threats of terrorism, the check posts on the border of Punjab Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were on high alert.

Intelligence agencies had received information about the entry of terrorists into Punjab. Dr Usman Anwar Inspector General Of Punjab Police Said. SHO Wahwa along with the team chased these terrorists.

Seeing the police in front, the motorcycle-riding terrorists attacked the police with hand grenades and other heavy weapons. IG Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police personnel armed with bullet-proof vehicles, helmets and jackets immediately retaliated. Backup teams of police and elite force also reached the spot immediately.



## CEO CBD Punjab Assesses Walton Road Upgradation



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Imran Amin, CEO of the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), chaired a high-level meeting to assess the progress of the Walton Road Upgradation Project. Following the meeting, he conducted an on-site visit to Pakistan's premier and largest IT hub, CBD NSIT City, to review the ongoing construction of the Celestia IT Tower and associated roadworks.

The progress review meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab Riaz Hussain, Director Construction CBD Punjab Asif Babar, Project Director NLC Brigadier (R) Umar Farooqi, senior officials from NLC, NESPAK, and the official contractors.

During the meeting, CEO Imran Amin was briefed on the status of projects. Significant advancements have been made to the Walton Road Upgradation Project. The completion of the ADA Nullah connection with the newly constructed ADA Nullah has resulted in a significant drop in the water level, reducing it by 4 feet. The shuttering for the major Ishaq Shaheed Flyover has been successfully removed, and the water-bound on both carriageways has reached 70% completion. The asphalt work on the junction of CBD Route 47 and Walton Road is set to commence shortly.

In CBD NSIT City, the construction of the Celestia IT Tower is progressing at a steady pace. Excavation work has reached a depth of 50 feet, and ground lean work is currently underway. Road and infrastructure developments around the tower are also in full swing.

## GCWUF achieves remarkable milestones under leadership of Dr. Zill-i-Huma



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Under her visionary leadership, the university has witnessed significant advancements in administrative efficiency, infrastructure development, and academic excellence. Prof. Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazli's extensive experience in the education sector has been instrumental in transforming GCWUF. Before assuming the role of Vice Chancellor, she held several important administrative positions, including Director of Advanced Studies, Coordinator of Science and Technology, and Registrar of GCWUF. Significant infrastructure projects were completed under her supervision, including the renovation of the university campus and new construction projects. The development at the new campus has accelerated, with the construction of a 2.1 km road providing direct access to the campus, the demarcation of 41.5 acres of land, and resolution of local construction issues. The university successfully cultivated wheat and canola on 40 acres of land at the new campus, enhancing university resources and potential future trade opportunities.

# Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference declares Nila Butt as birthplace of Pakistan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

NILA BUTT: Addressing the 77th Nila Butt Day historic ceremony, President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan runs as blood in our body, Pakistan is our coming. There is a safe future for the future generations, Kashmir will become the slogan of Pakistan.

The unconditional support of Pakistan has been taught by Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan which will not be compromised.

One million Indian troops in Occupied Kashmir is proof that the freedom movement is close to success. Kashmir will become Pakistan. The Army Chief has spoken of shedding the last drop of blood for the completion of Pakistan. It is the place from where Mian Nawaz Sharif declared Pakistan to be a nuclear country, whether it is the independence movement or the nuclear state, it was announced from Nila Butt. Given to us by our forefathers, the current Nila Bat is being celebrated under special circumstances. Before that, we faced a very difficult time. Then Saqib Majeed, a young man of the Muslim Conference, got up and raised the flag and kissed it, then raised it and the Muslim Conference took out Pakistan Zindabad rallies and gave the message that the Muslim Conference is the only party which is the protector of the flag of Pakistan. No one can get rid of Muzaffarabad. Neela Butt's day is also Martyrs' Day, it is also Mujahid e Awwal Day and Kashmir Azadi Movement Day. This day is sad. The Muslim Conference is still standing with the slogan of Mujahid eAwwal. We are hopeful. That the armed forces of Pakistan will never leave Kashmir alone, weak economy is not our problem, but if the army is weak, the state will be weak and its situation will be like Libya, Egypt and Iraq. General Zia-ul-Haq had said in Kotli



that if he joined any party after the retired minute, it would be the Muslim Conference and I consider Mujahid e Awwal as my leader and peer and mentor. He is the ideological protector of Pakistan. Muslim conference was weakened after Act 74 and Shimla agreement. They ask the powerful forces to collect all the units of patriotic forces. Divide the four provinces of Pakistan into more provinces. The idea of annexation of Pakistan in Azad Kashmir Set up the ministry does not demand power, but the heart is satisfied that power is knocking at the door of the Muslim Conference

Conference workers stood as soldiers against the anti-army propaganda on social media

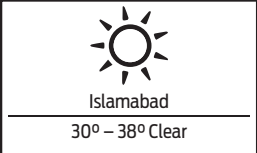
The bodies of young soldiers are rising every day for our freedom and cannot forget these sacrifices

in the end, he thanked all the participants. Azad Kashmir Education Minister Dewan Ali Khan Chaghtai, while addressing the Nila Butt Day ceremony, said that I consider myself the inheritor of the ideals of Mujahid eAwwal. I have a spiritual and emotional connection with Nila Butt. Currently, the state is going through a difficult time. Efforts are being made to attack Pakistan's geographical areas. I pay tribute to the soldiers of Pakistan. They are the inheritors of ideological borders. They are political people who have to protect the ideology of Mujahid eAwwal. We will not disturb anyone's ideology. But if someone teases our ideology, we will not leave it, even if millions of heads are cut off, we will never compromise on the ideology of annexation of Pakistan and Mujahid e Awwal's slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and his The

people of the caravan are still standing with the ideology to whom I salute. The government minister also raised slogans of the armed forces of Pakistan, Zinbad Mujahid ol Zinda Kashmir Banega Pakistan. He said that Kashmiris are fighting for the completion of Pakistan. Sisters are fighting for the movement by laying down their honor, young men are giving their lives, their blood is a debt to us, we will not let the blood of the martyrs go in vain.

Addressing the event, former President of the Muslim Conference Mirza Shafiq Jaral Advocate said that Mujahid I and his colleagues liberated this region by starting the movement with Neela Butt and then determined the direction of the Kashmiris by raising the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan. The conference never cared about power and always raised the slogan of Mujahid e Awwal. Kashmiris will continue to raise the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan till their last breath.

Speaking at the ceremony, Saqib Majeed, the chief organizer of the Muslim Conference, said that we will fulfill the responsibility assigned to us by Mujahid e Awwal by giving the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan. Muslim Conference is the ideological army of the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan The idea of the conference is the safe future of the people of the state. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan supported Pakistan and the armed forces of Pakistan in the most difficult situations. Dia, some people of Pakistan weakened the Muslim Conference by strengthening their parties here, but when it came to the flag of Pakistan, the Muslim Conference offered its chest and secured it. The forces of Pakistan have to understand that the Muslim Conference is the only It is the only party that can fight the war for complete Pakistan from Kashmir. The power has been taken away from us and will change the Muslim Conference from a majority party to a minority party.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:08 am  
Zohr ..... 12:10 pm  
Asr ..... 4:51 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:43 pm  
Isha ..... 8:11 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**RDA issues notices to seven illegal housing schemes**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has issued notices to the owners of seven illegal housing schemes. According to RDA spokesman, the Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate RDA issued notices to the owners of seven illegal housing schemes namely Gilgit City in mouza Kohala, Mehmood Town (K & M Construction and Developers (Pvt) Ltd. in mouza Misriot, Hamdard City in mouza Dheri, Top View City in mouza Piswal, Wanni in Tehsil Taxila, Green Hurltus in mouza Chakri, illegal Land Subdivision near Gandhara City and Farm Land Estate located in mouza Adyala near DHA, Tehsil and District Rawalpindi for illegally marketing and booking of plots. The spokesperson informed that the Director General RDA, Kinza Murtaza had directed the MP&TE Directorate to take strict action against illegal advertisements/marketing and First Information Reports (FIRs) should also be lodged against the owners of illegal housing schemes.

**BISP enhances financial support to alleviate economic hardships for poor families: Senator Rubina Khalid**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), has emphasized that the BISP is providing additional financial support to alleviate the economic difficulties of poor families. She stated that the program reflects the vision of Shaheed Mohterma Benazir Bhutto to economically empower the women of Pakistan, a vision she championed even during her exile in Dubai. Thanks to this program, the most vulnerable women in the country have gained recognition and support. Senator Rubina Khalid expressed these views during her speech at the women's Khuli Katcheri in Azakhil Bala, Nowshera.



Senator Rubina Khalid urged the women to visit the BISP offices to collect their payments only after receiving a confirmation message from 8171. She highlighted the importance of having essential documents such as the National Identity Card (NIC) issued by NADRA and the Form B for children to enroll in the program. In the event of any deductions, she advised contacting the BISP helpline at 0800-26477 or visiting the nearest BISP tehsil office.

She further mentioned that BISP provides educational scholarships to the children of deserving families under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme, with a special focus on scholarships for girls. Additionally, a unique skill development program is being launched to enhance the socio-economic status of deserving women and their family members.

Later, Senator Rubina Khalid visited Tehsil Katlang in Mardan, where she addressed a public gathering. She shared that, as per the instructions of President Asif Ali Zardari, the scope of the BISP is being expanded to include more deserving households. She emphasized that the aim is for eligible women to receive their payments with dignity and respect, without any deductions.

**Security arrangements**

ISLAMABAD: Authorities seal off procession routes on the occasion of Jaloos-e-Chehlum of Imam Hussain AS in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Record Results Bring Hope of Bright Future at AKHS Hyderabad**

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

HYDERABAD: "Aga Khan Higher Secondary School Hyderabad is making headlines after its three students earned remarkable success in the annual Higher Secondary School examinations held under the auspices of Aga Khan University Board. Sadia Shafi Khowaja, hailing from Tando Bago town in Badin district, secured the first position at the country level with 1060 marks out of 1100 in the pre-medical group exams. Kinza Nawaz of the same school from the pre-engineering group stood on top followed by Sahi Kumar who became provincial-topper in the AKU-EB examinations. The results have brought joy not only on the faces of the faculty members but also on the fellow students who believe that they have a bright future ahead. They disclosed their journey



to success saying teachers played a vital role in their success besides their parents who provided them moral support. Executive Head of the school Mr Shahriyar Bhutto said that he always provided his students a favorable environment in the school. Student Sahil Kumar said that he has also represented his school in sports events that gave him a lot of encouragement. He vowed to serve his country in future with outright dedication. The family of country-topper Sadia Shafi moved to Hyderabad around a decade ago from Tando Bago in search of a bright future and finally the efforts of Sadia paid off. Executive Head Shahriyar Bhutto urged concerned authorities to facilitate bright students.

**Traffic chief attends 'Rabita' program to address city traffic issues**

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Chief Traffic Officer Sardar Mavarhan Khan participated in the Press Club's "Rabita" program at the invitation of Multan Press Club President Shakeel Anjum. Upon his arrival at the Multan Press Club, Sardar Mavarhan Khan was welcomed with a bouquet by Shakeel Anjum, Senior Journalists Nasir Mahmood Sheikh, Ejaz Tareen, Imran Arshad, Babar Chaudhry, and other journalists. Shakeel Anjum welcomed Chief Traffic Officer Sardar Mavarhan Khan to the Rabita program and emphasized

the need for the police to work seriously to solve traffic issues. He also stressed the importance of traffic education in educational institutions. During the program, Sardar Mavarhan Khan stated that traffic laws are not followed in rural areas, leading to violations when people come to the city, which then creates problems. He mentioned that new roads are being built in the city, and these issues will soon be resolved. He acknowledged that Multan is a historic city and that in the past, roads and flyovers were built without proper consideration of traffic needs. There

are 23 narrow points in the city where traffic problems persist. He added that traffic police will prepare a report in consultation with all relevant departments and submit it to the government, highlighting the need for enforcement of traffic laws. He further explained that certain measures must be implemented, but taking strict action can sometimes disturb the peace. Maintaining peace while enforcing the law is a fundamental function of the police. Regarding the issuance of licenses, he announced good news for the people of Multan: the previously high fines have

been reduced. Instead of fining violators, they will be issued a license. The process for obtaining a license has been made very easy, with counters set up in various locations, including service centers, to facilitate citizens. Although traffic signals have been installed in Multan, they are not operational. Steps will be taken to make them functional by coordinating with all relevant departments. He appealed to the people of Multan to obtain as many licenses as possible. The traffic police are also planning to establish driving training schools where citizens can learn to drive at a very reasonable cost.

**Rawalpindi High Court Bar Association Embarks on a Revolutionary Digital Journey with wooqlaw.com**



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's Lawyer Community to Boost Foreign Remittances: Rawalpindi High Court Bar Association Embarks on a Revolutionary Digital Journey with Wooqlaw.com

In an exciting leap towards modernizing the legal sector, the Rawalpindi High Court Bar Association has proudly signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wooqlaw.com, Pakistan's foremost IT firm specializing in legal technology. This landmark agreement, signed by the Bar's dynamic President Malik Jawad Khalid alongside Wooqlaw.com's Abrar Ahmad, marks a thrilling milestone in Pakistan's legal landscape!

Malik Jawad Khalid celebrated this historic moment, declaring that the Rawalpindi High Court Bar is now blazing a trail as the first bar association in Pakistan to embrace complete digital transformation.

Asad Mahmood, Wooqlaw.com's Chief Technical Officer, addressed a female lawyer's question with enthusiasm, highlighting that the platform will be a game-changer for young and female lawyers. With flexible, home-based opportunities, they can now thrive professionally and economically, tapping into global demand for legal expertise.

As part of this landmark agreement, over 8,000 lawyers affiliated with the Rawalpindi High Court Bar Association will enjoy complimentary access to world-class facilities valued at an impressive 42 million rupees for an entire year. The ceremony was a vibrant celebration of this new era, attended by key figures such as Secretary General Shabbir Ahmed Mirza, Vice President Arshad Mahmood Janjua, Additional Secretary Sameera Yousuf, and Joint Secretary Asma Abbasi. Senior lawyers and bar association leaders from across the region—including Rawalpindi, Mianwali, Taxila, Kahuta, Sohawa, Gujar Khan, and Kotli Satian—came together in large numbers to witness this momentous event.

**CDA chairman oversees renovation work at Jinnah Convention Center ahead of SCO meeting**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, reviewed the ongoing renovation work at the Jinnah Convention Center on Saturday, as preparations intensify to complete the project before the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting.

The renovation work, being carried out under the supervision of expert architects, aims to upgrade the convention center to international standards.

The project includes the renovation of the main hall, committee rooms, complete flooring, paint and glass work, and upgradation of furniture and carpets.

The Chairman was briefed on the progress of the renovation work, which is being carried out non-stop, day and night.

The upgradation project also includes tree planting, horticulture work, and lighting to enhance the landscaping around the convention center.

**Motorcyclist crushed to death by speedy dumper in Attock district**

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Motorcyclist crushed to death by speedy dumper. A motorcyclist was crushed to death by a speedy dumper on Hassar-Fatehjang road near Bhattar interchange in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station on Saturday. Police and rescue sources said that 35 years old Touqeer Ahmed—a native of Jand was going on his motorcycle when a dumper recklessly driven by unknown driver knocked him resultantly he died on the spot. Later his body was shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital. Police registered a case against the dumper driver and launched further investigation.

**Sindh bans pillion riding on Imam Hussain's Chehlum**

In a bid to avoid any untoward incident, the Sindh government has imposed a ban on pillion riding across the province, including Karachi, on the eve of the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

The Sindh Home Department, on the request of IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon, has imposed a ban on pillion riding in various districts of the province due to Chehlum processions scheduled for August 26.

Officials said the provincial police chief vide a letter dated August 8 has recommended imposing a ban on pillion riding throughout the province as per following dates and times for peaceful conduct of the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) to avoid any untoward incident.

The ban will be imposed in the South Range of Karachi from August 25 till 27, in East Range on August 26, while in the West Range of the Karachi Police from August 25 and 26.

In Hyderabad and Thatta districts, the ban will be imposed from August 25 and 26, in the Mirpurkhas district it will be in effect from August 26 till 27. Moreover, the pillion riding ban will be imposed in the entire district of Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar on August 26. In the Sukkur Range, it will be imposed from August 24 to 26, in District Khairpur from August 24 till 29, and in Ghotki on August 26.

In the Larkana Range, the ban will be imposed in District Larkana on August 26, and from August 25 till 26 in the districts of Kamber, Jacobabad and Kashmore.

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# Reviving Pakistan: A Bold Vision for Prosperity, Justice, and Empowerment

In the 76 years since Pakistan's inception, our people have been led astray by broken promises, political instability, and rampant corruption. Traditional political parties and their leaders have repeatedly failed to deliver on their commitments, leaving the nation mired in economic crises, social injustice, and moral decay. Time and again, we have witnessed politicians use populist slogans to manipulate the masses, only to engage in self-serving agendas once in power. According to Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perception Index, Pakistan ranks 140th out of 180 countries, highlighting the severe corruption that has infiltrated our political system.

Years of mismanagement have also damaged Pakistan's international standing. Despite being an atomic power, Pakistan continues to struggle on the world stage, often seen as a nation fraught with internal conflict, economic mismanagement, and political instability. Pakistan's foreign policy has been reactive rather than proactive, allowing external pressures to dictate national interests.

It is time for a paradigm shift in our political landscape. The Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) is not just another political entity but a movement—a beacon of hope—that aims to restore the dignity of the people of Pakistan, empower the youth, and establish a corruption-free, prosperous, and powerful nation. At the

heart of ATP's vision is a profound belief in the power of the people. Our party is built on the principle of decentralizing power, giving ordinary citizens a voice in decision-making processes, and ensuring justice and authority at the grassroots level. Unlike the entrenched political elites who have perpetuated systems of autocracy and patrimonial politics, we believe that policies and collective governance should take center stage.

A just society is the cornerstone of a strong nation. The ATP is determined to reform Pakistan's justice system, removing the oppressive "Thana culture" and replacing it with a transparent, accessible, and swift legal system. We believe in delivering justice to the people's doorsteps, ensuring that the law serves all citizens equally, regardless of their wealth or status. Our pledge to end corruption goes hand-in-hand with our justice reforms. ATP's vision is to create an environment where bribery, favoritism, and power struggles are a thing of the past. With the implementation of a merit-based system, Pakistan can finally emerge as a nation that values integrity and upholds the rule of law.

Our society's moral fabric has been damaged by years of neglect and a pervasive culture of vulgarity. The ATP is

committed to restoring Pakistan's ethical values, ensuring that our social and legal frameworks reflect Islamic principles and moral integrity. Through religious harmony, dialogue, and respect for diversity, we will build a society that fosters peace and mutual respect. As an atomic power, Pakistan has the potential to become a formidable force on the world stage. However, this requires a strong internal and external policy framework.

The ATP's comprehensive defense and foreign policy strategies aim to protect our nation from both internal and external threats, while also positioning Pakistan as a global leader. We envision a Pakistan that is self-reliant, with a vibrant economy free from the shackles of interest-based systems. Our aim is to rank Pakistan among the world's most developed nations, elevating it to the status of a global superpower.

One of the unique aspects of ATP's governance model is the establishment of the Board of Wisdom and Honesty (BWH). This body will ensure that decisions are made with integrity, transparency, and the welfare of the people in mind. Comprising individuals of impeccable character, the BWH will oversee the implementation of policies at both the provincial

and national levels, ensuring that governance is rooted in ethical principles. The BWH represents a departure from traditional, personality-driven politics. Instead, it promotes leadership that is accountable to the people and guided by wisdom and honesty. This model will allow us to build a government that truly serves the interests of all Pakistanis, rather than the narrow ambitions of political elites.

Pakistan is at a crossroads. We can either continue down the path of broken promises, corruption, and division, or we can embrace a new future—a future where power is returned to the people, where justice is swift and accessible, and where our youth lead us toward prosperity. The Amun Taraqqi Party stands ready to guide Pakistan toward this brighter future, but we cannot do it alone. We urge all Pakistanis to join us in this movement. Together, we can build a nation that is just, prosperous, and glorious—a nation that stands as a beacon of hope and progress for the entire world. The time for change is now. Let us unite under the banner of the Amun Taraqqi Party and make Pakistan the nation it was always meant to be. Join us in creating a new Pakistan. Together, we will make history.

Muhammad Faiq Shah is the Founder of the Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) in Pakistan and the Founding Chairman of the Friends of Society Organization (FSO). He can be reached via Email: [officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com](mailto:officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com)



Analysis

Muhammad Faiq Shah

## National Education Workshop

Participants at a national education workshop called upon education actors in Pakistan to work together to scale-up Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALPs) to provide education for disadvantaged, over-age, out-of-school children and youth, who missed out or had their education interrupted.

Jointly organized by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the workshop dedicated to accelerated learning was attended by over 80 participants including government officials and education actors from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, said a press release.

Discussions focused on best practices, as well as opportunities for better coordination and collaboration to address the huge education needs in Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Philippa Candler, UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan extended appreciation to the Government of Pakistan for its continued support to refugees and to refugee education. "It is alarming that over 250 million children are out of schools across the world, and 26 million of these are from Pakistan, among them 500,000 refugee children," she added.

She added that programmes such as the ALP are an essential component in supporting out of school refugee adolescents and youth to access and complete primary education and transition to secondary education, especially girls and young women. Ms. Candler underlined the need for collective efforts and find solutions to improve situation of education in Pakistan for all, and reaffirmed UNHCR's commitment to support the development of policies and programmes that benefit both refugee and host communities' children.

Naoaki Miyata, Country Chief of JICA said that Pakistan stands at a critical juncture where 67 percent of its population is under the age of 30. He added that JICA has been focusing on human capital development through enhancing access to quality education and this conference will pave the ways for advocating impactful measures through accelerated education policy in Pakistan to address the out-of-school challenges.

Speaking at the occasion, Sohail Akhtar Malik, Senior Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, highlighted the urgency of the situation, including the declaration by prime minister of an education emergency, and underscored the need for adopting innovative, cost-effective solutions and approaches to provide right to education to out-of-school children especially through digital technology, namely through the acceleration learning programme.

During the workshop, participants also shared good practices and efforts underway to address the education crisis, including Allama Iqbal Open University delivering ALP (Middle-Tech) to around 3,000 children across the country.

Provincial level consultations will now get underway, followed by national technical level discussions in September with a goal to agree on a unified approach to accelerated education, ensuring these programmes are accredited and effectively support children in need, regardless of their status.



### "Beyond Glamour: The Unspoken Challenges of Military Life"

Dear Editor,  
 With a very heavy heart, I am writing to you as I reflect on the common perceptions surrounding military personnel. I am compelled to address the misconceptions that perpetuate a distorted understanding of military lives. The glamour and luxury portrayed in the media and social platforms often leads to envy and criticism, rather than appreciation and empathy. As a true Pakistani, that stereotype hurts! The reality is far from a luxurious lifestyle. In fact, military personnel face demanding work conditions with modest salaries and restricted financial freedom, as they are not allowed to engage in any personal business ventures. Due to frequent relocations, they face prolonged separations from loved ones and constant mobility difficulties. Recently, our nation mourned the shahadat of cadets or officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Their ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten. Our heartfelt condolences go to their families and loved ones. May their legacy inspire us to continue their noble work! Let's not forget their families, too, who work behind the scenes. Their families make immense sacrifices, often going unnoticed. Frequent relocations, prolonged separations and disrupting education and careers by putting personal goals and dreams on hold, definitely cause emotional stress. Moreover, balancing solo parenting and household responsibilities is very challenging. Despite these challenges, military personnel show remarkable resilience and provide unwavering support that

demonstrates their patriotism and pride. Don't you think their sacrifices deserve recognition and appreciation rather than criticism? Well, it's all about your view. Let's honor the sacrifices of military families, who serve alongside their loved ones, upholding the nation's freedom and security.  
 Sincerely,  
**Sadaf Dilawar**  
[iamsdf07@gmail.com](mailto:iamsdf07@gmail.com)

### Bangladesh: upcoming changes and its effects on Bangladesh and the International community.

Dear Editor,  
 I am writing to express my concerns about the recent ousting of Sheikh Hasina Wajid as Prime Minister of Bangladesh. While her government faced criticism for authoritarian tendencies and allegations of corruption, her leadership also brought significant economic progress and stability to the country. The abrupt change in power raises questions about the future of Bangladesh and the implications for its democratic institutions.  
 Hasina's departure, if not handled with care, risks destabilizing a country that has experienced its share of political unrest. My concern is that this change could potentially open the door to more authoritarian leadership or even lead to a power vacuum that might weaken the nation's democratic fabric. Additionally, the transition period can be precarious, as opposition groups may use this moment to further their own agendas rather than work towards national unity.  
 Moreover, Hasina's leadership has been a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economic growth over the past decade. Her administration brought infrastructure development, improved healthcare, and education, and created a more conducive environment for investment. Losing this continuity could impact these gains, and

the next government must ensure that progress continues for the people of Bangladesh.

As the country enters this period of uncertainty, it is imperative that all political factions work together to ensure a peaceful and transparent transition of power. The future of Bangladesh's democracy and development depends on how this moment is navigated.

I urge the international community and domestic leaders to remain committed to democratic principles and prioritize the wellbeing of the people above all else.  
 Sincerely,  
**Hafsa Maryam**  
 Student of International Relations at  
 University of Sargodha.  
[Hafsamaryam106@gmail.com](mailto:Hafsamaryam106@gmail.com)

### Justice Delayed, Justice Denied

Dear Editor,  
 I am writing to submit a letter to the editor regarding the recent tragic case of Dr. Moumita in West Bengal, India.  
 The brutal rape and murder of Dr. Moumita in Kolkata has left me, and many others, heartbroken and angry. This tragedy is a painful reminder that violence against women isn't limited to just one country—it's something women everywhere, from the richest to the poorest nations, fear every day.  
 Dr. Moumita was a bright, young doctor with her whole life ahead of her. She was simply trying to rest after a long day of work when she was attacked in the very hospital where she was supposed to be safe. The thought of what she went through is unbearable. It's even more devastating to think that justice for her might take years, or worse, never truly come.  
 We've seen it happen before—cases where justice is dragged out, where the pain of the victims' families is prolonged, and where the guilty go unpunished for far too long. This can't happen again. Justice delayed is justice denied, and Dr. Moumita deserves so much better than that.  
 This case isn't just about one woman or

one city. It's about the fact that women everywhere, in every country, live in fear of violence. It doesn't matter if you're in a bustling city or a quiet village, the threat is real, and it's terrifying. We need to act, not just for Dr. Moumita, but for every woman who has ever feared for her safety.

We must demand that justice is served quickly and fairly, not just in this case, but in all cases of violence against women. We need to show that the world cares, that we won't stand by while women are hurt and their suffering is ignored.

We must keep raising our voices, louder and stronger, so justice is served swiftly and fairly. By doing this, we give hope to women around the world that justice can and will be provided. We owe it to Dr. Moumita, and to all women, to fight for a world where they can live without fear.

Thank you for considering my letter for publication. I hope it contributes to the important discussion on this critical issue.  
 Sincerely,  
**Rubaida Shamim**  
 Karachi  
[rubaidashamim@gmail.com](mailto:rubaidashamim@gmail.com)

### Laptop scheme for students

The Editor,  
 Assalam Alaikum, my name is Aman Gul, and I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree from the International Islamic University Islamabad. I am in my 3rd semester and have had the privilege of maintaining strong academic performance, with a GPA of 3.8 in my 1st semester and 3.5 in my 2nd semester. My experience here has been enriching, and I am committed to continuing my studies at this esteemed institution.  
 The quality of education provided at International Islamic University Islamabad is exceptional. The faculty is highly knowledgeable, and the curriculum is designed to enhance our understanding and skills across various disciplines. This educational environment not

only broadens our academic knowledge but also prepares us for future challenges in our respective fields.

Despite these advantages, there is an area where many students, including myself, face challenges. The increasing reliance on digital tools for education makes access to a laptop essential. Unfortunately, not all students can afford this crucial resource.

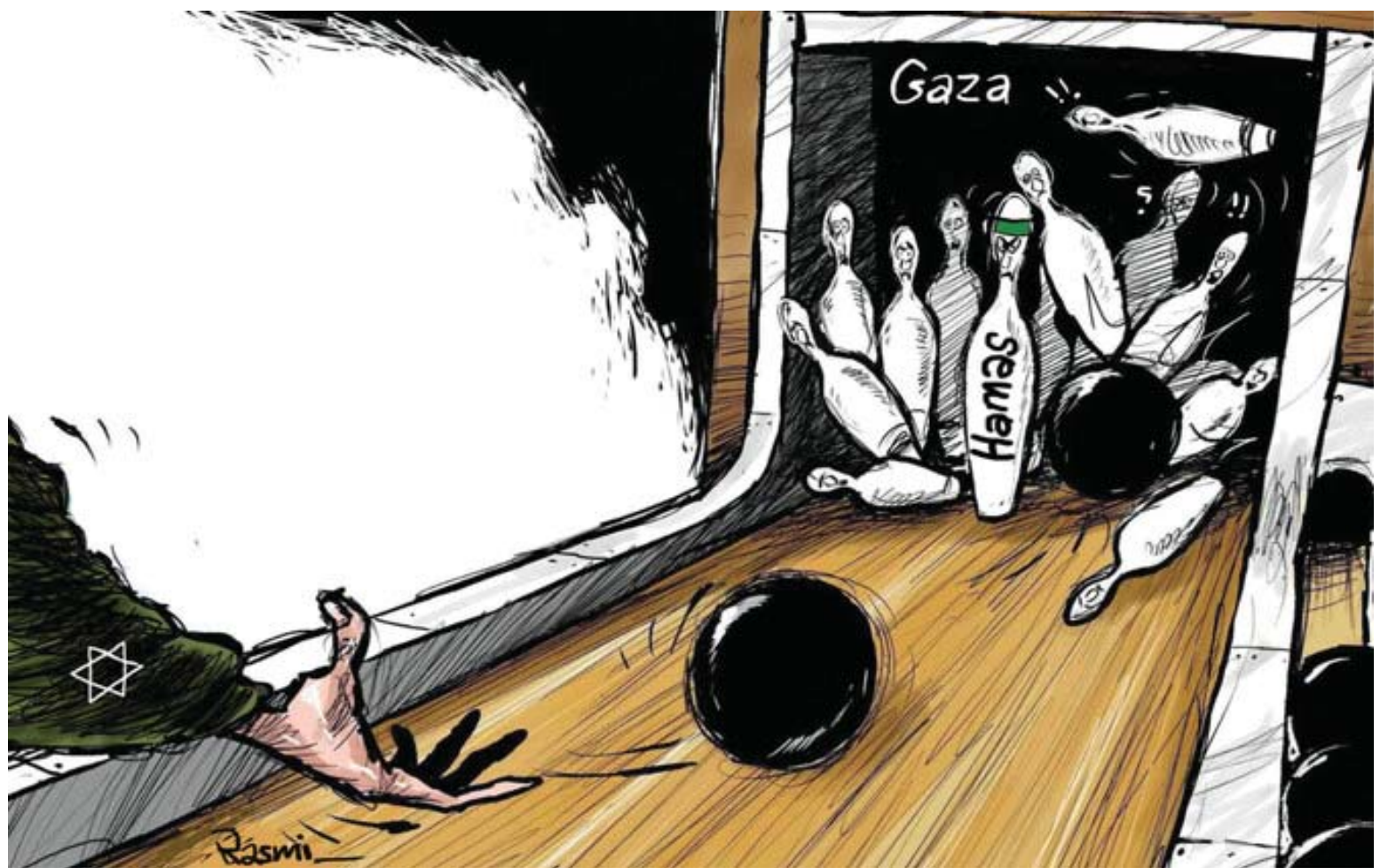
Therefore, I urge our government to consider introducing a laptop scheme for students. Such a program would greatly assist those who cannot afford laptops, enabling them to fully participate in their studies and achieve academic success. This initiative would ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to excel in their education.

Thank you  
 Your sincerely,  
**Aman Gul,**  
[Amangul2828@gmail.com](mailto:Amangul2828@gmail.com)

### Call for Inclusiveness

Recent fame of Pakistani talent has gone viral throughout the world. No doubt, this is a moment of pride for the entire nation but this draws close attention to various aspects of Pakistani society too. CM Punjab has stated this too and I totally second to it that Pakistan has untapped potential. This raises many concerns that why the word "untapped" is used by the worthy CM in her recent statement. Has Pakistan not traversed the path to progress? Will Pakistan be able to create avenues for its youth bulge? Can Pakistanis make such names in history without facing basic obstacles? This is the real need of the hour. Education and extra-curricular activities are a must. Basic life necessities need to be addressed now. Our Tax to GDP ratio is getting higher yet pay dependent class is suffering the most. We need to work close to our people to serve them and facilitate them so that our national potential be tapped in the true letter and spirit.

Regards,  
**Raiha Adnan, Gulberg Greens, Islamabad**  
[raiha.adnan@outlook.com](mailto:raiha.adnan@outlook.com)



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

# PM AJK thanks Dawat-e-Islami for its role in spreading Islam globally

**Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD/MUZAF-FARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while paying tribute to Dawat-e-Islami for its significant contribution in spreading the message of Islam globally, has assured his government's all possible cooperation in advancing the noble cause.

The AJK premier said this while talking to a Dawat-e-Islami delegation that called on him under the leadership of Haji Waqar ul Madina Attari here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM praised the organization's religious services and welfare works carried out by it throughout the world.

Referring to the initiatives



his government have taken for the welfare of common masses, the PM said that under social protection program the government has setup a fund worth ten billion rupees to provide financial assistance to the poor

and economically less-privileged sections of the society.

He said that the system of Zakat has been made transparent to make sure that only deserving people get benefited from it.

The PM said that free of cost electricity up to two hundred units would be provided to mosques in Azad Kashmir.

On this occasion, special prayers were offered for the development, prosperity and

security of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir and freedom of occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

On this occasion, the visiting delegation gave a briefing to the AJK premier regarding the religious and welfare works of

Dawat-e-Islami.

The delegation also invited the Prime Minister to visit International Madani Center Faizan Madina Karachi.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq also

planted a sapling in the lawn along with members of the delegation.

Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah was also present on this occasion.

# PAF C-130 air craft carrying 28 dead body's and 23 injured shifted to Jacobabad Air Base from Tehran

**Hamza Soomro**

LARKANA: Pakistan Air Force Special C-130 Air Craft Carrying the 28 Pilgrims died From Iran to Pakistan. In the tragic bus accident in Iran. Sindh information Minister Syed Nadir Aki Shah and Sindh Government Officials Received The 28 Pilgrims Dead Bodies and 23 injured Pilgrims. released the details of the martyrs of the accident, 28 people including 12-year-old children and 11 women are among the martyrs.

According to the details, 10 of the martyrs are from Larkana, 3 from Qamber Shahdadkot, 6 from Kandhkot district, Kashmir, 2 from Jamshoro, one

from Dadu, 4 from Khairpur Meris and 2 from Karachi are included in the accident. The martyrs include Kashif Ali, Habibullah Soomro, Wafa Abbas Javed, Afaq Ahmed, Imran Ali Kalhoro, Salman Mustafa, Mohsin Ali, Zahid Ali Soomro and Salma Begum. Khatoon, Sadia Azad, Kainat, Seerat Abbas Shah, Rustam Ali, Kariman Khatoon and Reema Jameel, Mohammad Khoso, Parveen Khatoon, Zaheer Abbas Memon, Asif Ali, Rukhsana Parveen, Ijaz Ali and Mohammad Bakhsh, Zarmina Qurban and Jamshed Iqbal belong to Sindh. It is from different districts of Qamber Shahdadkot, Kundkot Kashmir, Khairpur Meris, Dadu,

Jamshoro and Karachi. After the death of 28 pilgrims in the Yazd traffic accident, the government of Iran has deported Athar Shamsi, the chief salar of the pilgrim caravan, from Iran. Those who were injured in the bus accident said that the pilgrims' bus was broken and the bus had broken down 3 times during the journey in Iran, but the driver continued to travel at a high speed on the advice of Chief Salar Athar Shamsi and the high-speed pilgrims' bus brake failed. A tragic accident took place due to the accident due to which 28 pilgrims were martyred while 23 pilgrims were injured in the bus. Later, with the Great efforts of Chairman of People's Party



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari,

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a special aircraft C130 of

Pakistan Air Force to Iran to bring back the passengers killed

and injured in the bus accident to Jacobabad and Larkana

# Women entrepreneurs facing market bias, unconducive environment to grow: Experts

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at a report launch on financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs underscored the critical need to enhance financial literacy and awareness towards projecting women small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs as positive players of the market and end biases and unconducive environment hampering their growth in trade.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) organised the Launch of the Report titled "Advancing Financial Inclusion for Women Entrepreneurs in Pakistan" here.

In his opening remarks, Joint Executive Director SDPI, Dr Vaqar Ahmed said the report is the third research conducted in collaboration with the FNF that sheds light on financial inclusion in the context of women entrepreneurs. However, there would be other women stakeholders apart from the female entrepreneurs who needed deeper research so that their inclusion could be prioritized, he added.

"SDPI's past research evidence show that women's financial inclusion is directly correlated to the household level financial literacy. In this regard, this research becomes very important," he added.

Dr Vaqar noted that the

issues around credit, taxation, regulatory hurdles were all well known, whereas all these constraints needed to be looked into a political economy context to carve a way forward whole that owning these limitations.

Birgit Lamm, FNF Country Head in her keynote address said the report document would provide policy umbrella on the work done by FNF on promoting entrepreneurship among marginalised groups particularly women forming fifty percent of the country's total population.

"Lack of CNIC and certain registrations and formalities and societal biases makes it harder for female founders to get support for her startup as

compared to the male founders. We need to not only focus policy but also education at different levels from schools to media to promote women as equally reliable business partners as men," Lamm said.

Faeyza Khan, Adjunct Faculty, SDPI and Head of Inclusive Finance, TANGENT in her presentation on Advancing Financial Inclusion for Women Entrepreneurs in Pakistan explained the study methodology that included interactions with Central Bank, SECP, Regulatory bodies, Women chambers of commerce, SAARC chamber of commerce, HBL the pioneer of women banking products, and microfinance banks starting from high level to middle level

banks. Faeyza Khan said the study recommended to increase awareness on positive impacts of women entrepreneurship, leverage connectivity, and introduce robust result measurement frameworks for promoting women in trade.

Gulalai Khan, Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (ReMIT) Programme said ReMIT has been extensively working with the women entrepreneurs in various projects.

She added that this issue was international and not limited to Pakistan as in 2022 women exiting businesses were more than men and 24% of them were those who started it keenly but left due to lack of profitability,

family and personal reasons. Murium Hadi Financial Inclusion Specialist, Asian Development Bank said the status quo would prevail as patriarchal mindset would stick to the system but it demanded plans and strategies to work within for betterment.

"The exit ratio of women entrepreneurs is higher, and reentry is low. The little educated women in the strata of entrepreneurs are preferred in the system," she said.

Fareeha Armughan, Head SDPI Center of Evidence for Action and Research said women entrepreneurship has more focus on SMEs and startup ecosystem. Its high time to move needle on the business as usual

on social protection and embed a system of household enterprises and entrepreneurship through a full circle of financial inclusion that starts from basic literacy and four pillars of saving, credit, digital transactions and insurance, she added. Salman Shahzad, Project Director, National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF) said the Institute had trained 3.5 million so far and 80% of them have opened their bank accounts including 57% females.

He suggested that there needed to be a thinktank on financial literacy, financial inclusion, women entrepreneurship, digital literacy and Islamic banking as the stakeholders were working in isolation.

# Serena Hotels sponsors photography exhibition in tribute to 77 Years of Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Public Diplomacy Initiative, proudly sponsored a photographic exhibition organized in collaboration with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov (Ambassador of Turkmenistan), and Studio One. The exhibition was a tribute to 77 years of Pakistan's independence, celebrating the enduring bonds of friendship between Pakistan and the global community.

The exhibition showcased a wide collection of photographs captured by diplomats and their spouses highlighting the breathtaking beauty of Pakistan. Each photograph reflected the unity and shared values between their home countries and Pakistan. The event highlighted the faces of friendship and the spirit of collaboration that defines Pakistan's relationships on the world stage.

Speaking at the event, H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov remarked, "This



exhibition is a testament to the strong and durable ties between Pakistan and the international community. Through these photographs, we witness the essence of friendship and mutual

respect that has been developed over the past 77 years. It is an honor to celebrate Pakistan's rich cultural heritage alongside such esteemed colleagues and friends."



Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi Foreign Secretary of Pakistan honored the event as the Chief Guest, while sharing his thoughts, he said, "This exhibition is a powerful reminder of the deep connections and shared values that unite Pakistan with the global community. The photographs on display beautifully capture the

essence of Pakistan's landscapes and the warmth of its people, offering a unique perspective from those who have experienced our country's hospitality."

Serena Hotels remains dedicated to supporting efforts that enhance international relationships and contribute to the global community. This exhibition

is proof of the power of art and culture in bridging differences and celebrating shared values. CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani, appreciated this initiative and the opportunity to sponsor this unique exhibition that captures the essence of Pakistan's heritage, culture, and beauty.

**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

# No problem can be solved without increasing exports, reducing expenses: Dr. Shahid

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Saturday that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's efforts to reduce the cost of electricity are valuable.

He said the PM is eager to provide some relief to the masses as the cost of electricity has become a severe issue in the country.

The government is negotiating with the IPP owners and trying to shift coal-fired power plants to local coal while also installing smart meters instead of conventional meters, which are laudable.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the main reason for the sharp increase in the price of electricity is the drastic reduction in the currency's value on the insistence of lenders and exporters, which has

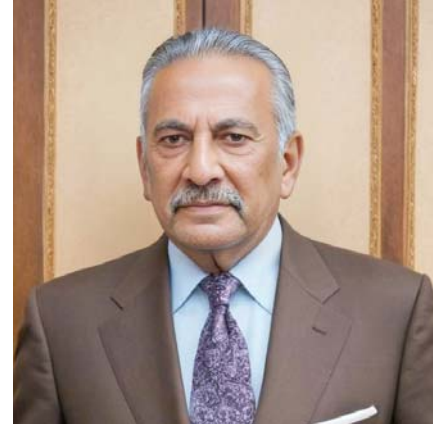
been followed for the last eight years without considering implications.

He blamed the constant devaluation of the currency, which has led to a massive increase in debt that the country has lost the ability to repay.

He said that for many decades, no government has tried to cut down expenditures but increased them drastically for political purposes, which was met by borrowing and printing currency, which also devalued the rupee.

The central bank tried to stop the rupee depreciation in these circumstances, but they did not help much. Shahid Rashid Butt said that apart from exporters, there is a powerful lobby of importers in Pakistan, which never allowed imports to decrease.

A former prime minister spent eighty billion dollars on imports in a year to get the honour of achieving 6% GDP growth, which led to the



country's bankruptcy. The solution to all these problems is to increase dependence on alternative sources of electricity, reduce costs, and increase exports.

The business leader said that presently thirteen automobile companies are operating in the country. Initially, there were three companies, but as a result of the 2016-21 Auto Policy, eight new players entered the market.

These companies have installed a production capacity of 500,000 units annually in more than 40 models with over 100 variants. They contribute four percent to GDP, pay Rs300 billion in taxes, and helped generate over two million jobs in the country.

Under the 2021-26 Auto Policy, the ministry has introduced WP-29 safety regulations for auto manufacturers. All manufacturers except Suzuki for six variants have adopted these safety standards. Suzuki has decided to discontinue three variants and redesign the remaining three to comply with WP-29 safety regulations.

However, the government should not allow any car manufacturer to produce cars that do not follow WP-29 regulations to save lives.

## MoU

DUBAI: H.E Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai witnessed an MoU signing ceremony between Pakistan Association Dubai (PAD) and Ulearn LLC at PAD, Dubai on Saturday.



Photo: PID

## ICCI President urges govt to act boldly on economic challenges

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has urged the government to take drastic measures to address the country's economic challenges and put it on the path to stability and prosperity. He emphasized that selling valuable assets and obtaining heavy loans are not viable solutions and instead, the government should reduce the tax burden on industries and offer incentives to the business community.

During a meeting with business leaders at the Chamber House on Saturday, Bakhtawari criticized the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for holding the industry and other sectors hostage. He pointed out that the patriotic business community is striving to make Pakistan the fifth-largest economy globally but the IPPs are creating obstacles.

He highlighted the exorbitant electricity prices in Pakistan, citing that the global average is not more than ten cents, while the country is being sacrificed to benefit a few families. The current electricity prices—42 rupees



for industry, 60 rupees for domestic consumers, and 80 rupees for commercial consumers are unacceptable and intolerable, he said.

Turning on the Tajir Dost Scheme, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that it is totally unfair to serve notices to registered and unregistered traders, shopkeepers to demand a hefty advance tax of Rs. 60,000/- per month which has become a cause of harassment in all the markets, although it was assured that a tax of not more than Rs.1000/- or Rs. 1200/- will be applied but the FBR is demanding Rs. 60,000/- which is unjustified.

He demanded that the Scheme should be revisited and only those measures should be adopted which are practically implementable and acceptable to all the stakeholders.

## First shipment of Chinese white broiler eggs arrives in Pakistan, boosting agricultural trade ties

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: The inaugural shipment of Chinese homegrown white broiler eggs has been successfully exported to Pakistan via a flight from Guangzhou Baiyun Airport marking a significant development in the agricultural trade relations between the two countries.

In the cargo hold of the plane stood a consignment of special "guests" - 172,800 "Guangming No. 2" White Feathered Broiler eggs from China. The shipment, all domestically bred by Foshan Gaoming District Xinguang Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Co. Ltd. and Beijing Institute of Animal Science (IAS) of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), marking the first time China has exported its breed of poultry to Pakistan.

"This export of white-feathered broiler breeding eggs to Pakistan means a lot to us. More Chinese breeding eggs will go abroad, not only to Pakistan, but also to the globe," Liu Dawei, deputy general manager of Xinguang, and person in charge of White Feather Broiler project, said in excitement.

The China Economic Net learned that the "Guangming No. 2" White Feather Broiler weighed more than 3kg at 42 days of age and had a feed-to-weight ratio of



1.32-1.5:1. More than that, they had significant advantages such as rapid growth and high survival rate. The 172,800 hatching eggs exported to Pakistan could provide more than 50,000 sets of "Guangming No. 2" parent broilers after 21 days of incubation. Before long, they could provide more than 7 million commercial broilers, that is, more than 21,000 tons of chicken.

Over the past four decades, the vast majority of white-feathered broiler breeders in the world have been monopolized by developed countries in Europe and the United States, and China's dependence on foreign white-feathered broiler breeders once reached 100%. By the end of 2021, three varieties including "Guangming No.

2" had passed the review, thus domestic white-feathered broiler breeders were independently cultivated in China.

Today, Pakistan faces the same dilemma that China once faced. Statistics showed that there are only about half a dozen companies that import all of grandparent stock or GPs in the country. GPs are the birds that produce the parent stock which, in turn, produce broilers for mass consumption.

Now, China-Pakistan breeding poultry export cooperation has taken a successful first step, which will lay a solid foundation for the two countries to jointly promote the innovative development of the global broiler breeding industry.

## Petrol, diesel prices expected to drop by Rs5-6 per litre for third fortnight

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: For the third consecutive fortnight, the prices of major petroleum products like petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) are expected to decrease by around Rs 5-6 per litre.

The prices of oil have decreased by \$2 to \$2.30 per barrel in the international market in the last fortnight. Factoring in the exchange rate and existing tax rates, the prices of both petrol and HSD are projected to come down by Rs 5 to 5.50 per litre.

The average price of petrol in the interna-

tional market has dropped to around \$80.40 per barrel from about \$82.50 per barrel previously. Similarly, HSD prices have declined to about \$88 per barrel from \$90.30.

During the current fortnight, the import premium on petrol has decreased by about 50 cents per barrel to \$8.50, while the premium on HSD remained unchanged at \$5 per barrel. Additionally, the local currency has gained 25 cents against the US dollar in the last two weeks.

Currently, the ex-depot price of petrol stands at Rs 260.96 per litre, and HSD is at Rs266.07 per litre. In the previous pricing

review on August 14, the government had reduced the prices of petrol and HSD by Rs8.47 and Rs6.70 per litre, respectively.

Over the last two fortnights, the total reduction in petrol and HSD prices amounted to Rs14.64 and Rs17.56 per litre, respectively, including the decrease of Rs 6.17 and Rs 10.86 per litre on July 31.

Before that, the prices of both petrol and HSD had increased by Rs17.44 and Rs15.74 per litre, respectively, in the first fortnight of July. Between May 1 and June 15, the prices of petrol and HSD were reduced by about Rs35 and Rs22 per litre.

## Gold prices climb by Rs1700 in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices in Pakistan continued to rise on Saturday, reaching a new record high. This follows an increase in international gold prices.

In the local Pakistani market, the price of gold per tola (a unit of weight) increased by Rs1,700, reaching Rs263,700.

The price of 10 grams of gold increased by Rs1,457, reaching Rs226,080.

On Friday, the gold price reached Rs262,000 after gaining Rs200.

The international rate of gold also increased on Saturday, rising by \$20 to \$2,512 per ounce.

Meanwhile, silver prices in Pakistan remained unchanged at Rs2,950 per tola.

In the local Pakistani market, the price of gold per tola increased by Rs200, settling at Rs262,000 yesterday.

## Steel prices in Pakistan down by Rs45,000 per ton amid declining raw material costs

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The price of steel products in Pakistan has decreased by Rs45,000 per ton due to a decline in international raw material costs.

As of August 23, 2024, the new prices for Cold Rolled Coil (CRC) are Rs211,500 per ton, and for Hot Dipped Galvanized Coil (HDGC) are Rs220,800 per ton.

The decrease in steel

prices is also attributed to weak demand during the typical construction season in Pakistan.

The secretary of the Ministry of Industries and Production informed the Standing Committee that Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) has been declared 'scrap' as it is nearly impossible to revive the company, and the 19,000-acre land of the PSM will be utilized for establishing special economic zones (SEZs).

*Solar Power Conclave and Technology Awards to be Held on August 28th in Lahore*



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The highly anticipated Solar Power Conclave and Technology Excellence Awards 2024, set for August 28, 2024, in Lahore, will bring together key figures from Pakistan's renewable energy sector. Organized by Energy Update, this event will unite industry experts, policymakers, and innovators to discuss the future of solar energy in Pakistan and to honor the outstanding achievements in the field.

Distinguished speakers such as Engr. Ahad Nazir Associate Research Fellow and Head of the Center for Private Sector Engagement at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Engr. Mian Fahad Country Director of Growatt New Energy, Mr. Mubarak Hussain Country Head of Huawei Digital Power Pakistan, and Engr. Hamza Sajid Head of After Sales for Pakistan at Solis Inverters will share insights on the latest technological advancements and policy frameworks driving growth in the solar sector.

A panel discussion featuring industry leaders like Waqas Moosa CEO of Hardon Solar, Fahad Ali Country Head of GoodWe Technologies, Syed Faizan Ali Shah Member of the Prime Minister's Solarization Committee, and Faiz Bhutta energy expert will explore key challenges and opportunities for scaling solar energy across the country.

# Bangladesh dominate first Test match's proceedings

## Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Mushfiqur Rahim became only the second Bangladesh batter after Mohammad Ashraful (190) to be dismissed in the 190s as Pakistan were left chasing the first Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Mushfiqur, who started the fourth day's play at his overnight score of 55 in Bangladesh's 316 for five while replying to Pakistan's 448 for six declared, was dismissed after scoring 191 in Bangladesh's 565, their third highest total outside home.

When play ended on the penultimate day, Pakistan, trailing by 117 runs on the first innings, were 23 for one after 45 minutes of batting with Abdullah Shafique (12) and captain Shan Masood (nine) at the crease. Saim Ayub (one) was the batter to be dismissed.

Mushfiqur, who featured in the first four-day match for Bangladesh 'A' against Pakistan Shaheens, took full advantage of a DRS reprieve when he was on 59 with the scoreboard showing Bangladesh as 324 for six was eventually caught at the wicket off fast bowler Mohammad Ali who ended with figures of two for 88. Mushfiqur occupied the crease for eight hours and 42 minutes during which he received 341 deliveries of which 22 were converted into fours



and one into six.

When Mushfiqur reached three figures off 200 balls with 12 fours, he completed his 11th Test century, making him the second most successful Bangladesh batter after Mominul Haque (12).

The diminutive 37-year-old, in association with 26-year-old Mehidy Hasan Miraz, broke the 48-year-old record when the duo put on 196 runs for the seventh wicket – highest against Pakistan to date, eclipsing the 186 runs partnership between Warren Lees and Sir Richard Hadlee in Karachi in 1976.

Mehidy, who was dropped on 52

and 59, was the ninth batter out after scoring a 179-ball 77 with six fours. He fell to Shaheen Shah Afridi, who celebrated the birth of his first child by finishing with figures of two for 88 off 30 overs.

Pakistan had started the fourth day's proceedings promisingly when Naseem Shah dismissed Litton Das to make Bangladesh 332 for six. Litton, who was 52 overnight, managed to add only four runs to his score.

But then Pakistan had to wait for another 56 overs before finding another success.

After Mushfiqur was the seventh batter to be dismissed, Hasan Mahmud lasted 18 balls for his naught before falling to Shaheen. He was followed by Mehidy and the innings was finally wrapped up when Shoriful Islam's breezy 14-ball 22 was ended by Naseem.

Naseem turned out to be the most successful of the four-pace attack with figures of 27.3-6-93-3, while Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Ali and Khurram Shahzad picked up two wickets apiece.

Salman Ali Agha turned down 41 overs and remained wicketless, but he will consider himself unlucky as two catches were dropped off his bowling.

Mohammad Rizwan, who scored 171 not out with the bat in Pakistan's 448 for six declared, accounted for four batters behind the stumps, but was also guilty of dropping Mehidy when 52.

### Scores in brief (day 4 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) 565 all-out, 167.3 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 191, Shadman Islam 93, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 77, Litton Das 56, Mominul Haque 50; Naseem Shah 3-93, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-88, Mohammad Ali 2-88, Khurram Shahzad 2-90)

# Bangladesh on top in first Pakistan Test as final day awaits

## A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Shoriful Islam dismissed Saim Ayub to strengthen Bangladesh's command in the first Test of the two-match series against Pakistan here at Pindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

At the Stumps on Day 4, Pakistan got to 23/1 and trailed by 94 runs.

The home side had a disappointing start to their second innings as opening batter Saim Ayub (1) perished in the third over, falling victim to Shoriful Islam.

Pakistan captain Shan Masood then joined Abdullah Shafique and knitted a cautious stand.

The duo of Shan and Abdullah, unbeaten on nine and one respectively, will resume Pakistan's second innings at 23/1 on the final day of the ongoing Test.

In response to Pakistan's 448/6d, Bangladesh piled up a mammoth 565 all-out, courtesy of a splendid seventh-wicket partnership between Rahim and Miraz.

Pakistan bowlers, who struggled throughout the day, finally got some success in the third session as they bagged four wickets to sweep off the innings.

Rahim remained the top-scorer for Bangladesh with 191 off 341 deliveries, laced up with 23 boundaries including a six.



He was supported by Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who scored 77, before falling victim to Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Later, Shoriful Islam added valuable runs at the backend with his 22-run cameo.

For Pakistan, Naseem Shah bagged three wickets, followed by Shaheen, Khurram Shehzad and Mohammad Ali, who claimed two each.

Bangladesh added 106 runs to their first innings' total and thus secured a 47-run lead with a session and a day's

action left.

Rahim and Miraz dominated Pakistan bowlers in the second session and extended their seventh-wicket partnership to 163.

At the conclusion of the second session, Rahim was unbeaten on 173, while Miraz had scored 50 not out.

Earlier, Bangladesh resumed their first innings at 316-5 with Rahim and Litton Das. The overnight partnership, however, did not last long as Naseem Shah got rid of Das in the ninth over of the day.

Das played an important 56-run knock for Bangladesh, which featured eight fours and a six.

Mushfiqur Rahim remained unfazed by Das' dismissal and kept the scoreboard ticking for the home side and soon brought up a magnificent century.

When the umpires called for the Lunch Break, Rahim was unbeaten on 101 while Miraz had scored 17 not out.

The two-match series between Pakistan and Bangladesh is a part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) and will run from August 21 to September 4 with both matches to be played at the same venue.

Pakistan are currently ranked sixth in the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. They have played two away series in the championship, winning 2-0 against Sri Lanka and losing 3-0 to Australia.

### Playing Xis

Pakistan: Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Khurram Shehzad, Mohammad Ali.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana.

# Mark Wood ruled out of fourth day of England-Sri Lanka Test

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: England fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the fourth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka with a thigh injury, it was announced before play on Saturday.

The 34-year-old Durham quick left the field at Old Trafford just two balls into his 11th over late on Friday.

Following an assessment by England medical staff, the injury-prone paceman has been advised to rest.

England will hope they can still go 1-0 up in this three-match series without



Wood's express speed, with Sri Lanka resuming on 204-6 in their second innings — a lead of just 82 runs.

An England and Wales Cricket Board statement said: "England pace bowler

Mark Wood has sustained a right thigh muscle injury late on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford.

"He will not return to the field today and will continue to be assessed by the England medical team to determine the full extent of the injury."

England faced a target of 205 to win the first Test against Sri Lanka after dismissing the tourists for 326 in their second innings on Saturday's fourth day at Old Trafford.

Kamindu Mendis top-scored for Sri Lanka with 113 — his third hundred in

just four Tests — having coming in with his side in trouble at 95-4 after they had been in the even worse position of 1-2.

Together with Dinesh Chandimal (79) he shared a seventh-wicket stand of 117 in 30 overs.

But Mendis' dismissal sparked a collapse. Sri Lanka lost their last four wickets for 19 runs, with wicketkeeper Chandimal the last man to fall when he holed out off Matthew Potts.

Durham paceman Potts, recalled after England captain Ben Stokes was ruled out with a torn hamstring, took 3-47 in 17.3 overs.



RAWALPINDI, Aug 24 (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday visited Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium and watched the ongoing Test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh teams.

## Afridi celebrates wicket with cradle gesture



## Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's star fast bowler, Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrated the birth of his baby boy with a heartwarming cradle gesture after taking a wicket in the ongoing first Test against Bangladesh at Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on Saturday.

He bowled a length delivery on middle and leg, which Hasan Mahmud tried to hit over the mid-wicket area, but only managed to edge the ball to hand a diving catch to Muhammad Rizwan behind the wickets.

He celebrated the wicket with a cradling gesture to honour his newborn child.

Earlier, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in a press release said that Afridi was blessed with a baby boy.

"Congratulations from Pakistan team players, management, and PCB," the PCB said in a felicitation message.

Afridi will leave for Karachi after playing the ongoing first Test. He will rejoin the team before the second Test, scheduled to be played from August 30 to September 3 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

## Rizwan Ali: A Nightmare for Indian MMA

## A Sports

Rizwan Ali is quickly becoming a nightmare for Indian MMA fighters. With two brutal knockouts in his last two fights, he's now 8-0 in Brave Combat Federation and the biggest name in Pakistan's MMA scene. His dominance is clear, and he's setting his sights on UFC Fight Island.

Anshul Jubilee, one of India's top fighters, seems to be dodging a fight with Rizwan, citing visa issues. But many believe it's because he knows Rizwan is a serious threat.

Pakistan's MMA is on the rise, recently ranked 3rd in the IMMAF Asian Championships, with four of the top five teams coming from Asia. As Rizwan continues his winning streak, the question is whether the UFC will recognize the potential in the India-Pakistan rivalry that draws so much attention.

With Pakistan emerging as a new force in Asian MMA, Rizwan Ali is proving to be a nightmare for Indian fighters. The big question now: who will be brave enough to step up and face him?

## Pakistan to miss IBSF World U17, U21 Snooker Championship after New Delhi denies visa

KARACHI: Pakistan's snooker team was forced to miss the IBSF World U17 and U21 Snooker Championship in Bangalore after Indian authorities denied the necessary visas to the contingent.

Confirming the development, the Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA) has expressed deep regret over the missed opportunity.

The PBSA's confirmation comes as the national contingent, which included body's Chairman Alamgir A Shaikh, referee Naveed Kapadia, and three young players Ahsan Ramzan, M Hasnain Akhtar, and M Hamza Ilyas was all set to participate in the prestigious event.

It is to be noted that despite receiving clearance from the Pakistan Sports Board and other relevant authorities, the team was unable to proceed due to the visa refusal for the event which is slated to commence today and will continue till August 31.

Meanwhile, the PBSA has lodged a formal protest with the Billiard and Snooker Federation of India and the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF), criticising the decision to withhold travel documents from the Pakistani team.

The body has expressed disappointment over the situation, as they were eager to represent Pakistan on the global stage.

"This is a significant setback not only for our team but also for the international snooker community," said a PBSA spokesperson.

# Injury rocks Australia ahead of Scotland T20Is

## A Sports

Australia suffered a massive setback ahead of the T20I series against Scotland as right-arm pacer Josh Hazlewood was ruled out due to a calf strain.

Australia will tour Scotland for a three-match T20I series with matches scheduled at Grange Cricket Stadium in Edinburgh on September 4, 6 and 7 respectively.

With Josh Hazlewood out of the series with an injury, the Australian selectors named Riley Meredith in the squad.

Josh Hazlewood's injury is considered to be a major setback for Australia as the reigning longer formats champions are gearing up for a busy white-ball calendar.

The injury, however, is considered minor but the team management opted to rest the pacer as a precautionary measure to lend him adequate time to attain complete fitness for the T20I and ODI series against England.

Riley Meredith impressed the Australian selectors with his outstanding stint for Somerset in the T20 Blast. The pacer claimed 14 wickets at an average of 22.78, thus playing a pivotal role in leading the side to the final.

Meredith was also sensational in the One-Day Cup, the highlight of which was his 4/27 against Middlesex at Lord's.

His last T20I appearance for Australia, however, came back in 2021 against West Indies.

Meredith will form Australia's pace attack with Xavier Bartlett, Sean Abbott, and Nathan Ellis with all-rounders Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, and Marcus Stoinis likely to provide backup.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa will spearhead the team's spin department with uncapped Cooper Connolly.

Australia T20I squad for the series against Scotland: Mitchell Marsh(c), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David,



Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Riley Meredith, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

## Israeli aggression

Palestinians displaced by the Israeli air and ground offensive on the Gaza Strip walk next to sewage flowing into the streets of the southern town of Khan Younis, Gaza Strip.



Photo: AP

# PM demands immediate action on UN report on Palestinian humanitarian crisis

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday urged the international community to take immediate action on the recent UN report by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) highlighting the forced displacement of Palestinians and food insecurity among children.

The report serves as fresh evidence of Israel's crimes

against Palestinians, with the UN revealing that not a single day passes without the bloodshed of innocent Palestinians. The report also notes that Israeli forces are targeting Palestinian children, with a clear intent to eradicate the Palestinian population, the prime minister said.

It has been 322 days since the genocide of Palestinians began, PM Shehbaz Sharif said adding that the forced evacuation of 250,000 Palesti-

tinians from their homes in August was a challenge to international institutions, international conscience, and international law.

Furthermore, he highlighted that the pace of Israeli oppression could be gauged from the unjust eviction of 146 Palestinians from their homes in just two days.

"The report of the United Nations agency confirms that on the one hand, the genocide of Palestinians with deadly weapons continues,

on the other hand, hunger is being used as a weapon."

The prime minister said only one percent of children in Northern Gaza while six percent of children in the southern part of the city were getting food.

Israel has accelerated the massacre of common Palestinians by pouring fire and explosives from the air, land, and sea, he said.

"If the Israeli state, which commits crimes against humanity, is not brought

to justice, the international institutions themselves will be brought to justice."

The prime minister highlighted that the reports of international organizations were a serious indictment against Israel, the murderers of humanity should be punished and the oppressed should be protected.

He reaffirmed his commitment that Pakistan would speed up the delivery of food to Palestinians, especially children.

## Special investigation team formed in Karsaz accident case after woman suspect's arrest

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The police have formed a special investigation team to probe the Karsaz accident case that has been registered against a woman SUV driver.

The suspect, Natasha Danish, has been booked and arrested for recklessly driving her Toyota Land Cruiser and killing Imran Arif, aged 60, and his daughter Amna Arif near the Karsaz area on August 19.

Meanwhile, The East-Zone Deputy Inspector General of Police, Captain Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, visited the residence of the victims in Gulzar-i-Hijri, Scheme-33 on Friday.

He offered condolences to the bereaved family and assured them of full legal support, according to a statement from



the East Zone police spokesperson. He also discussed the case with the family.

DIG Mahesar vowed that

the police will ensure fairness at all levels. He claimed that the family expressed satisfaction with the investigation.

A special investigation team led by SSP-Investigation Aleena Rajpar has been formed. All CCTV footage recordings have

been collected and are being examined by investigators.

The blood test report of the female driver is expected within the next 24 hours. Based on the medical reports, more sections may be added to the FIR and the future course of action for the investigation will be decided.

The DIG said the arrested female driver's family has not submitted any medical report or history to the probe team so far.

He urged others who were injured or had property damaged in the accident to come forward and record their statements with the police.

The DIG assured that the investigation is ongoing and justice will be provided to the heirs of the deceased father and daughter.

## Parliament House staffers served notices over involvement in 'political activities'

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has served show-cause notice to Parliament House officer and four other staffers over alleged involvement in political activities.

According to sources, the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Sajjad Ahmed has been served a notice and charge sheet for allegedly engaging in political activities. Additionally, four other Parliament House staff members have been issued warnings.

Sources revealed that Sajjad's duty has also been transferred from opposition leader Omar Ayub's chamber, where he was previously stationed, whereas the other four staff members who received warnings were working with Asad Qaiser, sources said.

Sajjad Ahmed had been involved

in mobilizing people from his area to participate in the PTI's sit-in, despite being warned not to do so, sources added.

Earlier in May, the National Assembly speaker suspended eight security personnel over the entry of unauthorized individuals into Parliament House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to conduct an inquiry against the suspended personnel, who allowed unauthorized individuals to enter Parliament House without an identity card, sources added.

The incident came to light when the Defense Minister Khawaja Asif complained to the Speaker about the incident.

He stressed to ensure elaborate security measures within the premises of National Assembly (NA) building and its lobbies.

## Security plan finalized for Chehlum processions

### City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Police have finalized foolproof security arrangements for Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) here on Saturday.

More than 4600 police officers and 215 traffic wardens will be deployed to maintain traffic flow.

The police spokesman said that a control room would be set up in the office of the City Police Officer in Rawalpindi to ensure the implementation of the security plan.

He further informed that CCTV cameras were installed to monitor the processions.

Walk-through gates would be installed at the entry points of the processions, he said adding that the participants would be allowed to join the procession after a full body search.

Under the security arrangements, no



one will be allowed to stand on the rooftops of commercial and residential buildings situated along the procession routes. Snipers will also be deployed for the security of the main procession, he said.

City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani informed that searching and sweeping of the procession route would be carried out and streets, roads, diversion points, and other routes along the main procession route would be sealed.

All available resources are being utilized to ensure foolproof security for Chehlum e Imam Hussain (RA), he added.

## Death toll across Gaza Strip surges to 40,334, over 93,356 wounded

### Wafa

GAZA: Israeli occupation forces committed five massacres against families in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours, resulting in the killing of at least 69 Palestinians and the injury of 212 others, according to medical sources.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 7 has risen to 40,334 reported fatal-

ities, with an additional 93,356 individuals sustaining injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

According to the same sources, emergency services are still unable to reach many casualties and dead bodies trapped under the rubble or scattered on roads across the war-torn enclave, as Israeli occupation forces continue to obstruct the movement of ambulance and civil defense crews.

## Forensic analysis of Hasan's mobile reveals 'Aleema Khan's narrative to seize PTI control'

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A combination of file photos show former prime minister Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan and PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan. Photos vis social media

The forensic analysis of PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan's mobile phone has uncovered a "web of deceit and manipulation orchestrated" by former prime minister Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan to consolidate her "influence" within the PTI.

According to sources, the forensic examination of Hasan's phone revealed that Aleema sent him a WhatsApp message on June 23 that contained a "fabricated account" by Khan's sister, showing that Bushra Bibi visiting the former PM in jail and breaking down in tears.



Aleema expressed her displeasure, stating that Bibi's message was "foolish" and that her "disinformation cell" was inciting people. The former prime minister's sister then allegedly instructed Hasan not to promote Bushra's message.

The leaked WhatsApp messages also revealed the PTI founder's sister's alleged attempts to create a false narrative around Khan's purported death in jail, using a "fictitious conversation" between the party leader and a jailer.

## PPP, MQM-P trade barbs over governance in Sindh

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: A war of words erupted over governance in Sindh between the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the major opposition party Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Saturday.

The trade of barbs started when MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui took a jibe at the provincial government for what he called neglecting Karachi, saying that the mega city contributes a major chunk of both taxes and donations.

Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah hit back at the MQM-P chief and said, "MQM-P took donations in the form of sacrificial hides."

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah defended the PPP's record, stating, "The donations to our hospitals are being spent on public welfare. Where did you spend yours? You deny every good act by the PPP government. MQM-P must understand that they no longer control Karachi."

He emphasised that the Sindh government has invested Rs30 billion in Jinnah Hospital, NICVD, and NICH, and questioned, "Who stripped Karachi of its vibrancy, literary gatherings, and educational activities? Karachi has now moved beyond hatred, narrow-mindedness, and despair."

In a fiery rebuttal, Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly, Ali Khurshidi, slammed the PPP's Sindh government, claiming that "every child knows the tale of their corruption."

## 'CM Gandapur denied watching PTI founder's messages to call off gathering'

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) recently postponed its much-anticipated public gathering in Islamabad on August 22 and now it has emerged that there were backdoor contacts between the party and the federal government over the issue.

The federal government was in contact with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur for the postponement of the public gathering, sources said.

They said that various circles had contacted Ali Amin Gandapur to postpone the PTI rally, but after his refusal, contacts were made with PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali and Azam Swati.

The sources privy to the development said that CM Ali Amin Gandapur categorically denied postponing the gathering and was even offered to listen and watch the audio and video messages of PTI founder Imran Khan.

"Ali Amin Gandapur refused to see Imran Khan's messages," the sources said. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM also set conditions, saying that PTI's founder should be released from jail and brought forward or contacted via video.

The sources said Ali Amin Gandapur made it clear that he would not even meet the PTI founder in jail over the postponement of the public gathering. They added that there has been no meeting between Ali Amin Gandapur and PTI founder for over 25 days.

## Utility stores being restructured ...

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under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, there has been a clear reduction in inflation in two to three months.

The rate of inflation has come down from 38 to 16 per cent, and the country will soon come out of the difficult situation and prosper

again. The federal minister said that the tax system is being simplified to restore the confidence of investors. Soon there will be investment in the country, maximum resources will be provided for the promotion of small and medium industries so that exports can be increased after meeting the domestic needs of production at the local level.

## PTA warns of 'telecom blackout',...

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It is relevant to note here that Pakistan is facing internet service disruption, and the issues are linked to the implementation of internet firewalls, which was installed at a

country's main internet gateways to monitor and filter traffic. While these systems can control or block content on websites and social media platforms, authorities claim that they also have the capability to trace the origin of objectionable material.