

### Energy Minister says power prices to be lowered in next one year

Federal Energy Minister Sardar Owais Khan Laghari has said that electricity prices will decrease in the next one year. The relief of 45 billion rupees given to the electricity consumers by the Punjab government will be conveyed to the consumers in a transparent manner. (Details on Page 8)



### Appointment rules of higher judiciary comes into force as per Constitution: Law minister

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said the rules and procedures pertaining to the appointment of the higher judiciary come into force as per the Constitution and its articles postulated in the Law. The law minister expressed these views during the ninth session of the NA after the Speaker sought him to clarify the procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice of the apex court. (Details on Page 8)

## Funeral Prayer

QUETTA: Funeral prayers of the security personnel who were martyred while fighting with terrorists in different areas of Balochistan were offered at F.C Headquarters on Monday.



Photo: ISPR

# 10 soldiers, four LEA personnel martyred in Balochistan clearance operations: ISPR

**Bureau Report**  
QUETTA: At least 10 security forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies were martyred and 21 terrorists were killed in ensuing clearance operations after militants' attacks in Balochistan's Musa Khel, Kalat, and Lasbela districts on Sunday night, the military's media wing said on Monday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said that terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in Balochistan late Sunday night that continued till the wee hours of Monday.

"On the behest of inimical and hostile forces, these cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Labeleda districts," it said.

In the Musa Khel district, terrorists stopped a bus in general area of Rara Sham and "maliciously targeted innocent citizens" working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood. They killed at least 23 people after checking their identities. Militants also attacked Levies and police stations in Mastung, Kalat,

Pasni and Suntsar, according to media reports.

Reports of blasts and grenade attacks were also received from Sibi, Panjgur, Mastung, Turbat, Bela, and Quetta.

"Security forces and law enforcement agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists and sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace.

However, during the conduct of operations, fourteen brave sons of soil including ten Security Forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement

agencies, having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat," it said.

The ISPR statement added that sanitisation operations were being conducted and the "instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors" of such acts, targeting innocent civilians, would be brought to justice.

"Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan in step with the nation remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it said.

Meanwhile, The funeral prayers of the security personnel who were martyred while fighting with terrorists in different areas of Balochistan were offered at F. C Headquarters in Quetta.

According to the ISPR, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti, Commander Balochistan Corps, IGFC Balochistan (North), IG Police Balochistan and other civil and military officials participated in the funeral prayer.

After the funeral prayers, the dead bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native areas. They will be buried with full military honours.

## Enemy countries trying to sabotage peace, development in Balochistan: Asif

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday said that enemy countries were trying to sabotage peace and development in Balochistan region.

Talking to a private television channel program, he said that rival countries were funding the terrorists to slow down the devel-

opment works in the province but the incumbent government was fully determined to quell all such activities and designs of the enemy.

In reply to a question about today's killing incidents in Balochistan, he said anti-Pakistan forces were making efforts to weaken Pakistan.

He said Jawans of law enforcement agencies were striving hard

to wipe out the terrorism from the country. Pakistan has made a lot of sacrifices in war on terror, he stated.

To a question, he said some people were doing business in the name of missing persons. These people are hiding in foreign countries and operating from there to create unrest in this part of the region.

To another question about



## Cybercrime case: court extends physical remand of Orya Maqbool Jan

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: A local court on Monday extended the physical remand of former bureaucrat and senior analyst Orya Maqbool Jan in a cybercrime case for another four days.

Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing produced the analyst before a judicial magistrate in district courts and sought his further physical remand to complete investigations.

The investigation officer stated that a significant amount of material from Orya Maqbool Jan's social media had been recovered. He mentioned that a WhatsApp group was created wherein activities against high-ranking state officials were observed and that Orya Maqbool Jan had spoken extensively against the state.

## Islamabad High Court seeks detailed report on slow internet

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday summoned Ministry of Information Technology (IT) technical person in a case against slow internet speed and alleged installation of firewall.

The court also sought the

detailed report from respondents till next date September 3.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, hearing the cases, remarked that the work associated with the IT field was connected with the Internet. He said that a similar case was also pending with Lahore High Court, adding that no one was taking responsibility here too.

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)'s lawyer contended that firstly the authority came to know that two cables are damaged. "Now we have received messages that the third cable is also cut down," he said.

The court asked that who was responsible for this cutting of cables, the business community

has been complaining about the internet speed for the last ten days. Deputy Attorney General adopted the stance that there was no impact of any installation on the Internet speed.

Imaan Mazari Advocate pleaded that Internet was working normally but only the function of WhatsApp was affected.

## President Zardari, PM Shehbaz condemn terror attack on bus in Musakhel

**City Desk**



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned a terrorist attack targeting a passenger bus in the Musakhel area of Balochistan.

They expressed their deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack and called for taking the perpetrators to task.

Both the president and prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The killing of innocent people is tantamount to killing the entire mankind. The terrorists are enemies of the country, nation, and humanity," the president said and reiterated the nation's

resolve to keep up fighting terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the law enforcement agencies to carry out an immediate probe into the incident. He also instructed the authorities to cooperate with victim families and extend urgent medical care to the injured.

"The perpetrators of this attack will be given an exemplary punishment. No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge," the prime minister resolved.

## PM pays tribute to security personnel martyred in Balochistan

**City Desk**

He said the entire nation stood with its brave security forces.

He vowed to uproot all forms of terrorism adding that the cowardly activities of the terrorists could not shake our resolve.

Offering his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the prime minister prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs in Jannah.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tributes to the personnel of security forces who embraced martyrdom during operations against terrorists in various areas of Balochistan province.

In a message, the prime minister said the timely actions of the security forces foiled the nefarious designs of the terror-

## Finance Minister Chairs Steering Committee Meeting on Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP)



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division today.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Mr. Ali Parvez Malik, Chairman FBR, Secretary EAD, Secretary PD&SI, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Ms. Tania Airdus CEO Waseela, Mr. Salman Nasir CEO Ayesha Spinning Mills Ltd., Mr. Kamran Khalid Chief Product Officer Netsol Technologies, senior officers from concerned ministries and FBR, and key stakeholders from the private sector and relevant agencies.

The meeting focused on strategies to enhance Pakistan's revenue generation capacity. During the meeting, participants discussed various initiatives and reforms aimed at broadening the tax base, improving tax compliance, and reducing revenue leakages. The committee explored innovative approaches to enhance the efficiency of tax collection mechanisms and ensure equitable distribution of the tax burden.

The Steering Committee Meeting concluded with a strong consensus on the need for concerted efforts to implement the PRRP and achieve its objectives. The government will continue to engage with stakeholders and take necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of the program.



# IG Punjab Police reviews security arrangements for main procession of Chehlam Imam Hussain

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: IG Punjab Police reviewed the security arrangements for the main procession of Chehlam Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar reviewed the security arrangements of Imambargah Jawadia, Police Station Delhi Gate and other A category processions.

Additional IG South Punjab Kamran Khan, RPO Multan Captain Retired Sohail Chaudhry, CPO Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar and other officers were present on the spot.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar met the organizers of the main proces-



sion and inquired about the security arrangements.

IG Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar

directed Multan police officers to carry out security arrangements for processions and assemblies more

diligently. Inspector General Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar said that

Monitoring of security arrangements of sensitive processions will be ensured with advanced technology, CCTV cameras and

Smooth flow of traffic will be ensured through alternative routes.

Women officers should be posted for the security of women citizens. IG Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar

RPO Multan Captain Retired Sohail Chaudhary and CPO Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar briefed IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar about the security arrangements for the processions of Hazrat Imam Hasan and Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) throughout the city and Chehlam

## Pakistan has been achieved after great sacrifices: Shehla Pasha



**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Mrs. Saleha Pasha, President of Inner Wheel Dera Ghazi Khan Club has said that Pakistan has been achieved after great sacrifices, we should appreciate it. Pakistan has given us a lot, today we have to take it towards development. There is no shortage of things, every blessing is present here. He expressed these thoughts while addressing the Independence Day ceremony at the Disabled Persons Mainstream Center yesterday. We have to move forward to make them with a little encouragement can bring happiness in their lives and smiles on their faces. Our club will support them fully. Mrs. Shehla Mustafa Pasha, Mrs. Iram Mujahid, Mrs. Asma Nadeem, Mrs. Dr. Pankash Sharin participated on this occasion. Nadir Khan, Head of Disabled Mainstream, thanked all the guests, Mrs. Saleha Pasha and other members, all the children and adults. Gifts were distributed and disabled children presented songs and tableaux. Finally, the Independence Day cake was cut.

## 23 killed in Balochistan during terrorist attack on passenger buses and trucks

**Asim Tanveer**

MUSAKGAIL BALOCHISTAN: The Terrorists Attacked and killed 23 Bus passengers and Burn Bus and Trucks of Punjabi Travel from Punto Quetta the buses. Last night in Musa Khel area of Balochistan, 23 passengers were killed with firearms after identifying the areas of passengers and drivers in passenger buses and trucks going from Punjab to different areas of Balochistan. SSP Police Musa Khel Ayub Achakzai said that this incident of terrorism took place last night around 11:00 am when armed terrorists blocked the main highway of Musa Khel Balochistan and took passenger buses and trucks from Punjab. 23 people were brutally killed by firing while 4 passengers were seriously injured. According to Stunt Commissioner Musa Khel, after the terrorist incident on the highway, the district administration Musa Khel had transferred the killed and injured passengers to the nearby hospital. The dead bodies of the passengers are being shifted to their native areas under the auspices of the government. Meanwhile, after the terrorist incident in Musakhel, Balochistan, the security forces have started operations against the terrorists in the area. SP Musa Khel Ayub Achakzai said that security forces and intelligence agencies have launched a search operation to locate the terrorists.

## Commissioner Faisalabad to hold International Lyallpur History Conference



**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: The opening ceremony of the two-day International Lyallpur History Conference was held at a Serena hotel. Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed was the chief guest. Delegates from different countries who were interested in history and culture participated in the conference. It was done with the support of Industrial and Export Organization Interloop and Bank Al Falah. In the opening session, the speakers spoke about the historical importance of any area, making it safe. The participants discussed about the research objectives and future requirements from different angles. The Commissioner said that the holding of the International Lyallpur History Conference is of great importance and far-reaching results. He said that the history of Lyallpur and the region can be covered very easily. The commissioner said that the history of Lyallpur can be covered by its agricultural and industrial importance, social and cultural values, culture and lifestyle. The commissioner expressed happiness to the foreign delegates participating in the conference. Welcome and also see historical photos of Lyallpur kept in the conference. Organizers thanked Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed for participating in the conference.

## Book Festival

MUZAFFARABAD: Women and students visiting book stalls on the occasion of the three-day Read Book Festival under the auspices of Read Foundation Oriental Science College Eidgah Road Campus.



Photo: Online

# Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers' Association backs nationwide strike on taxes

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry has announced support for the nationwide trade strike of August 28. He demanded that the government should review the tax policy. Consultation with businessmen should be made mandatory while making the tax policy. We have reduced our expenses, is the government ready to reduce its expenses?

He said this while explaining his association's point of view on the nationwide strike to journalists yesterday. On this occasion he was accompanied by Chairman Association Mumtaz Ahmed, Vice Chairman Saleem Raza Butt, Senior Vice President Huzaifa Ansar, Senior Member Finance Sheikh Munir, Vice President Chaudhry Shahzad, Vice Pres-



ident Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood, Information Secretary Tariq Khan, Chaudhry Sharafat Ali, Chaudhry Muhammad Hafeez, Sheikh Nayir Feroze, Sheikh Imran Elahi, Naveed Abbasi, Abdul Qadeer Abbasi and others were also present.

Association President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that everyone knows the purpose for which they have gathered today, we are being forced to strike. I say with confidence that the government does not want to collect taxes because businessmen

are already paying all kinds of taxes. He said that The Punjab government is charging us two rupees and twenty four paise sales tax on Pateer Roti worth Rs.14. Despite this, fines ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 100,000 are being imposed on us. All kinds of additional taxes are being imposed on the traders associated with the food Mohammed Farooq Chudhary said that The injustice has been brought to an end.

The one who is selling chai paratha is being fined up to 60 thousand rupees. I request the government to review the tax policy. We reduce the expenses of our shops, Is the government ready to reduce its expenses? Like ordinary citizens, the rulers also came on thirteen hundred cc vehicles. Mohammed Farooq Chaudhry further said that we are being forced to protest. Therefore, we declare our support for this nationwide strike.

# Takht Bhai, Jamaat-e-Islami announces shutter-down strike on August 28

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: JI has announced a shutter-down strike on August 28 against the additional taxes on electricity bills and inflation. The strike is being observed on the call of JI chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman. A delegation of JI leaders, including former MPA Nader Shah, former candidate for PK-60 Noman Yousaf, Takht Bhai Bar Association President Saifullah Khan Advocate, and others, visited the Takht Bhai Press Club to announce the strike. Nader Shah said that the govern-



ment's policies have made life difficult for the common man. He added that the constant increase in petroleum products, LPG, and other essential

items has made it impossible for people to survive. He said that the JI would not compromise on the economic rights of the people. Takht Bhai Bar Associ-

ation President Saifullah Khan Advocate said that the excessive increase in electricity bills has led to an increase in suicides. He added that the government's

policies have made it difficult for people to afford basic necessities. Noman Yousaf said that the situation in the country is deteriorating and if the government does not control the prices of electricity and petroleum, the country may head towards civil war. He appealed to the people to participate in the strike on August 28. The strike will be observed across the country, including Takht Bhai, and all business centers and shops will remain closed. The JI leaders have appealed to the people to participate in the strike to make it successful.

# NATIONAL Textile University wins first place at Ali Suleman Habib 3rd Engineering Excellence Award

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Pakistan, August 26, 2024 - Dr. Yasir Nawab and his team from the National Textile University have been awarded First Place at the Ali Suleman Habib 3rd Engineering Excellence Award. This recognition, which highlights outstanding achievements in engineering, was presented during a prestigious ceremony held on August 25, 2024.

The winning project, titled "A Patented Technology for Converting Banana Plant Waste to Value-Added Fibers," is a groundbreaking innovation developed by Dr. Yasir Nawab and his team members—Mr. Faheem Ahmed, Mr. Sheraz Ahmed, Mr. Muzammal Hussain, and Mr. Amjad Rafique. The technology provides a sustainable solution by transforming banana plant waste into valuable fibers, representing a significant advancement in textile manufacturing. The project was developed under the Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded Grand Challenge Fund Project GCF-63.

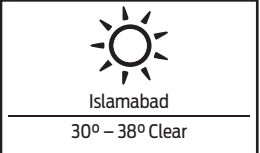
Dr. Yasir Nawab, Dean of the

School of Engineering & Technology at the National Textile University, expressed pride in his team's accomplishment, emphasizing the importance of sustainability and innovation in the textile industry. The award's theme, "Where Innovation Meets Excellence," resonates strongly with the spirit of this project.

The Ali Suleman Habib Engineering Excellence Award, a prestigious accolade organized by the House of Habib, celebrates projects that demonstrate technical mastery, creativity, and a commitment to advancing engineering practices. The award was established to honor the memory of Ali Suleman Habib, a visionary leader whose contributions continue to inspire innovation in Pakistan.

In addition to the recognition, Dr. Yasir Nawab and his team received a cash prize of Rs. 1 million, a Gold medal, and a certificate of achievement. Dr. Yasir Nawab acknowledged the support of the HEC's Grand Challenge Fund and credited his team for their hard work and dedication in realizing this innovative project.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:10 am  
Zohr ..... 12:10 pm  
Asr ..... 4:49 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:41 pm  
Isha ..... 8:08 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  
DHO ..... 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

**DPO, Attock Police conducting strict checking on search park pickets across district**

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: According to the vision of the Punjab government, the orders of the IG Punjab and the leadership of District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, the Attock Police is conducting strict checking on search park pickets across the district. A motorcycle was driven by Muhammad Shoaib son of Isthah Hussain r/o Mohalla Khalilabad Pajagi Road Peshawar at Park Picket Attock Khurd. The picket stopped the high-speed vehicle coming from Kohat at Khushalgarh, in which the passenger, Muhammad Fahim son of Noor Bashah r/o, Khosrow Khel, Chhabhal Jund, was suspicious and recovered 5 kg of hashish after conducting a routine search of his belongings. Attock Police registered separate cases under the Narcotics Act against each of the two accused and put them behind the bars. Such elements will be challaned to the court with concrete evidence and will be punished.

**Ambassador of Belarus called on Minister Abdul Aleem Khan**

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 26: Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields. In the meeting, H. E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa highlighted the "Transport Week" to be held in Belarus in the coming month of September and its representation from Pakistan. He invited Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in this inter country event in Belarus. Ambassador of Belarus discussed with Federal Minister regarding Pakistan's participation in the "Joint Memorandum" of transport with Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Ambassador of Belarus H. E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa discussed joint projects in the fields of communication and transport and reviewed the possibilities of increasing the existing bilateral relations.



Talking in the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that mutual relations between Pakistan and Belarus, especially in trade matters can be increased further. He said that a series of trade corridors through transit routes and roads network will be good omen for the entire region. Ambassador of Belarus H. E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa said that his stay in Pakistan is pleasant, the people are friendly and the vegetables and fruits are excellent. Ambassador of Belarus was given briefing by the Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority on possible cooperation opportunities in transportation and other various ongoing projects related to Afghanistan, China and Central Asian states.

**Funeral Prayer**

ISLAMABAD: Brother of Mohsin Jameel Baig, Editor-in-chief of the international news organization "Online News International" and daily Jinnah, Jameel Baig laid to rest. Funeral prayer was attended by senior politicians, bureaucrats, military officers, anchors of TV channels, senior journalists and hundreds of people from different walks of life including Federal Minister of Information Ataulah Tarar.



Photo: Online by Bashir Sultan

**Rotary Club Honors FAST Cables for Social Impact and Sustainability**

By City Desk

LAHORE: The Rotary Club of Lahore Corporate recently hosted a significant meeting, welcoming Kamaal Mian, Managing Director of FAST Cables, as the chief guest. The event highlighted the social impact and sustainability initiatives led by FAST Cables. Ruhaina Qureshi, President of the Rotary Club of Lahore Corporate, warmly welcomed Kamaal Mian and introduced the club's initiatives, emphasizing their commitment to community service. She expressed her admiration for FAST Cables, noting that the company is not only contrib-



uting to Pakistan's growth but is also playing a pivotal role in the positively impacting society. In his address, Kamaal Mian stated, "As global warming becomes an increasingly urgent issue, sustainability is a key factor in protecting our planet, particularly in developing countries like Pakistan. To achieve impactful solutions, we must work together through public and private partnerships. He also highlighted the contribution of Fatima Latif

Vocational Centre, their contributions to healthcare, and their partnerships with renowned organizations such as Akhuwat and The Citizens Foundation (TCF). Through these efforts, FAST Cables has supported thousands of individuals. In closing remarks, Afsar Mahmood, Former President of Rotary Club Lahore Corporate congratulated FAST Cables on their outstanding efforts in social impact and sustainability. He emphasized the need for more companies like FAST Cables to step forward and contribute to corporate social responsibility in society.

**AIOU enhances efficiency with electronic system for official correspondence**

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has further cemented its role as a leading national institution by embracing the digitalization of its educational, financial, and administrative processes. In a recent development, the university has introduced an electronic system for managing daily official correspondence, showcasing its commitment to adhering to governmental policies and guidelines.



Under the directive of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Registrar Department has issued a new notification. This directive mandates all university departments to utilize the e-Office system for all official correspondence and office files starting from August 28. The notification also outlines that the Director of Information Technology is responsible for ensuring the smooth operationalization of this electronic system, including the creation of user accounts and the provision of necessary training for all users.

The Vice Chancellor has emphasized that, after August 28, all departmental communications must be conducted through the e-Office system, and no documents should be sent in hard copy form. This transition is expected to result in significant time savings, improved governance, and enhanced transparency, thereby addressing and eliminating any potential delays in administrative processes.

**Zeeshan Habib, PhD Scholar will defend his research dissertation**

It is notified for the information of all that Mr. Zeeshan Habib a PhD Scholar of Electrical Engineering Department of HITEC University Taxila, will defend his research dissertation on Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 12:00 PM in IQBAL Auditorium of the University. The topic of his research is,

"Artificial Intelligence Based Healthcare Monitoring and Detection of Parkinson's Disease"

The research has been supervised by Dr Muhammad Ali Mughal. Defence is open to all interested individuals can attend the open defence and be seated by 11:45 AM.

**PfDP demands imposition of Emergency in Balochistan**

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party demands imposition of EMERGENCY in Balochistan for 5 years. Recent terrorists activities, unrest and cross border supported protests indicate that provincial political government has failed to fulfill assigned duties according to constitution.

Adversaries of Pakistan are trying to sabotage peace, foreign investment and CPEC projects in Balochistan in order to give international community message that Pakistan is not safe for business. Government of Pakistan and Military establishment failed to take decisive steps to counter anti state actors and their reluctance in security measures may cost billions in return. Incident in MusaKhel, Mastung, Qalat, Doznan couldn't be categorized as normal but at level of state Emergency where Military, Intelligence and Law enforcement agencies take control.

Presence or maintaining of democratic political government in province not a divine's word if situation fell to its worse condition or if political structure couldn't control the situation. Security institutions also should eliminate anti state actors who are fueling, propagating and amplifying hate, ethnicity, political fascism within Nation either they are hiding themselves behind political, judicial, Ex. or tribal status & 'they are more dangerous than a firing terrorist'.

**Heavy to moderate rain lashes parts of Karachi**

KARACHI: Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lash parts of the urban port city on Monday night as the Meteorological Office forecast possible occurrence of showers from August 27 till 31 in the Sindh province.

Rain showers with gusty winds hit Malir Cantt and adjoining areas as thunderstorms, strong winds and drizzle were recorded in the airport area.

Gulistan-e-Johar, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Tariq Road, PECHS, FB Area, Bufferzone, II Chundrigar Road and adjoining areas experienced light to heavy rains along with strong winds.

Additionally, a few areas of Defence also experienced rain showers. Earlier, during the meeting on rain emergency measures chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Met Chief Sardar Sarfaraz said that the port city is expected to experience a rainfall between 150mm to 200mm under the new spell, as per an official statement issued by the Sindh CM House.

The Met chief also mentioned that wind thunderstorms are also expected with scattered heavy to isolated and very heavy falls during this time. Notably, urban flooding as a result of torrential downpours is also anticipated along with rain inundation in Karachi and other metropolitan cities of Sindh.

In light of these notable rain forecasts, CM Murad alerted all local bodies, district administration, and the irrigation department to be prepared for timely action in case of any emergency.

He also instructed the Fisheries Department to provide the fishermen with the necessary advice so that they can take the required precautions during this forecast period.

**'Executive Doodles'—the first book on Pakistan's advertising and marketing industry launched by Ahmed Kapadia**

By City Desk

KARACHI: After 77 years of the existence of Pakistan's advertising and marketing industry, the first book of its kind, 'Executive Doodles', has been launched. Authored by Mr. Ahmed Kapadia, Chairman and CEO of Synergy Group, the book encapsulates 20 years of thought-provoking writings. The unveiling ceremony was graced by the Honorable Governor of Sindh, Mr. Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, who served as the chief guest, in the presence of eminent personalities from various industries. The keynote speech was delivered by former Senator (r) Mr. Javed

Jabbar, followed by a monologue by the distinguished Mr. Anwar Maqsood. The event concluded with closing remarks and the unveiling of the 'Executive Doodles' book by the Honorable Governor of Sindh. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori remarked, "Our creative abilities have the potential to leave a lasting impact globally. To effectively build our national image, the government and the private sector must work together, leveraging their talents to project a positive image of Pakistan." He further praised Mr. Ahmed Kapadia for his remarkable contribution to the fields of advertising

and marketing, noting that Kapadia's innovative thinking has set new benchmarks in the industry. He lauded Kapadia's book, noting that it would serve as a valuable resource for the youth, inspiring them through the author's experiences and ideas. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Ahmed Kapadia remarked, "I have always believed in speaking the truth. With this first-of-its-kind book in Pakistan, I want to inspire the next generation of marketing and advertising professionals to challenge the status quo by sharing my perspective and a winning mindset. It is Synergizer that set the ball rolling two decades ago, providing a platform



that pushes boundaries and welcomes everyone. I hope this book carries that legacy forward, encouraging bold,

fresh, and innovative thinking." The physical copy of the book can be preordered at www.synergizer.com

and will soon be available on global e-book platforms such as Apple, Amazon, and Google Books.



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

# Pakistan's 'broken' governance system stifles progress

Pakistan stands at a critical juncture, burdened by a governance system that seems to be crumbling under its weight. Bad governance, marked by political gamesmanship and a lack of institutional accountability, has deeply hampered the country's ability to foster progress. Instead of prioritizing the rule of law and the betterment of its people, political elites continue to engage in self-serving maneuvers, further plunging the nation into turmoil. The consequences of such short-sighted politics are dire: economic instability, diminished investor confidence, and an absence of a sustainable growth agenda.

For decades, Pakistan's political landscape has been marred by leaders more focused on power struggles than on governance. Politics, rather than being a vehicle for progress, has become an arena for survival. Parties prioritize political gains over national interests, often disregarding the pressing needs of the masses. Governance, in this context, is reduced to a mere afterthought, an inconvenience in the pursuit of political dominance. This relentless tug-of-war among political factions has not only undermined the rule of law but has eroded public trust in the system. A 2023 survey by Gallup Pakistan revealed that only 27% of Pakistanis trust the political system, a steep decline from previous years, illustrating the extent of public disillusionment.

The economic consequences of this instability are stark. Pakistan's economy,

once seen as an emerging market with potential, is now struggling to stay afloat. The nation's GDP growth has plummeted, falling from 5.8% in 2018 to a mere 0.3% in 2023, according to the World Bank. Foreign and domestic investors, critical drivers of economic growth, have become wary of the nation's unpredictable political climate. In 2022 alone, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows dropped by 22%, with figures falling to \$1.88 billion from \$2.4 billion the previous year, as per the State Bank of Pakistan. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has also reported that political instability and lack of policy continuity have discouraged both foreign and domestic investment, causing capital flight and contributing to the country's deepening economic woes.

Moreover, the country has yet to devise a sustainable growth agenda that could steer it out of this quagmire. Economic policies are often reactionary, responding to immediate crises rather than addressing long-term structural issues. Pakistan's public debt has ballooned to over 89% of its GDP in 2023, as reported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with most of the funding being allocated to debt servicing rather than developmental projects. PIDE's research highlights that, despite significant investments

in infrastructure, development projects rarely achieve their intended outcomes due to poor governance and weak institutional frameworks. This lack of foresight exacerbates Pakistan's vulnerabilities, as sectors critical to sustainable growth, such as education, infrastructure, and energy, continue to be neglected. The country's ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI) fell to 154th out of 189 countries in 2023, signaling the grim state of human capital development.

Equally concerning is the role of state institutions, which should be the custodians of national prosperity. Unfortunately, many of these institutions are locked in a power struggle, undermining their ability to function effectively. Whether it is the judiciary, bureaucracy, or the military, these institutions, instead of collaborating for the country's progress, are entangled in conflicts that further deepen the nation's instability. PIDE's analysis has shown that 70% of development projects in Pakistan suffer from implementation delays, cost overruns, and mismanagement, primarily due to institutional inefficiencies and political interference. Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Pakistan at 140 out of 180 countries, reflecting the deep-rooted governance issues.

The challenges Pakistan faces are daunting, but not insurmountable. To break free from this cycle of instability, there needs to be a shift in priorities. Politics must once again be centered around governance, law, and the people's welfare. Political leaders must be held accountable to deliver on promises of progress rather than engaging in power games. Institutional reform is critical in ensuring that state bodies work towards a common goal: the prosperity and stability of Pakistan.

The path to recovery is not easy, but it is essential. A nation cannot thrive on rhetoric alone. Pakistan must develop a comprehensive growth strategy that prioritizes education, infrastructure, and innovation. Economic stability will only return when investors regain confidence in the country's political and economic environment. Political leaders must recognize that their actions have far-reaching consequences. PIDE's recommendations stress that unless Pakistan addresses the core governance issues, political and economic instability will continue to undermine national development. It is high time that Pakistan's political class rises above the fray and focuses on what truly matters: governance for the people, rule of law, and a sustainable future for the nation.

*Muhammad Faiq Shah is the Founder of the Aman Taragqi 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

## Israel-Hezbollah tensions

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is "deeply concerned" about the escalating conflict between Israel and the Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon, and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, according to his spokesperson.

"These actions put both the Lebanese and Israeli populations at risk, as well as threatening regional security and stability," said UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric in a statement on Sunday.

Guterres emphasized the need for both parties to return to peace talks to prevent further jeopardizing the security of the region.

Earlier, the UN's top Middle East envoy, Tor Wennesland, said on Sunday "there is no time to lose" for a ceasefire in Gaza and release of all hostages.

Posting on X, Wennesland said he had met Palestinian Prime Minister Mohamed Mustafa following "intense exchanges" with the Israeli military – which said it had carried out large-scale pre-emptive strikes – and the Hezbollah based in southern Lebanon which said it had carried out an attack which has now been "completed and accomplished."

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have been attempting to broker a comprehensive ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas in Cairo, with Hamas reportedly agreeing to send a delegation this weekend to be briefed on progress, without directly participating.

According to news reports, the current sticking point in negotiations is Israel's insistence on having a presence along the border between Egypt and Gaza known as the Philadelphia corridor and on the road that bisects the Gaza Strip.

Wennesland said the ongoing talks in Cairo "are crucial to saving civilian lives, reducing tensions and enabling the UN – in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority – to accelerate efforts to address the pressing needs of Gaza's long-suffering population."

He added on X that "we need a ceasefire and the release of all hostages, now. There is no time to lose."

Earlier, a joint statement released online by the UN Special Coordinator Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) called on Israel and Hezbollah to "refrain from further escalatory action", and for all combatants in the region to cease hostilities.

"A return to the cessation of hostilities followed by the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701 is the only way forward", UNIFIL tweeted.

Resolution 1701 of 2006 calls for Israel and Lebanon to support a ceasefire and long-term peace settlement and "the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace" in the wider Middle East.



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

## Praise-Worthy Efforts of the Pak Army in Community Engagement - II

Community service is a key element of the Pakistan Army's youth engagement efforts. Various community service projects, such as clean-up drives, tree planting campaigns, and disaster relief efforts, are organized to encourage young people to contribute actively to societal development. Participation in these initiatives provides practical experience in community service and helps develop a sense of civic responsibility while fostering solidarity and teamwork.

Adventure and outdoor camps organized by the Pakistan Army offer youth opportunities for engaging in exciting and challenging activities like hiking, camping, rock climbing, and survival training. These camps aim to promote physical fitness, resilience, and teamwork. The experiences gained from these activities help young people build confidence, overcome challenges, and develop a sense of adventure, all while connecting with nature and maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.

Recognizing the crucial role of sports in youth development, the Pakistan Army organizes various sports tournaments and competitions, including inter-school meets, regional championships, and national-level tournaments. The Army's involvement in sports promotes physical fitness, discipline, and fair play, helping youth enhance their athletic skills and learn valuable life lessons about teamwork, perseverance, and handling both success and failure. To offer a glimpse into military life and career prospects, the Pakistan Army hosts open houses and career fairs. These events, held at military

bases and educational institutions, give young people an opportunity to learn about Army life and explore various career options within the military. During these events, participants have the chance to tour military facilities, interact with Army personnel, and attend presentations on various career options. Open houses and career fairs are instrumental in clarifying the role of the armed forces and offering valuable insights for those considering military or related careers.

Two recent events in Muzaffarabad, AJK, are particularly noteworthy. The first was the Independence Festival, organized by the 5AK Brigade of the Pakistan Army. This festival drew a significant crowd from the capital city and received an enthusiastic response from the community. The second event was an essay competition on relationship of Kashmir and Pakistan. Students from across AJK submitted a large number of high-quality essays, providing a valuable platform for showcasing their talents. Although the competition was organized by AJK University, it was facilitated by the Pakistan Army. Both events were warmly received by the people of Muzaffarabad and effectively fostered a sense of patriotism.

The community engagement programs and events organized by the Pakistan Army are highly valued by the public. There is a growing need to increase such initiatives to strengthen the bond between civilians and the military, contributing to a more united and prosperous Pakistan through the combined efforts of the Army and its citizens.



Analysis  
Abdul Basit Alvi



### Pakistan's young people prioritizing opportunities elsewhere over contributing to country's betterment

The point I want to highlight today is that it's disheartening to see young Pakistanis prioritizing moving abroad over contributing to their country's betterment. We were once hailed as the "warriors of the future," but instead of fighting for Pakistan's progress, we're seeking opportunities elsewhere. Our ancestors sacrificed their time and comfort to give us a better life, but we're not reciprocating that dedication. We're trying to escape the challenges facing our nation, rather than confronting and resolving them. Pakistan's development should be our collective responsibility. We should strive to make our country a place where we can take pride in our achievements and be recognized globally for our contributions. Our forefathers fought tirelessly to free our land from colonial rule now it's our turn to fight for its prosperity. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations to make Pakistan a better place. Instead of abandoning our country, we should be working together to address our country's problems. We have the talent, skills, and passion to drive positive change. Let's channel our energy into making Pakistan a progressive country. We can create a brighter future for ourselves and our fellow citizens. It's time to take ownership of our country's development and become the warriors we were meant to be.

By doing so, we can transform Pakistan into a nation we can be proud to call home.  
 Annah Nisar, Lahore  
[annahnisar849@gmail.com](mailto:annahnisar849@gmail.com)

### Bangladesh's Historic Victory in Rawalpindi Test Match Against Pakistan

Dear Editor,  
 I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to express my thoughts on Bangladesh's historic maiden Test victory against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, as reported on Sunday. This remarkable achievement marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh cricket and showcases their growing prowess on the international stage.

The match was a thrilling encounter, with Bangladesh confidently chasing down the 30-run target after bowling Pakistan out for 148 runs in their second innings. Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam displayed remarkable composure as they guided their team to victory in just 6.3 overs. This victory is particularly special, as it is the first time Bangladesh has defeated Pakistan in a Test match after 13 previous encounters, which saw Pakistan dominate with 12 wins and one draw. The efforts of Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana in dismantling Pakistan's batting lineup were commendable, and their contributions played a crucial role in securing this historic win. Despite some resistance from Pakistan's top order, including Babar Azam and Abdullah Shafique, Bangladesh's bowlers held their nerve and consistently applied pressure.

This victory not only highlights Bangladesh's resilience and determination but also serves as a reminder of the unpredictable nature of Test cricket. It is moments like these that keep the spirit of the game alive and captivate the hearts of cricket enthusiasts around the world.

I believe this triumph will inspire Bangladesh to continue their upward trajectory

in international cricket, and I look forward to witnessing more such remarkable performances from them in the future.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on this memorable moment in cricket history.

Haina Khan, Lahore  
[hainaquhan@gmail.com](mailto:hainaquhan@gmail.com)

### Impact of Solar Geomagnetic Storms on Earth's Infrastructure

The Editor,  
 The recent solar geomagnetic storm in early August 2024 has highlighted our vulnerability to space weather. Triggered by solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), the storm caused disruptions in satellite communications, GPS systems, and power grids.

NASA labelled this storm as one of the most powerful in the current solar cycle, with a peak Kp index of 8.0. The European Space Agency reported brief signal losses among spacecraft, while GPS systems in North America and Europe experienced interference. Additionally, geomagnetic waves prompted power fluctuations and disruptions in Canada's electrical grid.

While beautiful auroras were visible as far south as Texas and northern Italy, the long-term consequences of such solar activity are far more critical. As our reliance on technology increases, so does the potential of disruption caused by solar storms.

Governments and scientists must improve early warning systems, fortify infrastructure, and educate the public about these threats. As we approach the solar cycle's peak, preventive measures are crucial.

May Allah grant us the wisdom, protection, and strength we need to tackle these challenges and safeguard our future.

Yours faithfully,  
 Aamna Khalid  
 Wah Cantt  
[akb1382003@gmail.com](mailto:akb1382003@gmail.com)



# Pak-Azerbaijan Business Forum to be held on September 16 in Baku

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-Azerbaijan Business Forum, scheduled for September 16 in Baku, will be led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, with Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan also participating.

The Secretary of Commerce will co-chair the 4th Pak-Azerbaijan Joint Working Group meeting.

The forum aims to enhance bilateral trade, with 43 Pakistani companies confirmed to attend, span various industries, including rice, fruits, vegetables, processed food, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, glass products, ceramics, transport and logistics, IT, engineering goods, and chemicals.

Their participation is expected to explore potential business ventures and



further strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, Jam Kamal Khan added. The forum will explore business

opportunities and strengthen trade ties between the two nations.

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov assured visa facilitation for Pakistani participants and highlighted broader areas of cooperation, including renewable energy and infrastructure.

He also announced the upcoming inauguration of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce in Islamabad.

The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring robust participation from Pakistan's private sector to maximize opportunities for collaboration.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan expressed optimism about the forum, describing it as a crucial step towards increasing trade volumes and laying the groundwork for sustained economic collaboration between the two countries.

## China continues to lead global industrial robot market for 11th consecutive year



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China has retained its position as the world's largest market for industrial robots for the 11th consecutive year, with over 50 percent of new installations globally, occurring within the country over the past three years.

This achievement was underscored by Xin Guobin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), during the recently concluded 2024 World Robot Conference (WRC) in Beijing.

Over the years, China has emerged as a key player in robotic technology innovation, application expansion, and industry governance. The nation now boasts over 190,000 valid patents in robotics, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the global total, according to MIIT.

China's rapid advancements in robotics have cemented its status as both the world's largest consumer market and a leading producer in the sector.

Marina Bill, President of the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), emphasized the importance of international collaboration among governments, enterprises, and research institutions to enhance the integration of cutting-edge technologies with robotics. This, she noted, would drive broader applications across industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, services, and rescue operations, as reported by CEN.

The five-day WRC, which concluded successfully on August 25, featured forums where experts from academia, industry, and research sectors worldwide exchanged ideas on key topics related to robotics.

Over the past decade, the World Robot Conference has hosted nearly 200 forums, with 2,246 expert presentations and participation from close to 1.4 million attendees. Additionally, 1,249 enterprises have showcased their innovations. The conference has significantly promoted technological and industrial innovation in robotics, establishing itself as a global leader in innovation, industry development, and international cooperation.

## Two-Day Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction held in Karachi

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: A two-day orientation workshop on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was successfully held at Hotel Avari Towers, Karachi.

Workshop was organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), under the umbrella of the USAID-Citizen Engagement Program (CEP), the event brought together key government officials, academics, and environmental experts to discuss strategies for mitigating climate change impacts in Sindh.

The workshop opened with remarks by Asfandiyar Khan, Senior Program Manager at USAID-CEP, who emphasized the importance of community engagement in building resilience against climate-related disasters.

The event was attended by notable figures including Mr. Imdad Hussain Siddiqui, Director Operations at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, and Mr. Waqar Phulpoto, Director Technical of the Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), both of whom provided valuable insights into government efforts to address these pressing challenges.

"Climate change poses significant risks to our communities, and it is crucial that we work together to enhance our disaster preparedness and resilience," said Mr. Imdad Hussain Siddiqui. "This workshop is a step towards building a more informed and prepared society in Sindh."

Waqar Phulpoto echoed the same sentiment, stating, "The Sindh Environment Protection Agency is committed to advancing environmental protection and climate adaptation efforts. Collaborations like this are essential for creating sustainable solutions that protect our people and our environment."

The workshop covered a wide range of topics, including the role of PDMA in disaster preparedness, the social impacts of climate change, and strategies for enhancing community resilience.

Participants also engaged in discussions on advancing climate change education within universities and developing actionable plans to integrate climate adaptation strategies into academic programs.

The event concluded with a call for sustained collaboration among stakeholders to address the challenges posed by climate change and ensure a safer, more resilient future for Sindh.



# ISSI hosts farewell event for Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a farewell event in honor of H. E. Ahmad Rabaie, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan. The event was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers included: Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI; and H. E. Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie.

In her remarks, Ms. Amina Khan emphasized the deep-rooted bonds between Pakistan and Palestine, built on brotherhood and solidarity. She noted Pakistan's consistent support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for a homeland and expressed gratitude for Ambassador Rabaie's efforts to strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood commended Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie for his valuable efforts to deepen the fraternal Pakistan-Palestine relations and to promote the just cause of the Palestinian people, particularly in the wake of developments since October 7, 2023. Sharing deep anguish over the relentless military onslaught against the Palestinians in Gaza, he noted that the issue pertained to decades-long illegal occupation of Palestinian lands and consistent denial of their right to self-determination and separate statehood. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood



underscored that Pakistan's support for the Palestinians emanated from three factors: a moral imperative to support their just struggle for an independent state; Quaid's injunctions dating back even prior to the creation of Pakistan; and a historically consistent stance of solidarity with the Palestinians. He also drew parallels between the oppression and injustices faced by both Palestinians and Kashmiris. He highlighted that the Government of Pakistan has consistently supported the Palestinian cause through political and diplomatic support, humanitarian aid, advocacy at the United Nations, human resource development and so on. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also emphasized that Pakistan remains steadfast in its position that the Palestinian people must have a viable sovereign and

independent state, based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He concluded by thanking Ambassador Rabaie for his services and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie expressed deep gratitude for Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine, especially after October 7. He highlighted the tragic toll of the conflict, with most victims being women and children, and over 150,000 Palestinians killed and injured. He praised Pakistan's swift response, including the formation of a committee to send vital humanitarian aid. Ambassador Rabaie also acknowledged Pakistan's unmatched diplomatic and political support at the United Nations. He was moved by the active support of Pakistan's youth, who

have actively raised their voices against the ongoing genocide and expressed hope for the future. Ambassador Rabaie especially thanked ISSI for its consistent focus on the Gaza situation and its support and solidarity with the Palestinians at this difficult time.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood reflected on Pakistan's enduring support for Palestine, which also existed pre-partition as Quaid-e-Azam was a staunch supporter of the Palestinian people. This solidarity continues till date. He also noted the challenging times for Palestine and expressed deep sympathy for the suffering Palestinian nation. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Palestinian cause which continues to grow stronger.

# Sujawal Receives Rain, Riverine area Submerged After Rise in Water Flows

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: Different areas of district Sujawal, including Jati, Chuhaar Jamaali, Daro, and Chach Jan Khan, received moderate to heavy rainfall on Monday afternoon, followed by gusty winds. In view of the weather forecast by the Met Department, the District Commissioner issued a rain emergency across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind issued a severe weather alert for the district, warning of extreme rainfall and stormy winds from August

26 to August 31, 2024. In a statement, Rind advised citizens to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during the expected severe weather conditions.

He urged people to stay informed about the latest weather updates and early warnings through newspapers, TV, and social media. The Deputy Commissioner also advised people to avoid unnecessary travel and stay indoors during the severe weather period. He warned citizens to keep windows closed and avoid sitting near them due to the risk of stormy winds.

Additionally, Rind cautioned people to stay away from electricity poles and wires and inform authorities immediately if any poles or wires fall. He also advised against unnecessary driving and parking vehicles away from trees and in garages. Other precautions include staying away from streetlights, keeping a distance from glass windows during stormy winds, and avoiding travel on flooded routes.

The severe weather alert has been issued to prevent any potential loss of life or property in the district. Citizens are advised to take necessary precau-

tions and stay safe during the expected severe weather conditions.

On the other hand, a rise in water flows at Kotri downstream submerged several residential areas and agricultural lands in the riverine area of district Sujawal, forcing villagers to take shelter on dunes and highlands. As many as 50 houses in village Ramzan Malah came under water late Sunday night.

On the other hand, growers have taken measures to save their agricultural lands located in the "Katcha" area of the district.

# Google, Facebook, and Amazon most targeted for data theft in 2024: Kaspersky reveals

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Google, Facebook, and Amazon are the most frequently targeted brands when it comes to phishing attacks, according to Kaspersky's recent research among 25 popular global companies. Cybercriminals also heavily pursue the credentials and data of other brands, with the number of attacks increasing nearly 1.5 times year-on-year.

In the first half of 2024, people around the world tried to access fake resources impersonating these brands nearly 26 million times, which is almost 40 percent more frequently than in January-June 2023.

Among the brands studied, cybercriminals primarily targeted Google services in their attempts to steal credentials, such as usernames and passwords. Kaspersky solutions blocked over 4 million attempts worldwide to access phishing websites designed to trick users into providing their Google account information. Following Google, there were around 3.7 million attempts on Facebook users, while Amazon ranked third with approximately 3 million. Microsoft and DHL rounded out the top five with 2.8 million and 2.6 million attempts, respectively. PayPal, Mastercard,

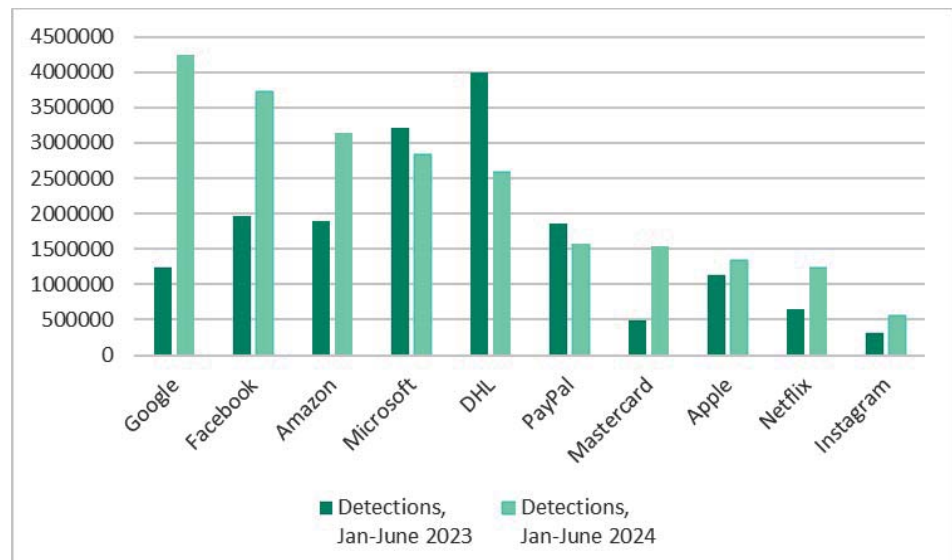
Apple, Netflix, and Instagram turned out to be among the top 10 brands targeted by cybercriminals for credentials and money in 2024.

Some brands turned out to be increasingly targeted in phishing attack attempts compared to last year. Phishing for Google has more than tripled, demonstrating 243 percent growth in the first half of 2024 compared to last year. Mastercard has seen a 210 percent rise in attempts to steal sensitive data and money, followed by Facebook and Netflix, both of which experienced a doubling of attack attempts.

"This year has seen a significant

increase in phishing attempts targeting Google. If a phisher gains access to a Gmail account, they can potentially access multiple services, making it a prime target. Phishing for Mastercard, typically aimed at stealing money, has likely risen alongside the proliferation of fake online shops pretending to sell goods and offering checkout options with allegedly Mastercard," says Olga Svistunova, a security expert at Kaspersky.

Other brands that didn't make it into the top 10, but have become increasingly targeted include HSBC, eBay, Airbnb, American Express, and LinkedIn.



Although well-known brands are prime targets for cybercriminals, niche brands are not immune. Fraudsters often target products and services with high demand, seasonal trends, or for other reasons. To effectively manage and mitigate these risks,

monitor online presence and consider outsourcing this task to a proven cybersecurity provider as Kaspersky offers a dedicated take-down tool. Educate and inform your customers and ask your customers to report all suspicious activities carried out on behalf of

your brand. For a deeper immersion in the ever-evolving world of cyber threats and insightful networking, join Kaspersky's sixteenth Security Analyst Summit (SAS), which takes place from October 22-25, 2024, in Bali.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,571.05	78,801.42	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,160.39	78,553.86	
Index Value	Change	
10,055,226,004	-230.37	
Percentage	Time	
-0.29%	26 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	
41,233.53	+58.45	
Percentage	Time	
+0.14%	26 Aug, 1:37 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,110.22	-254.05	
Percentage	Time	
-0.66%	26 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.93	189.18
Bahrain Dinar	732.60	740.60
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	278.60	280.10

# Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's selfless services earn accolades from business fraternity

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called for business-friendly and long-term economic policies to address the current economic crisis and promote business and investment activities. He emphasized the need for reducing the tax burden on businesses and offering incentives to stimulate commercial growth.

Addressing a banquet reception hosted in his honour at a local hotel here in Islamabad he said that the business community is not at all afraid of paying taxes and duties but these should be assessed on ground realities for the ease of the business community. He said that instead of imposing additional taxes on those who are already paying taxes, the tax net has to be widened, adding that policy inconsistencies are creating multiple problems.

Nasir Qureshi, President Industrial Area Association said that the business community of Islamabad is indebted to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his unprecedented support for ease of doing businesses who has been spending millions of rupees from his own pocket not only on the



welfare of traders and civil society but for the promotion of education through installation of Water filtration plants, provision of computers and Lab equipment, adding that he has also been organizing free medical camps and free meals for the needy segments of society.

Wajid Ayub, Business leader of Tarnol said that PML-N government has stabilized the economy of the country by controlling inflation and restricting dollar rate and the political stability will improve by the passage of time.

Raja Javaid Iqbal, President Traders Welfare Association G-9 markaz said that traders community is whole heartedly working for the economic uplift of the country and will continue to do the same for its prosperity.

Yousuf Rajput, Group leader Blue Area highlighted the problems being confronted by the community by emphasizing their urgent solution for ease of doing businesses.

Saifur Rehman, former VP highlighted ICCI President's services with regard to the resolution of security related issues and making the capital city drug free in collaboration with the ICT Police.

Chaudhry Mohammad Ali, Executive member ICCI highlighted ICCI's endeavors with regard to the enhancement of connectivity with the business entities of friendly countries.

Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, President I&T Centre G-8/1 impressed upon the FBR to revisit the Tajir Dost Scheme and adopt the measures which are practically implementable.

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: Employees of Utility Stores Corporation shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Utility Stores headquarter, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Shell announces financial results for H1 2024

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) announced half year results for the company. The company posted a profit after tax of PKR 1.3 billion compared to the profit after tax of PKR 3.5 billion made in the same period last year.

In October 2023, Shell Petroleum Company Limited entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Wafi Energy LLC (the Acquirer) for the sale of its entire shareholding in SPL, which is currently under progress. In April 2024, an Addendum to the above was posted on PSX to reflect a change in the capital ownership structure of the Acquirer, where Wafi Energy Holding Limited

replaced Wafi Energy LLC as 'Acquirer'.

On July 27, 2024, Public Announcement of Offer to further acquire up to 24,162,179 ordinary shares representing 11.29% was made by Arif Habib Limited on behalf of Wafi Energy Holding Limited. The completion of the transaction is subject to receipt of regulatory approvals, completion of legal requirements and satisfaction of other closing formalities.

During the period, SPL maintained its market share through relatively stable macroeconomics conditions. The inflation rate eased to 12.6% in June, down from a peak of 30% in December last year. The period also witnessed a relatively stable exchange rate.

## FPCCI demands substantive cut in key policy rate, says Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that the policy rate cuts announced over the last two monetary policy meetings are too little, too late – as, the business, industry and trade community was expecting higher and substantive cuts in the key policy rate; instead of the meagre 150 bps cut in June 10 monetary policy meeting and 100 bps cut in July 29 meeting.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that the expectations of the business community stem from the massive decline in core inflation; and, the core inflation is the parameter which really matters vis-à-vis interest rate. The core inflation is within 11.8 – 12.6 percent for the past many months. So, there is a huge room for immediately cutting down policy rate, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, as President FPCCI, the apex trade & industry body



of Pakistan, has questioned the seriousness of government, on behalf of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan, in bringing transparency & consultation in the economic policy-making; and, has reiterated his stance that the government should provide answers

to the two sets of questions for businesses to plan their year ahead: (i) what are the measures that are being undertaken to obtain the new IMF program and how would they affect cost of doing business in Pakistan (ii) what steps will be taken after the signing of IMF program to stabilize the economy and how & when the government plans to take the business community into confidence on these measures.

Mr. Nasir Khan, VP FPCCI, said that SBP should focus on core inflation rather than general inflation on an immediate basis as these exclude the most volatile and irrelevant components of the basket; i.e. food and energy, vis-à-vis policy rate.

Mr. Nasir Khan, VP FPCCI, explained that despite the progressive and major hikes in the policy rates from 9.75 percent to 22 percent over a period 6 quarters in 2022 and 2023, general inflation remained stubbornly-high and didn't respond to the policy rate.

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The 25th edition of ITCN Asia, Pakistan's biggest IT and telecom expo and conference, will take place on August 27-29 at the Expo Center in Karachi. This event is set to focus significant goals of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate investors, exporters, and entrepreneurs of the IT industry, making Pakistan an emerging tech hub in the world. ITCN Asia is expected to generate over \$500 million in investments and business, making it a significant contributor to Pakistan's economy. The event will also host the 2nd edition of the World CIO 200 Summit, a global event held in 55 countries, further solidifying Pakistan's position in the global tech landscape. State Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja will inaugurate the event as the chief guest, and Federal

Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal will also be the chief guest for the Agritech Conference at the three-day trade fair. Leading global and local brands are participating in the event such as Google, TikTok, Microsoft, Odoo, Huawei, PTCL, Easypaisa, including 750 companies. The event will host more than 300 speakers and 70,000 visitors from the tech sector, including 350 foreign delegates from 17 countries, including Saudi Arabia, China, Singapore, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Egypt, UAE, etc. Several knowledge sessions will be held, such as Digital Transformation Conference, Investors Summit, Digital Banking Conference, Information Security Conference, Cloud and Datacenter Conference, Startup Conference, E-commerce Conference, Gaming and Animation Summit, Startup Conference, Blockchain Conference, and The World CIO 200 Summit, etc.

## PAS delegation visits CCP to study its functions

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD, 26 AUG: A delegation of thirteen officers from the 2nd Specialized Training Course (STC) of the Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS) visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to understand its administrative, structure, role, operations and functions in relation to the markets and broader economy.

The visit, which forms a pivotal component of the STC curriculum, underscores the importance of understanding the administrative and economic dynamics across various regions of the country.

The session was designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the administrative structure and working paradigms of the CCP. Ms. Kishwar



Khan, Director General, Research, and Mr. Shahzad Hussain, Registrar, CCP, also attended the session. Mr. Fahd Gauhar, Joint Director, CCP gave a detailed presentations covering the statutory mandate and

main pillars of the Competition Act, 2010.

The officers gained a thorough understanding of the CCP's mandate and operations, as well as insights into its efforts to promote fair

competition and combat anti-competitive practices.

Muhammad Bilal Akram, Additional Director, Civil Service Academy, expressed his gratitude for the valuable opportunity to engage

with the CCP's senior officials and gain insights from their experience.

The session concluded with a Q&A, offering participants a clear understanding of the CCP's operations.

## easypaisa Audio Nikahnama Campaign Scores Yet Another Global Victory at MADSTARS Korea 2024

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa has once again demonstrated its excellence on the international stage, by bagging two silver awards at MADSTARS Korea 2024 in the "Audio Nikahnama" and "Sustainability Development Goals Stars" categories. This recognition comes from its innovative "Audio Nikahnama" campaign, which has garnered widespread acclaim for its impact and creativity nationally and on a global scale as well.

The "easypaisa Audio Nikahnama" is a pioneering initiative designed to enhance understanding of marriage contracts in 7 different languages as well as sign language, particularly for women in Pakistan. By utilizing technology, easypaisa has successfully dismantled cultural barriers, providing women with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their futures. The campaign's success is evident in its ability to resonate with diverse audiences and its positive impact on society.

Commending the success of her team, Rifah Qadri, Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications, Telenor Bank/easypaisa, said, "We are incredibly honored of the recognition that easypaisa Audio Nikahnama has received at the MADSTARS Korea 2024.

This underscores our commitment to driving meaningful impact and addressing societal issues through innovative tech-based solutions. With the easypaisa Audio Nikahnama, we initiated the difficult conversations about women's empowerment and financial inclusion.

Recently, Rifah Qadri made history by becoming the first Pakistani to win the 'Courageous Client Award' at the Caples UK. In addition, the Audio Nikahnama campaign won a bronze in the 'Not for Profit' category, a silver in the 'Mobile' category, and a gold in the 'Audio' category as well.



# Arshad Nadeem, Pak Olympic Javelin Gold Medalist Honored at Meezan House, Karachi

## Sports Desk

KARACHI: Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's star athlete and Olympic gold medalist in men's javelin throw, was celebrated for his historic achievement at a special ceremony held at Meezan House, the headquarters of Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank.

Amidst a backdrop of enthusiastic applause from Meezan Bank employees, Arshad Nadeem received the cheque from the Bank's Founding President and CEO, Mr. Irfan Siddiqui. He was also honored with a commemorative plaque and medal from Syed Amir Ali, DCEO of Meezan Bank, celebrating his historic achievement.

Arshad Nadeem captured the gold medal at the 2024 Olympics with an exceptional throw of 92.97 meters, marking Pakistan's first Olympic gold in 40 years that defined his Olympics journey. The cash reward of Rs. 9,297,000 given by Meezan Bank represents Rs. 100,000 for every meter of his Gold-medal-winning throw.

The ceremony, attended by distinguished guests and media representatives, underscored the nation's pride in Arshad Nadeem's accomplishment. Irfan Siddiqui, Founding President and CEO of Meezan Bank, presented Arshad Nadeem with the



cash reward, highlighting the bank's commitment to supporting Pakistani athletes who bring honor to the country.

Additionally, Syed Amir Ali, Deputy CEO of Meezan Bank, bestowed upon Arshad Nadeem a commemorative

plaque and medal, symbolizing his remarkable journey and contribution to Pakistani sports history.

"It is a monumental achievement for Pakistan, and Arshad Nadeem has brought immense pride to our nation," stated Mr. Irfan Siddiqui

during the event. "His dedication, perseverance, and exemplary sportsmanship serve as an inspiration to millions of Pakistanis, proving that determination leads to extraordinary success."

"Syed Amir Ali, DCEO Meezan



## UBL applauds Arshad Nadeem's Olympic Achievement

In a special ceremony held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024, at the UBL Head Office in Karachi, the Bank welcomed and congratulated Olympian Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem on his record making feat at the Paris Olympics 2024. He was presented with a special award of PKR 5 million by Mr. Zia Ijaz, Deputy CEO and Mr. Ijaz Farooq, Deputy CEO, UBL.

Bank Limited echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing Arshad Nadeem's role in uniting the nation through his sporting excellence. "Arshad Nadeem's achievement has not only bolstered Pakistan's international standing but also inspired our youth to pursue their dreams with unwavering dedication," he

remarked. "We applaud his resilience and commitment to excellence." Meezan Bank reaffirms its commitment to nurturing talent and promoting sportsmanship across Pakistan, aiming to inspire future generations to achieve greatness on both national and global stages.

# Abbas Afridi's five-wicket haul helps Shaheens secure convincing victory

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Right-arm fast bowler Mohammad Abbas Afridi's five-wicket haul and half-centuries by Haseebullah and Usman Khan guided Pakistan Shaheens to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh 'A' in the first one-day at the Islamabad Club on Monday.

The win gives Shaheens a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The second match will be played at the same venue on Wednesday, August 28, with the first ball to be bowled at 9:30am.

After opting to field, Pakistan Shaheens bundled out the visiting team for 183 runs in 36 overs. Abbas was the pick of the bowlers, with match figures of 9-0-38-5. This was Abbas' second five-fer in 22 List-A matches. Left-arm pacer Jahandad Khan (2-51) and left-arm spinner Mehran Mumtaz (2-29) equally supported Abbas as only Saif Hassan (58, 47b, 10x4s, 1x6)



managed to score a half-century for Bangladesh 'A'. Rishad Hossain coming to bat at number nine was the other notable run-getter, scoring 40 off 37 balls, hitting four fours and two sixes.

In turn, Shaheens' achieved the target in 27.5 overs courtesy a 129-run partnership between Haseebullah and Usman for the second wicket. Left-handed opening batter Haseebullah returned

undefeated on 73 off 81 balls, smashing seven fours and two sixes. Right-handed batter Usman fell 13 runs short of his first List-A century. His innings included eight boundaries and five towering sixes, which came off 60 balls. Omair Bin Yousuf also returned unbeaten on 14 off 19, adding an unbroken 42-run partnership for the third wicket with Haseebullah.

For Bangladesh 'A', Mahedi Hasan and Mosaddek Hossain snapped a wicket each. Mohammad Abbas Afridi (Pakistan Shaheens) was declared Player of the match.

Scores in brief: Bangladesh A 183 all out, 36 overs (Saif Hassan 58, Rishad Hossain 40; Mohammad Abbas Afridi 5-38, Mehran Mumtaz 2-29, Jahandad Khan 2-51).

Pakistan Shaheens 184-2, 27.5 overs (Usman Khan 87, Haseebullah 73 not out; Mosaddek Hossain 1-15, Mahedi Hasan 1-19).

# Two key players left out of England's white-ball squad for Australia series

## Sports Desk

LONDON: Wicketkeeper batter Jonny Bairstow and experienced all-rounder Moeen Ali have been left out of England's white-ball squad for the upcoming home series against Australia.

Both Jonny Bairstow and Moeen Ali were under tight scrutiny due to their below-par performances in the recent ICC tournaments.

As a result, England's T20I squad features five uncapped players: Essex batter Jordan Cox, Warwickshire pair Jacob Bethell and Dan Mousley, Leicestershire seamer Josh Hull, and Hampshire fast bowler



John Turner. In the ODI squad, players from the current Test squad - Gus Atkinson, Harry Brook,

Matthew Potts, Jamie Smith - have been included as England start their preparation ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy,

which gets underway early next year.

Josh Hull, who was added to the Test squad yesterday, is included alongside uncapped players Bethell and Turner.

England will host Australia for a three-match T20I series, scheduled to run from September 11 to 15. The opening match of the series will be played at Utilita Bowl in Hampshire while the remaining two T20Is will be played at Sophia Gardens and Old Trafford respectively.

The two sides will then lock horns in a five-match ODI series, scheduled from September 19 to 29. The third and fifth ODI

will take place at Seat Unique Riverside in Bristol while the first, second and fourth fixtures are scheduled at Trent Bridge, Headingley and Lord's.

England T20I squad to play Australia: Jos Buttler (Lancashire, captain), Jofra Archer (Sussex), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Brydon Carse (Durham), Jordan Cox (Essex), Sam Curran (Surrey), Josh Hull (Leicestershire), Will Jacks (Surrey), Liam Livingstone (Lancashire), Saqib Mahmood (Lancashire), Dan Mousley (Warwickshire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Phil Salt (Lancashire), Reece Topley (Surrey), John Turner (Hampshire)

# PCB unveils five Champions Cup team mentors

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Misbah-ul-Haq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shoaib Malik and Waqar Younis were today confirmed as mentors of the five Champions Cup sides on three-year contracts following a transparent and robust recruitment process.

Names of their sides and squads will be confirmed in due course, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement.

The first assignment of the mentors in the PCB Domestic Cricket Season 2024-25 will be the Champions One-Day Cup, which will be held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from 12 to 29 September. Best of the best cricketers from the country will feature in the single-league competition that will also serve as the homecoming of men's seniors' competitive cricket in Faisalabad after nearly two years. The last domestic men's 50-over match

played at the Iqbal Stadium was in March 2022 between Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The five Champions Cup side mentors have played 1,621 international matches between them, scoring a total of 32,780 runs and taking 1,503 wickets between them. Of the five, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shoaib Malik are two-time ICC Event winners, Misbah is a one-time ICC Event winner and ACC Asia Cup 2012 winning captain, while Saqlain and Waqar were members of the side that played in the 1999 World Cup final.

PCB Chair Mohsin Naqvi said: "I am pleased to welcome five exceptional champions as mentors for the Champions Cup teams. These individuals bring a wealth of cricketing experience, knowledge and expertise, which, combined with their passion for the game we all love, will help the Pakistan Cricket Board identify, develop and nurture the next

generation of cricketers across all formats. This initiative will not only benefit the Pakistan men's cricket team but also help bridge the gap between domestic and international cricket.

"These five mentors will play a pivotal role in the development and progression of our emerging cricketers. They will guide strategic planning and team-building processes, while also providing support in leadership and personal development.

"The PCB is committed to strengthening Pakistan's cricket through a robust domestic structure that offers a clear and competitive pathway for all cricketers. The most talented and skilled players will advance through the ranks to represent Pakistan at the highest level."

About mentors:

**Misbah-ul-Haq:-**  
•Pakistan's most successful Test captain, who led his side to victories in 26 out of 56 Tests,

including inspiring Pakistan to No.1 in the ICC Test Team Rankings in August 2016

•In 2014, equaled the then world record of fastest Test century by hitting a 56-ball 100 against Australia in Abu Dhabi

•Featured in two 50-over World Cups, three T20 World Cups and three ICC Champions Trophy events

•Was a member of the side that played the final of the ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and won the tournament two years later at Lord's

•One of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year for 2017

**Saqlain Mushtaq:-**  
•Is the fastest to 250 ODI wickets and took most ODI wickets in a calendar year

•Is second on the list of most consecutive five-wickets in an ODI innings

•Took two hat-tricks in ODIs, including one in a World Cup

•Is the inventor of 'Doosra'

•Played in three World Cups and two Champions Trophy events

**Sarfaraz Ahmed:-**  
•Captained Pakistan to victories in the ICC U19 World Cup 2006 and ICC Champions Trophy 2017, was a member of the Pakistan side that won the ACC Asia Cup 2012

•Led Pakistan to No.1 in ICC T20I Team Rankings

•Holds the record for most dismissals in an ODI (all 6 catches)

•Only the second wicket-keeper to have captained his side in 50 or more ODIs; 17th on the ODI list of wicket-keepers with 2,000 runs and 100 dismissals

•Also played in two 50-over World Cups and one T20 World Cup

**Shoaib Malik:-**  
•Played in 2007 and 2019 50-over World Cup; featured in six T20 World Cups, including captaining the side in the 2007

# PSA announces World Events Calendar for 2024-25 Season

## Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Professional Squash Association (PSA) has today announced its 2024-25 PSA Squash Tour calendar, with more than 50 World Events scheduled to take place across five continents from August 2024 to June 2025.

The season begins later this month in Cairo for the first Diamond-tier event of the new PSA Squash Tour era. With the main draw held between August 30 - September 6, the CIB Egyptian Open will also feature a qualifying draw between August 26-28, with four spots up for grabs in both the men's and women's draws, said a press release.

The opening Platinum-tier tournament of the season will see the Paris Squash event move to the spectacular Cirque d'Hiver Boulogne between September 15-21, while the sport's first Copper-tier event will be held in London, Canada when the Nash Cup takes place between September 17-21.

The Qatar Q-Terminals Classic is scheduled for September 30 - October 5 before the PSA Squash Tour heads to the United States and Canada for multiple events, including the Silicon Valley Open presented by Oracle NetSuite and the U. S. Open in San Francisco and Philadelphia, respectively.

From there, the PSA Squash Tour moves to Asia for several tournaments, including in popular destinations such as Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong, before the tour signs off for the winter break.

2025 kicks off with the Florida Open and Squash in the Land Open, before the J. P. Morgan Tournament of Champions showcases the world's best players in New York's famous Grand Central Terminal in the first Platinum tournament of the New Year.

North America hosts a further 10 events throughout February and March, before the tour heads to New Zealand and Australia.

Several tournaments will take place in Europe in March and April, including the Optasia Championships and Grasshopper Cup, before the tour returns to Egypt for the El Gouna International (in April) and the new Palm Hills Open (in May). The biggest tournament in squash - the PSA World Championships - will be staged between May 9-17.

The British Open - the second Diamond tournament of the season - will return to the spectacular Birmingham Rep Theatre at the start of June, before the season draws to a close at the PSA Squash Tour Finals at the end of the month.

In addition to the various trophies on offer, points for the Road to Tour Finals standings will be available at all World Events throughout the season.

The top eight players on the standings qualify for the season-ending PSA Squash Tour Finals, whilst all Diamond winners and the reigning PSA World Champions qualify automatically for the season-ending spectacle, which was won by Egyptian duo Ali Farag and Nouran Gohar last season.



event; and, six Champions Trophy tournaments

•Is 33rd on the list of ODI players with 1,000 runs, 50 wickets and 50 catches

•Holds the record for one of the longest international careers, spanning over 19 years and 245 days

•Has appeared in 35 Tests, 287 ODIs and 124 T20Is in which he has scored 11,867 runs and taken 218 wickets

•He is considered as one of the most sought after and busiest

cricketers in franchise cricket

Waqar Younis:-

•Played in three 50-over World Cups

•Holds the record for fastest to 400 ODI wickets

•Leads the list of captains with best ODI bowling figure

•Is one of the bowlers to dismiss all 11 batters in a Test match

•Coached Pakistan in the 2010 and 2016 T20 World Cups and 2015 World Cup, while last served Pakistan as bowling coach from 2019-2021



## Call on

ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



Photo: PID

# Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, calls on Prime Minister

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and

underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. These relations form the foundation of their bilateral relationship.

General Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as

an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan. He expressed China's desire to elevate their bilateral friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration. Recognizing the role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating

terrorism, General Li reiterated the PLA's commitment to further expanding its cooperation with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces.

The two sides focused on various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defense and strategic partnership.

## China's General Li Qiaoming calls on Army chief General Asim in Rawalpindi



## Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters today. The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to

the enduring brotherhood between the two nations. The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan's concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China. Earlier, upon arrival at the General Headquarters, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality.

## Finance Minister meets with Mr. Antti Partanen, FinnFund Representative to Discuss Investment Opportunities



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Antti Partanen, a representative from FinnFund, a Finnish development financier. The meeting focused on exploring potential investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Finance Minister underscored the significant improvements in Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators and highlighted the government's structural reform agenda, including the digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector reforms, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms, and privatization measures. He stressed the government's focus on transforming Paki-

stan into an export-led economy and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to enhance the country's export base.

Mr. Partanen presented an overview of FinnFund's profile and investment initiatives in Pakistan, emphasizing their interest in digital infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, and forestry. He noted that Pakistan's growing young population makes it an attractive destination for financing and expressed FinnFund's willingness to explore investments in various sectors of the country.

The Minister reiterated the commitment of the government for making Pakistan's investment climate favourable and conducive for foreign investors.

## Energy Minister says power prices to be lowered in next one year

## Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Federal Energy Minister Sardar Owais Khan Laghari has said that electricity prices will decrease in the next one year. The relief of 45 billion rupees given to the electricity consumers by the Punjab government will be conveyed to the consumers in a transparent manner. He expressed these views while talking to the media at Mepco headquarters on Monday. He said that after mutual discussion with the IPPs, the matters will be decided according to the national and public interests.

Owais Laghari said that efforts are also being made to solve the problem of capacity payments. In response to a question, he said that he will



fix the issues of discos before privatization. Installation of pre-paid meters, solutions to consumer problems and

relief given in electricity bills by the Punjab government will be communicated to the consumers in a transparent

manner. Owais Laghari said that the culture of recommendation from the ministry has been abolished, there are more

than 15% reports of electricity theft in Multan Electric Power supply Company (MEPCO) region, which strict measures are being taken to prevent it and the administration has been given a free hand in this regard. He said that our goal is to transfer all meters to smart meters, which will benefit single and three-phase consumers.

The federal minister said that the helpline system is being made more effective for the convenience of electricity consumers and for immediate action on complaints. Efficiency and suggestions were discussed to transparently convey the relief of 45 billion rupees to the electricity consumers by the Punjab government.

## Palestine foreign ministry condemns Israeli minister's call for temple in Al-Aqsa Mosque

## News Desk

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates views with great seriousness the threats of extremist Minister Ben Gvir to establish and build a Jewish synagogue in the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and considers it a public and explicit call to demolish it and build the alleged temple in its place. The Ministry also strongly condemns the storming of the mosque by extremist Jews and their performance of Talmudic dances and prayers in its courtyards, including the so-called epic prostration and others. The Ministry warns of the dangers resulting from Ben Gvir's calls as a recipe for blowing up the conflict arena and the entire region, and a deliberate sabotage of inter-

national and regional efforts made to stop the aggression and displacement against our people.

The Ministry holds the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for the results of this incitement practiced by Ben Gvir and his ilk, especially the introduction of the conflict arena into a cycle of violence that is difficult to control and may never end, and calls for effective Arab, Islamic and international action to pressure the Israeli side to force it to put an end to Ben Gvir's provocative practices, statements and positions, including imposing deterrent sanctions on extremist settler elements who promote escalation, violence and expanding the

## Appointment rules of higher judiciary comes into force as per Constitution: Law minister

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said the rules and procedures pertaining to the appointment of the higher judiciary come into force as per the Constitution and its articles postulated in the Law.

The law minister expressed these views during the ninth session of the National Assembly after the Speaker sought him to clarify the procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice of the apex court. Azam Tarar informed the House that there was no rule of seniority in the high courts, as the Lahore High Court unanimously made the fifth-ranked judge the Chief Justice.

"However, under the Eight-



eenth Constitutional Amendment, the senior-most judge becomes the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court," the Law Minister said.

Earlier, Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub Khan demanded the appointment of the apex court chief on seniority basis. Menawhile, the Opposition Leader extended his gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly

for issuing the production orders of the detained Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Member National Assembly, Chaudhry Imtiaz, who was attending the current session.

Omar Ayub Khan condemned the Musa Khel attack leaving 23 innocent civilians martyred along with the dacoits' attack on police van in Rahim Yar Kham.

## I don't want any relief, Former Prime Minister

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has accused the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Army Chief General Asim Munir of being responsible for his safety, claiming he is being held in harsh conditions in Adiala Jail.

Speaking to the media after a hearing in the £190 million case, Khan stated that he has no contact with the establishment and any future communication will be for the sake of the country and the law. He asserted that the public loves the army because it protects them, but criticized the current administration, saying, "Only sheep are controlled by sticks, not humans. The country needs strong institutions. What they are doing is suicide."

Khan further expressed concern about the conditions of his confinement, claiming his cell is "like an oven" and that he is being subjected to excessive scrutiny. He said, "The room

where I am kept is like an oven, but despite this, I don't want any relief."

Regarding the recent cricket team's defeat to Bangladesh, Khan criticized the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, calling him a "crony" who has destroyed the sport.

He accused Naqvi of being involved in the wheat scandal and having a property worth \$5 million in Dubai registered under his wife's name. He also questioned Naqvi's qualifications for his positions, highlighting his involvement in a 2008 corruption case.

Khan emphasized that cricket is the most popular sport in Pakistan and that the current team's decline is a result of nepotism and favoritism. He claimed that the team's performance has drastically dropped since Naqvi's appointment, despite a previous victory over India.

Khan also expressed concern about his wife Bushra Bibi's living conditions, stating that her room is infested with rats. He informed the court about the situation, hoping for a solution.