

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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عبداللہ بن زبیر کو مکہ مکرمہ میں منبر پر یہ کہتے  
سنا انہوں نے اپنے خطبے میں کہا کہ اے لوگو!  
نبی کریم ﷺ فرماتے تھے کہ اگر انسان کو ایک  
واہی سنا کر اس کے دل سے یا جانے تو وہ دوسری کا  
خود کشدور سے جا کر دوسری سے دی جائے تو  
تیسری کا خود کشدور سے جا کر اس سے دی جائے  
کے سوا اور کوئی چیز نہیں بھرنے اور اللہ پاک  
اس کی توبہ قبول کرے۔  
(صحیح بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6438)  
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## Interior minister meets Indrika Ratwatte

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with the UN delegation led by UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte. The high-level delegation included UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya, Fady El Meouchy, Special Assistant to the DSRSG, and Head of the UN mission in Afghanistan Malick Ceesay.



## Commerce minister pledges support for leather, footwear industry

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday held a meeting with the Pakistan Leather and Footwear Council, marking what he described as the first time a federal minister has actively engaged with this sector's council. The minister emphasized that the primary goal of the meeting was to restructure, strengthen, and revitalize the council, ensuring it becomes a more active and effective body, said a press release issued here.

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## Shutter down protest

ISLAMABAD: A view of closed shops at Karachi Company Market in the Federal Capital, during a nationwide strike called by trade organizations against the high electricity bills, excessive taxes and the absence of business-friendly policies.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Traders observe strike across Pakistan against taxes, hefty electricity bills

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The traders' community is observing a nationwide strike against the imposition of taxes and hefty electricity and gas bills. President All Pakistan Traders' Association, Ajmal Baloch said no talks are being held with the government and they are observing a strike across Pakistan.

Markets from Karachi to Khyber are closed on the call of the traders' body.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Central President of the Anjuman-e-Tajir, Kashif Chaudhry, termed the government's negotiations a 'drama' and vowed to observe strike.

Kashif Chaudhry said that traders are united, demanding a reduction in electricity prices and a review of the IPP agreements. He said that the economic system

needs to be corrected, terming the strike a step in that direction.

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial assured traders to accept their 'legitimate' demands but said that the Tajir Dost Scheme would not be withdrawn.

In a virtual meeting with traders from Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala, and Peshawar,

Rashid Mahmood Langrial said that all 'legitimate' demands of traders will be met. The FBR chairman; however, made it clear that the Tajir Dost Scheme will not be rolled back.

Rashid Mahmood Langrial said that Pakistan is among a few countries where retail and whole-sale tax is not levied, adding that it is not possible to tax the weak more than the powerful.

## PM Shehbaz lauds Moody's credit rating upgrade for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his satisfaction with Global rating agency Moody's recent upgrade of Pakistan's credit rating and attributed the achievement to the hard work of the economic team and the blessings of the Almighty.

Chairing a review meeting on the nation's economic development and investment strategies, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that Pakistan's economy had been rescued from default

by prioritizing the country's needs over his own political career during his previous term as prime minister.

He expressed satisfaction that, after stabilization, the country's economy was now on the path of progressing and development.

He noted that the benefits of the government's focus on national interests over political gains were now evident in the economy.

The prime minister also pointed out that Moody's Caa2 rating for Pakistan was an international endorsement of the government's economic strat-



egies. He expressed optimism that the economy would maintain its positive trajectory and continue to progress. The prime minister

commended the finance minister and his team for their significant progress and improvements in the overall economic situation.

He added that the interest shown by the friendly countries in investing billions of rupees across various sectors was a direct outcome of the government's business and investment-friendly policies.

The prime minister directed to give key importance to the element of transparency in all projects and to ensure their implementation on a priority basis.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attallah Tarar, Sardar Owais Khan Leghari, Dr. Musadik Malik, and Abdul Aleem Khan.

Also present were Ministers of State Ali Pervaiz Malik and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, and other relevant senior officials.

## PTI decides to hold rally in Lahore on September 15

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan on September 15, and has submitted a formal request to the Lahore district administration

for permission to hold the event.

The request, submitted by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, cites relevant articles and Supreme Court rulings regarding the granting of permission for public gatherings.

This decision comes after the PTI canceled its planned rally in Lahore on August 27 due to a lack of permission.

Previously, the party also canceled a planned rally in Islamabad on August 22. The rally is now scheduled for September 8.



## Govt to begin privatization of DISCOs by April 2025: Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, said on Wednesday that the government, in collaboration with the Privatization Commission, is moving forward with the privatization of DISCOs.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the first batch of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) will have their Expression of Interest (EOI) published in April 2025. He said that final transactions were expected to be completed within 3-6 months thereafter.



The minister also revealed plans to follow the Turkish model for the DISCOs that are currently incurring losses.

These companies will enter into concession agreements ranging from 20 to 25 years, which will include investment obligations and improvement requirements.

The ultimate goal is to enhance these companies' performance so that their shares can be sold at a later stage, he said.

The minister identified high interest rates and the devaluation of the rupee as the primary reasons for the current high electricity rates.

He also mentioned plans to negotiate with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to reduce electricity prices where

ever possible, based on mutually agreed terms.

The minister also outlined plans to reprofile debt, shift from imported coal to local coal, and eliminate line losses, which could result in a reduction of approximately 7 rupees per unit.

Additionally, by closing older power generation plants, the government aims to eliminate capacity payments, potentially reducing the burden by 66 paisa per unit.

The minister said that the government was committed to bring unprecedented reforms to the energy sectors that are already underway

## Nawaz Sharif likely to leave for London



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and former three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to visit London next month, quoting sources.

Nawaz Sharif is expected to leave for London on September 11th, sources say.

The former prime minister will stay in London for two to three weeks where he will undergo medical check-up.

The Sharif will meet his sons during his three-week stay in UK.

Last year, the former prime minister returned to Pakistan after four years of self-imposed exile in London.

# PM warns of stern action against malicious propaganda' in Neelum

**Bureau Report**

NEELUM: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has warned of stern action against those engaged in malicious propaganda targeting the national security institutions of the country. The Prime Minister Haq said this during a press briefing at Kuttan Colony today. Lauding Pakistan armed forces' unprecedented role in defending the territorial integrity of the country, he said that it was due to the unprecedented sacrifices of our brave soldiers who perform their duties on borders and high mountains without caring about their lives to protect us and our homeland.



He said that it was high time that we realize the armed forces' significant contribution and sacrifices they have been rendering to safeguard the country's ideological and geographical frontiers. About the development

work carried out during the past couple of years, the PM said that over a billion rupees have been spent for the construction of Neelum highway. Terming better road infrastructure as a key to promote tourism in the region,

he said that 90 percent of the Highway would be completed by the end of this year.

He said that the condition of hospitals also needs to be improved by appointing officers on the basis of

merit. Voicing his concern over citizens' attitudes and responsibilities towards the state, he said that it was quite disappointing that the people don't realize their duties. He said that people in Azad Kashmir don't pay their bills despite the fact that the electricity was provided to consumers on cheaper rates as compared to other provinces of Pakistan.

The bill payment rate in Neelum for the month of August, he said, was very disappointing. "Out of 28,000 registered consumers, only 4,000 users have paid their bills", the PM added. The PM said that the government would no longer tolerate any leniency in this regard.

"Legal action will be taken against those who fail to pay their bills and the electricity will be disconnected", the PM said. On this occasion, the PM announced a grant of rupees 7 lakh to the press club.

## AJK President expresses deep grief over death of former minister Chaudhry Aziz

**Bureau Report**

MUZZAFFARABAD:- President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the death of former minister Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz.



In his condolence message, Barrister Chaudhry, while expressing sympathies with the bereaved family, prayed to Allah the almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

On this occasion, the President hailed the deceased leader's political and social services for the people of Azad Kashmir.

Chudhary Aziz, he said, would be remembered for a long time owing to his social and welfare work he had carried to improve lives of common people within and outside his constituency.

Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz, he said, was a man of integrity who always pursued the politics of principles and public welfare.

## Musa Khel Tragedy in Balochistan is a Bigger incident than May 9: Dharija



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: The Musa Khel tragedy in Balochistan is a bigger incident than May 9. The state has failed to protect its citizens. If you cannot provide security and justice to the citizens, leave the government. Who will respond to the genocide of the Saraikis? How long did the people of Wasib pick up the dead bodies? In Balochistan, the people of Wasib have been being killed in the name of Punjab for years, and justice has not been met till date. We demand that one crore be given to the heirs of the martyrs, that our identity cards be made in Saraiki and that the proposed Saraikistan province be written in front of the district. These views were expressed by Saraiki leaders, Rana Muhammad Faraz Noon, Chairman of the Saraikistan Democratic Party, Zahoor Dharija, Chairman of the Saraikistan National Council of Pakistan, Inayatullah Mashriqi, Abdul Majeed Abbasi, Meher Abid Towana Jhang, Malik Javed Chanar, Karim Nawaz Khan (APCA) Multan, Khawaja Shoaib ul Hasan, Malik Iqbal Nandla, AD Pappu Raan, Wazir Kachala, Shoaib Nawaz Baloch and others addressed the press conference at Multan Press Club. Saraiki leaders said that the incidents of killing innocent poor Saraikis fall under the category of genocide of Saraikis, the silence of the government of Pakistan and the provincial governments on these incidents is condemnable, if action had been taken on such incidents that happened earlier, today Such incidents would not happen again. The Saraiki leaders said that it is a shame that the United Nations and international organizations are condemning the incident of killing Saraikis in the name of Punjab by looking at their identity cards. We also condemn Baloch, Pashtun and Sindh. Why are nationalists silent on the humanitarian incident? He said that Mahrang Longo, who was offered flowers and wreaths when Wasib came, the Mahrang Majeed Brigade has sent corpses to Wasib in return. Also see that the media is also silent on the atrocities on Saraiki. Where will big TV anchors like Hamid Mir? Who were walking on the pavement in front of the moon. He said that the color of the moon is not Baloch, it is long, he has changed his caste from two digits, these Baloch are not well-wishers of anyone, these people have become hired killers by taking crores from foreign agencies. Saraiki leaders said that Saraikistan is the heart of Pakistan and it is also the junction of all four provinces. The borders and relations of other nations living in Pakistan are with the neighboring countries of India, Afghanistan, and Iran. There is only a Saraiki nation whose everything is Pakistan. He said that this region can keep all the provinces strong and stable as a defense fence, but this region has been made the most weak.

## Multan Cantt Board Alerted for Heavy Rains: Syed Farast Shah

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: President Cantt Board and Executive Officer Syed Farast Shah has alerted the Department of Sanitation and Enforcement Cell for 24 hours in view of heavy rains and has set up a complaint cell in the Cant Board office for immediate redressal of complaints and canceling the leave of employees. Due to the torrential rain during the year, orders have been issued to remove standing water from the residents of the entire cant and the standing water in the bazaar area and to work on an emergency basis to save the citizens from trouble and for immediate redressal of complaints. Various teams were formed and charitable activities were started. Assistant Secretary of Canton Board Faisal Jadoon, Waseem Amir, Inspectors of Chaudhry Zaheer Sanitation Department, Enforcement Cell and Member Board Muhammad Yaqub Shera have been monitoring the relief activities. Welcoming the relief activities to be initiated by the Kent Board authorities, we are grateful.



## Public in trouble

KARACHI: Citizens traveling while sitting on the roofs of buses due to the lack of transport in the city during strike, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Jamaat-e-Islami says traders' strike is referendum on PM's rule

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The nationwide successful strike of traders is a public referendum against the oppressive policies of the government. Safdar Hashmi

Today's successful strike proved that the people have started their struggle towards revolution. Jamaat-e-Islami will never remain silent on public issues. These views were expressed by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi in a press conference with business leaders at Kachari Chowk. On this occasion, Sheikh Irfan, Mian Asif Ikhwani, Hafiz Mohammad Aslam and others were also



present in addition to the presidents of Anjuman Tajran Pakistan, Tanzim Tajran Pakistan, All Pakistan Anjuman

Tajran and Pakistan Business Forum.

He further said that cruel taxes have broken everyone's

back. Injustice is rampant. Rs 14 relief for two months in electricity prices is not acceptable. He said that if the IPPs in

the country are audited and efforts are made to bring the price of electricity to the original price, then this price can be reduced by Rs 30.

Dr. Safdar Hashmi added that every section is worried about the cruel taxes. Atrocious tax slab has been imposed on the salaried class which is unfair.

He further said that today's successful shutter down strike should open the eyes of the rulers, if they do not open their eyes today, no one can stop the path of revolution in the country. The people are ready to destroy the palaces of these rulers and to overthrow them and their system.

# Traders observe successful country wide protest and shutter down strike against anti business policies

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The Central Chairman of Tajran Pakistan Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui has said that like other cities of the country, the business community in Pakistan and South Punjab including Multan has protested against anti-business policies, IPPs agreements, electricity, gas, petroleum products, food items and consumption. went on a complete strike against the increase in prices but the police of the local police station kept harassing and harassing the traders to arrest them. But we pay tribute to the business community, if the government does not come to its senses now, we will announce the next course of action in two to three days, if we have to strike on a daily basis and hold a dharna in front of the Parliament House. Malik Qaiser Iqbal, president of Anjuman Tajran

NawanShahr, Dera Ada, Gujjar Khada Road, expressed these thoughts yesterday in connection with the nationwide shutter down strike on the call of the central organization Tajran Pakistan and All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran. During the protest demonstration at Nawan Shahrak organized by Anjuman Tajran NawanShahr, Dera Ada, Gujjar Khada Road Chairman Shahid Bhatta, General Secretary Talal Siddiqui, Anjuman Tajran Chowk Shaheed-an Pari Sabzi Mandi President Rana Owais Ali, Hussain President of Agahi Chowk Bazaar Sheikh Pervez Akhtar, Sheikh Faisal, Nasir Chauhan, Muhammad Sabir, Hasan, Shahid, Rana Irfan, Rehan Siddiqui, Aslam Ansari, Saad, Aleem and others participated in the protest. Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, who chanted slogans like, "No, let the poor burn the stove", "Heavy electrici-

ty bills are not approved", and "Abolish FBR" Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui added that they completely reject the businessmen-friendly scheme, but the businessmen. The Kush scheme is a businessmen-friendly scheme, the rulers are enjoying themselves by increasing the prices of food and consumption items, including the huge bills of electricity and gas, robbing the pockets of millions of small traders and millions of poor people.

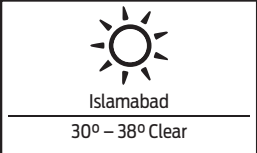
Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui added that like South Punjab, Multan also has Hussain Agahi Electronic Market, Chowk Bazaar, Hussain Agahi, Hussain Agai Auto Market, Rahma Center Mobile Plaza, Kachhari. Road Daulat Gate Masoom Shah Road Manzorabad Hafiz Jamal Road Chonghi No. 14 Chungi No. 11 Timber Market,



Grain Market Sabz Market Fish Market Rashidabad Chowk Shah Abbas Chowk Kamharanwala, Samijabad 40ft Road Usman Ghani Road, MA Jinnah Road, Gulshan Market, Shah Rukn Alam T Chowk, General Bus Stand, Wahari Chowk, BCG Chowk, Mumtazabad Hamid Commercial Centre, Mumtaz-

abad Main Bazaar, Chah Jammu Wala, 30 Feet Road, Chungi No. 22, Old Shujabad Road, Sher Shah Road Railway Station Aziz Hotel Chowk Multan Cantonment Board, Kalma Chowk, Nawar Shaher, Dera Adda, Gujjar Khada, Hasan Parwana Road, Pul Shawala, Chowk Fawara, Ghanta

Ghar, Bohar Gate, Haram Gate, Pak Chowk, Delhi Gate, Lohari Gate, Khooni Burj Chowk, Shaheed, Old Sabzi Mandi, Paper Market, Bohar Gate, Urdu Bazar, Black Market and other markets and bazaars of Multan remained closed, for which the traders are grateful



**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:12 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	4:47 pm
Maghrib	6:38 pm
Isha	8:05 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**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

# Pakistan-China institute's all parties moot reaffirms unwavering support to CPEC

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, successfully organised a unique event under its 'Friends of Silk Road' series, which brought together leaders of 8 political parties on one platform to reaffirm support for CPEC. Leaders belonging to parties from Government and Opposition, PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM and JUI-F, from all provinces, were represented. They also discussed the results of the recently-concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, emphasised the pivotal role of the CPC in China's ongoing journey of reform and modernization, adding CPC is the world's biggest political party with 100 million members and longest-serving political party, which has transformed China. Citing

figures of China's phenomenal progress since the 1979 Reform & Opening Up, he said then China had per capita income of \$ 157 while now it's \$ 12,000, then China's GDP was \$ 150 billion, now it's \$ 18 trillion. And Fortune 500 now counts China with 142, the largest number of companies. Senator Mushahid Hussain listed 5 reasons for the China Success Story in such a short time: Quality of Leadership, Ability to do Course Correction, Continuity of Policy, Learning from others, and Peaceful Foreign Policy.

Yang Nuo, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, emphasized the importance of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee, describing it as a pivotal event for China's future, stating "This session serves as a blueprint for further reforms in China, setting the stage for continued progress and development."

Senator Sherry Rehman, Saadia Khaqan Abbasi, Senator Shibli Faraz, Leader of Opposi-

tion, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, MNA, Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Senior Leader of National Democratic Movement, (NDM) and Shezra Mansab Ali, MNA, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised China's development story as a role model for the world and highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as having the potential for shared development and prosperity across the globe.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs in his closing remarks as Chief Guest shared his experiences from numerous visits to China, emphasizing the country's consensus-oriented decision-making process. "In China, decisions are made through a consensus-driven approach, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered, which contributes to their effective governance," Sheikh remarked. He also spoke about his visits to Gwadar, where he observed



significant development under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "The development I witnessed in Gwadar is a clear indicator of the trans-

formative impact CPEC has had on the region," he said.

Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, leader of National Party, Senator Abdul Qadir from

Balochistan Awami Party, Taha Ahmed Khan from MQM and Senator Ali Zafar from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also speak on the occasion.

## Raja Bazaar closed

RAWALPINDI: Commuters make their way through a closed market at Raja Bazaar area during a nationwide strike called by trade organizations against the high electricity bills, excessive taxes and the absence of business-friendly policies, in the city.



Photo: Online

## DPO, Peace Committee discuss Rabi Ul Awwal at DC Office

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: District Police Officer Attock Dr Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan along with DC Attock Rao Atif Raza meeting with members of Peace Committee Attock regarding Rabi Awwal at DC Office Attock.

According to the details, on the special instructions of the Punjab Government, District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan along with DC Attock Rao Atif Raza held a meeting regarding Rabi-ul-Awwal at the DC Office Attock in which the Peace Committee of Attock district. Members Mahmudul Hasan Tawhidi, Syed Waqar Naqvi, Khatib Ghulam Muhammad Siddiqui and other members participated. On this occasion, DPO Attock said that with the support of the Peace Committee, Muharram Al-Haram was concluded with great devotion and respect and it is hoped that, God willing, they will play an exemplary role in Rabi Ul Awwal as well. He said that the purpose of the peace committee is to identify the social evils and solve them together with the administration so as to prevent crimes in the society and also to maintain peace and order in the society.

## AKU, IBA Organize Dialogue on Undergraduate Education

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), in partnership with the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), hosted a pivotal dialogue on the future of undergraduate education.

Held at IBA's Main Campus, the event brought together esteemed scholars and educational leaders from renowned institutions including AKU, IBA, Habib University (HU), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), and the University of Balochistan (UoB). The dialogue, spearheaded by Professor Asma Hyder, Dean of SESS, IBA and Professor Farid Panjwani, Dean of AKU-IED, centered on the evolving landscape of undergraduate education amidst global challenges and technological advancements.



Dr Panjwani, Dr Faisal Bari (LUMS), Dr Aaron Mulvany (HU), Dr Anjum Halai (AKU), Dr Aurangzaib Alizai (UoB), Dr Hyder emphasised the importance of this initiative, stating, "Undergraduate students

are at a stage of idealism and creativity, making it the profound responsibility of universities to nurture their potential through critically progressive and historically grounded education.

## Rawalpindi Arts Council restricts activities of local artists after demands of paying fees

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The activities of artists in the Rawalpindi Arts Council were restricted. The administration of Rawalpindi Arts Council imposed a condition on local artists to pay huge fees for celebrating religious and national festivals. On the strong appeal of the artists, Asma Butt, representing them, met the Rawalpindi Assistant Commissioner Miss Ayesha Fazilat and said that the artists are the ambassadors of Pakistan. Demanding heavy payments from them is tantamount to hurting their self-esteem. On this, Rawalpindi Assistant Commissioner Miss Ayesha Fazilat thanked Asma Butt for highlighting the problems of artists and said that our art and culture is the hallmark of Pakistan. The district administration will play its positive role in solving the problems of artists.



artists of Rawalpindi Islamabad want to pay tribute to the Pakistani forces and national heroes on Quaid-e-Azam Day, Independence Day, Defense Day, to express their love for their country,

they are demanded huge fees, which they cannot afford it. In this regard, a large number of artists met Asma Butt, chairperson of Dolphin Communication and the leader of the artists,

and requested that the artists be dealt with. To solve the legitimate problems of the artists. We requested to you play your positive role. On which Asma Butt along with famous actress Sheeba Butt had an important meeting with Rawalpindi Assistant Commissioner Miss Ayesha Fazilat and informed her about the problems of artists. Asma Butt said during the meeting that there is no organization working for the welfare of artists in Rawalpindi. At least Rawalpindi Arts Council should be made capable where artists can celebrate their festivals in a free and peaceful environment. Asma Butt said that the director of Rawalpindi Arts Council Sajjad has clearly told the artists that if someone will perform a Milad, then money will be collected from the artists. When the artists asked for permission to celebrate Defense Day on September 6, director Rawalpindi Arts Council Sajjad asked for compensation.

## Inauguration of Software Technology Park (STP) Kotli

**Bureau Report**

KOTLI: Following the successful establishment of STPs in Mirpur, Muzafferabad and Poonch, Special Communications Organization (SCO) has inaugurated another state-of-the-art Software Technology Park (STP) in Kotli. This modern facility, built to international standards, is a testament to SCO's commitment in enhancing IT infrastructure across Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Kotli STP marks another milestone in providing local youth with access to high-speed internet, computing resources and wide-ranging IT facilities.

Maj Gen Umar Ahmad Shah, Director General SCO, inaugurated the facility, with university officials, senior civil and military representatives, IT professionals, and students in attendance. In his address, Maj Gen Umar Ahmad Shah reiterated SCO's commitment to fostering IT growth in the area. He emphasized that, in line with the Chief of Army Staff's vision, over 40 software technology parks and freelancing hubs have been established across Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. These initiatives are aimed to empower local youth by providing them with platforms to hone and showcase their IT skills, contributing to Pakistan's economy through increased foreign exchange earnings.

## EtiHAD Group declares complete shutter down protest on economic killing of businessmen

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Central Cloth Board EtiHAD Group Pakistan President Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra has expressed solidarity by staging a complete shutter down strike on the appeal of the business community. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that the businessman friendly scheme is an exploitative scheme which was rejected by the business community. The government should negotiate with the businessmen on an emergency basis. The economic killing of the businessmen is intolerable. Against the sharp increase in electricity prices and taxes, inflation, bad law and order situation, unstable economy, the zealous and courageous businessmen of Pakistan have joined Jamaat-e-Islami. A peaceful public protest was recorded in the strike camp, supporting them side by side. On this occasion, Supreme Council President Sheikh Aslam Bhalli, Allied Group President Pervez Kamuka, Lawyers Street No. 7 President Haji Imran Variety Center, General Secretary Ijaz Qadri, Dr. Mahmood. Yusuf, Galli Nimr 4 President Osman Liaquat, Senior Vice President Rana Abid, General Secretary Asif Kamboh, Vice President Mohsin Shaikh, Vice President Haji Rizwan, Vice President Ijaz Kamboh, General Secretary Anjuman Tajran Punjab Mian Tanveer Riaz, Chief Executive Koh Nurmian Adil Khurshed, President Chan One Arif Butt, President D-Ground Sheikh Zayed, President Mansurabad Tariq Qadri, Haji Shah Qadir, Haji Saifulah, Haji Ehsan, Sheikh Imran General Secretary Gali Nimr 6, Haji Wasim Qadri Chairman Gali Wakilan, District President Ba Mian Anwal Haq, District President Jamaat Islami Faisalabad Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt, National Assembly Candidate Afzal Hussain, Sheikh Mushtaq, Chief Organizer Prime Union Railway Haji Khalid Mahmood and all the business community, lawyers, scholars of Faisalabad city are grateful that they fully supported the business community.

## Pindi businesses, traders stage successful shutter down strike

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Like traders across the country, the traders associated with the food sector also conducted a completely peaceful successful shutter down strike. A large number of traders closed their business centers and came out on the streets. Those who carried banners in their hands, on which slogans were written against the brutal actions of the government, additional taxes, limited resources and inflation. The business community demanded from the government that if the unnecessary tax burden is not reduced, inflation is not removed, additional taxes are not removed from water, electricity and gas bills, then the businessmen and people will march towards Islamabad. We warn the rulers to stop their cruel actions, otherwise we know very well how to throw out the rulers sitting in the houses.

The business community of Rawalpindi staged a complete shutter down strike on Wednesday. The peaceful protest at Chandni Chowk Murree Road was led by Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association. In which Mr. Malik Shahid Ghafoor, President Anjuman Tajran Punjab also participated specially, besides, a large number of businessmen related to the food sector also participated. On this occasion, President Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed and other speakers said in their respective speeches that today's peaceful strike has been done because of the government's unjustified retaliation. Needle gas prices were raised to such an extent that no trader could afford to pay.

We demand Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif to train the country's prime minister and Punjab chief minister to fix the country's economy first. Because it is not possible that Mian Nawaz Sharif is unaware of the fact that restaurants with limited resources and quality sold out Roti for 14 rupees. He gave a lot of sacrifices for the country. I don't know what happened that he seems indifferent to the sufferings of the people today. So Do not force the people to take to the streets. If the problems of the people and the traders are not solved on an urgent basis, they know very well how to handle this situation. We should not be forced to do this. The rulers should refrain from their actions. If the country is to move towards prosperity, make the businessmen and the people comfortable.

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# India-An Unsafe Land

The recent rape and Murder case of Dr Moumita shocked the whole world. It was very shocking to hear about the injuries found in dead body of Dr Moumita along with brutal rape where her Hyoid (neck bone) was fractured, Injury was found on her lips, Pelvis bone was broken, there was bleeding from mouth, Both eyes were damaged, Blood was spilled from eyes, Injury found in bell, Injury found in left leg, Right hand ring finger was broken, private part was brutally damaged, Bleeding was seen from private parts, Black mark was there all over the body and 150ml seme was found inside her body whereas one man can only have 10gm.

India exhibits a level of sexual freedom similar to European and American standards. The Indian Supreme Court has legalized cohabitation between unmarried couples, making relationships between boyfriends and girlfriends commonplace. Same-sex marriages are also legally recognized. Prostitution is legal in India, with designated red-light districts in every city where such activities are regulated at certain times. Numerous websites, Facebook pages, and WhatsApp groups facilitate the sex trade, and the local porn industry is well-established, with hundreds of active channels and web series.

In addition to red-light districts, massage centers and brothels operate in both affluent and less privileged neighborhoods. Prostitutes are

frequently seen at traffic signals, on beaches, and in popular areas, earning from one hundred to ten thousand rupees depending on their attractiveness. It is not uncommon for economically disadvantaged and middle-class women to engage in sex work to support their educational and living expenses. In terms of sexual freedom, India is comparable to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. If many still choose to commit acts of rape in India, it reflects a deeply troubling situation. Such rampant violence suggests that India is dangerously unstable.

The living conditions for minorities in India have deteriorated significantly, with women facing particularly harsh challenges. Women are especially vulnerable, making it very difficult for them to live and work freely in the country. India has become a hostile environment for women, especially in recent times. An alarming trend has emerged where young women are being forcibly pressured into changing their religion. This situation is particularly concerning in HIOJK, where young girls are being deceived and coerced into converting from Islam to Hinduism under the guise of love. A recent case involving Humera Mohi ud Din, whose conversion certificate was highlighted in the Indian media, clearly indicates that this girl from Baramulla, HIOJK, was forcibly compelled to change her religion.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

The country appears unsafe for its own citizens and poses a potential security threat to the world. While India positions itself as a responsible nuclear power, recent revelations of uranium being sold on the black market undermine this claim. A recent incident on August 10, where police in Gopalganj, Bihar, arrested three smugglers during a routine operation, further exposed these vulnerabilities. The nature of the goods recovered from these smugglers has alarmed security organizations globally. A rare radioactive substance called "californium," valued at 850 crore Indian rupees on the international market, was recently recovered from three smugglers: Lal Prasad, Chandan Gupta, and Chandan Ram. The presence of such sensitive material in the hands of minor criminals suggests a troubling vulnerability in India's nuclear program. This incident highlights concerns about the potential for India's nuclear assets to be compromised.

Earlier, on July 12, 2024, Indian security forces raided an apartment in the Rajpur area of Dehradun, Uttarakhand, uncovering a significant quantity of dangerous radioactive material stored in large, specialized boxes. This material, produced by the Mumbai-based Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), was found in the possession

of five individuals, including Samit Pathak from Agra and Abhishek Jain from Saharanpur. The discovery of such a large amount of nuclear material in the hands of ordinary criminals has alarmed global security organizations, though it is not the first instance of uranium theft in India. Several incidents were reported in past as well. In 2008, five individuals were arrested in Meghalaya for smuggling uranium. In 2021, 6.4 kg of uranium was recovered from four people in Jharkhand. In the same year, 7 kg of uranium valued at \$573 million was seized in Maharashtra. On August 26, 2021, 250 kg of highly radioactive uranium was seized in Kolkata. In December 2006, a container of radioactive material was stolen from a research center in Rajarja, Ramgarh district, and has yet to be recovered.

According to the Indian Environmental Portal, the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board's annual reports reveal 18 incidents of radiation source damage, theft, or loss since 2001. These recurring incidents suggest a black market for nuclear materials in India and highlight serious flaws in the country's security and nuclear protocols.

India's issues with human rights violations and inadequate protection of its nuclear assets are concerning and should prompt the international community to consider imposing sanctions. These factors highlight the need for immediate and decisive action to address India's shortcomings and to promote global safety and security.

## Protection of journalists and media professionals

The Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Wednesday unanimously passed the Private Member Bill "The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with several amendments after examining all clauses starting from 20-D of the bill introduced by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla.

The bill was passed during the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting held at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of the Committee Senator Syed Ali Zafar.

During the meeting, the minutes of the committee meeting held on 10 July 2024 were given approval, while Private Member's Bill for "The Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023" presented by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur in the Senate session held on 20th November 2023 was also reviewed.

Similarly, the committee also discussed in details the Private Members Bills titled, "The Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2020 introduced by Senator Manzoor Ahmed in the Senate session held on 25th January 2021,

and "The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 introduced by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in the Senate session held on 31 January 2022.

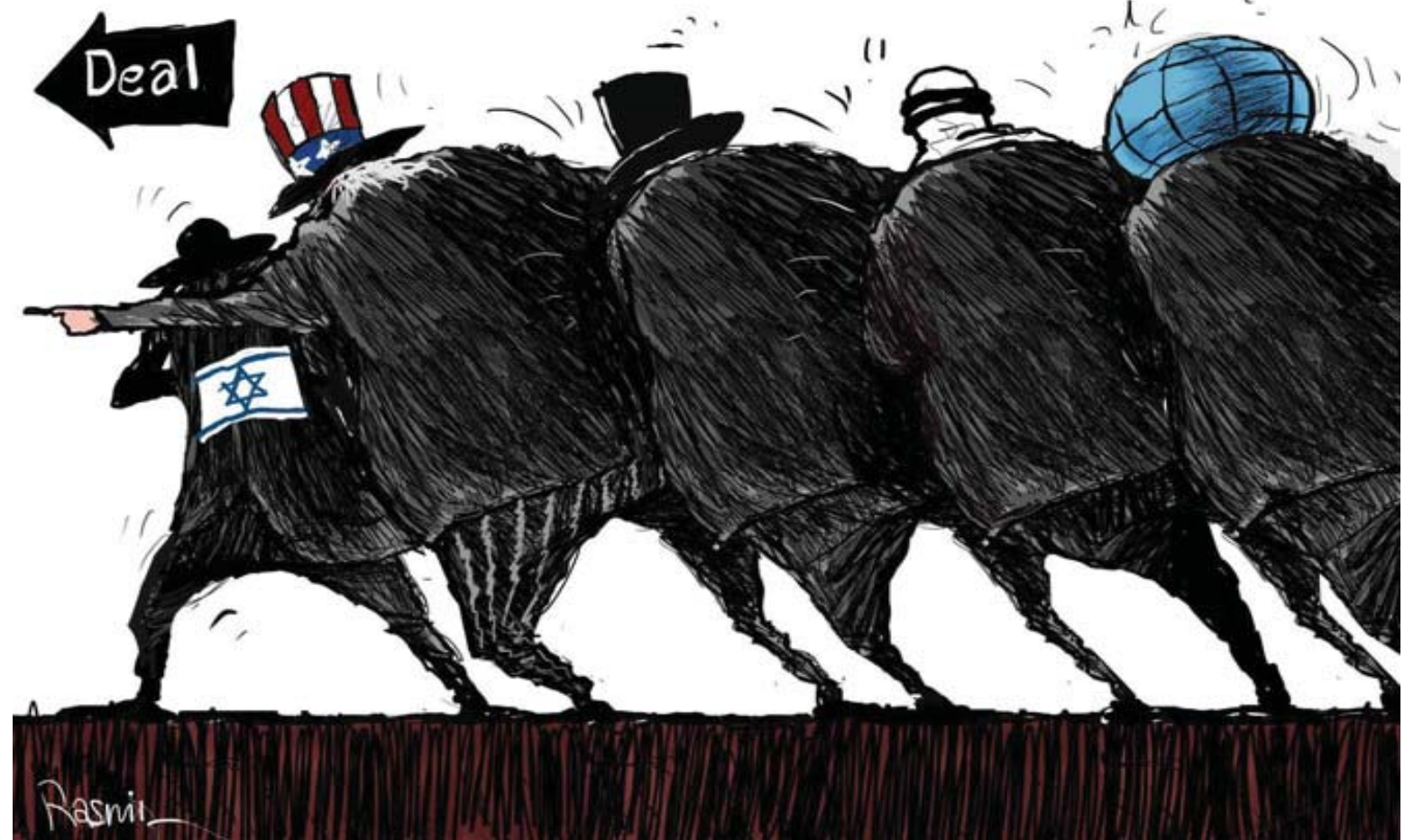
In addition to the Private Member's Bill for the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2022, the matters were reviewed in details regarding the law of defamation, its objectives, and its future, in the light of Articles 19 and 19-A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

On the special invitation of the Chairman Committee, eminent journalists of Pakistan like Muhammad Malik, besides representatives of electronic and print media also attended the meeting and gave their suggestions on the amendment bills.

Regarding the protection of journalists and media professionals, the committee agreed that journalists and media professionals are the fourth pillar of the state i.e. representatives of the media, so it is the responsibility of the state to protect them from physical violence, arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances etc.

The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting has unanimously approved the establishment of a Commission for the Protection of Journalists. The committee further suggested that media professionals and representatives of PFUJ along with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting prepare a draft and define the official definition of a journalist.

The committee also discussed the controversial Defamation Act passed by the Punjab Assembly, on which the chairman of the committee said that this law has nationwide implications, so it needs to be discussed in the committee.



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

## Imran Khan's Leadership Sparks Growing Internal Rift and Unrest

The internal power struggle within Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reached a tipping point, driven by the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. His tenure, stained by allegations of corruption and self-serving governance, has fueled dissatisfaction and division within the party. What was once a united movement is now facing internal discord, with many loyal PTI members becoming increasingly disillusioned by the party's current trajectory. These tensions, however, are not new—they are rooted in a broader failure of leadership that extends beyond Gandapur to Imran Khan himself.

capable leaders are sidelined in favor of individuals who do little to advance the party's objectives.

The ongoing crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a reflection of the deeper structural issues within PTI's leadership. Imran Khan's insistence on personal loyalty and his autocratic style of decision-making have stifled the potential for genuine reform. Capable leaders within the party—those who have the experience and vision to guide PTI beyond the personality of Khan—are being alienated. These individuals, who could help steer PTI toward its reformist ideals, are instead pushed aside, leaving the party at risk of losing its momentum.

As someone who has long advocated for a different vision of leadership in Pakistan, I see the current state of PTI as emblematic of a broader leadership crisis in the country. True leadership requires more than charisma and control; it requires a commitment to empowering others, fostering collaboration, and making decisions that are in the best interest of the nation rather than personal gain.

Imran Khan, despite his initial

appeal as a reformer, has failed to embody these principles. His governance, both in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has been marked by the promotion of weak leaders who lack the vision to bring about lasting change. This approach has undermined the party's effectiveness and alienated those within PTI who once believed in its promise.

The situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa underscores the urgent need for a shift in leadership across Pakistan. The country requires a leadership model that embraces transparency, meritocracy, and collective governance—principles that are essential for the long-term development of the nation. This leadership must empower local leaders, promote economic reform, and foster a political culture that prioritizes national progress over personal ambitions.

At this critical juncture, it is essential to reflect on the kind of leadership Pakistan needs—a leadership that prioritizes the nation's development, social justice, and empowerment over self-serving politics. Without this shift, Pakistan risks further instability and stagnation, hindering its potential for growth and prosperity.

*Muhammad Faiq Shah is a prominent businessman, political figure, and dedicated philanthropist. He can be reached via Email: [officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com](mailto:officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com)*



Analysis

Muhammad Faiq Shah



### Call for Immediate Action: Illegal Occupation Strikes the Fate of Palestinians

Dear Editor,  
 I write this letter to you to address the illegal occupation of Palestine by the Israeli Occupation Forces since 7th October 2023. The IDF has been targeting Palestinian infrastructure and civilians daily through shootouts and bombings of safe zones, schools, hospitals, mosques and apartments/houses of civilians. Official statistics state that, as of 9th August 2024, total 36,677 Palestinians have been murdered by Israeli Forces. Amongst them are more than 15,000 children who had bright futures ahead of them.

Due to these atrocious attacks daily, the Palestinians are deprived of necessities such as clean water, food, washrooms, sanitary products amongst many other things. To prevent further loss of human life, I appeal to the global community to escalate its efforts for a permanent ceasefire, donate maximum humanitarian aid and reach for a more long-term solution. The world needs to be strongly unified to lessen the immense loss experienced by Palestinians and guide them to a new life that resembles normalcy.

Thank you for your time and attention on this serious matter. I hope for

a rapid solution to this issue and for peace to prevail in Palestine.

Sincerely,  
 Zainab Hassan Khan  
[zainab.hassan.khan29@gmail.com](mailto:zainab.hassan.khan29@gmail.com)

### Growing Concern of Mpox: A Call to Action

Dear Editor,  
 As the World Health Organization declares a global emergency amidst the rising Mpox cases, it's imperative that we shed light on this growing concern. The rapid spread of the more lethal Clade 1b strain in the Democratic Republic of Congo and its potential to transcend international borders warrants immediate attention.

Mpox, a viral infection caused by the monkeypox virus, poses a significant threat to global health. Its transmission through close contact, contaminated surfaces, and infected animals underscores the need for vigilance. The symptoms, ranging from flu-like signs to painful rashes, can be debilitating, and the risk of severe illness is higher for vulnerable groups like infants, those with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women.

The lack of approved treatment options and reliance on antiviral medications for symptom management highlight the urgency for further research and development. The WHO-recommended vaccines offer hope, but accessibility and awareness remain crucial factors in containment.

As the situation unfolds, it's essential that we stay informed and take collective action to prevent the spread of Mpox. I urge your readers to educate themselves on the virus, its symptoms, and prevention measures. Let's work together to mitigate this

growing concern and ensure global health security.

Sincerely,  
 Adan Irshad, Rawalpindi.  
[adanirshad361@gmail.com](mailto:adanirshad361@gmail.com)

### Pakistan's Journey to Stone Age

Dear Editor,  
 I am a Virtual University student studying online, balancing remote work with firms in Chicago and Virginia while pursuing online courses in copywriting and freelancing. So that in future I can pursue my career in freelance copywriting. I mention this to highlight how heavily an average Pakistani depends on the internet. While countries like India and China, which gained independence around the same time as us, are reaching new heights of development, we are still struggling for something as basic as internet access. It's a shame!

It's disgraceful that, as a nation, we remain paralyzed, watching our decline in silence, while those in power—the monarchy in this so-called democratic state—makes nation's survival even harder. The Pakistani people are trapped in a paradox of love and despair, yearning for prosperity but hope feels distant.

This is more than just an inconvenience; it is a symbol of our decline as a nation. The time for action is long overdue, yet we remain numb, watching our country slip further into despair. My urge to policymakers is to prioritize the enhancement of essential services like internet access. It is time for decisive action to bridge the digital divide and foster the development our nation desperately needs.

Sincerely,  
 Aafia Javed, Karachi  
[aafijaved03@gmail.com](mailto:aafijaved03@gmail.com)

# Connect IT with Huawei, building future for business together

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Huawei Pakistan made its first ever significant mark in ITCN ASIA POWERED BY HUAWEI for the global technology leader in Pakistan at the Karachi Expo Centre, this year's ITCN promises to be a landmark occasion with Huawei's debut participation, showcasing its latest innovations and technology solutions.

Huawei Pakistan Presenting its cutting edge solution from Digital Power & EBG consisting of Data Center Facility & Critical Power, FusionSolar products of Commercial & Industrial PV Solutions, Idea Hub and the launch of the very new product line EKIT with many latest breakthroughs in foundation models, a vast range of new SMB models and applications. Huawei representative highlights how businesses can maximize the benefits of intelligence, digitalization, and the strategic advantages of advanced network and digital power technologies, emphasize accelerating intelligence through business development, industry advancements, and ecosystem growth.

The event was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries, including the Minister for IT and Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima, Additional Secretary IT and Telecom, Ms. Aisha Humera, Chairman PASHA, Mr. Zohaib Khan, Brigadier Nadir from SIFC, CEO of PSEB, Mr. Zeeshan Khattak, and Huawei's Vice CEO Public Affairs, Mr. Yushaoning. In recognition of his outstanding contri-

butions to the IT sector, Chairman PASHA, Mr. Zohaib Khan, was honored with a shield by the Minister for IT and Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima. This award highlights Mr. Khan's excellent work and the significant role PASHA plays in driving the IT industry forward. The exhibition attracted considerable attention, with Governor Sindh, Mr. Kamran Tessori, making a special appearance at the Huawei booth. Governor Tessori expressed his excitement and interest in learning more about Huawei and its various initiatives in Pakistan, underscoring the importance of international partnerships in the region's technological advancement.

Following the second day of the event, Additional Secretary IT, Ms. Aisha Humera, paid a detailed visit to the Huawei booth. During her visit, she showed a keen interest in several cutting-edge technologies, including the Huawei Inverter and the newly launched eKit, which is designed to serve the SME market. Her interest in these technologies reflects the government's commitment to exploring innovative solutions that can bolster the country's technological infrastructure.

While addressing to the audience, Ray Yu Shaoning, Vice CEO Public Affairs, Huawei Pakistan said, "Huawei Pakistan, a key participant in this year's event, is showcasing its cutting-edge solutions from Digital Power and EBG, which include the Data Center Facility & Critical Power, FusionSolar products for

Commercial & Industrial PV Solutions, and the newly launched EKIT product line. These offerings represent the latest breakthroughs in foundation models and a wide range of new SMB models and applications.

Kevin Jin, Managing Director, Huawei Pakistan Digital Power said in his remarks, "As a premium partner of ITCN Asia Karachi, Huawei Digital Power is excited to showcase our latest advancements in digital power technologies. This event provides a valuable platform to demonstrate how our Data Center & critical power empowering the society for scalability in storage technology along with Residential and C&I PV solutions are driving growth and innovation across industries.

Empowering Carbon free economy Huawei Pakistan showcased its latest Solar innovation Solutions for Residential and commercial and Industrial markets, covering all expects and highlighting the upcoming C&I inverter 150KTL and I-Site power.

Mr. Fredrick Li Ke, Distribution Business Leader, Huawei Middle East and Central Asia said in his speech, "In Pakistan, we are delighted to launch our eKit portfolio at the ITCN event in Karachi. This launch reflects our dedication to empowering small and medium-sized businesses with cutting-edge technology that enhances operational efficiency and drives growth.

"Huawei provides a comprehensive support system for partners and



customers. This service support system includes dedicated partner policy, scenario-based solutions, and digital tools," Kinven added.

In the future, HUAWEI will continue to design marketable products that are easy to use, create a stable channel system, and build a healthy market. Together with the partners, Huawei

will drive the development of the SME market.

This year's ITCN event, held at the Karachi Expo Centre, features a comprehensive display of the latest advancements in technology, including digital transformation solutions, cybersecurity, and data center & FusionSolar innovations. Other key highlights of ITCN

Karachi 2024 include presentations on emerging technologies, panel discussions featuring industry experts, and networking opportunities for professionals across various sectors. The event promises to be a hub of innovation and collaboration, setting the stage for future technological advancements in Pakistan and beyond.

# ISSI launches latest book on 'The Return of the Taliban'

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of its latest book, 'The Return of the Taliban: International and Regional Perspectives', edited by Director Amina Khan.

The Chief Guest for the event was Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan. Distinguished discussants included Zahid Hussain, Journalist and Analyst; Ambassador Omar Samad, Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Centre, Washington; and Ms. Rangina Hamidi, Former Minister of Education, Afghanistan, a news release said.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI; and Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA also spoke on the occasion.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, in his address, appreciated ISSI for the launch of the book, underlining that individual contributions of scholars on Afghanistan and the region offer a better insight into the governance aspects of the country since the takeover by the Afghan Interim Government in 2021.



Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, while expressing his views, stated that the volume comes out at an important time, just as the Taliban rule marks completion of three years. He further said that August 2021 indeed marked

another crucial turning point in the history of Afghanistan, as the Taliban regained power.

This was a development fraught with wide implications for the region and the world. The concomitant completion of withdrawal of U.

S. forces further enhanced the salience of that moment. Ever since, the international community's attention has been focused on questions relating to governance, security, and human rights issues as well as regional and international diplomacy.

Ms. Amina Khan, while introducing the book said that CAMEA's 4th edited book comes out at a very important juncture in Afghanistan's history, as the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan' completes three years in power as the de facto, though not de jure, political authority in Afghanistan. She added that over the past 3 years, the Taliban's governing structure has evolved and taken shape, into what can be defined as an authoritarian yet selectively pragmatic governing style. The IEA has managed to establish a fair degree of stability and security throughout the country.

Ms. Rangina Hamidi, while expressing her views, appreciated the diverse perspectives in the book and stated that in her opinion, the Taliban movement was not strictly Pashtun movement, although the movement mainly comprises of Pashtuns.

Ambassador Omar Samad, in his remarks, said that Afghanistan was a complex country and this comes across in many of the chapters in this book, not only as a pre and post-colonial nation

state in the region with shifting allegiances and emerging power centers.

Mr. Zahid Hussain, in his remarks, stated that the book's timing is ideal, given the Taliban's unexpected return to power after twenty years of war. While legitimate concerns exist regarding women's education and human rights, the Taliban now fully control Afghanistan and are not isolated despite lacking formal recognition. He stressed the need for Afghanistan and Pakistan to work together, particularly on issues like the TTP, and emphasized resolving other issues. Ultimately, he argued that the Taliban must evolve internally to gain international recognition.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, was of the view that the book gives several perspectives, giving a holistic picture of Afghanistan and is a valuable addition to the current discourse.

The book includes individual chapters from scholars, experts and practitioners from Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran, Central Asian Republics, Gulf States, Japan, Europe, U. S. and Afghanistan. The event was attended by a cross-section of people including academics, practitioners, foreign diplomats, and members of civil society and the media.

# Government of Pakistan and key stakeholders sign a declaration to advance maternal nutrition

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, 41.7% of women suffer from anaemia, 14.4% are underweight, and 24% are overweight. Undoubtedly, such grim indicators call for concerted action to improve maternal nutrition in the country, which if not addressed, could cost the nation a generation of under-nourished children and huge human capital and economic losses.

To tackle this urgent challenge, federal and provincial governments and other key stakeholders signed the 'Bhurban Declaration' today to reaffirm their commitment to enhance maternal nutrition in the country. The declaration was signed at the 'National Policy Dialogue on Economic Case for Maternal Nutrition', jointly organ-

ized by Nutrition International and the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSRC).

The declaration, endorsed by the MoNHSRC, provincial health departments of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and other stakeholders including Nutrition International, WHO, UNICEF, World Food Program, and others, pledges to accelerate the implementation of 'Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy 2022-27' through a unified maternal nutrition package that spans from pre-conception to postpartum care. It commits to integrating maternal nutrition into existing health services and universal health coverage frameworks, increasing public funding for

maternal nutrition programs and strengthening preparedness and response mechanisms for addressing women's nutritional needs during emergencies.

"The current maternal nutrition indicators underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition", said Dr. Fouzia Hanif, Deputy Director, Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition, MoNHSRC. Emphasizing the critical role of maternal health in the overall development of society and its significant impact on the health of future generations, Dr. Fouzia called for collective and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders to develop a holistic approach built on Pakistan Costed Multi-Sectoral

National Nutrition Action Plan 2023-2030, already endorsed by MoNHSRC. She expressed hope that the declaration will serve as a powerful testament to make sustained progress towards advancing maternal nutrition in Pakistan.

"For more than two decades, Nutrition International has been a key ally to the Government of Pakistan improving the nutrition status of women, adolescent girls and children," said Dr. Irfanullah, Deputy Country Director-Pakistan for Nutrition International. He added, "Our efforts focus on providing essential micronutrient supplementation, strengthening the capacity of health-care providers, and ensuring quality care for positive pregnancy outcomes and safe births. Nutrition Interna-



tionally fully supports the declaration and is dedicated to working collabora-

tively with the government and other stakeholders to achieve these goals."



## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) has launched an inter-provincial plantation campaign in August to support the Commissioner Karachi's plantation drive. Thousands of plants of various species will be

planted across different districts in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar. Additionally, the installation of thousands of artificial nests on trees has begun in Lahore to protect local birds, which are severely impacted by pollution and climate change.

The campaign's opening cere-

mony took place yesterday at Allahwali Chowrangi, Karachi, near Hamdard Corporate Head Office. Syed Ghulam Mehdi Shah, Additional Commissioner of Karachi, attended as the chief guest and officially inaugurated the drive by planting trees with the students of Hamdard Public

School. The event was also attended by Syed Muhammad Arsalan, Director of HFP, Assistant Commissioner Bilal Alvi, senior police officers and people from different walks of life. The students, along with the distinguished guests, distributed seeds of various aromatic and fruit plants at Tariq Road Chowrangi to encourage thousands of citizens to participate in tree planting.

Syed Muhammad Arsalan while talking to media representatives said that it was a long-standing tradition of Hamdard

# Hamdard Foundation Pakistan launches inter-provincial plantation campaign

Pakistan to actively participate whenever provincial or local governments launch a plantation drive. "Hamdard Pakistan, including all its subsidiaries and affiliated institutions, has cultivated and maintained thousands of plants in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Madinat-ul-Hikmah, Hamdard Public School, Hamdard University, and at Hamdard Factories. It is Ms. Sadia Rashid's mission to see a pollution-free and green Pakistan." He also emphasized the importance of proper care for

the plants to ensure they grow into trees.

In a statement released yesterday HFP said: "During this important initiative, HFP is also distributing seeds of various plants as gifts to encourage people to participate in this noble cause and fulfill their religious duty. Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, making large-scale plantation essential. This movement aims to raise awareness that planting trees not only improves the environment but is also crucial for our survival. In the first phase,

plantation drives and the installation of artificial nests for birds are being carried out in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar, as these cities are severely polluted. Climate change is impacting the birds around us, causing many species to become endangered. During the campaign, bird nests will be placed in trees at various locations to provide habitats for birds to nest and live. This effort not only protects the birds but also contributes to a healthier environment. It is our responsibility to save our native birds from extinction."

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
77,992.78	78,084.23
Day's High	Day's Low
78,334.60	77,990.34
Index Value	Change
5,930,853,211	-91.45
Percentage	Time
-0.12%	28 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,343.85	-1.61
Percentage	Time
-0.019%	28 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,991.79	-258.71
Percentage	Time
-0.63%	28 Aug, 1:52 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,371.76	+83.14
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	28 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	73.90	74.45
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	75.60	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	365.20	368.70
US Dollar	278.6	280.1

# Energy-intensive industries have no future: Mian Zahid Hussain

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that Pakistan's gas reserves are rapidly depleting. At the same time, electricity is being generated using imported fuel instead of local resources.

He said the cost of electricity is continuously increasing, affecting the whole country due to capacity charges, line losses, theft, and non-payment of bills.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that power-intensive industries have no future in Pakistan as electricity and gas prices continue to rise.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said electricity and

gas can be cheap when the dollar remains costly.

He said that economic managers try to counter the expensive dollar by borrowing and printing more currency than needed, tantamount to undermining the country's economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that while dams, solar power, wind power, etc., have been continuously neglected, industries that use more energy have been encouraged, posing great threats to the country's economy.

He observed that when the country's natural resources can no longer supply the fertilizer industry with gas, it will have to shift to imported gas, which will cost more than imported fertilizer. This will be the final nail in the coffin of this industry.

Similarly, the future of cement, automobile, steel, sugar, textile, and other industries also looks uncertain due to the current energy



policies, which may threaten the employment of millions of people.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the steel industry's first significant expense is the acquisition of raw materials, and its second major expense is electricity. Therefore, it has become impossible for the steel industry to operate.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that it is valuable to temporarily provide relief to the people by the federal and Punjab governments.

Still, the permanent solution to this problem lies in using the surplus electricity by promoting industrialization, thereby reducing the capacity charges.

But at the same time, the unfair and oppressive system of capacity charges also needs to be changed immediately as the government has no other option. The country has been brought to a point where the government and industry cannot afford more unwise decisions.

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: Employees of PWD scuffle with the police during a sit-in protest (Dharna) in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Privatization in the Power Sector is the only way forward: Experts



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCET) organized a consultative discussion on "Privatization of Pakistan's power utility sector: Opportunities and the lessons learnt." The event also showcased report launch on prospects of privatization of Pakistan's power utility sector.

Along with leading examples from across the world on privatization reforms, potential challenges, the report that provided a critical review of K-Electric's transformation journey, underscored that power sector's privatization was a strategic way forward to improve efficiency, achieve operational turnaround and enhance consumer centric initiatives. However, it also strongly recommends that it needs to be executed with a strategic and well-regulated approach that

aligns with broader economic and environmental goals, including compliance with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and supporting green supply chains.

Dr Khalid Walid, Research Fellow SDPI, in his presentation provided a brief analysis of the report titled "Privatization of Pakistan's Power Utility Sector: Opportunities and the Lessons Learnt".

He said in KE's case also there have been considerable benefits to the organization, consumers as well as to the economy. He added that since privatization, K-Electric has cut its Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses in half, doubled its power consumed and consumer base.

He highlighted that power sector privatization was a strategic solution to ensure renewable energy integration, regulatory framework development, digitalization and enhanced consumer base.

In his keynote address, CEO K-Electric, Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi said privatization of power sector is the cornerstone of every sustainable development initiative for Pakistan. Before privatization, he said, K-Electric (which was KESC at that time) was receiving operational subsidy from the government to fund its operations which was reduced to zero after its privatization. He said since privatization, KE has invested about USD 4 billion across its valuechain. With regards to Tariff Differential Subsidy (TDS), Moonis underscored that TDS was being provided to consumers of Karachi and not to K-Electric.

He also added that KE's success as a private entity was also evident from 15 bids that it received for its renewable projects because the producer had confidence in KE meeting its expectations. He added that KE was able to attract the lowest bid of 3.88 cents for its renewable projects very recently.

# Research report 'Commercial Vehicle Laws of Pakistan and Its Impact Analysis on Axle Load Regime (ALR)' launched

## City Desk

KARACHI: A comprehensive research report titled "Commercial Vehicle Laws of Pakistan and Its Impact Analysis on Axle Load Regime (ALR)" prepared by researchers Bushra Sial and Sana Magsi, led by Dr Khalid Hayat, and supervised by Ali Hassam, members of Ziauddin University's Faculty of Law, Politics, and Governance launched to highlight outdated regulations, overloading issues, and the urgent need for updated safety standards and improved enforcement mechanisms.

The research report underscores the necessity of a unified regulatory framework to effectively manage axle load controls, protect infrastructure, and enhance the performance of the

transportation industry.

At the launching ceremony of research report while discussing the issue, Murtaza Ahmad Ali, Chairman of FOAP, stated that despite an annual investment of Rs. 75 billion in motorway and highway repairs, around 35,000 lives are lost each year due to road accidents. Dr. Khalid Hayat, head of the research, stated, "There are nearly 70,000 laws on paper that need to be forwarded to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan for nationwide implementation." He reaffirmed Ziauddin University's commitment to

ongoing research and support for regulatory improvements.

Highway and Motorway Police Sector Commander Ashique Hussain and President of All Pakistan Car Carrier Association, Imdad Naqvi highlighted the success stories from implementing axle load controls on the Peshawar Motorway and expressed his intention to take similar actions in other cities where he is posted. He emphasized the need for stakeholders to work collaboratively to enhance law enforcement and regulatory coherence.

placing the country at 17th globally, the industry remains resilient as in-app purchase (IAP) revenue soared by 50%.

New programs to support Pakistani gaming & app developers

One of the biggest opportunities for Pakistani developers is creating high quality, sustainable games. Beyond that, reaching users across the world remains a top priority.

# PSA raises concerns over influx of substandard solar panels

## Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) has expressed serious concerns regarding the growing import of B-grade and inferior quality solar panels by unauthorized third-party importers in Pakistan.

In a strongly worded statement, the PSA highlighted the significant risks these substandard products pose; not only to consumers but also to the broader economy and the nation's reputation.

Moreover, Amir Chaudhary Chairman PSA clarified that these third-party importers, responsible for flooding the market with inferior solar panels, are not members of the PSA.

Amir Chaudhary Chairman PSA said that the ongoing supply glut in the Chinese market has resulted in the third party stockists in China unloading excess stocks, including B-grade stocks, without warranty or re-insurance. Unfortunately, some traders are importing the dumped stocks into the Pakistan market and selling to uninformed buyers.

ent efforts of Prof. Azhar Rashid (Dean FHMS), Prof. Rahila Yasmeen (Chairperson, Faculty Development Committee), and their entire team for their dedication and contributions to this significant accomplishment.

# IIMC Riphah Int'l University receives prestigious AMEE-ASPIRE Certificate of Merit in faculty development

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Achieving yet another milestone, Riphah International University's IIMC has been awarded the prestigious AMEE-ASPIRE (The International Association for Health Professions Education) Certificate of Merit in the category of Faculty Development. The International Association for Health Professions Education aims to transform healthcare for all through excellence in education and scholarship and acknowledges the institutions sharing its vision. This recognition is a testament to the visionary leadership of Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor Riphah International University. It also acknowledges the consistent

The certificate was formally presented at the AMEE 2024 Conference on 26th August 2024 in Basel Switzerland. Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics represented Riphah International University -IIMC and received the prestigious ASPIRE Certificate of Merit at the ceremony. Riphah International University remains committed to fostering an environment of continuous improvement and innovation in Health Professions Education.

# Google Fuels Innovation at Think Apps 2024, empowering Pakistan's booming app industry with AI

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Today, Google hosted Think Apps 2024 in Lahore, bringing together nearly 350 of Pakistan's top developers, alongside global and regional industry leaders and experts. Building on the success of Think Apps in 2023, this year's event, the largest for the industry, focused on empowering developers to harness AI to drive innovation, growth, and sustainability in Pakistan's expanding app industry.

According to Access Partnership's latest Economic Impact Report, Pakistan can realize a \$6.6 billion annual increase in revenue potential by 2030 through focusing on digital exports, with the gaming and app industry identified as one of the key growth opportunity areas. In recent years, Pakistan's gaming and app

industry has demonstrated impressive growth, including a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 32% in global downloads of locally-made apps from 2018 to 2023. While overall app downloads dipped slightly in 2023,



placing the country at 17th globally, the industry remains resilient as in-app purchase (IAP) revenue soared by 50%.

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# President for improving Cricket infrastructure, training facilities in Sindh

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD, 28 AUGUST 2024: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasized the need to improve Cricket infrastructure and training facilities in Sindh to nurture and promote the province's Cricket talent. He called for exploring the possibility of joint ventures in the Cricket sector to develop state-of-the-art stadiums, besides providing modern coaching and mentoring opportunities to Sindh's youth.

The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Sindh Premier League (SPL), led by Chairman SPL Malik Aslam, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Sindh, Mr Jalaluddin Mahar, Vice Chairman SPL, Major General (r) Zahid Mehmood, President SPL, Mr Arif Malik, CEO SPL, Chaudhary Shahzad Akhtar, and senior government officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the President said that the Sindh Premier League (SPL)



was providing a great platform to showcase Sindh's cricket talent. He urged the need to devise a comprehensive long-

term roadmap to promote Cricket in the province. "Promoting sports and Cricket leagues in Pakistan will not only

enhance sports tourism but will also boost economic activities," he remarked.

The delegation briefed the President about the role of SPL in uncovering and promoting Sindh's cricketing talent and improving Cricket infrastructure. The delegation also highlighted the achievements of SPL's inaugural season and shared future plans for establishing a high-performance centre in Karachi aimed at training young talent, particularly from rural and underrepresented areas of Sindh. The delegation also apprised the President about the problems being faced by the League.

President Asif Ali Zardari assured the delegation of his support to encourage and promote Cricket in Sindh, stating that he would ask the Sindh Government and the Pakistan Cricket Board to extend all necessary assistance to help improve Cricketing infrastructure in Sindh as well as provide mentoring to make SPL a success.

Later, the SPL delegation also presented an SPL shirt to the President.

# Abrar Ahmed joins Pakistan squad for second Bangladesh Test

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed and middle-order Kamran Ghulam have joined the national squad ahead of the second Test against Bangladesh, starting on 30 August in Rawalpindi.

Both players were released from the Test squad before the start of the first Test match and featured for Pakistan Shaheens in a four-day game against Bangladesh 'A' at the Islamabad Club from 20 to 23 August.

Abrar took four wickets, while Kamran scored 34 runs in the drawn four-day game in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, pace bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has also joined the squad after returning from home. Shaheen went home after the conclusion of the first Test to meet his newborn baby boy.

Meanwhile, all-rounder Aamir Jamal, who had been released from the squad to work on his fitness at the NCA, has been recalled. Aamir's partic-



ipation in the second Test will remain subject to fitness clearance.

Pakistan would be looking to bounce back in the second Test after suffering the first-ever defeat against Bangladesh in the opening Test of the two-match

series.

Following the defeat, several strategies came under question; such as going with an all-pace attack, declaration and batting failure in the second innings.

Pakistan, after being put into bat

first, accumulated 448/6 and declared their first innings in the dying minutes of the second day. Bangladesh, in response, piled up a mammoth total of 565, courtesy of Mushfiqur Rahim's marathon 191-run knock, before bundling out in the third session of the fourth day.

The first Test was assumed to be heading towards a draw but Pakistan's batting lineup faltered against Bangladesh's spinners on the final day and could score 146, setting the visitors a meagre 30-run target.

Pakistan squad for Test series against Bangladesh

Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamir Jamal (subject to fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

# Pakistan kick off training for second Test against Bangladesh

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Test squad on Wednesday, kicked off training for the second Test against Bangladesh, scheduled to commence on August 30.

According to the details, the national Test team's players participated in several batting, bowling and fielding sessions under the supervision of coaches including head coach Jason Gillespie.

Ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, who travelled to Karachi to meet his newborn baby boy, has rejoined the squad and also partook in the training session.

Earlier today, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) recalled three players Abrar Ahmed, Kamran Ghulam and Aamir Jamal to the Test squad.

Abrar and Kamran were



released from the Test squad before the start of the first Test match and featured for Pakistan Shaheens in a four-day game against Bangladesh 'A' at the Islamabad Club from 20 to 23 August.

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## Naya Nazimabad and Surjani Sports triumphs in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Contest

"Deadly bowling by Azmat Khan 5/12."

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament yesterday at various cricket grounds. The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Azmat Khan captured 5 wickets for only 12 runs.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricant.

Scores in Brief:

Naya Nazimabad defeated Al-Hussaini Cricket Club Colts by 143 runs at Naya Nazimabad. Naya Nazimabad 171 all out in 29.2 overs. Kashif Shabbir 67 8x4 1x6, Hassan Dost 17, Muhammad Amir 16. Hameed Jahoot 4/45. Tahir Hussain 3/34.

Al-Hussaini Cricket Club Colts 28 all out in 9.5 overs. Medium Pacers Azmat Khan 5/12, Irfan Zia 3/15.

In the 2nd Match at Afza Ground Surjani Sports beat Islam Gymkhana by 3 wickets. Islam Gymkhana 195 all out in 34.3 overs. Yasir Qureshi 37, Talha Ahmed 31, Mohsin Khan 27. Israr Khan 4/43, Zeeshan 3/14.

Surjani Sports 196/7 in 33.5 overs. Maaz Ali 52 7x4 2x6 not out, Hassan Nadeem 37, Syed Naveed 29, Farhan Azeemi 28. Amjad Ali 3/25, Mohsin Khan 3/32.

## West Indies pacer retires from international cricket

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Right-arm West Indies pacer Shannon Gabriel on Wednesday, announced his retirement from international cricket, drawing curtains on a career that began in 2012.

"During the past 12 years," Gabriel said on Instagram, "I have dedicated myself to playing international cricket for the West Indies. Playing this beloved game at the highest level has brought me immense joy, but as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Today, I am announcing my retirement from International cricket."

The right-arm pacer expressed his gratitude to Cricket West Indies administrators, coaches, and staff members for their support throughout his international career.

"Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to God for the numerous blessings and the opportunities my family and I have received during my time playing for the West Indies. Secondly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Cricket West Indies administrators, coaches, and staff members. Words cannot adequately convey the appreciation I have for your hard work and support over the years. Last but not least, I am grateful to my teammates and all those who have stood by me and supported me along the way. You have made my journey to the top truly special. "Moving forward, my plan is to continue representing my country [Trinidad and Tobago], club, and franchise teams around the world with the same love and passion I have shown throughout my career."

Shannon Gabriel represented West Indies in 59 Tests, 25 ODIs and two T20Is and picked up a total of 202 wickets across formats.

His last appearance for West Indies came in July 2023 but was a regular part of the West Indies' domestic cricket.

## PCB Confirms Schedule of Champions One-Day Cricket Cup

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: The Champions One-Day Cup, featuring country's 150 best of the best cricketers, will be played at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from 12-29 September with the opening match between Wolves and Panthers. The PCB on Monday had announced the five champion mentors with their team names and 15-player squads to be unveiled in the coming days.

The 50-over tournament will be played on a single-league format with the matches to commence at 3pm. There will be three playoffs in four days with the final on Sunday, 29 September.

Except for the 16 September match between Lions and Panthers, which will commence at 9.30am local time, all other 13 matches will begin at 3pm. Lions and Panthers will go toe to toe in a morning match to allow Pakistan women's versus South Africa women's T20I to be broadcast live.

Event schedule (all matches at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad; 16 Sep match will start at 9.30am, rest of the matches will start at 3pm):

12 Sep - Wolves v Panthers  
13 Sep - Stallions v Lions  
14 Sep - Dolphins v Panthers  
15 Sep - Wolves v Stallions  
16 Sep - Lions v Panthers  
17 Sep - Dolphins v Wolves  
19 Sep - Stallions v Dolphins  
20 Sep - Lions v Wolves  
21 Sep - Panthers v Stallions  
22 Sep - Dolphins v Lions  
24 Sep - Qualifier (Team No.1 v Team No. 2)  
25 Sep - Eliminator 1 (Team No.3 v Team No.4)  
27 Sep - Eliminator 2 (Losing Qualifier v Winning Eliminator 2)  
29 Sep - Final

# Carlos Alcaraz stormed into US Open second round

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Carlos Alcaraz roared home for a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over 186th-ranked Australian Li Tu on Tuesday to launch his bid to add the US Open to the Roland Garros and Wimbledon titles he claimed this year.

The 21-year-old Spaniard pushed his Grand Slam winning streak to 15 matches as he tries to join Rod Laver and Rafael Nadal as the only men in the modern era to win the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year.

He got off to a hot start, seizing a 4-0 lead on the way to pocketing the first set.

But Tu, who came through qualifying, got to grips with the imposing Arthur Ashe Stadium and Alcaraz's serve to take the second set.

He tried to keep the pressure on in

the third, but Alcaraz's break for a 4-3 lead opened the floodgates, the Spaniard winning the eight straight games to take the third set and build a 5-0 lead in the fourth.

But Li Tu wouldn't go quietly, saving a pair of match points before Carlos Alcaraz closed it out with a love service game.

"I'm really happy to get through and get a chance to be better the next round," Alcaraz said. "Obviously, I felt well on court. I think I hit the ball well. I moved well."

"A few things that I have to improve if I want to, you know, keep going in the draw, but obviously I have to give credit to him as well that he played really good tennis and today surprised me a little bit in the second set."

Carlos Alcaraz had 50 winners and 30 unforced errors. Eighteen of those

errors came in the second set, when he lost three straight games.

That included dropping his serve to surrender the set, Tu finally converting his fifth set point.

"After the first set that I made just two unforced errors, the second set I made 18," Alcaraz said, saying that was as much a factor as Tu's growing confidence on the imposing Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"He started to play better. That's obviously serving better, playing more aggressive, and not making a lot of mistakes that he did in the first set."

"But talking about myself, it was from two to 18 unforced errors has been a huge difference for me."

Carlos Alcaraz, who won the first of his four Grand Slam titles in New York in 2022, will face 2021 quarter-finalist Botic van de Zandschulp in the second round, headed toward a possible



semi-final showdown with top-ranked Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan, Türkiye vow to expand bilateral trade relations

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Terming the signing of the Trade in Goods Agreement 2022 as a significant step towards achieving the bilateral trade target of USD 5 billion, Pakistan and Türkiye here on Wednesday underscored the need for enhancing the trade and investment portfolio through more Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) arrangements.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, Mehmet Paçacı paid a farewell courtesy call on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The meeting underscored the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, founded on shared faith, history, and cultural affinities.

The finance expressed

appreciation for the outgoing Ambassador's contributions to strengthening bilateral relations and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue deepening its partnership with Türkiye across various sectors, including trade, investment, technical cooperation, and more.

The Minister also highlighted the progress made during the recent visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Pakistan, led by Trade Minister of Türkiye, Prof. Dr.

Omer Bolat which helped in exploring new avenues for cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology.

He extended his best wishes to Ambassador Paçacı in his future endeavors and expressed confidence for continued collaboration and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Ambassador Paçacı, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by

the government during his tenure.

He also extended appreciation on behalf of the trade delegation of Türkiye and noted that these engagements would further solidify economic ties and help unlock the vast potential for bilateral trade and investment.

The Ambassador also assured of Türkiye's continued commitment to working towards the common goals of both nations.

## Govt working on tax reforms, right sizing of dept to bring economic prosperity: Malik

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik on Wednesday said that incumbent government is working on tax reforms and right sizing of departments and ministries to bring economic prosperity for the people of Pakistan.

Talking to a private television channel, he said all genuine issues of traders are being addressed to bring them into tax net in a proper manner.

Large number of heavy income groups in the country are not paying taxes and we are not interested to put burden of taxes on salaried group or industrial sectors, he said. "The doors of my ministry and chairman FBR are opened for helping the people who want to come into tax net through easy way," he said. There is an APP for traders fraternity, he informed.



Commenting on foreign loan burden for Pakistan, he said that friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, China and United Arab Emirates are always ready to financial assist Pakistan.

About Saudi Arabia, he said the KSA is taking keen interest in various sectors of Pakistan for investment. In reply to a question about heavy pensioners load on government exchequer, he said a contributory scheme is being introduced for employees to lower burden on economy of this country.

## Internet to remain slow till October, PTA says



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) announced on Wednesday that repairs to the submarine cable causing internet disruptions are expected to be completed by 'early October' and internet services will likely stay slow till then.

In recent weeks, internet speeds have significantly dropped, making it difficult for users to send or download media and voice notes on WhatsApp when using mobile data, and resulting in sluggish browsing, even on broadband connections.

The business community and internet service providers (ISPs) have claimed that government efforts to monitor internet traffic, including the implementation of a so-called 'firewall,' have contributed to the slowdown, leading to economic losses.

While Shaza Fatima Khawaja, the country's information technology minister, confirmed that the government is upgrading its 'web management system' to address cybersecurity

threats, she firmly denied allegations of the government "throttling" internet speeds.

Conversely, the PTA attributed the slowdown to issues with a faulty submarine cable, dismissing concerns about the installation of a firewall.

In a statement released today, the PTA explained that the ongoing internet slowdown is primarily due to faults in two submarine cables—SMW4 and AAE-1—of the seven that connect Pakistan internationally.

"The fault in the SMW-4 submarine cable is likely to be repaired by early October 2024," the telecom authority stated, adding that the repair of the AAE-1 cable should enhance internet performance.

Just a week ago, PTA Chairman Hafeezur Rehman, a retired major general, had indicated that the damaged submarine cable would be fixed by August 27 during a session with a National Assembly panel, where he faced tough inquiries from lawmakers across the political spectrum.

## PM's Climate Aide calls for policies for protecting breastfeeding women's from climate impacts

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordinator said that breastfeeding is a vital practice with profound health benefits for both infants and mothers. Because, it provides infants with essential nutrients, boosts their immune systems, and fosters an emotional bond between mother and child.

"Breastfeeding supports healthy development, strengthens the mother-infant bond and yields positive economic and environmental impacts. However, promoting and supporting breastfeeding through education, policy and community support can lead to healthier individuals and a more sustainable future," Ms Alam said while addressing as keynote speaker at a seminar 'National Advocacy & Sensiti-



sation with Parliamentarians on the World Breastfeeding Awareness Week' held here at a local hotel on Wednesday.

The event was organized by Save the Children in collabo-

ration with Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry, WHO, Unicef, and World Food Programme. Highlighting climate change impacts on mothers'

access to healthy nutrition, PM's Climate aide told the participants that Pakistan is on the frontline of climate change impacts, facing extreme weather events, water

scarcity, and shifts in agricultural productivity.

These challenges have a direct impact on food security and, by extension, on maternal and child nutrition, she added.

The PM's Climate Aide, however, emphasized upon the need for hammering out policies and action plans to protect the breastfeeding women from exacerbating fallouts of climate change, particularly floods and heat-waves.

"As climate change exacerbates poverty and food insecurity, the most vulnerable segments of our population—women and children—are at increased risk of malnutrition," she remarked.

Romina Khurshid suggested, "To address this, we must integrate climate resilience into our national nutrition programmes and policies."

## PSX witnesses a lacklustre day

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Continuing yesterday's trend, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) commenced the day on a negative note and witnessed a surge in midday, but the day ended at a loss of 91 points compared to yesterday.

Initially, the KSE 100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish sentiment but in the later half market saw some positive momentum and made an intraday high at 78,335 levels, an increment of 250 points, according to Topline Securities.

However, the KSE 100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) could not sustain the positive trend and called the day at 77,993 levels, a loss of 91 points, down 0.12%. During the day, BAH, HINOON, PKGS, MCB and HUBC contributed negatively by losing 104 points, cumulatively.



On the flip side, MARI, ENGRO & FFC saw some buying interest as they added 162 points. Over 636 million shares were traded today at the bourse, while total value landed at Rs16.2 billion. KOSM led the volume chart

with the trading of over 124 million shares.

Meanwhile, in a positive development, Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Pakistan's long-term issuer rating from "Caa3" to "Caa2" with a stable outlook.

This upgrade follows Fitch Ratings' decision in July to raise the country's credit rating from "CCC" to "CCC+." Moody's said that this upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved macroeconomic conditions and moderately

better government external positions from very weak levels.

"We have also upgraded the rating for the senior unsecured MTN programme to (P)Caa2 from (P)Caa3. Concurrently, the outlook for the Government of Pakistan has changed to positive from stable," read the statement.

Accordingly, Pakistan's default risk has been reduced to a level consistent with a Caa2 rating.

Earlier in July, Fitch Ratings had upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to "CCC+" from "CCC."

"The upgrade reflects greater certainty over the continued availability of external funding, in the context of Pakistan's staff-level agreement (SLA) with the IMF on a new 37-month USD7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF)," Fitch company said in a statement.

## Bangladesh lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami



## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh's government has lifted the ban on major Islamist political party, Jamaat-e-Islami, effective immediately.

The recent order rescinds the previous directive issued on August 1, which had prohibited the party from political participation.

In its latest order, the government cited the absence of specific evidence linking Jamaat-e-Islami to terrorism and violence as the reason for the ban's removal. This decision also extends to the party's student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The ban on Jamaat-e-Islami was solidified under an Anti-Terrorism Act shortly before Hasina's government faced immense pressure from

student-led protests. Following weeks of unrest, Hasina fled to India by helicopter on August 5, 2024.

Jamaat-e-Islami, a major political party with millions of supporters, was initially barred from contesting elections in 2013 when the High Court ruled that its charter violated the secular constitution of the predominantly Muslim nation.

The party faced further restrictions in subsequent elections, including those in 2014, 2018, and most recently in January 2024, when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina secured her fifth term amid allegations of electoral malpractice and a lack of credible opposition.

Jamaat-e-Islami remains one of the primary political parties in Bangladesh, alongside the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.