

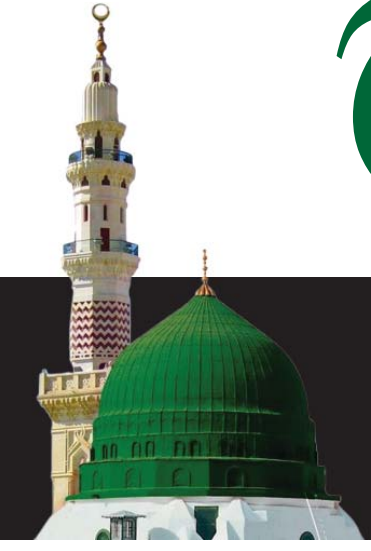
# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے علی بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سے سفیان نے بیان کیا ان سے مروی ہے دینار نے ان سے عطاء نے اور ان سے ابن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جب کوئی شخص کھانا کھائے تو ہاتھ پائے یا کسی کو چہانے سے پہلے ہاتھ نہ پونجھے۔  
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5456)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Rabi-ul-Awwal moon not sighted, Eid Milad-un-Nabi on September 17

Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad on Wednesday announced that the moon for the Islamic month of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446 AH was not sighted at any nook and cranny of the country.



## Committee formed to persuade Sardar Akhtar Mengal to withdraw resignation

Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar informed the National Assembly on Wednesday that a committee has been formed to meet with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the chief of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M). Speaking on the floor of the House, he said that the committee, comprising Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Mohammad Usman Badini, and ... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 30, Thursday, September 5, 2024

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 143 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a delegation of International Investors on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Finance Minister meets with international investors, discusses investment opportunities

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a delegation of international investors led by Mr. Amin Mohammad Khawaja, CEO of J. P. Morgan Pakistan. The discussions centered on the interests of the institutional investors exploring fixed income investment opportunities in Pakistan's economy.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister highlighted

the significant strides Pakistan has made in improving its macroeconomic indicators—including the 14% rise in exports, the decline in inflation to 9.6% (which is 34 months low), and an overall decline in the Current Account deficit. He also pointed out the improvement in Pakistan's sovereign credit ratings which reflect a stable and promising economic outlook. "The country's economic growth is underpinned by robust fiscal discipline, inflation management, and a favorable balance of payments" he stated.

Senator Aurangzeb also elaborated on the government's ambitious structural reforms agenda, aiming at broadening the tax base, rightsizing of the public sector, privatization drive, and energy sector reforms, to aid overall macroeconomic stability. The Minister reaffirmed the Government's resolve to carry forward the comprehensive reforms agenda to enhance the efficiency and governance of public institutions. "These reforms," he noted, "are designed to create a more conducive environment for foreign investment

and to ensure the long-term stability of the economy."

The delegation commended the government's efforts to create a business-friendly environment and expressed optimism about the prospects of increased investment flows into Pakistan. The discussions covered a range of potential investment areas, including renewable energy, information technology, infrastructure development, and the financial sector. The investors expressed keen interest in these sectors, recognizing Pakistan as a market with

immense potential and a strategic location as a gateway to regional markets where foreign investors are eager to explore opportunities for investment in various sectors.

The Finance Minister assured the delegation of the government's full support in facilitating their investment ventures and welcomed their interest in contributing to Pakistan's economic growth and reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to attracting foreign investments through maintaining a business friendly environment.

# Ahsan hopes for 'agricultural revolution' after 1,000 Pakistani experts' training in China

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed confidence that Pakistan would witness a revolution in agriculture after its 1,000 experts completed their training in China.

"Developing agriculture on modern lines is the need of the hour. Promoting research and education in this sector is among the top priorities of the government," he said while chairing a meeting regarding the training of 1,000 agricultural experts in China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor



(CPEC) initiative.

The meeting was attended among others by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and senior officials from the relevant ministries and departments.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was sending the agricultural experts to

China on the instructions of the Prime Minister to get training and transform the sector on modern lines, once considered the backbone of the national economy.

The minister said Pakistan has the best resources and minds but needed to acquaint its experts with modern technology and techniques to significantly increase crop production.

Rana Tanveer reaffirmed the government's commitment to developing the agricultural sector, a key priority for the Prime Minister. He vowed to adopt the latest agricultural methodologies to achieve bumper crops and change old harvesting methods.

## Raouf Hassan confirms contact with government parties

### Monitoring Desk



he will not engage with politicians. He revealed that the PTI is in contact with all political parties except three, and is actively engaging with them.

Speaking on the program "Spotlight" on Aaj News, Hassan emphasized that Mahmood Khan Achakzai, a key figure in the PTI's outreach efforts, has been given a mandate to engage with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Hasan stated that Achakzai had requested permission to engage with these three parties, and Khan had granted him full authority to do so. He added that the PTI is open to considering any genuine proposals that come from these parties.

He further clarified that the PTI is in direct or indirect contact with every political force in the country. Regarding the possibility of secret negotiations with the PML-N, Hassan confirmed that Achakzai has been in contact with Rana Sanaullah, a prominent leader of the PML-N, and expressed hope that the discussions will progress. In response to a question about the perception within the PTI that the government is moving towards a military trial of Khan, Hassan said that the party is aware of the government's actions and their potential implications.

# PM awards Rs2.5m to excavator operator for rescuing flood-stranded family



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday awarded Rs 2.5 million to an excavator operator who had rescued a family stranded in the flood in the Qilla Abdullah area of Balochistan.

The prime minister, who invited the rescuer Mohibullah to the Prime Minister's House, appreciated his courage to save the stranded family while risking his own life, according to a PM Office press release.

"The whole nation including me feels proud of you. I deeply adore your love for humanity. You are a nation's hero as you showed the courage to save human lives," the prime minister said. He said that Mohibullah had fulfilled the national responsibility by rescuing the stranded people without caring about his own life.

Besides awarding Rs 2.5

million from the Government of Pakistan, the prime minister also announced a free-of-charge education facility up to the university level for Mohibullah's children and cost-free healthcare for his family.

"This an honor for me to meet the prime minister of Pakistan. I never thought so. While rescuing the stranded family, I never knew that the act would get that much popular countrywide," Mohibullah said in the meeting.

He also thanked the prime minister for acknowledging his gesture and honoring him by inviting him to the PM House.

Federal cabinet members Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman of PM Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

# China has signed tax treaties with 21 African countries

### Xinhua

BELJING: China has signed tax treaties with 21 African countries to date, an official with the State Taxation Administration (STA) said on Monday, adding that Chinese tax authorities are seeking to deepen international taxation cooperation with African countries.

Meng Yuying, head of the International Taxation Department of the STA, made the remarks at a press conference of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Meng said the African countries that have signed tax treaties with China include basically those with significant direct investment stock with China.

Tax treaties provide an important international legal basis for cross-border investment and business, Meng said, adding that they can prevent

double taxation scenarios, provide tax certainty and facilitate the settlement of tax disputes.

"They are conducive to creating a fair, healthy and mutually beneficial international tax and business environment, and to promoting cross-border investment and the exchange of technology and personnel," she said.

Meng noted that the Belt and Road tax collection and management cooperation mechanism was established during the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019, and that many African countries have joined in its construction.

She said that the mechanism has provided a platform for African countries to engage in international exchange, and that its many training programs have helped improve tax collection and management capabilities in the African countries involved.

# Maulana calls for dialogue instead of force to combat terrorism

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has criticized the government's reliance on military force to combat terrorism, urging them to instead engage with politicians to resolve the issue. He expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Balochistan and Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa, where he claims the government's writ has been eroded.

Addressing the National Assembly, Maulana Fazlur Rehman argued that politicians should be empowered and their importance recognized. He criticized the trend of sidelining experienced and prominent leaders, stating that while new leadership is necessary,

Continued on Page 8

# IHC fixes PTI founder's contempt plea against Adiala jail officials for hearing

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) fixed for hearing a contempt plea filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran against Adiala Jail officials for 'denying' his meetings with party leaders and lawyers.

The IHC Registrar's Office fixed a plea for hearing on Thursday before a bench comprising Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan.

In the contempt plea, Imran

Khan maintained that as the head of a major political party, it is necessary to meet with party leaders and consult with them on different matters.

"Despite court orders, the authorities at Adiala Jail are not allowing meetings," the contempt plea maintained.

Imran Khan requested the IHC to order the implementation of its earlier orders and initiate contempt of court proceedings against the officials at Adiala Jail for complying with its directives.

# AJK PM hails federal government for approving 19 billion rupee development projects for Azad Kashmir

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has expressed his profound gratitude to the federal government for approving more than 19 billion rupee development projects for Azad Kashmir. The AJK premier said this while addressing a press conference here today. Speaking on the occasion the PM said that the grant was sanctioned under Rathoa Haryam Bridge project and Out of School Children Program. He said that Jagran hydel power project, which was dysfunctional until July, would also start working soon. He said that Youm e Tahaffuz Khatm e Nabuwat (Protecting belief in finality of Prophet Muhammad SAW) would be celebrated at the official level in Azad Kashmir on September 7. The Prime Minister on the occasion stressed the need for protecting people especially the young generation from intellectual chaos. "The spirit of unity and togeth-



ness is required to avoid chaos and anarchy the society", the PM said. He said that a strong and stable Pakistan was the guarantor for the success of Kash-

miris freedom movement. Referring to the subsidized flour and cheap electricity being provided to the people across Azad Kashmir, the PM said, "The facilities enjoyed by the citizens in Azad Kash-

mir are not available to people elsewhere in Pakistan", he said. The PM said that being a strong proponent of Kashmir's

accession to Pakistan he would remain stick to this ideology. He said that after the establishment of an independent Public Service Commission and making

NTS mandatory for employment the recruitments would be made on merit and in a transparent manner. The Prime Minister said that after proper scrutiny only deserving people would be provided financial assistance under the Social Protection Endowment Fund. Speaking on the occasion, Government Minister Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for approving 10 billion for the completion of Rathoa Haryam Bridge project. Government Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai said that the approval of the Out of School Children Program project would be instrumental in improving the education sector. Senior minister Col. Retd. Waqar Noor, Sardar Javed Ayub, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, Yasir Sultan, Malik Zafar Iqbal, Sardar Muhammad Hussain, Asim Sharif Butt, Ms. Nisar Abbasi were also present on the occasion.

## Flood affectees

BADIN: People sit in their temporary makeshifts and in open sky due to rain water accumulated in their villages in Badin.



Photo: Online

# CECOS Hosts 'COP In My City 2024' Youth Event to Address Climate Change

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: CECOS University proudly hosted the "COP In My City 2024" event, a youth-focused initiative organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Pakistan (MoCC&EC) and the Prime Minister's Youth Program, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNWOMEN. The event aimed to recognize the imminent threat of climate change and to mobilize young individuals for global climate action.

The event featured esteemed guests, including H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan presiding the COP 29 Presidency, MPA Muhammad Arif, Chairman, KP Standing Committee on Climate Change attended the ceremony and apprised audience of the Government's initiatives on Climate Change.



"COP In My City 2024" builds on the success of last year's event, providing an invaluable platform for college and university students across Pakistan to

engage in meaningful climate-related discourse. This year's event has also opened doors for selected participants to represent Pakistan at the 29th Confer-

ence of the Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-22, 2024, as part of the youth delegation.

Events for the selection of participants will be held in Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta, Gilgit, and Muzaffarabad, ensuring equitable representation and opportunities for youth from all regions of Pakistan to voice their concerns and ideas on climate change.

The "COP In My City 2024" event reaffirmed CECOS University's commitment to promoting climate education, awareness, and action among the youth. The university remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that foster meaningful engagement and inspire future leaders to contribute to a sustainable and resilient world.

# Railway workers' protest in Faisalabad reaches milestone: Sheikh Anwar

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Central President of Railway Prime Union Sheikh Muhammad Anwar has said that the prime union has crossed another milestone in the struggle for the rights of employees. The NIRC Court Multan Division suspended the dismissal orders of the TLA employees dismissed by the Railway Chairman. It will be continued. No Mai K Lal will be allowed to abuse the railway employees. He expressed these views while addressing a protest meeting at Okara railway station at the beginning of the protest movement that started today. On this occasion, Amir Jamaat Islami Okara Dr. Babar Rash-



eed, Central Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Divisional President Fayyaz Shahzad, Presi-

dent Multan Division Rana Muhammad Sharif, Akhtar Abbas President Sukhard Division, Muhammad Anwar Dogar, Malik Muhammad Jameel,

Abdul Aziz Madni, Khizr Hayat Baig, Riyad Asi, Junaid Khurram, Zaigham Abbas, Haji Atiq and others also spoke. Sheikh Muhammad Anwar said that the mental torture that is being done to the railway employees will become a bone in the neck of the government. On the one hand, severe inflation, electricity bills have broken the back of the employees, on the other hand, the sword of job termination is on their heads. Has been hanged, if the government cannot give relief to the employees, don't even bother them. Only the employees from grade one to sixteen are being fired from the jobs, no one is asking the officers. If the government has to eliminate the posts, it should

## ComNet holds seminar for tribal, political leaders; seeking help in fighting against polio

**Rafiullah Mandokhail**

ZHOB: Tribal elders and political leaders have been urged to play their key role in fighting against poliomyelitis during a seminar organized by the ComNet here in Sherani district. Notables, political and social activists, health officials, and representatives of various non-governmental organizations attended the day-long seminar.

Communication Officer ComNet Sherani Saeedullah Lawoon in his welcome remarks said that polio is a crippling disease and its virus invades the nervous system of under five children. He urged the participants to play their vital role in the complete eradication of poliovirus.

Assistant Commissioner Sherani Yousaf Hashmi, DHO Dr Saif ud Din Bugti, Dr Khair Muhammad Sherani, Dr Muhammad Shah Sherani, Communication Officer ComNet Zhub Samad Hariphal, Coordinator BLEP Muhammad Afzal Kakar, social activist Ali Sherani and Juma Muhammad Hariphal also spoke on the occasion and said that polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan are the only two countries in the Mediterranean region, where poliovirus still exists. Lack of community participation and negative propaganda against vaccine remained the major challenges in the fight against polio.

They appealed to parents to ensure that their children of less than five years of age are vaccinated against polio during the upcoming anti-polio drive that starts on September 9th and save them from permanent disability.

## IOM to help small businesses in obtaining cash grants for growth of their businesses

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

MARDAN: International Organization for Migration (IOM) officials held a meeting with Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Zahir Shah at Mardan Chamber Office. Officials of the International Organization for Migration, explaining the aims and objectives said that the aim of the initiative is to facilitate the business community in obtaining IOM cash grants for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). On this occasion, Mardan Chamber of Commerce President Zahir Shah appreciated the efforts of IOM and said that SMEs should take full advantage of the said grant. He said that Mardan Chamber of Commerce is taking measures to protect the interests of small and medium enterprises and the business community plays an important role in the development and stability of the country's economy, so the federal and provincial governments should needs to take special steps to facilitate business and provide interest-free loans and grants to the business community for the development of their businesses. On this occasion, small and medium scale entrepreneurs visited Mardan Chamber where IOM officials invited them to get cash grants for starting small businesses and industries and expanding existing businesses. Told about the procedure, on this occasion, IOM officials said that grants ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 50 lakh will be given. They added that grants will be available for companies and business communities affected by war or natural calamities in various trades, with the aim of these businesses are rehabilitated and provide employment.

## Jamaat-e-Islami women's Circle highlights importance of hijab on World Hijab Day

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: On the occasion of World Hijab Day, Jamaat-e-Islami Women's Circle organized a demonstration under the leadership of district nazma Dr. Fahmida Ilyas at Chiniot Bazar Chowk to highlight the importance of hijab. They carried placards and banners. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Dr. Fahmida Ilyas said that today Muslim women around the world are clearly declaring that hijab is our civilization and identity, no one has the right to impose western values and traditions and western civilization and culture. Do it. Hijab does not hinder the development of women, but enables them to play a role in the development and prosperity of the country in a confident manner. Hijab is not a sign of oppression on a woman, but the name of a modest behavior; we are trying to popularize the culture of modesty in the country. For eleven months, Israelis have been forced to live in the worst atrocities and are victims of Israel's cruelty, brutality and the worst human tragedy. Israel's terrorism has strengthened the faith of Palestinian Muslims. She is fighting the barbaric actions of Israel with bravery and strength of faith. Even in these situations, she is holding on to modesty, which is worthy of imitation for Muslim women. Sketching is taken for granted but it is worshiped behind the veil but not ready to give freedom and permission to a woman to reach for the headscarf, Harassment of women using foul language against women is very hurtful.



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**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:18 am  
Zohr ..... 12:07 pm  
Asr ..... 4:40 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:29 pm  
Isha ..... 7:55 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9286044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Inquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5

*Pakistani experts learn Chinese kiwifruit technology in Sichuan*

**BELJING, SEP 04 (APP):** Agricultural experts from Pakistan, Egypt, Nepal, and Mongolia are acquiring advanced Chinese kiwifruit cultivation techniques at the ongoing International Training Workshop on Kiwi Industrial Technology in Cangxi, Sichuan province.

Cangxi, nestled at the northern edge of the Sichuan Basin and the southern foot of the Daba Mountains, is renowned as the birthplace of the red kiwifruit. Unlike the commonly known green, villous kiwifruits, Cangxi's red kiwifruits are distinguished by their smooth, hairless skin and vibrant radial red stripes at the core. They are celebrated for their tender, juicy, sweet, and refreshing flavor.

By the end of 2023, Cangxi's kiwifruit industry had expanded to a 395,000-mu (approximately 26,333-hectare) planting area, covering 31 villages and towns. The industry has an annual turnover of 6.31 billion yuan, contributing 35% to the county's agricultural output and providing employment to over 200,000 people, according to a report by China Economic Net.

The workshop participants, including experts from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and the University of Swabi, are engaging in a comprehensive learning experience. The training includes lectures, field visits, hands-on experiments, and practical exercises, aimed at deepening their understanding of kiwifruit cultivation—ranging from variety breeding and intellectual property protection to base construction, field management, warehousing logistics, brand building, and marketing.

# Synergy Group wins at the first ever international Dragons of Pakistan 2024 awards

**Commerce Desk**

**ISLAMABAD:** Synergy Group, the biggest integrated marketing communication conglomerate in the country, has once again demonstrated its creative prowess at the debut show of the eminent Dragons of Pakistan 2024 Awards, winning a total of 10 awards in various categories. The Group's subsidiaries, Synite Digital and Synergy Advertising, collectively garnered an impressive tally of accolades. The Latif Kapadia Memorial Welfare Trust (LKMWT) also received a Black Dragon Award for the Best Small Budget Campaign.

Synergy Group's Chairman and CEO Mr. Ahmed Kapadia became the first Pakistani to be honored with the reputable Red Dragon Award as Dragon Master of Pakistan. This recognition is a testament to his role as an agent of change and significant contributions to the Pakistan Advertising and Media industry.

Speaking on the wins, Mr. Ahmed Kapadia said: "I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious Red Dragon Award as Dragon Master of Pakistan. This award is a significant recognition of Synergy's 25-year journey, during which I have consistently endeavored to elevate the standards of advertising in our country. Through Synergyzer and BrandSynario.com, I have tirelessly worked to unify the industry, fostering collaboration and innovation. My recent book, 'Executive Doodles', encapsulates my insights on the industry, aiming to guide and inspire others in their professional journeys. So I dedicate this award to all those who believe in doing the impossible and stand by the truth in Advertising"

Synergy Advertising, known for its unmatched creativity, received a coveted award for its impactful Polio Campaign. The campaign was recognized at the Dragons of Pakistan, securing



Silver Dragon for Best Cause, Charity Marketing or Public Sector Campaign. This award highlights Synergy Advertising's ability to address critical social

issues while delivering innovative and engaging content.

In 2023 and 2024, Synergy has been honored with over 22 awards, both

nationally and internationally, including Effies, Dragons of Asia, and Pakistan Digital Awards for its excellence in digital and creative achievements.

**Beautiful**

**ISLAMABAD:** A model of butterfly with flowers placed on a green belt along Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Minister and Academics Advocate for Collaborative Climate Action for Pakistan's Growth

**City Desk**

**KARACHI:** The Aga Khan University's Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), hosted a pivotal symposium titled "Climate Change and Health & Development Consequences in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities." The symposium

convened experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the various impacts of climate change on Pakistan's health, agriculture, food security, and economic development. The event explored indigenous and innovative strategies to mitigate these effects.

The Honorable Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for a unified approach to tackle climate change, stating that "No single entity—be it

a politician, judge, or institution—has the solution to climate change."

Professor Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, Founding Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development and the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at the Aga Khan University highlighted the severe economic and health challenges Pakistan faced due to the escalating impacts of climate change.

The "Climate Change and Health & Development Consequences in Pakistan" symposium has laid the groundwork for transformative action. By leveraging technology, indigenous knowledge, and a collaborative research and governance framework, Pakistan can address the impacts of climate change and work towards a sustainable future for its vulnerable populations and ongoing development.

## Shan Foods' Kunri initiative contributes to a greener future with direct support to Pakistan's farming communities



**Commerce Desk**

**KARACHI:** In a remarkable step towards incentivizing sustainable agricultural and community uplift practices, Shan Foods has unveiled Growing Flavor, an initiative curated and developed within the Kunri Tehsil in Sindh to enhance environmental stewardship and drive economic benefits for the local communities.

Climate change and global warming are exacerbating agricultural degradation, diminishing food security and causing a significant impact on the livelihoods of professionals in the agricultural sector. Shan Foods recognizes that sustainability is integral to business resilience and growth and as a member of the United Nations Global Compact, aims to follow through on its commitment towards Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities.

Fahad Patel, General Manager Supply Chain at Shan Foods, added, "Growing Flavor stands as a testament to Shan Foods' commitment to agricultural excellence and community empowerment. By empowering local farmers with the knowledge and resources they need, we are not only enhancing their livelihoods but also ensuring the sustainable growth of the agriculture sector in Pakistan."

## NTDC arranges One-Day Awareness Workshop on ICT/ERP Modernization

**City Desk**

**LAHORE:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) modernization and the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) program to the management and senior officers of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC), a one-day awareness workshop was organized by the Learning and Development Directorate NTDC at a local hotel in Lahore.

The workshop was aimed to highlight the strategic importance and benefits of ICT and ERP modernization for NTDC, as well as to identify key challenges and strategies for implementing the program.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), Rasheed A. Bhutto emphasized the urgency of digitalizing various processes, stating, "ERP is the need of the hour and NTDC management is committed to meet all necessary requirements." Deputy Managing Director (P&E), Engr. Qaiser Khan, commending HR department for conducting the interactive session, urged to meet the project deadlines.

# PIDE 4th RASTA Concludes with Critical Insights on Food, Agriculture, & Fiscal Management

**Spokesman Report**

**ISLAMABAD:** The RASTA Conference 2024 concluded today with an impactful second day of sessions, focusing on pressing issues in food, agriculture, and fiscal management in Pakistan. Hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the conference brought together experts and policymakers to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing these critical sectors.

The day began with a session on "Food & Agriculture," which featured significant discussions on the effects of government policies on agricultural production. Khair Muhammad Kakar from UET Khuzdar presented a comprehensive analysis of the impact of government policies on olive production in Pakistan. His research highlighted that while government initiatives have promoted olive cultivation,

several challenges persist, such as limited technical knowledge among farmers, inadequate access to quality plant materials, and insufficient processing facilities. Kakar emphasized the need for consistent and targeted policy interventions to overcome these barriers and enhance olive production, particularly in regions like Balochistan, which show considerable potential.

Saranjam Muhammad Baig from Karakoram International University, Gilgit, provided an in-depth examination of the political economy of wheat subsidies and food security in Gilgit-Baltistan. His study revealed that despite the region receiving substantial wheat subsidies since the 1970s, food insecurity remains a significant issue, affecting over 50% of the population. Baig's analysis identified inefficiencies in the subsidy distribution, with wealthier households benefiting disproportionately.

Irfan Ahmad Baig from MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, discussed the complexities of taxing rental income in agriculture. His presentation shed light on the skewed land distribution in Pakistan, where a small percentage of large landowners hold a significant portion of the land.

Following a tea break, the conference continued with the RASTA Showcase-II session, where Dr. Durre Nayab, Director of Research at PIDE Islamabad, presented the findings from the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024 Round. She said that PPHS 2024 marks a significant milestone in socio-economic research, offering comprehensive insights into the dynamic shifts within Pakistan's households over the past decades. Initiated by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) with financial backing from the

World Bank in 2001, the survey has evolved through various rounds, with the 2024 iteration expanding its urban representation and covering 14 additional districts.

This landmark survey is vital for policymakers, economists, and researchers, providing critical data to understand the socio-economic transitions in the country. With a robust sample of over 8,500 households, the PPHS 2024 allows for deeper analysis of urban and rural dynamics, offering a clearer picture of poverty, labor mobility, and household consumption patterns. The findings will help shape future policies aimed at addressing social inequality, employment trends, and household security, underscoring the importance of long-term data tracking in socio-economic development.

The afternoon session on "Fiscal Management" featured



critical evaluations of governance structures and public sector management. Ayezza Sattar from the Islamabad, presented a case study on the governance structure within the Ministry and its public sector entities.

Asadullah Khan from Karakoram International University, Gilgit, focused on the governance of public sector projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, particularly

in the power sector. His analysis revealed systemic issues in project management, including poor stakeholder management, ineffective governance mechanisms, and bureaucratic delays.

Sobia Khurram from the University of the Punjab, Lahore, explored the barriers to the adoption of tax e-filing in Pakistan. Her research identified the complexity of the current

e-filing system, lack of awareness, and general mistrust in the tax authority as key challenges.

The session concluded with Muhammad Nadeem Sarwar from FAST National University, Islamabad, who provided a detailed analysis of tax expenditures in Pakistan.

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Nadeem ul Haque, Chairman of RAC, RASTA, and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE. Haque emphasized the importance of research-driven policy-making and outlined the next steps for RASTA's ongoing initiatives. He extended his gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions to the conference's success.

The RASTA Conference 2024 continues to serve as a vital platform for addressing Pakistan's most pressing challenges, fostering informed dialogue, and shaping the future of policy-making in the country.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
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# Significance of September 6, 7, and 8 for Pakistan

September 6 is a day of great significance for Pakistan, observed annually as Defense Day. This national event commemorates a crucial moment in the country's history, reflecting on the bravery and sacrifices of its armed forces. Celebrated with both reverence and pride, Defense Day honors past achievements while reinforcing national unity, resilience, and the continued importance of military readiness.

The following day, September 7, is also a major occasion for Pakistan, observed annually as Air Force Day. This day commemorates the role and achievements of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), reflecting on its contributions to national security and its legacy of excellence. Air Force Day not only honors the valor and professionalism of PAF personnel but also serves to inspire national pride and underscore the importance of air power in contemporary defense strategies. September 7 holds special significance in the context of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965. During this conflict, the Pakistan Air Force played a vital role in defending the nation against Indian military forces. On this day, the PAF achieved notable victories, including successful air raids and strategic operations that highlighted its effectiveness and resilience. A key moment was Operation Grand Slam, where the PAF conducted missions to support ground forces and impede enemy advances. The strategic air strikes and defensive actions by the PAF were crucial in shaping the conflict's outcome. The air force's capability to carry out effective air defense operations was instrumental in protecting key locations and infrastructure, demonstrating its essential role in national defense.

The following day, September 8, is also a significant date in Pakistan's national

calendar, observed as Navy Day. This day is dedicated to honoring the contributions and achievements of the Pakistan Navy, highlighting its crucial role in safeguarding the country's maritime interests and national security. Navy Day not only commemorates important historical events but also fosters national pride, emphasizes strategic significance, and raises awareness about the naval forces.

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 was a defining conflict in South Asia, characterized by intense battles and significant sacrifices. As Pakistan reflects on its military history, the bravery and heroism of its martyrs from the Army, Navy, and Air Force are particularly notable. These individuals made supreme sacrifices during one of the nation's most challenging periods.

Among the many heroes, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti stands out as a distinguished officer of the Pakistan Army. Commanding the 16 Punjab Regiment, Major Bhatti played a pivotal role in defending the Lahore sector, particularly the strategically crucial area of Chawinda, which was heavily targeted by Indian forces. Despite being outnumbered, his leadership and bravery earned him posthumous recognition. Major Bhatti was martyred on September 12, 1965, during intense combat and was awarded the Nishan-e-Haider, Pakistan's highest military honor, equivalent to the Victoria Cross.

Another prominent figure was Lieutenant Colonel Syed Ahmad Sultan, who commanded the 8th Battalion of the Frontier Force Regiment. Known for his exceptional leadership and strategic acumen,

Lieutenant Colonel Sultan played a crucial role in repelling enemy advances and securing vital positions. He made the ultimate sacrifice on September 10, 1965, in the battle for Chawinda and was posthumously honored with the Sitara-e-Jurat for his bravery and dedication.

Lieutenant Commander Wasim Akram was a key figure in the Pakistan Navy during the 1965 War. He was involved in several significant naval operations and was known for his tactical expertise. Lieutenant Commander Akram played a crucial role in Operation Dwarka, which successfully targeted the Indian port city. His contributions were instrumental in the Navy's operational success. Lieutenant Commander Akram

was killed in action while leading operations against enemy naval forces. His heroism and contributions were honored posthumously, and he is remembered as a symbol of naval bravery. Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Ahsan, another distinguished officer of the Pakistan Navy, played a crucial role in the war due to his strategic significance. He was involved in key operations that strengthened Pakistan's naval defense and was instrumental in executing maritime strategies effectively. Lieutenant Commander Ahsan was martyred on September 7, 1965, during an intense naval battle. His sacrifice stands as a powerful testament to the courage and professionalism of the Pakistan Navy. Flight Lieutenant Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was a distinguished member of the Pakistan Air Force, renowned for his exceptional flying skills and leadership. During the 1965 War, he participated in numerous air combat

missions, demonstrating remarkable bravery. His aerial engagements played a vital role in defending Pakistani airspace. Flight Lieutenant Khan was martyred on September 6, 1965, during a combat mission and was posthumously awarded the Sitara-e-Jurat in recognition of his exemplary service and courage.

Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam is celebrated as one of Pakistan's most acclaimed air aces from the 1965 War. His legendary achievements include shooting down five Indian aircraft in a single day, September 7, 1965—a feat that brought him national and international recognition. His skill and bravery were crucial in the air battles over Kashmir. Squadron Leader Alam's contributions were honored with the Sitara-e-Jurat, and he is remembered as a symbol of aerial excellence and heroism.

Defense, Air Force, and Navy Days in Pakistan are not just commemorations of historical events but serve as powerful reminders of the collective responsibilities and values that sustain national security and unity. These days highlight Pakistan's resilience and military strength during the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, and their significance goes beyond historical reflection. They call for a unified response from the nation, emphasizing the need for solidarity, awareness, and active participation in maintaining national security. These observances honor the services of the armed forces and pay tribute to our martyrs, ensuring that the nation stands united and resolute in defending the country. The days reinforce the nation's commitment to security and defense, rejecting anti-state elements and false propaganda, and demonstrating unwavering support for the armed forces in addressing both internal and external threats.



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

## Apartheid Israel is targeting Gaza

UN rights expert warned Tuesday that Israel's intensification of its military assault against the northern West Bank marks a dangerous escalation of grave violence and human rights violations committed by Israel against the Palestinian people since October 7.

"Israel's genocidal violence risks leaking out of Gaza and into the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole," Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said in a statement.

"The writing is on the wall, and we cannot continue to ignore it. There is mounting evidence that no Palestinian is safe under Israel's unfettered control. While this was also true before Hamas' attack on 7 October, the risk has since intensified," Ms. Albanese said.

"Apartheid Israel is targeting Gaza and the West Bank simultaneously, as part of an overall process of elimination, replacement and territorial expansion," she said.

"The long-standing impunity granted to Israel is enabling the de-Palestinisation of the occupied territory, leaving Palestinians at the mercy of the forces pursuing their elimination as a national group," Ms. Albanese added.

Continuous genocidal incitements by top Israeli leaders and officials remain unpunished, and are often acted upon by soldiers, armed settlers and others, revealing the intent to destroy the Palestinian people under occupation, the UN expert said. Increasingly loud calls by Israeli leaders for turning the towns in the West Bank and refugee camps into a "mini-Gaza", are translating into military operations that are causing heavy death tolls and widespread destruction to the West Bank's urban areas.

Systematic aerial and ground attacks on Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem and Tubas governorates, particularly targeting refugee camps, have intensified in the past few months. Recently, on 28th August, Israeli occupation forces launched a full-scale military operation against these areas that have already killed 22 Palestinians and injured dozens.

Bulldozers have destroyed critical infrastructure, including roads, water and energy grids. New checkpoints have been established, following Israel's Foreign Minister Katz's declaration that "We must deal with the threat just as we deal with the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza, including the temporary evacuation of Palestinian residents and whatever steps are required. This is a war for everything, and we must win it."

An evacuation order has been issued to Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem and a city hospital in besieged Jenin, currently treating 150 patients. The Israeli occupation forces have blocked entry to the three main hospitals and imposed a curfew, while Israeli ground forces have invaded and besieged Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem.

## Pak-Saudi relations, transition and a new era of cooperation

Pakistan looks towards Saudi Arabia once again for a vital financial assistance to secure the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) fresh loan program to stave off a balance of payments crisis. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government has requested the Kingdom to enhance its lending by about \$1.2 billion from the existing \$5 billion portfolio to help bridge the external financing gap.

As the adage goes, 'a friend in need is a friend indeed,' Saudi Arabia has always responded positively to all Pakistan's requirements including financial and diplomatic at all levels.

Islamabad is now looking towards three friendly partners - Saudi Arabia, UAE and China - for a \$12 billion loan rollovers to secure the IMF loan. The refinancing or rollover of this \$12 billion is a prerequisite set by the IMF under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility.

Pakistan has now requested an additional \$1.2bn from Riyadh, which is expected to come in the form of a bilateral commercial loan, though it could also be in the form of a safe deposit. The government officials here claim the Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan recently assured his counterpart of the additional support, but it has yet to materialise.

The good news to some extent for Pakistan is that Saudi Arabia's cabinet has recently authorised one of his representatives of General Audit Bureau to engage Pakistan to work out a memorandum of

understanding (MoU) on accounting, supervisory and other professional financial matters. It is significant mainly because it shows the intent of the Kingdom that it wants more investment in Pakistan.

Both the countries have long been enjoying brotherly and friendly relations. Few might know that when Saudi state came into being on world's map, Maulana Sanaullah Amratsari led delegation on behalf of Indian Muslims had paid a visit to the Kingdom with cash, jewellery and other stuff to provide financial assistance to a new state. These gifts were presented to the founder of the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia responded with unbound affection and assistance and love. This economic and religious relationship continues smoothly.

Since the commencement of its formal diplomatic relations with the Kingdom in 1951, the Kingdom has extended significant assistance to Pakistan during 80's then late 90's when the nation became a nuclear state and faced sanctions and isolation at international level.

At that critical point, Saudi Arabia had provided oil on deferred payments to Islamabad for five years.

Then in 2008, during the time of international financial crunch, Saudi Arabia had deposited cash in Pakistan's central bank and again gave facility of deferred oil supply. In the years of 2014-15 amidst the surge of oil prices, the Kingdom again came to the rescue of its friendly country and gave \$1.5 billion in assistance. Saudi Arabia has entertained Pakistan's requests multiple

times to rollover its cash deposits in Pakistan's accounts.

Now, the approach of Saudi authorities towards Pakistan remain a bit changed. As a brotherly country, Saudi Arabia wants to see Pakistan as a stable state. Islamabad is now expected to share some tangible evidence and data with the Saudi authorities to confirm that it is on the recovery path. Saudi officials and investors now want to engage with Pakistan on long term projects.

Saudi ambassador in Pakistan, whom I refer as Pakistan's ambassador, is personally struggling to ensure such engagements and he is optimistic that both the states will chalk out detailed investment plan including construction of an oil refinery worth \$10 billion in Gwadar. Saudi ambassador in Pakistan Naufal Al Maliki has recently facilitated visits of Saudi investors to Pakistan.

Realising an urgent need for reforms to attract Saudi investment in Pakistan, the government has initiated numerous measures to improve the governance and facilitate businessmen through one-window operations. Different teams in the Prime Minister Office in Islamabad have been working day and night to remove hurdles in the investment and explore potential and viable areas for the investors.

We are sure Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will be entering a new era of mutual investments and a sustainable development soon, leaving behind a legacy of loans and financial assistance to cover Islamabad's chronic balance of payments needs. Top government officials here believe numerous projects and sectors including energy, IT and agriculture will be ready for Saudi investment before the expected visit of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



### Pakistani Youth leaving Pakistan

The uncertain economic situation, rising inflation, and ongoing political instability in Pakistan. Due to this reason, thousands of educated and skilled citizens leave their country, Pakistan. According to the document of the Bureau of Immigration and overseas employment, over 700,000 people left Pakistan in 2024 for a bright future. Last year, the number was over 811,000.

Rapid population growth, a lack of quality education, economic instability, and insufficient job opportunities contribute to the high unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in Pakistan increased to 5.70 percent in 2023 from 5.60 percent in 2022. As many as 4.5 million individuals are unemployed in the country, with the youth aged 15-24 having the highest unemployment rate of 11.1 percent, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, reaching an all-time high of 8.30 percent in 2003 and a record low of 3.10 percent in 1988.

The government should take legal action regarding this. By providing quality education and training opportunities, individuals can enhance their employability and increase their chances of securing employment.

The government should invest in infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, and public transport. This could create jobs in the construction sector and more jobs in other industries. They create an attractive business environment that encourages foreign investment. The government should encourage entrepreneurship by providing loans and training programs to budding entrepreneurs.

Laiba Mushtaque  
 Department of Mass Communication  
 Virtual University of Pakistan

### Concern regarding the recent increase in electricity prices

Dear Editor,  
 I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent increase in electricity prices, which has caused widespread distress among the people of Pakistan. This issue is of critical importance as it impacts millions of citizens, especially those belonging to low and middle-income groups who are already struggling with the rising cost of living.

The electricity price hike has added to the financial burden of households, making it difficult for many to manage their monthly budgets. For a country where a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line, such increases exacerbate economic hardships and can push more families into poverty. Moreover, this rise in electricity costs has a cascading effect, leading to increased prices of goods and services, thereby inflating the overall cost of living.

It is crucial to recognize that affordable electricity is not just a luxury but a necessity for the progress and well-being of the nation. The government must take urgent steps to address the underlying causes of these price hikes, such as inefficiencies in power generation and distribution, reliance on expensive imported fuel, and the need for investment in sustainable energy sources.

I urge the authorities to reconsider this decision and explore alternative measures to manage the energy crisis without burdening the common man. It is also important to implement policies that promote energy efficiency and reduce waste in the power sector. The government should prioritize investments in renewable energy, which can provide a more sustainable and cost-effective solution to the country's energy needs in the long term.

In conclusion, the rise in electricity prices is an issue that demands immediate attention. The government must act swiftly to alleviate the impact on citizens and ensure that energy remains accessible and affordable for all.

Thank you for providing a platform to voice these concerns.  
 Sincerely,  
 Laiba salam  
 laibasalam444@gmail.com

Hari Kemerdekaan

# Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan pays special tribute to Malaysia on 67th National Day

Malaysia-Pak bilateral ties establish in all spheres since countries' independence: Malaysian Ambassador

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan extended warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations from the people and government of Pakistan to the Malaysian nation. He commended Malaysia's impressive journey from independence in 1957 to its current status as a symbol of economic success and cultural harmony in Southeast Asia. He addressed the gathering as a chief guest on the occasion of the 67th National Day of Malaysia.

The Malaysian High Commission hosted a grand reception on the 67th National Day of Malaysia. High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan and his spouse warm welcome to guests.

The event was attended by All ASEAN Ambassadors, High commissioners and representatives of international organizations, High officials of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs including Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Atadjan Movlamov.

Minister Kamal extended warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations from the people and government of Pakistan to the Malaysian nation. He commended Malaysia's impressive journey from independence in 1957 to its current status as a symbol of economic success and cultural harmony in Southeast Asia.

The Minister praised Malaysia's extraordinary achievements in economic growth, cultural integration, and international diplomacy, as well as advancements in education, technology, and infrastructure.

The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, has said that Malaysia values its relations with Pakistan immensely and admirable bilateral relations have been established in all spheres since the countries' independence.

Today, on Malaysia's Independence Day, I would like to express the strategic partnership established between Malaysia and Pakistan, which affects all sectors of economy and including trade in every sector, the High Commissioner



said while addressing the 67th Malaysian National Day ceremony held here Wednesday.

He said, "Malaysia's 'strategic partnership' with Pakistan holds immense potential and both Malaysia and Pakistan share a deep-rooted bond, and we are committed to further strengthening our brotherly ties, particularly in areas such as trade, investment, and technological collaboration."

The High Commissioner said that Malaysia was the third largest trading partner of Pakistan and bilateral trade between Malaysia and Pakistan was \$1.8 billion.

He said that there were huge opportunities of cooperation in the Halal Industry, Green Technology, Energy, Tourism, Education and Industry and Trade between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He said that with the theme 'Malaysia MADANI: Jiwa Merdeka', this year's celebration highlighted the spirit of togetherness across all segments of society, reflecting the holistic unity of a developed and progressive nation that safeguards its diverse populace and fosters a shared national identity.

"It is not merely a celebration but, more importantly, a reflection of the resolve on the journey of nationhood that brought Malaysia the strength she enjoys today. This moment did not only signify the birth of a new nation but also laid the foundation for the formation of the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 when Sabah and Sarawak joined hands with the federation. Together, we have grown, through trials and tribulations,

emerging stronger as a united nation. As we celebrate our 67th year of independence, we must also recognize the significant strides Malaysia has made in building a resilient and dynamic economy, and our country has grown into a key player in the global market with a diversified economy that spans sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and services. This economic progress is not only a reflection of our nation's hard work and determination but also a crucial foundation for our future aspirations," the envoy said.

He said that the significance of this day lies not only in remembrance of the struggles and sacrifice of the founding fathers but also in recognizing the diverse cultural tapestry that defines

Malaysia today. "The principles of unity, tolerance, and mutual respect remain central to the Malaysian identity, reflecting a nation that has learned to embrace its multiculturalism as an indelible strength," he said.

The High Commissioner said, "Every year, on August 31, Malaysians from all walks of life—regardless of race, religion, or political belief—unite to celebrate the National Day, marking the moment when our beloved nation gained independence on this very day in 1957.

He said that it was a day for us to honor their legacy by continuing to uphold the values of unity, tolerance, and respect that they envisioned for Malaysia.

He said the evening before that historic day, Malaysians

stood united at the Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, witnessing the lowering of the British Union Jack and the hoisting of our flag, Jalur Gemilang. "The following morning, in a moment that has been etched in the annals of history, thousands gathered at Merdeka Stadium, where the Duke of Gloucester, representing Her Majesty the Queen, handed a symbol of independence to our first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman," he added.

"Tunku Abdul Rahman, with the strength of timbre accompanied by the people's spirit, declared 'Merdeka' seven times, marking the dawn of a new era

for Malaya," he said. He said, "In moving forward, let us renew our commitment to building better Malaysia for future generations. Let us embrace our diversity as our strength and work together to achieve greater heights.

The ceremony, which included a traditional Malaysian dance performance, concluded with a renewed commitment from both sides to continue fostering strong diplomatic and economic relations, paving the way for a prosperous future for both nations.

Photo Online by Sultan Bashir

## Serena Hotels hosts high-profile panel discussion on advancing disability rights



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, as part of its public diplomacy initiative Raabta, has organized a significant panel discussion titled "Building an Inclusive Society: Advancing Disability Rights and Inclusion." The event, curated by Sidra Iqbal, has brought together leading experts and advocates in the field of disability rights to explore strategies and best practices for creating a more inclusive society. This discussion has aimed to raise awareness about the

challenges faced by people with disabilities, share successful initiatives, promote collaboration among various stakeholders, and inspire concrete actions towards advancing disability inclusion.

The panel has featured a diverse group of speakers, including Sabene Bilal, a Special Education Expert, who has provided valuable insights into educational strategies that support the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education. Azima Dhanjee, Founder of ConnectHear,

has highlighted the importance of technology in advancing accessible communication for the deaf community. Fahmina Puri, an Inclusion Expert and Disability Advocate, has shared her extensive experience in mainstreaming disability across development projects. Sana Khurshid, a Lawyer and Disability Activist, has been instrumental in advocating for disability-inclusive policies, drawing on her own experiences as a quadriplegic wheelchair user. Haseeb Abbasi, a former Sargent Shriver Global Messenger for Special Olympics, has

shared his inspiring journey of overcoming challenges and his advocacy for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, shared his thoughts on the occasion, "At Serena Hotels, we believe in fostering an environment where everyone is included and valued. We have ConnectHear app deployed at our reception and restaurants to assist our guests with their communication needs. Serena Hotels is an equal opportunity employer and we have multiple

associates who identify as persons with disabilities and some of them are here to attend this event. By bringing together experts and advocates, we hope to inspire action and collaboration that will lead to a more inclusive future for all."

The Raabta initiative by Serena Hotels continues to support and facil-

itate meaningful dialogues that drive positive social change and promote equity across all sectors. Through events like this, Serena Hotels is reinforcing its dedication to creating platforms for important conversations that contribute to the betterment of society.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,848.01	78,356.31
Day's High	Day's Low
78,890.79	78,488.88
Index Value	Change
8,403,168,995	+491.70
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	4 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,269.60	-28.86
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	4 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,889.89	-47.04
Percentage	Time
-47.04	4 Sept, 1:17 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,047.61	-1,638.70
Percentage	Time
-1,638.70	4 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.75	190.00
Bahrain Dinar	737.02	745.02
Canadian Dollar	206.43	208.83
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	307.23	309.98
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.56	913.06
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	721.22	729.72
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.98	74.53
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	329.20	332.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.60	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	364.00	367.50
US Dollar	278.75	280.25

# COAS actions boost the Army's morale and public support, says 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 the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Syed Asim Munir has boosted the army's morale through his actions.

He said that COAS actions have improved the credibility and professionalism of the vital institution, while public support for him is continuously increasing.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, Syed Asim Minir has improved the institution's accountability and eliminated any form of partiality or immunity.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader stated that General Syed Asim Munir is not only conducting effective operations against terrorists, anarchists, and criminals but also assisting the government in combating various mafias.

He said that the Army is sacrificing lives in the war against terrorists, and the whole nation pays homage to them.

The business leader said that the army is taking various measures to prevent the activities of anti-national forces, subversive elements, and their facilitators, and the sacrifices of the army men for the defence of the motherland will not go in vain.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that the recent monsoon rains have destroyed millions of farmers' crops, leaving them bankrupt adding that crop destruction can increase



the food security problem. In addition, the scarcity of raw materials

in the industrial sector can exacerbate the issues facing this crucial sector therefore the government should plan adequately to reduce the impact of rain.

Mian Zahid Hussain added, "We welcome the recent reduction in inflation, but we will feel the effects of crop failure."

The textile sector will experience a surge in prices due to a decline in cotton production, while the sugar mills will experience a decline in sugarcane yield, thereby impacting production. The need for foreign exchange to import cotton and other commodities will erode the value of the rupee.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that we must address climate change as a permanent threat to find sustainable solutions that will improve the lives of farmers.

## Agreement

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik witnessed the signing of Consortium Agreement for Machike-Thalian-Taru Jabba White Pipeline Project on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Sarhad Chamber' will be premiere chamber of Peshawar: Haji Ghulam Ali

**Commerce Desk**

PESHAWAR: Former Governor and Patron-in-Chief of SBA, Haji Ghulam Ali, declared that just as the Governor's House was transformed into a people's house, he would ensure the Sarhad Chamber becomes the premier chamber not only of the city but of the entire province.

In Gurdmandi, Sher Ali, Shakeel Ibrahim, in Jhangi Mohalla, Zafar Khattak, Saifur-Rahman, Mufti Dr. Ishmat Tufail Gilani, and Salahuddin organized dignified programs and declared their support. They all agreed that in the current situation, the Sarhad Business Alliance is the only group that can be fully trusted. Under Haji Ghulam Ali's leadership, this group will play an effective role in addressing the issues of the city's traders and business community, as well

as in restoring the Chamber's reputation. Haji Ghulam Ali thanked all of them and emphasized that neither he nor any SBA official would stand as a candidate in the Sarhad Chamber elections. Instead, they have fielded candidates from within the community who are experts and highly qualified in their respective fields. He added that the trust expressed by the city's business community and traders in the SBA is unprecedented, and they will strive to live up to it by nominating candidates on merit. He assured that soon, traders will witness positive change through the SBA's platform, but for that, it is crucial to fully support the SBA in the Sarhad Chamber elections. Accompanying him were Malik Mehr Elahi, Siraj Khan, Bakht Mir Shah, Room Khan, Ghulam Bilal Javid, and other members.

## Digital afterlife: 61% users worry about data theft of the deceased

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The recent study titled "Excitement, Superstition, and Great Insecurity - How Global Consumers Engage with the Digital World" reveals (61%) consumers believe the identities of the deceased are particularly vulnerable to identity theft as there is often no one left to monitor what happens to the information posted online. As for the recreation of ones' online presence using artificial intelligence (AI), 35% of respondents find it acceptable, while a larger portion (38%) actively disagrees, highlighting the unresolved issues of privacy and respect in the digital realm.

According to the "Digital 2024 Global Overview Report" conducted by Kepios, 95% of the internet users now use social media every month, with 282 million new identities joining between July 2023 and July 2024. As more people interact online and their digital footprints expand, the concerns over privacy, legacy, and the ethical use of digital identities become increasingly relevant.

More than half of the respondents (58%) agree that the online presence of people who have passed away could be



recreated using AI.

"The issue of managing one's digital footprint is often overlooked in daily online activities. However, the survey results underscore a critical point: a significant number of respondents are aware of the potential for stolen identities to cause immense personal trouble for users, or their loved ones. Given these risks, it is prudent to adopt proactive measures that enhance privacy and safeguard digital identities," comments Anna Larkina, web content analysis expert at Kaspersky.

In order to strengthen users' privacy, Kaspersky suggests employing a modern security solution makes it easy to monitor what personal data apps are processing and also limit data collection when necessary. As not all online services make it clear what data they collect and how they use it, following the instructions of online Privacy checker will help to limit the amount of information shared online.

The full Kaspersky report "Excitement, Superstition and great Insecurity - How Global Consumers Engage with the Digital World" is available via this link.

## Nestlé Pakistan conducts capacity building training on ecotourism

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nestlé Pakistan carried out a two-day training on ecotourism and sustainable waste management in Naran, under Travel Responsibly for Experiencing Ecotourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TREK) that embodies Nestlé's vision for a waste-free future.

Speaking on the occasion, Tashfeen Haider, Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority said, "Department of Tourism's collaboration through the TREK with Nestlé Pakistan and World bank Group will strengthen the efforts to create livelihood opportunities and effectively address the issues faced by the tourism sector including waste management."

Talking about the initiative, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs

and Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan said, "Our partnership with the government and World Bank Group on TREK, will help realize our vision for shaping a waste-free future, by driving new behavior for a cleaner environment."

Nestlé Pakistan's commitment to TREK includes 2 pillars: A massive awareness campaign focusing on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and a Stakeholder Engagement plan which includes activities that will help in countering the issues of waste, pollution and destruction of wildlife, in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13, 15 and 17.

Nestlé is committed to its vision for a waste-free future—to ensure that none of its packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfill or as litter, including in oceans, lakes or rivers.

## ICCI President pledges business community's full support to combat drug menace

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attended an interactive session titled 'Drug Trafficking through Export Consignments' organized by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF). The session was well-attended by the representatives from the business community, Pakistan Customs officials and other stakeholders.

Director General ANF Major General Abdul Moeed welcomed the attendees and briefed them on the sophisticated methods used by drug traffickers for transportation, which not only harm the youth but also tarnish the country's image. He

expressed his determination to eradicate the menace by bringing those involved to justice.

The ANF chief highlighted the shift from plant-based to chemical-based drugs, which has led to new techniques for transportation, including camouflaging drugs in export items. He emphasized that individuals from various industries, including chemicals and cargos overtly or covertly are being exploited by the mafia for the purpose.

He assured that ANF will fully facilitate the business community in enhancing the exports of the country for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari commended the ANF's initiative

and stressed the need to raise awareness about the impact of drug trafficking on youth and families through social media campaigns. He assured that the business community would continue to support efforts to combat the menace, which would ultimately enhance exports, benefiting both the business community and the country's economy.

He also made mention of the ICCI's initiatives for the purpose, including seminars, roundtable conferences and awareness walks in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority, Islamabad Police and other stakeholders to sensitize the society so as to get rid of the evil.

He added that for the sake of our future generations, everyone has to



fight against this scourge with full force and determination and that our contribution to this count will be great work.

Prominent among those who attended the session include United

Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, ICCI Vice President Eng. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Saifur Rehman, Hamayun Kabir, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Etsahm Chaudhry, Zia Chaudhry and others.

## Emirates touches down for the first time in Antananarivo



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Emirates, the world's largest international airline, marked a significant milestone with its inaugural flight landing in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The arrival of flight EK707 at Ivato International Airport was celebrated with a water cannon salute, followed by an exclusive event attended by VIPs, government officials, industry guests, and media. Among the distinguished attendees were His Excellency Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, and the First Lady, who personally welcomed the Emirates delegation led by Adnan Kazim, Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer of Emirates Airline.

President Rajoelina expressed his enthusiasm for the new service, stating, "In just four months, through shared determination and hard work, we have successfully launched this long-awaited inaugural flight between Dubai and Antananarivo with Emirates. This is a historic moment for Madagascar, and I am convinced that it will act as a catalyst and a true lever for tourism and economic development in our country."

Adnan Kazim echoed the sentiment, highlighting Madagascar as a "new and exciting destination" on Emirates' global network. He emphasized Emirates' commitment to supporting Madagascar's tourism industry, which aims to attract one million tourists by 2028. The airline's enhanced connectivity and premium travel options are expected to play a crucial role in achieving this goal.

Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, offers a unique adventure for travelers, boasting rich biodiversity, stunning scenery, and three UNESCO World Heritage sites. The country's commitment to ecotourism allows visitors to immerse themselves in nature while respecting the environment, making it a truly one-of-a-kind destination.

# Miandad, Inzamam among legends react to Pakistan's historic defeat against Bangladesh

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Legendary Pakistan cricketers including Javed Miandad and Inzamam-ul-Haq reacted to the national men's team's first-ever Test series defeat against Bangladesh.

The Green Shirts succumbed to a 2-0 loss in the two-match series against Bangladesh, which culminated at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Bangladesh outclassed Pakistan by six wickets in the second Test to complete the clean sweep. The touring side had won the first Test thumpingly by 10 wickets.

Former Test captain Javed Miandad, known for his blunt remarks, expressed his disappointment specifically with the team's batting woes while lauding the touring side for their disciplined performances.

"It is hurting that our cricket has come to this stage. Bangladesh deserve credit



for their disciplined performances. But the way our batting has collapsed in this series is a bad sign," said Miandad.

Another former Pakistan captain

Inzamam-ul-Haq expressed his concerns over the team's struggle in home conditions.

"Home series were always considered

our best chance of beating the best sides in the past. But for this to happen the batsmen need to get runs," Inzamam said.

Pakistan's leading century-scorer in Test cricket Younis Khan emphasized that the national players need mental strengthening to overcome the losing streak at home.

"Our batters have got runs in the past but right now I think they need mental strengthening and a clear mind to overcome this crisis," stated Younis.

Former Pakistan Test spinner Iqbal Qasim, on the other hand, asserted that the national team needs to improve in the spin-bowling department, highlighting that the national team does not feature great pacers like Wasim Akram.

"We don't have bowlers of the calibre of Sarfaraz Nawaz, Wasim Akram, Waqar or Shoaib now. So, we should be banking on our spinners to win us Tests at home," he said.

## Sarfraz Ahmed joins Dolphins as mentor-cum-player in Champions One Day Cup 2024

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Wicket-keeper batsman, former captain Sarfraz Ahmed on Wednesday joined Dolphins side as mentor-cum-player for the Champions One Day Cup 2024 and expressed the resolve to make a meaningful contribution towards player development and professional growth of the cricketers and coaching staff.

Addressing a press conference to accept mentorship and unveiling of Dolphins logo at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) headquarters Gaddafi Stadium here on Wednesday, he said he would play his due role in mentoring players for the future and help in bridging the gap between domestic and international cricket.

With Sarfraz's joining Dolphins as mentor, the process of appointing mentors of the five teams has completed as Waqar Younis (Lions), Shoaib Malik (Stallions), Mishbah ul Haq (Wolves) and Saqlain Mushtaq (Panthers) have already joined the sides in the Champions One Day Cup which due to start on September 12 at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad.

Dolphins will be based at the Hanif



Mohammad High Performance Centre in Karachi, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced today. Dolphins will be one of the five sides to participate in the Champions One-Day Cup, which will be held in Faisalabad from 12-29 September.

"What makes this role even more exciting and challenging is that I will also be participating in the tournament as a player. While my passion and drive to win each match remain as strong as ever, my role will also involve supporting and assisting the captain, players, and coaching staff to enhance their skills and become better players," Sarfraz added.

Reminiscing on his old memories with an old team with the surname Dolphins but no geographical affiliations with the current side, the two time ICC events winner said, "I am fully committed to

this role and am eager to make a meaningful contribution to the Dolphins side, with whom I have been involved in some of the most memorable matches. These include the last-over loss to the Stallions in the 2007/08 T20 Cup final, a 78-run victory over the Bears in the 2009/10 Pentangular One-Day Cup final and a 37-run loss to the Lions in the 2010/11 T20 Cup final."

He said mentoring a highly-rated Dolphins side in what promises to be a keenly contested and hard-fought tournament is something he is eagerly looking forward to, adding that it will be a new experience for him and he is excited about the opportunity to learn and further develop his skills as a cricket professional.

"With the country's best players and top-notch coaches under the watchful eyes of experienced former stalwarts as mentors, I am confident that this Champions One-Day Cup will exceed the expectations of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the passionate Pakistan cricket fans, whose unwavering support is always crucial. I believe all players will deliver their best performances, making this tournament an overwhelming

success," the former captain hoped.

The Champions One-Day Cup will feature country's 150 best of the best cricketers. This will be a 50-over tournament that will be played on a single-league format. All but 16 September match between Lions and Panthers, which will start at 9.30am, will commence at 3pm. There will be three playoffs in four days with the final on Sunday, 29 September.

Sarfraz Ahmed captained Pakistan to victories in the ICC U19 World Cup 2006 and ICC Champions Trophy 2017 while he was also a member of the Pakistan side that won the ACC Asia Cup 2012. Sarfraz led Pakistan to No.1 in ICC T20I Team Rankings and also became the first Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter to score a World Cup century when he scored 101 not out against Ireland in Adelaide in 2015. He holds the record for most dismissals in an ODI (all 6 catches) and is only the second wicket-keeper to have captained his side in 50 or more ODIs. Sarfraz Ahmed is 17th on the ODI list of wicket-keepers with 2,000 runs and 100 dismissals while he has played in two 50-over World Cups and one T20 World Cup.

## Aqeel, Shoaib advance to Khawar Hyat Tennis Tournament's final

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial National Ranking Tennis Tournament continued with an action-packed day of matches at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Wednesday.

Competitors from various age groups displayed their skills in closely contested matches across several categories.

In Men's Singles semifinals, Veteran tennis player Aqeel Khan defeated Muzammil Murtaza with a score of 6-3, 6-4 to clash with rising star

Muhammad Shoaib, who in the other contest overpowered Yousaf Khalil in a dominant performance 6-1, 6-1.

In Ladies Singles quarter-finals, Amna Ali Qayum cruised to victory over Kainat Ali with a flawless 6-0, 6-0 win, while Soha Ali triumphed against Lalarukh Saji 6-2, 6-0.

Earlier, in Ladies Singles pre-quar-



ter-finals, Meheq Khokhar defeated Zara Khan 6-0, 6-0 in a one-sided affair. Amna Ali Qayum outclassed Zainab Ali Raja 6-0, 6-1.

Soha Ali overcame Fatima Ali Raja with a 6-0 win.

Ushna Suhail outplayed Zunaisah Noor 6-1, 6-1.

Sheeza Sajid won against Laiba Iqbal 6-2, 6-2.

Lalarukh Sajid defeated Amna Saqib Jadoon 6-2, 6-2.

Mahrugh Saji outclassed Maham Jadoon 6-1, 6-0.

In Boys 18 & Under semifinals, Bilal Asim emerged victorious against Hamza Roman in a three-set thriller, winning 6-3, 1-6, 6-0.

Ahmed Nael Qureshi defeated Ahtesham Humayun with a scoreline of 6-3, 6-2.

In Boys 14 & Under semifinals: Shayan Afridi beat Muhammad Junaid Khan 5-3, 4-2, while Hasan Usmani overcame Razik Sultan in a closely fought match 5-4(1), 4-2.

In Boys 12 & Under quarter-finals, Rashid Ali secured a 4-2, 4-0 win over M. Aayan, whereas

Muhammad Muaz defeated M. Ibraheem Gill 4-1, 4-0.

## Pakistan dropped to lowest Test rankings since 1965

**A Sports**

DUBAI: Shan Masood-led Pakistan succumbed to a historic series defeat against Bangladesh, leading to their fall to their lowest ICC Men's Test Team Rankings since 1965.

Bangladesh outclassed Pakistan by six wickets in the second Test match to complete the clean sweep and win their first-ever series against the Green Shirts. The touring side had won the first Test thumpingly by 10 wickets.

The back-to-back losses against Bangladesh resulted in Pakistan dropping two places to eighth with 66 rating points.

"This is the lowest rating points Pakistan have had in the Test rankings table since 1965, barring a brief period where they did not have a place in the rankings due to an insufficient number of matches," the ICC press release stated.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh gained 13 rating points, however, they are still sitting in the ninth position behind Pakistan in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings.

Due to Pakistan's decline in the rankings, Sri Lanka and West Indies have both advanced one position to claim sixth and seventh place, respectively.

"Extremely disappointed, we were excited for the home season but the story has been the same as Australia," Pakistan skipper Shan Masood said after the loss in the second Test to Bangladesh.

"We have not learnt our lessons. We thought we were playing good cricket in Australia but not doing the job, that's something we need to work on."

## PCB Regional Inter-District senior tournament starts on Sept 5

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The Regional Inter-District senior cricket tournament is set to start in six regions across the country including Abbottabad, Bahawalpur, Hyderabad, Karachi, Multan and Sialkot on Thursday, Sept 5.

The tournament will kick off on September 8 in eight other regions including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Dera Murad Jamali, FATA, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Larkana, Peshawar and Quetta Regions.

The Inter-district senior tournament matches in Rawalpindi Region and Lahore Region will begin from 12 Sept 12. A total of 103 district/zonal teams will play 255 matches across the 16 regions in the country while over 1500 players will participate in the tournament.

The tournament will provide talent for the upcoming Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and the National T20 Cup 2024-25 where 18 teams of the 16 regional sides will take on each other.



## Australia slam highest powerplay score in T20I history

EDINBURGH: Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh dismantled Scotland's bowling attack as they helped Australia to register the highest batting powerplay score in the history of T20 Internationals (T20Is).

The former champions were set to chase a modest 155-run target as a combined bowling effort restricted Scotland to 154/9 in the allotted 20 overs at the Grange Cricket Club Ground here on Wednesday.

Opening batter George Munsey top-scored for the home side with a 16-ball 28, followed by wicketkeeper batter Matthew Cross (27), skipper Richie Berrington (23) and top-order batter Brandon McMullen (19).

For Australia, Sean Abbott picked three wickets while Xavier Bartlett and Adam Zampa bagged two each.

Australia had an unwanted start to the run chase as they lost young opener Jake Fraser-McGurk (0) on just the third delivery of the innings.

Following his departure, Marsh joined Head in the middle and the duo combined to launch an astounding counterattack with belligerent hitting.

Travis Head was the core aggressor of the historic partnership as the left-handed opener conceded just 17 balls to reach half-century, the joint quickest by an Australian batter in the format.

The second-wicket partnership between Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh muscled Australia to 113/1 by the end of the batting powerplay, the highest score by a team in the history of T20Is.

Mark Watt gave Scotland a sigh of relief in the next over as he got rid of both Head and Marsh.

Marsh scored 39 off just 12 balls with the help of five fours and three sixes while Head remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 25-ball 80, peppered with 12 fours and five sixes.

Following their departure, wicketkeeper batter Josh Inglis alongside Marcus Stoinis anchored Australia to glory with 62 balls to spare. Inglis remained unbeaten with a 13-ball 27 while Stoinis scored eight not out.

Mark Watt starred with the ball for Scotland, picking up key wickets of Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh and conceding just 13 runs in his two overs while the rest were decimated by the Australian batters.

Australia now lead Scotland 1-0 in the three-match T20I series with the remaining two fixtures scheduled on September 6 and 7 respectively at the same venue.



## Joe Root consolidates top position with twin centuries

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Back-to-back centuries for Joe Root have led to the English star extending his lead atop the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Root (922 rating points) now leads by 63 points over New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and the England right-hander has an opportunity to break his own personal best mark, just one point away from the 923 rating he attained in July 2022 after a century against India at Edgbaston.

Just three English batters boast better career highs for Test batters: Len Hutton, Jack Hobbs and Peter May. Despite his exploits in the second Test against Sri Lanka, Root was overshadowed by Gus Atkinson, whose Player of the Match efforts with bat and ball led to dramatic jumps across all Ranking

disciplines.

After becoming just the third player in Men's Test history to score a century and claim a five-wicket haul at the hallowed venue, Atkinson moved up 48 spots, into the top 20 for All-Rounders, and into the top 30 for bowlers.

Whilst on the wrong side of the result at Lord's, there were positive moves for a number of Sri Lanka players in the latest update. Half-centuries for Kamindu Mendis moved him up 11 spots and into 25th (635), while an eight-wicket performance from Asitha Fernando propelled the seamer into the top ten for the first time (8th, 734).

Over in Pakistan, Bangladesh's barnstorming clean sweep series win saw several Tigers gains.

Rescuing Bangladesh's first innings, at one stage in peril at 26/6, Litton Das's 138 helped the team to a first

innings 262, and him to a 12-place push to 15th on the batting rankings. His partner in the seventh-wicket partnership of 165, Mehedy Hasan Miraz, moved up to 75th place with the bat, and his figures of 5-61 in Pakistan's first innings pushed him up to 7th in the all-rounders list. On the bowling side, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana moved to career-best rankings.

West Indies' last T20I with South Africa and the Dutch T20I tri-series with the USA and Canada meanwhile led to minor shuffles in the rankings for the shortest format.

Nicolas Pooran's score of 35 from 13 balls pushed him up to eighth in the Batting Rankings (668), while teammate Shai Hope continued his run to move 32 spots up to 40th. Protea Aiden Markram joined Pooran into the top 10 with a one-spot move (641).



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan, Uzbekistan to increase cooperation in IT and Telecom

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov agreed to increase cooperation in the IT and Telecommunications sector during a meeting.

During the session, IT Minister Shaza Fatima and Ambassador Arif Usmanov discussed common

interests while agreeing to increase cooperation in the Information Technology and Telecommunications sector.

The IT minister expressed the significance of Pakistan's relationship with Uzbekistan and the importance of the cooperation in the IT and Telecom sector between the two.

She also suggested that the countries could learn from each other's experience in the field of technology.

## Committee formed to persuade Sardar Akhtar Mengal to withdraw resignation: Tarar



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar informed the National Assembly on Wednesday that a committee has been formed to meet with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the chief of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M).

Speaking on the floor of the House, he said that the committee, comprising Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Mohammad Usman Badini, and Aijaz Hussain Jakhriani, had been tasked with persuading Sardar Akhtar Mengal to resolve the issue through negotiations.

He said Sardar Akhtar Mengal's father had significant contributions to Pakistan's development. Sardar Akhtar Mengal tendered his resignation from the National Assembly on Tuesday.

In response to concerns raised by an MNA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that it was agreed with the Chief Minister to resolve differences through dialogue.

Acknowledging the presence of talent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa he called for cooperation in addressing the electricity theft issue. He assured that load shedding would be eliminated with the ending of electricity theft in the area.

He said that inflation has decreased to 9.6%, single digit and exports have risen by 14% compared to the previous year due to the government's efforts under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership.

Regarding the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) targets, he expressed confidence that the government was on track to meet its targets.

The minister said that the trade deficit was decreasing and Pakistan's economy had been protected from the looming threat of default.

## Mohsin Naqvi meets Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad.

During the meeting measures to establish peace and eliminate terrorism and sectarianism were discussed. In addition, matters related to Religious harmony, tolerance, and inter-sect unity were also discussed. The interior minister said that terrorists have no religion, adding that scholars have always guided



the nation in the fight against terrorism and still there is a dire need for it.

He stated that to develop an effective narrative against terrorism, a national

campaign to consult scholars of all sects will be started soon. He underscored that the war against terrorism is the war for the survival of Pakistan.

He stressed that scholars need to again play their role to eliminate the menace of terrorism. "The enemy wants to harm national unity by creating unrest but we will defeat the nefarious designs of the enemy through our unity", he said.

Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad said that the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" is a great narrative that has declared terrorism, extremism, and sectarianism

as haram. He added that everyone needs to play their role in promoting inter-sect and interfaith harmony and national unity in the current situation.

He praised the efforts and services of the interior minister towards establishing peace in the country. He said that the entire nation stands united with the valiant armed forces and security agencies to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad's services for religious harmony, national unity and solidarity.

## Finance Minister Engages with Standard Chartered Leadership

**Commerce Desk**

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Mr. Sunil Kaushal, Global Head of Corporate & Investment Banking at Standard Chartered Bank, to discuss expanding investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Rehan Shaikh, CEO of Standard Chartered Pakistan, the Finance Secretary, and other senior officers of the Finance Division.

During the discussion, the Finance Minister underscored the positive trajectory of Pakistan's macro-economic indicators and expressed the government's commitment to maintaining economic stability through various reforms. "Our government is



dedicated to creating a conducive environment for foreign investments, ensuring that Pakistan remains a competitive and attractive destination for global investors," Senator

Aurangzeb remarked.

The dialogue focused on exploring potential collaborations between the Government of Pakistan and Standard Chartered Bank, particularly

in sectors such as infrastructure development, digital banking, and sustainable finance.

Mr. Kaushal expressed his confidence in Pakistan's

economic outlook and reiterated Standard Chartered's long-term commitment to the country. "Standard Chartered views Pakistan as a key market with vast opportunities and we are committed to deepen our engagement with the country by extending all kinds of investment and financial support needed to fulfilling the country's economic ambitions, in the present as well as the years to come," he stated.

The meeting concluded with both parties agreeing to explore specific investment projects in the coming months. The Finance Minister assured the delegation of the government's full support in facilitating their initiatives and expressed his optimism about further strengthening the partnership with Standard Chartered Bank.

## Unicef-Pakistan, climate ministry to work jointly to build up climate resilience among children

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan, Abdullah A. Fadil called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam here on Wednesday to discuss boosting collaboration in protecting children from adverse impacts of climate change.

During the meeting held here on Wednesday, both sides pledged to work closely to protect children from devastating consequences of climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods and diseases, spokesperson of the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Muhammad Saleem said.

The ministry official said further that PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid highlighted during the meeting



with Unicef country representative in Pakistan that the children of Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as extreme

weather events such as floods, heat waves, droughts, glacial lake outburst floods and shifting rainfall patterns threaten their health, education, and

overall well-being.

During the meeting, Romina Khurshid highlighted that as the world grapples with the intensifying climate risks, children in Pakistan are emerging as one of the most vulnerable groups and facing severe implications of various climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods, heat waves, the spokesperson Mr. Saleem added.

"What we have learned from recent climate change-caused disasters in Pakistan, is that the country, already one of the most climate-affected countries globally, is experiencing intensified impacts including extreme heat waves, flooding and shifting weather patterns. These climate disruptions are disproportionately affecting children, who are particularly sensitive to environmental changes due to their developing bodies and lower adaptive capacity," remarked Ms. Alam.

## Three lines of border control concept and risk analysis unit launched at FIA



**City Desk**

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has taken a significant step forward in enhancing border control and risk management with the inauguration of a Risk Analysis Unit and a Third Line Technical Forensic Lab at FIA Headquarters (HQs). An inauguration ceremony celebrated the opening of a refurbished Forensic Laboratory for examining suspected forged documents and combating identity fraud, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as a new Risk Analysis Office, funded by the European Union and Ministry of Interior of Austria. Both offices were equipped and completed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as part of an ongoing programme to strengthen the management of Pakistan's borders.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior FIA officials,

including the ADG Headquarters, ADG Immigration, and Additional Director Immigration, and Director Counter Terrorism Wing.

During his remarks at the inauguration ceremony, DG FIA Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir, highlighted the importance of the offices to the FIA's mandate to control immigration and counter serious and organised crime: "Effective, open and secure border management is critical to ensuring the safety and security of our citizens, promoting stability, and facilitating trade and development." DG FIA expressed gratitude to the international community for their support in establishing the Risk Analysis Unit and the Three Lines Border Control Concept. He also highlighted the economic, social, and political challenges posed by illegal immigration and emphasized the need for cooperation and joint efforts to address these issues.

## Maulana calls for dialogue...

*Continued from Page 1*

inexperienced and emotional individuals often complicate matters.

"It's a fallacy to believe that everything can be controlled centrally, and that the entire country can be run like a 'ghunna ghar' (a place where everything is kept secret)," he said.

He highlighted the challenges posed to projects like the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) due to the security situation, citing the

presence of armed forces in areas like Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat, which hinder development. He painted a grim picture of the situation, stating that in some areas, the national anthem cannot be played and the national flag cannot be hoisted in schools and colleges.

He recalled his recent visit to Afghanistan, where he discussed trade and the Afghan refugee situation, emphasizing the need for Pakistan to take responsibility for its actions instead of blaming others.