





# AJK PM honors martyrs at Keren Zero-point

**Bureau Report**

NEELUM: A special ceremony was organised on the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day at newly constructed martyrs' memorial at Keren Zero-point today wherein eulogizing tributes were paid to martyrs of Pakistan army who laid down their lives while defending the country's territorial sovereignty.

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq and General Officer Commanding Major General Muhammad Irfan were the chief guests of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM Haq and other speakers lauded the Pakistan army's significant contri-



bution and sacrifices for Pakistan. They also reiterated Kashmiris' pledge to carry forward the mission for which the martyrs had laid down their precious lives. It is worth mentioning here that

Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Ms. Mashaal Malik and the heirs of the martyrs were specially invited in the ceremony.

The event was attended by President PML-N Azad Kashmir chapter Shah Ghulam Qadir, Senior Minister Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Government Ministers Mian Abdul Waheed, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Azhar Sadiq, Dewan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Akbar Ibrahim, Akmal Hussain Sargala, Abdul Majid Khan were present at the event. Raja Muhammad Siddique Khan, Sardar Zia Qamar, Chaudhry Amir Yasin, Chief Secretary Daud Muhammad Barich civil and military officials.

## Sardar Attique recalls sacrifices of Syed Khadim Shaheed

**Spokesman Report**

MUZAFFARABAD / BAGH: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the idea of joining Pakistan in Azad Kashmir and the idea of two nationalities in Pakistan at the time of establishment of the ministries. It is a requirement of the sacrifices of heroes like Syed Khadim Hussain Shaheed that this region is free and there was an element of movement in the background of their sacrifices. The Indian army is present in Occupied Kashmir more than the total forces of Pakistan.



Paying homage to Major Ayub Khan's ex speaker Ajk Assembly services for protecting the belief of Khatam Nabub, the former prime minister said that the martyrs who blew up the Indian tanks on the Chonda front in September 1965 pay homage to the defense of the homeland, who sacrificed their lives for the people of the state in the name of rights. Meanwhile, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan condoled with Raja Shabadam Khan in Arjah and recited Fatiha on the death of his grandson. Then in Sehunta, wife of Anwar Abbasi and aunt of Sardar Ijaz Abbasi. Senior officials of the Muslim Conference were with him on this occasion of reciting Fatiha on his death.

President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan passed away the mother of Chairman Sahar Foundation Asim Zeib, aunt of Ms Nasreen Akhtararaja, Member Zilla Council Bagh. Expressing deep sorrow and grief, he said that may Allah Almighty grant the deceased a high place in Jannat al-Firdous, may Allah grant the deceased a high place in Jannat al-Firdous and grant patience to the bereaved-family.

## Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner inaugurating "Crafts Festival" held in a local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## AIOU Celebrates Balochistan Chapter Convocation in Quetta

**Bureau Report**

QUETTA: The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University's Balochistan chapter was held yesterday in Quetta, with Balochistan Governor Jafar Khan Mandokhail as the chief guest. The event was hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. In his address, Governor Mandokhail praised the university for providing equal and quality education to students in both urban and remote areas of the country. He congratulated the successful students and highlighted the university's unique position as a leading institution in the world due to its distance learning system. He also emphasized that the university offers educational opportunities to everyone, regardless of age, caste, or religion. The Governor commended the university for using modern digital technology to extend educational opportunities to students across Pakistan as well as overseas Pakistanis.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mahmood mentioned that Allama Iqbal Open University has completed 50 years of academic service and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. He shared that 5 million students have graduated from the institution, contributing to various sectors across the country. Dr. Mahmood further highlighted the university's commitment to providing free matriculation education to students in Balochistan and offering fee concessions during times of crisis. Congratulating the students who received gold medals and degrees, he stated that the university is proud of their achievements. The Governor and Vice-Chancellor distributed degrees among the students, with top-performing students receiving gold medals for their outstanding performance.

## Unwarranted interference by the retired DG MDA causes unrest among WASA and MDA officers.

**Bureau Report**

MULTAN: The DG MDA was furious over the dismissal of a work-charge employee of WASA agency, and it has been revealed that a summary has been sent to transfer WASA officers to other cities, causing great concern among the employees. According to the details, it has come to light that DG MDA Rana Saleem, despite being a senior bureaucrat, is working like a personal servant of former DG Mumtaz Qureshi. Whenever Mumtaz Qureshi instructs, Rana Saleem, considering it absolutely correct, goes after WASA officers with a stick.

On Friday, September 6th, former Director Admin Saeed Dogar dismissed Mumtaz Qureshi's favorite, the blackmailer Munir Hans, who had been filing complaints against WASA officers, and banned his entry into the offices. As soon as Mumtaz Qureshi was informed, he immediately contacted DG MDA and directed him to reinstate Munir Hans. When DG MDA expressed his inability to reinstate the work-charge employee due to lack of authority, Mumtaz Qureshi ordered him to take strict action against the WASA officers. Consequently, DG MDA Rana Saleem has started preparations to transfer WASA officers to different cities.

It is learned that Rana Saleem has sent a summary to the Secretary of Housing to remove Director Recovery Abdul Salam from his position and transfer him to Rawalpindi, and to remove Director Works Arif Abbas and transfer him to Bahawalpur. A plan has also been made to transfer Deputy Director Admin & PRO Hassan Mahmood Bukhari, who is disliked by Mumtaz Qureshi's son, to another city and to harass him in various corruption cases. This has caused great concern among WASA officers and employees. When contacted for a response from the MDA spokesperson on the matter, they refused to comment. The Chief Minister of Punjab should take notice and stop a retired employee from interfering in the administrative affairs of MDA and WASA, and assign the additional charge of MDA to the Commissioner of Multan.

## Pakistan's PM is creating civil war-like situation says Syed Ijaz Bukhari

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK (8 AUG): Member of Provincial Assembly from PTI Attock, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari, has said that the current government is creating a civil war-like situation in the country, the consequences of which will not be favorable. The government both grants permission for rallies and creates obstacles. The Minister of Information says that people are being brought to rallies by distributing five thousand rupees each. He expressed these thoughts while speaking to the media. Syed Ijaz Bukhari said that hundreds of people from his constituency, including areas like Sikka Abad, Akhori, Attock, and other surrounding regions, had left for the rally, some of them departing at night. Last night, the local police also began making arrests. Syed Ijaz Bukhari further stated that if the government is not afraid of our peaceful rally, why are they blocking roads and not allowing people to reach the venue? What are the reasons behind all this? The public is expressing their hatred toward the current rulers. Inflation and unemployment have made life difficult for the common man. He added that, God willing, the rally will be successful. The government, in a show of power, has resorted to such low tactics that they have closed hotels and food shops around the rally venue for three days, preventing people from even buying food and drinks.

# Joint session on protection of end of Prophethood held in Muzaffarabad

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Under the auspices of Central Ulema Council of Azad Kashmir, a seminar on protection of end of Prophethood was held. Leaders of political, social, religious parties, scholars, businessmen, lawyers, students, civil society, journalist community and others participated in the seminar.

On this occasion, the speakers addressed the seminar and said that the entire religion is based on the end of Prophethood. If not, how can they be loyal to the green flag? Until they accept the belief of the end of Prophethood, they will remain non-Muslims.

Protection of the end of Prophethood and the honor of Prophethood, peace be upon him, are the main foundations of peace.

Moderator of Religious Affairs Hafiz Nazir Ahmed President Central Ulema Council Maulana Mumtazul Haq Qasmi, Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan, Shaukat Javed Mir, Maulana Attique Rehman Danish, Maulana Abdul Majid Khan, Attique Raza Kayani, Maulana Abdul Malik Siddiqui, Qazi Sohail Ahmed, Maulana Manzoor Al Hasan Naqshbandi, Maulana Muhammad Asif Baloch, Maulana Fazal Wahab, Mufti Abdul Wajid, Muhammad Amin Butt, Mufti Mansoor Ahmad Baloch, Maulana Muhammad Amar, Maulana

Ishtiaq Ahmad, Muhammad Sharif Jhagwi Maulana Pirzada Abu Bakr Sarwar, Mufti Nadeem Khalil, Maulana Ghulam Mustafa, Qari Muhammad Arshad Farooqui, Maulana Tayyab Ashraf, Maulana Aqil Shams, Khawaja Amir Rashid, Muhammad Riaz, Mufti Abdul Qayyum, Asad Hamid Nayabi and other leaders said that we Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Cabinet and Members of Assembly and Religious Department Congratulations to all the respected members of the National Assembly of 1974 and Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Shaheed and the religious leadership of that time and the martyrs of the end of Prophethood for this wonderful achievement.

## Sept 8 marked as commitment to Maritime Defence: Governor

KARACHI, SEP 08 (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammad Kamran Khan Tessori has emphasized that September 8 signifies an unwavering commitment to maritime defence.

Addressing a ceremony on Navy Day, he said that the Pakistan Navy defeated enemies Navy many times.

Tessori said that the entire nation paid tribute to the courage and dedication of the Pakistan Navy. He said that the Pakistan Navy displayed exceptional bravery in the 1965 war.

He said that the story of the bravery of Pakistan Navy men was heard all over the world. Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also met with the families of martyrs of the Pakistan Navy. Earlier, he arrived at the Navy Day ceremony and was welcomed by Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Mohammad Saleem.

# Asma Butt pay tribute to Pakistan Army on the occasion of Defense Day

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N and Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt said that we will always remember the eternal sacrifices of Pakistan forces. We salute the army, who guarded the borders of Pakistan without caring for their lives. Asma Butt, a well-known writer, director and chairperson of Dolphin Communication, said that whenever the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad is heard, the thought of our martyrs and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, who sacrificed their lives, comes to mind. Protect your borders with your blood, they can never be forgotten.

This was said yesterday during a dignified function organized to pay tribute to Pakistan Army on the occasion of Defense Day at Rawalpindi Arts Council. The event was organized by Asma Butt, the voice of artists,



well-known writer, director and chairperson of Dolphin Communication. The chief guest of the ceremony was the leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N and Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works, Senator Nasir Mahmood

Butt. Nasir Aslam Raja performed the hosting duties. On this occasion, famous artists Raees Khan, Anjum Habibi, Tahir Siddiqui, Afzal Latifi, Sapna Shah, Jhalak Ali, Sofia, Imran Rushdie, Mumtaz Khan, Arshad Khan, Badal Raja, senior artist

Rashid Mehmood, Former executive director of Lok Wirsala Khalid Javed, Naem Pasha, political, social, commercial and a large number of personalities related to different schools of thought specially participated. To pay tribute to the army, the artists of the twin cities also presented a play "Ae Putar Hattan Te Nahi Vakde" composed by writer-director Aslam Mughal.

Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt and Asma Butt along with the artists raised the slogans of the glory and success of the Pakistan Army. Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt said that we will always remember the eternal sacrifices of the army. We salute the army who protect Pakistan's borders without sacrificing their lives. Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt said that we have been expressing solidarity with Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and will continue to do so in the future. We are with The families of the martyrs in their every sorrow.



# Tunisia seeks to enhance tourism ties with Pakistan through strategic collaborations

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to strengthen tourism ties between Tunisia and Pakistan, Dorsaf Maaroufi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Tunisia in Pakistan, emphasized Tunisia's unique position as the "gateway to Africa" and its rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant tourism opportunities. During a recent strategic meeting hosted by Emirates Airlines' Islamabad office, key representatives from the largest Pakistani travel agencies gathered to discuss collaborative efforts to promote Tunisia as a premier tourist destination for Pakistani travelers.

The meeting marked a significant step towards increasing Tunisia's visibility among Pakistani tourists. Mr. Ammad Rasheed, Honorary Consul of Tunisia in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dean of Honorary Consul Generals in KPK, was also in attendance, playing a crucial role in fostering stronger trade relations between the two nations, recognizing the mutual benefits of increased cooperation.

During the meeting, Ms. Maaroufi delivered a comprehensive presentation, highlighting Tunisia's strategic importance as an attractive and secure destination for tourists worldwide. The Pakistani travel agency representatives, impressed by Tunisia's potential as a travel destination, expressed their enthusiasm and pledged to work closely with Emirates Airlines and the Tunisian National Tourism Agency, collaboration. It underscores both nations' commitment to fostering closer relations through travel and tourism.

Ms. Maaroufi also shared Tunisia's rich historical tapestry, mentioning



archaeological evidence of human settlement dating back 200,000 years. She recounted the history of Carthage, an ancient Mediterranean trade hub founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BCE, and later captured by the Romans in 146 BCE. Tunisia's cultural significance continued to grow after the Muslim conquest in the 7th century and its subsequent incorporation into the Ottoman Empire in the 1500s. The country was later a French protectorate from 1881 until it gained independence in 1956, becoming the Republic of Tunisia in 1956.

She emphasized that despite its small size, Tunisia boasts numerous

UNESCO-recognized treasures, including eight cultural sites and a national park, as well as many historical monuments and towns reflecting a fascinating blend of Berber, Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, and French influences. Tunisia also offers a diverse landscape, from the lush hills and agricultural plains of the north to the olive groves in the center and the mystical deserts of the south.

Ms. Maaroufi highlighted Tunisia's emerging initiatives in sustainable and cultural tourism, which are drawing visitors beyond the traditional beach resorts and into the heart of the country, exploring spice markets, olive

groves, wineries, and artisan workshops. Tunisia remains an affordable destination for budget travelers while offering upscale options for those seeking luxury.

She also noted the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of Carthage, renowned for its ancient ruins spanning Phoenician, Punic, Roman, Paleo-Christian, and Arab eras, and mentioned the ease of the visa tourist policy with the framework of organized trips of the Tunisian visa policy.

The Jawad Qureshi, Sales Manager-North Pakistan, Emirates Airlines and Hammad Ahmed, Senior Executive-Commercial Operations Emir-



ates Airlines Islamabad office warmly welcomed Ms. Maaroufi and Mr. Rasheed at the event. At the conclusion of the meeting, both dignitaries were presented with commemorative gifts in appreciation of their efforts to promote tourism between Tunisia and

Pakistan. The meeting reflects a shared commitment between Tunisia and Pakistan to strengthen their relationship through tourism, cultural exchange, and economic partnership. Photos Ramzan Mughal



# Tunisia, Pakistan mull over bilateral trade & economic cooperation

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dorsaf Maaroufi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Tunisia to Pakistan, highlighted the vast potential for increasing bilateral trade between Tunisia and Pakistan during her visit to ISE Towers REIT Management Company Limited and Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd.

Ms. Maaroufi emphasized that Tunisia serves as a gateway to Africa, offering numerous business opportunities in both the Tunisian and broader African markets. She underscored the importance of direct interaction between the private sectors of both countries to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation. She assured that the Tunisian Embassy is committed to facilitating business and tourism exchanges, aiming to create new avenues for collaboration. She also predicted that trade between Tunisia and Pakistan is likely to double in the near future.

Tunisia, Pakistan mull over bilateral trade & economic cooperation. Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ISE REIT Management Company Limited and Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd, warmly welcomed Ms. Maaroufi and briefed her on the company's operations. He explained that ISE REIT Management Company Limited launches and manages Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) under the REIT Regulations of 2015. The company owns the "ISE Towers," a multi-story building in Islamabad's Blue Area, and is in the process of launching its own Rental REIT Scheme. He also highlighted the company's commitment to embracing the latest technologies to provide a modern workspace, ensuring long-term sustainability, and delivering excellent value to shareholders, investors, employees, suppliers, and vendors.

Tunisia, Pakistan mull over bilateral trade & economic cooperation. During the meeting, Mr. Khan gave a comprehensive presentation on investment opportunities in Pakistan. He noted that Tunisia's geographical location is strategically important for Pakistan due to its connections with developed European countries and its position at the crossroads of emerging African markets. Similarly, Pakistan holds significant geostrategic importance for Tunisia, given its connectivity to the



Middle East, Central Asia, and China, the world's second-largest economy. He stated that close cooperation between Pakistan and Tunisia offers considerable potential for enhancing trade and

exports. Ms. Maaroufi highlighted that Tunisia was the first country to engage in mutual cooperation with Pakistan in the organic olive sector, and further

collaboration is being promoted in this area. She mentioned that Tunisia continues to work under public-private partnerships for the development and production of olives in Pakistan, with



regular investor awareness programs and offers professional trading support, keeping clients informed with technical and fundamental analyses of equity and commodity markets. Recently, ZLK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited (DIBPL) to offer Shariah-compliant investment options, including shares, government Ijars, Sukuk, ETFs, and Murabaha Share Financing (MSF).

H. E. Ammad Rasheed, Honorary Consul General of Tunisia for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dean of Consul Generals of KPK, was also present at the meeting. The discussions reflected a shared commitment to deepening economic and diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Pakistan. Photos Ramzan Mughal

She added that diplomatic and economic relations between Pakistan and Tunisia are strengthened by shared historical, religious, and cultural ties. Tunisia, Pakistan mull over bilateral trade & economic cooperation. Elaborating on the profile of Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd, Zahid Latif Khan described the firm as a leading provider of premier brokerage and financial services on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, known for its high-quality services to both corporate and retail clients. Established in 1999, the company has built an extensive network of branches across the country and became an active broker on the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange in 2010, providing opportunities for commodity trading. ZLK also conducts



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# Hafiz Sahib Zindabad

**C**urrent Army Chief of Pakistan, General Asim Munir, has demonstrated a notable commitment to addressing the concerns of the people alongside fulfilling his professional responsibilities. On various occasions, he has shown positive gestures, including a historic address few months ago at the "Pakistan National Youth Conference" at Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad. In his speech, General Syed Asim Munir, Nishan Intiaz (Military), emphasized the unique identity of Pakistan, distinct from Western civilizations. He encouraged the youth to have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, and civilization, highlighting the importance of research and positive thinking in the face of societal challenges.

General Asim Munir stressed the need for national cooperation against terrorism, drawing parallels with the struggles of Palestine and Occupied Kashmir. He urged vigilance in navigating social media and propaganda, emphasizing the importance of news research. The General Asim Munir expressed gratitude for Pakistan's abundant resources and young manpower, emphasizing the readiness of Pakistan's forces against any threat or conspiracy. He underlined Pakistan's unwavering commitment to sovereignty and expressed full confidence in the bright future of the country, encouraging the upholding of ancestral legacies. The students present during the speech echoed their support with slogans such as "Pakistan Army Zindabad," "Pakistan Zindabad," and "Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad."

The Chief of Army Staff, General Syed

Asim Munir, delivered a significant and thought-provoking address at the Youth Convention held at Jinnah Convention Center in Islamabad. Throughout this discourse, participants in the convention raised several pertinent questions. General Munir shed light on the motivations behind the creation of Pakistan, emphasizing that it was a manifestation of the collective mindset of the Muslims in the subcontinent. These Muslims were convinced that religion and Islamic civilization were fundamentally distinct from Hindu beliefs, making it impractical for the two nationalities to coexist. The establishment of Pakistan was a result of this conviction. General Asim Munir stressed that today's youth should not be swayed towards Western civilization after overcoming Hindu domination. He urged a steadfast belief in Islam, considering it a perfect religion, as the axis of self-confidence.

Addressing the prevalence of propaganda on social media, the Army Chief emphasized the Islamic mandate for research before accepting information. He cautioned against false propaganda aimed at undermining Pakistan, emphasizing the need for confidence in the nation, its people, and its natural resources. Participants openly praised Pakistan forces for their response during recent tensions with Iran, with the Prime Minister acknowledging the central role of the Army Chief in managing the crisis.

During the convention, discussions included references to the caliphate of

Hazrat Umar, prompting General Munir to highlight that when the populace embodies the qualities of Umar, rulers can govern in a similar style. The Army Chief lamented the power-centric nature of Pakistani politics, urging individuals to contribute positively for the country's betterment. While discussing the negative impacts of social media, he urged participants to avoid such effects and resist disillusionment, emphasizing the role of self-confidence.

In response to questions about political stability, General Munir underscored the importance of the five-year parliamentary term and rejected equating democratic changes within this period with instability. He cited examples from Britain and India, where governments changed multiple times during the five-year parliamentary term. Responding to inquiries about the caretaker government's prolonged rule, he clarified that it was a constitutional necessity linked to census and delimitation requirements, and the caretaker government would step down post-election completion.

Regarding the rights of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Army Chief emphasized the collective identity of being Pakistani, noting that the identity card and passport possessed by the people of Gilgit-Baltistan were identical to his own, reinforcing the idea that a shared identity unites the nation. It is imperative to discourage negative tendencies and resist the influence of detrimental propaganda. In an address at a seminar on agricul-

ture and food security few weeks ago, Gen Asim Munir, serving as the guest of honor, commended the talents of the Pakistani nation. He emphasized the collective need for people to contribute to the country's progress. The seminar marked the continuation of the inaugurated Land Information Management System - Centre of Excellence (LIMS-COE), part of the 'Green Pakistan initiative' aimed at enhancing food security, boosting exports, and reducing agriculture-related imports. Gen Munir expressed determination to make Pakistan green again and assured full support for the nation's economic development. Encouraging unity and dedication, he asserted that Pakistan will progress, facing no impediments on its path to advancement. Referring to a verse from the Holy Quran, he urged the nation not to despair, emphasizing the values of patience and gratitude in the face of challenges.

On another occasion, a daughter of a martyred soldier lodged a complaint with Army Chief General Asim Munir, leading him to assure resolution and offer full cooperation. The video of Martyrs' Day, where the daughter shared her concerns, garnered widespread attention on social media. She reported a recurring issue of floodwater being diverted toward her house by a feudal in Dera Murad Jamali. In response, the Army Chief reassured her and pledged not to release water toward her property in the future. During the incident, he directed staff to convey a message to the feudal, cautioning against such actions or else "your water will reach somewhere else."

A few weeks ago, the Army Chief met with Assistant Superintendent of



Abdul Basit Alvi

## American activist's death in W. Bank

**T**he United Nations (UN) has called for a "full investigation" into the death of Aysenur Egzi Eygi, a Turkish-American activist who was killed recently in the West Bank amid Israeli war against Palestinian people.

Ms. Eygi, who was born in Turkey, was shot during an anti-settlement protest, according to media reports.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, was asked by a reporter about the death at the regular UN noon briefing in New York.

The reporter noted in her question that Ms. Eygi, 26, "was shot in the head and killed by Israeli occupation forces in Nablus, West Bank. And as far as I know, that is not a war zone."

"What is your reaction to this? Do you condemn it? And do you have a call for the IDF (Israel Defence Forces), who has also taken responsibility for her death?, the reporter further asked.

"I had not heard of this case," Dujarric responded. "I can tell you that we, of course, we would want to see a full investigation of the circumstances and that people should be held accountable. And again, civilians must be protected at all times."

The White House, in a statement following the news, said the administration is "deeply disturbed" by the death and also called for a probe.

"We are deeply disturbed by the tragic death of an American citizen, Aysenur Egzi Eygi, today in the West Bank and our hearts go out to her family and loved ones," White House National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett said in a statement. "We have reached out to the government of Israel to ask for more information and request an investigation into the incident."

The Israeli Defence Forces has acknowledged aiming at demonstrators in the past and said it is probing the incident. The military group claimed it "responded with fire toward a main instigator of violent activity who hurled rocks at the forces and posed a threat to them."

Meanwhile, the family of Ms. Eygi has blamed Israel for her death and called for an independent investigation, saying in a statement that an Israel-led probe would be inadequate.

Two eyewitnesses told CNN that Ms. Eygi was shot in the head by Israeli forces responding to a protest near the city of Nablus on Friday. She had been participating in a weekly protest against an Israeli settlement near the Palestinian village of Beita, they added.

Nablus Governor Ghassan Daghlas told CNN Saturday that an autopsy conducted at Al Najah University had "confirmed that Ms. Eygi was killed by an Israeli occupation sniper's bullet to her head."



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

## Government Colleges Underperform in BISE Multan HSSC Exams, and reasons - II

**D**uring their official working hours, many teachers at government colleges do not exert the same level of dedication or enthusiasm in delivering their lessons. The focus and energy that should be directed toward the students in government institutions are instead reserved for the private institutions where these teachers often work additional jobs. As a result, the quality of education in government colleges suffers, with students receiving subpar instruction that lacks the rigor and engagement necessary for academic excellence.

On the other hand, the same teachers show remarkable dedication and commitment when teaching in private educational institutions. They employ effective teaching methods, give extra time, and make a concerted effort to ensure that their private students excel. This discrepancy in the level of teaching effort is a significant factor contributing to the good and encouraging results seen in private schools and colleges. These institutions benefit from the experience, knowledge, and teaching skills of government college professors who, ironically, were trained and are paid by the state to uplift public education standards.

The impact of this practice is evident in the academic achievements of the students. Private institutions continue to produce top-performing students, while government colleges lag, unable to secure prominent positions in board examinations. This situation has led to a perception that private institutions are inherently better than government ones, even though the same teachers are at the core of both systems.

Experts argue that if these government college teachers were to channel the same level of commitment, honesty, and sincerity into their work at their primary places of employment, the educational outcomes for government college students could improve dramatically. With focused effort, effective teaching methods, and a genuine commitment to their roles, these educators could help their students achieve top positions in board exams, thereby elevating the status of government colleges.

To address this issue, there is a need for systemic reforms that encourage teachers to devote their full attention and energy to their official duties. Policies that ensure accountability, provide adequate compensation, and create incentives for excellence in teaching at government institutions could help bridge this gap. Without such changes, government colleges will continue to struggle to provide quality education, and the disparity between public and private education will only widen, further disadvantaging students who rely on the public education system.

If Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, is genuinely committed to elevating the standards of education in public institutions and restoring public trust in them, she must implement comprehensive reforms to address the deep-rooted issues within the education system.

One of the most crucial steps in this direction would be to introduce a policy requiring all teachers in government schools and colleges across the province to enroll their children in public educational institutions. This policy would not only encourage teachers to have a personal stake in the quality of educa-

tion provided in public schools but also create a sense of responsibility and accountability among them.

Another critical issue that needs immediate attention is the functioning of the Punjab Education Authority. At present, the authority is perceived as a facilitator of the private education sector rather than an impartial regulator responsible for overseeing and enhancing the quality of education across all institutions. Allegations suggest that the authority often aligns with private colleges, which are more profit-driven and less concerned with providing quality education to all. This situation has led to a decline in the standards of public education and increased the divide between private and public institutions. To address these challenges, it is imperative that the Punjab Education Authority undergoes a significant overhaul. There is a need to appoint dedicated, sincere, and expert educationists to key positions within the authority. Individuals with a deep understanding of educational policies, commitment to public service, and integrity should be selected to lead this authority. Their mandate should be to strictly regulate both public and private institutions, ensuring that educational standards are met across the board and that public institutions receive the support and oversight necessary to improve.

These reforms would collectively help restore public confidence in government educational institutions. By demonstrating a commitment to enhancing public education, the government can reassure citizens that it values equitable, high-quality education for all, regardless of socio-economic background. If these measures are implemented effectively, they could transform the educational landscape in Punjab, paving the way for a brighter future for all students.

## The School Nutrition Programme and 'Concerns'

Jibran Ahmed

**T**here is no doubt that Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz's initiative to provide free milk to students up to the fifth grade in schools is a commendable step. This program will benefit thousands of children across the region, improving their overall growth and development. Nutrition plays a vital role in both the cognitive and physical development of children during early education. Under this program, the distribution of milk has already begun. Maryam Nawaz inaugurated the program at a school in Dera Ghazi Khan, where she distributed 175 ml milk packets to the school children.

Malnutrition remains a pressing public health issue in Pakistan, contributing significantly to the country's disease burden. According to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, UNICEF, and FAFEN (Free and Fair Election Network), malnutrition costs Pakistan approximately 3% of its GDP. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for effective interventions to address this critical challenge. The country's high prevalence of undernutrition is particularly concerning among children. A recent analysis revealed that 2.14 million children are severely malnourished, highlighting the government's failure to prioritize nutrition as a critical issue. This crisis is exacerbated by the disparities between wealthy and low-income areas, as well as rural and urban regions, which often have limited access to healthcare and nutritious food. Currently, 40% of children under five are stunted, 17.7% are affected by wasting, 28.9% are underweight, and 9.5% are overweight.

To combat malnutrition, Pakistan must implement comprehensive policies and programs that address the root causes of this problem. This includes investing in healthcare infrastructure, improving access to quality healthcare services, and promoting nutrition education. Additionally, the government should prioritize food security and ensure that all citizens have access to affordable,

nutritious food. International aid and collaboration can play a crucial role in supporting Pakistan's efforts to address malnutrition. By providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and resources, the international community can help to scale up effective interventions and improve the lives of millions of children. By investing in the health and well-being of its children, Pakistan can build a stronger and more prosperous future. It is imperative that the government and international community work together to address the malnutrition crisis and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

But the concern is whether this program will sustain or not as if we look back where during 2015 when Michelle Obama (American President's wife) announced the "Let Girls Learn" program in Pakistan, through which former US First Lady Michelle Obama allocated \$70 million to Maryam Nawaz to promote girls' education, but no one knows where that amount was used. In 2017 a petition was set from civil rights activist Bisma Naureen who alleges that the funds were misappropriated and not used for education. Naureen claims that despite an agreement between Maryam Nawaz and Michelle Obama to improve female education, no programs were launched, and the money is unaccounted for. However, if the government wants to make a difference in undernutrition and malnutrition, govt. needs to keep investing in healthcare and make sure everyone has access to good care, regardless of their income or where they live.

Overall, Chief Minister Punjab's plan to provide milk to students represents a step toward investing in the future of the province by prioritizing the health and well-being of its youngest citizens. With proper execution and oversight, this initiative has the potential to create a healthier, more educated generation, setting the stage for a stronger future for Punjab. I have a suggestion for our Chief Minister: include the children of religious seminaries (مدارس دینی) of Punjab in this program, as they are also deserving of this milk.



# Vladimir Putin congratulated Moscow residents on City Day

*The President took part in a gala event at the Zaryadye Concert Hall on the occasion of the 877th anniversary of the foundation of Moscow*

**Spokesman Report**

MOSCOW: As always, we mark a wonderful holiday – Moscow City Day – at the very beginning of autumn. I wish Muscovites and, of course, everyone in our vast country a happy holiday, because each one of us, wherever we were born and raised, has special feelings for the capital of our Fatherland.

The golden-domed and majestic Moscow has remained the heart of Russia. It is a hero city and a worker city, the focal point of our multi-ethnic people's value code, the symbol and reliable stronghold of our statehood.

Muscovites have always, especially during the most difficult periods in our history, felt responsible for the Motherland, performed labour and military feats, preserved our unique cultural values, and set a fine example of courage, fortitude and love for the Motherland.

Today, together with residents from all Russian regions, thousands of Muscovites are fighting on the front lines of the special military operation. The capital is supporting Donetsk, Lugansk, and our border regions.

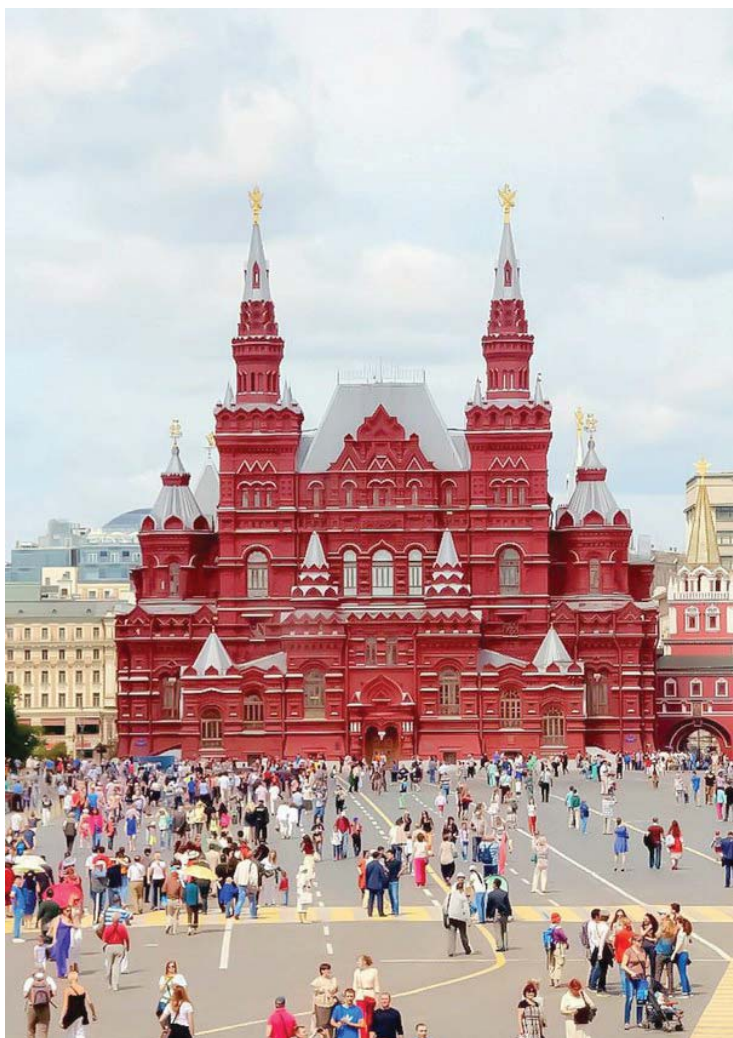
I would also like to address the employees of Moscow industrial enterprises. Within a short period of time, you have multiplied your output for the needs of the special military operation and, in general, for strengthening the country's security and technological sovereignty.

Moscow has become the most important centre for the development of unmanned systems technology and the largest producer of critically important pharmaceuticals. The construction of advanced enterprises in microelectronics and photonics and other high-tech fields is in full swing. Moreover, the capital has emphasised the development of innovative and environmentally friendly production facilities.

Building new facilities, along with upgrading existing ones, has provided impressive results in the truest sense of the word. Thus, in a matter of five years, industrial output in the capital's manufacturing industries has grown by 2.5 times, and the growth rate was maintained at a very high level of 20 percent in the first half of this year, compared to the same period last year.

To enable young Muscovites to make a successful career at the capital's factories and engineering centres, Moscow is rapidly improving the quality and expanding opportunities for vocational education.

Existing workshops and laboratories are being renovated and new ones created, the content of educational programmes is being updated, and the accessibility of training is expanding. This year, for example, 16,000 additional state-funded places were made available at Moscow colleges to 9th grade graduates. In other words, it was possible to enter almost every field of



study without enrolment competition.

Let me add that the Moscow authorities have been working with the federal Government. Together, they have recently completed the most ambitious and grand project in higher professional education by building and launching new buildings for the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, one of Russia's leading technical universities, to mark the start of a new academic year.

I am certain that the legendary Bauman University will benefit from this state-of-the-art university campus as it strives to expand its capabilities in terms of training engineers, undertaking research projects and working on advanced technology. As for the youth energy and creativity – they will keep inspiring Moscow, helping it move forward and build a track record of success today, and for the future.

Friends, Moscow is, of course, one of the world's best metropolitan cities, and we have every right to affirm this. This applies to the quality of life it offers, as well as the way it enables its residents to unlock their talent and potential. Moscow is home to innovative manufacturing facilities, research and educational centres, which exist side by side and in harmony with unique museums, concert halls, as well as our sacred spiritual and historical sites.

People in and outside Russia have been praising Moscow for its openness and hospitality. Last year, 24.5 million Russian and international tourists visited our capital city. I have no doubt that there will be even more people who will want to travel to Moscow and marvel at its beauty and its landmarks, especially considering that people can use almost all the available transport means to get here.

In this context, let me note that the project to build the M-12 motorway continues. It will connect central Russia with the regions along the Volga. Soon, it will reach the Urals, and will then continue into Siberia and Russia's Far East. As you know, we have launched the construction of a high-speed railway linking Moscow to St Petersburg.

In Moscow, the metro network has almost doubled over the past 14 years. Today, on City Day, several stations opened all at once along Line 16, the Troitskaya Line.

Not only is Moscow famous for its cutting-edge transport infrastructure, but also for its well-tended, clean streets and its parks with all their amenities and improvements. Of course, I rarely get to enjoy all this beauty, but I do visit these places occasionally. We have every right to be proud of what we see in Moscow, and you all know this.



Sports arenas and fitness courts have become Moscow's hallmarks, along with all kinds of amateur sports competitions, marathons and spartakiades. The city government pays special attention to promoting mass sport and, of course, improving the health of Moscow residents is a major priority too.

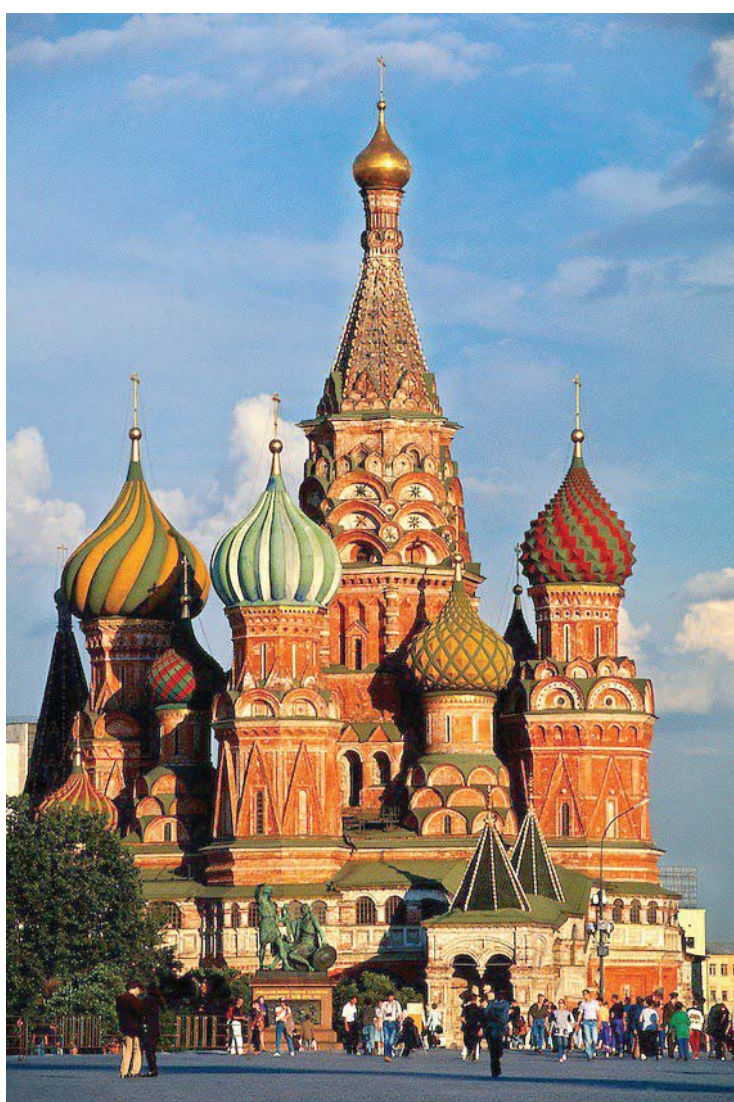
All the hospital buildings in Kommunarka have been completed and launched. Mr Sobyanin and I have been there to inspect all these premises not that long ago, or so it might seem. It was during the pandemic. I remember the way he pointed his finger all around him, saying that there will one building here, and another one there. And they delivered on all these undertakings.

The programme to upgrade and renovate outpatient clinics is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. The same timeline applies to the project to build a therapy building at the St Vladimir Children's Hospital. It will benefit from state-of-the-art equipment and will be one of the best and biggest facilities of this kind in Russia. We will make sure to use the best practices developed in Moscow to improve the way medical institutions across Russia work.

Friends, Moscow has been impressing us with the way it has been developing, in terms of both pace and quality-wise. The city is changing rapidly. Moscow residents are the ones who must be recognised for these outcomes, above anything else.

I would like to thank you from all my heart for your dedication and devotion to your home city and to our great Motherland.

The people of Moscow always pursue new goals and get more things done. This is why the city has such an ambitious development programme in terms of its aspirations and designs. It



traces a path forward for many years to come. I am certain that Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin and his team, with the support of the people of Moscow, which is an essential and instrumental factor

when undertaking efforts of this kind, will deliver on all these plans.

I wish you new achievements, good health, and all the best.  
Happy City Day!

## DPRK and Ten Years of Development of Its National Defence Capabilities

Today the world is in turmoil. But there is a land free from the words war, dispute and refugee. That is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim Jong Un, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, has developed his country into a socialist power that no one can belittle.

Over the past ten years, he has fully displayed his outstanding leadership abilities.

We should continue to grow stronger; we must not be satisfied or rest on our laurels concerning the strength we have built up for defending ourselves; we must make our military supremacy more secure so that we can stand up to anyone – this is his intention.

He has developed the Korean People's Army into an army strong in ideology and morality.

He gives precedence to developing the army into the one that is firmly equipped with the revolutionary ideas of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and achieves victory with the spiritual and moral strength. Whenever he visits the army units, he first looks round the rooms dedicated to education by means of revolutionary relics and rooms for education of soldiers, leading the service personnel to glorify the military ideas and army building exploits of the preceding leaders.

He has accelerated the work of developing the military technology of the KPA.

He ensures that efforts are directed to training a larger number of officers capable of skilfully commanding units of the arms and services at all levels, and that the level of modernization of combat training by the units is raised, so that all the units and sub-units can fully perform any combat missions.

Clarifying that the key to this end is in improving the quality of training, he has



stoked the flames of intensive training across the army.

He has personally guided the strike drills of the services and arms of the KPA to cultivate the strategic and tactical qualification of their commanding officers and develop their capabilities for commanding operations. Thanks to his guidance, a dramatic change has been brought about in the forms, contents and methods of training in the KPA. Amid the brisk movement to become crack shots, a movement launched by him, the service personnel are prepared as masters of modern warfare and elite soldiers who are highly capable of fighting a real combat.

Kim Jong Un has paid close concern to developing the military hardware and other material means of the KPA.

His country has had to overcome harshest-ever difficulties and pressure in the current century, but he has led his country to possess all the absolute weapons, a monopoly of nuclear powers only in several years and then make a leap forward to develop and manufacture

unknown weaponry of the Juche type. He does not know the word impossible; but the words steady advance and leap forward make sense with him. This is a fact recognized by the international community.

Under his guidance, the sectors of national defence science and munitions industry of the DPRK have achieved world-startling successes in developing state-of-the-art military hardware of new generations.

The country succeeded in the test-fires of a new-type tactical guided missile and newly-developed long-range cruise missile, anti-aircraft missile and new-type SLBM in succession last year and succeeded in the test-fires of hypersonic missile and new-type ICBM Hwasongpho-17 this year.

The military parade, held in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, on April 25 this year, vividly showed the war deterrent possessed by the DPRK.

## The DPRK: How Does the World See This Country?

September 9 this year marks the 73rd founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Over the past seven decades of its development the country has demonstrated its dignity and honour, overcoming all sorts of challenges and difficulties. We look back on its history through the names it was called in each period.

**"Democratic Korea"**

On August 15, 1945, Korea was liberated from Japan's military occupation. It was a task of the times confronting the Korean people to decide which road the new Korea should take. Korea adopted the road of Korean-style democracy, progressive democracy, not the road of Soviet-style democracy nor the US-style democracy. On the basis of the founding of the people's government and the implementation of democratic reforms such as the agrarian reform, nationalization of key industries and gender equality, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the people's country with the working masses as its masters, was founded on September 9, 1948. The world people called the new Korea democratic Korea.

**"Heroic Korea"**

The Korean war (1950-1953) waged by the imperialist allied forces led by the US that boasted of being the "strongest" in the world to stifle the DPRK, which was only two years old since its founding, was literally a "confrontation between an A-bomb and a rifle."

Few thought that Korea would win the war. But the Korean people repulsed the imperialist aggressors and defended the country. Many people in the world praised the DPRK as heroic Korea as it created a myth of bringing to its knee the imperialist power.

**"Chollima Korea"**

The appearance of post-war Korea was such that it could not be expressed otherwise than "ashes." The US claimed that Korea could not rise again even in one hundred years.

However, the Korean people have turned out in the struggle to create a new life. After completing reconstruction in less than three years, it carried out the centuries-old task of socialist industrialization in 14 years, running in the spirit of legendary Chollima, a horse that can run 400 kilometres a day. The word Chollima Korea widely spread in the world.

**"Land of Juche"**

The whole course covered by the DPRK can be called the process of applying the Juche idea. After its founding, the country has achieved remarkable successes in socialist construction by thoroughly applying the Juche idea and dealing with everything in conformity with its specific conditions and the interests of its people. Universal free medical care and free education were enforced and a heyday of socialism was opened in all fields of society.

The Juche idea has been widely disseminated to the world; more than 100 research and dissemination organizations in over 100 countries have been formed with the International Institute of Juche Idea and regional organizations as the centres.

The country has become widely known as the land of Juche.

**"Socialist Fortress"**

The collapse of socialism in one country after another at the end of the last century weakened the faith in socialism among many people of the world. At that time, Chairman

Kim Jong Il of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK made public important works, including Socialism Is a Science, which proved the scientific accuracy and truthfulness of socialism and the inevitability of its victory. The country smashed by dint of the treasured sword of Songun politics the general offensive the imperialist allied forces had launched to stifle it availing themselves of the collapse of the world socialist camp, firmly defended its socialist system and ushered in a new era of building a powerful socialist country. The DPRK has become recognized by the international community as a socialist fortress which no one can destroy with anything.

**"Country of Single-hearted Unity"**

Many people in the world are surprised to see the DPRK advancing along the road of independence without the slightest vacillation in the face of severe trials and challenges of history.

The dangerous military pressure by the hostile forces and the hideous economic blockade which could not be otherwise described as being aimed at "annihilating a nation" could not bring the Korean people to their knees.

How could the DPRK, which is not so large in terms of population and territory, overcome such tremendous challenges? The secret was the single-hearted unity in which the national leader and the people share the intention and destiny. This single-minded unity is unique to the DPRK, which no country can imitate nor possess and is the most powerful political weapon that cannot be destroyed even by a nuclear bomb. The country of single-hearted unity is the most correct name characterizing the DPRK.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,897.72	78,863.34
Day's High	Day's Low
79,254.25	78,917.29
Index Value	Change
6,059,861,813	+34.38
Percentage	Time
+0.04%	6 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,181.47	-60.24
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	6 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,400.53	-355.22
Percentage	Time
-0.87%	6 Sept, 4:20 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,391.47	-265.62
Percentage	Time
-0.72%	6 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.25	190.50
Bahrain Dinar	731.10	739.10
Canadian Dollar	207.35	209.75
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	307.75	310.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.50	915.00
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	60.25
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	722.40	730.90
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.00	74.55
Singapore Dollar	201.75	203.75
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	330.20	333.00
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.65	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	365.00	368.50
US Dollar	278.75	280.25

# Expensive electricity is affecting people, production, and exports: Dr. Shahid Rasheed

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the business community applauds the government's decision to revise the agreements with IPPs.

He said that affordable power is necessary to provide relief to the masses and help restore distressed businesses.

He added that the high cost of electricity is impacting individuals, production, and exports while the government is losing revenue.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that authorities should make serious efforts to resolve the matter of IPPs as soon as possible so that the public can get some

relief and business activities can be restored.

The business leader said it has become imperative to lower the rising electricity prices that have plagued the entire country.

Rising electricity rates have created serious social problems in the country. Production has decreased by billions of dollars, and millions of people have become unemployed.

He said the closure of businesses has also significantly reduced the government's revenue, adding that the current electricity pricing system is unsustainable and that it has become impossible to maintain the current situation for long.

He said that the owners of IPPs have also realized that the growing public unrest is worrisome, and the sooner the situation is resolved, the better.

He informed that some IPP owners have



quietly sold their businesses, anticipating the difficulties and public backlash. Shahid Rashid Butt said that IPPs have

been given a free hand since the nineties; they have been getting incredible profits in dollars while billions of rupees are being paid to power plants that are not producing electricity.

He said that the government is trying to provide relief to the people while the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has made electricity more costly.

Nepra has allowed Rs1.743 per unit increase in electricity rates across the country for three months to provide Rs43.23 billion in funds to power distribution companies.

It has determined an adjustment of Rs43230 million on account of variation in capacity charges, variable O&M, additional recovery on incremental sales, use of system charges, market operator fee, and FCA impact on transmission and distribution losses for the 4th quarter of FY2023-24.

## Public issues

ISLAMABAD: Commuters facing problems in travelling, as the roads of the twin cities were blocked in wake of PTI Jalsa at Sangjani in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# All Business Community standing with Mian Aslam Pervaiz Group: Akram Farid



**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Mian Akram Farid, Chairman of the Rawalpindi Steel and All Traders Association, organized a meeting regarding the 2024 elections of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In this meeting, the group leader of the Rawalpindi Chamber, Sohail Altaf, President of the Rawalpindi Chamber, Saqib Rafiq, former presidents of the Rawalpindi Chamber, Mian Humayun Pervaiz, Najam Rehan, Asad Mashhadi, Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group candidates, Vice Chairman of the Rawalpindi Steel and All Traders Association Malik Afzal, President Sheikh Abdul Aabid, senior members Imran Sunny, Mian Fayyaz, Muhammad Yaqub, Tariq Haider Butt, and other members,

as well as a large number of traders from Rawalpindi, participated.

On this occasion, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman of the Rawalpindi Steel and All Traders Association, delivered a welcome address and thanked all the distinguished guests for their presence. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has the honor of being Pakistan's first chamber, and I have been associated with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the past 50 years. All the past and present presidents of Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group and their team have been very hardworking and extremely loyal to the business community of Rawalpindi. Seeing the tireless efforts of the current chamber team and their efforts to resolve the problems of the business

community, I have full hope from Allah Almighty that this time too, Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group will achieve a resounding historical victory.

Group leader of Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group, Sohail Altaf, while addressing the gathering, said that Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group has put the Rawalpindi Chamber on the path of progress. The final list of candidates (associates) of Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group has been displayed. It may be noted that ten candidates from our group (corporate sector) have been elected unopposed. President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saqib Rafiq, while addressing the occasion, said that Mian Pervaiz Aslam's group and the Rawalpindi business community have been with each other for the past 72 years.

# Anjum Nisar forwards recommendations to deal economic challenges

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has condemned the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment, as it has increased the production cost and added to the already high cost of trade and industry.

Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft will become rampant as the tariff will become unaffordable to consumers.

In a meeting held here on Sunday, he forwarded several recommendations so that the small industry could deal with the challenges posed by the present economic crisis, saying mere statements would not work unless solid measures are taken by the government, including a sizable reduction in fuel prices, bringing down key policy



rate to single digit, regionally competitive energy rates and substantial cut in duties and taxes.

It is unfortunate that the State Bank has several times introduced a financing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises, enabling them to get loans without collateral but it was never implemented in its true spirit.

The scheme was launched to improve the SMEs' access to finances in collaboration with the government and aimed at enabling businesses that cannot offer security or collateral to access bank finance.

# Govt has no solid plan to fix economy: FRIA



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam has said that economic and fiscal discipline of the country will be driven under the direction of IMF now, leaving little room for the government to make its way, which has not come up with any plan to fix the economy and provide relief to the trade and industry. Higher inflation, rising utility tariffs, growing unemployment and, above all, the malaise and despondency

among the masses are likely to continue unattended.

Shahbaz Aslam said that the privatization commission of Pakistan is struggling since months to effectively put in place the privatization of loss-making public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again, by the IMF. The election held on Feb 8 in Pakistan threw up a number of surprises with a significant shift in the country's political landscape.

# Brainchild Communications secures 24 awards

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Brainchild Communications Pakistan has once again raised the bar at the Dragons 2024 Awards, securing a remarkable total of 24 awards, including multiple Golden Dragons, Silver Dragons, and Black Dragons. The awards showcase the strength and creativity across Mediavest, Publicis Media, Starcom PK, and Starcom WW, placing the agencies at the forefront of the media land-



scape. Among the top honors, the agencies

secured several Golden Dragon Awards. Mediavest won the Best Integrated Marketing Campaign for its work with Foodpanda on the PSL 2024 campaign. Mediavest also claimed the Best Small Budget Campaign award for Dawlance's Father's Day Campaign. Additionally, Publicis Media earned the Best Digital Campaign award for the Nestle Pure Life Weather-Based AI Campaign.

Farhan Khan, CEO of Brainchild Communications, shared his thoughts "These 24

accolades reflect the hard work, creativity, and dedication of the teams. This success is a testament to the strong partnerships built with clients who trust the agencies to bring their visions to life through innovative campaigns. These awards truly underscore the power of collaboration and excellence.

These achievements motivate us to continue pushing boundaries and ensuring we remain ahead in the ever-evolving media landscape."



# PCB chairman Naqvi opens up on India's participation in Champions Trophy

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday, asserted that the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will be held in Pakistan despite the uncertainty regarding arch-rivals India's participation in the tournament.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is scheduled to take place in Pakistan from February to March, however, India's participation in the tournament is uncertain as the BCCI seeks the government's approval to visit the country.

Meanwhile, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, in an interaction with the media after his visit to oversee the ongoing renovation work being done at the Gaddafi Stadium here, revealed that he has been in contact with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary regarding the global eight-team tournament.



"Champions Trophy will be held in Pakistan, we are in touch with the BCCI Secretary," said Naqvi.

"[We are] also in contact with the

boards of the teams participating in the Champions Trophy," he added.

Mohsin Naqvi further commented on the appointment of BCCI Secretary Jay

Shah as the new Independent International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman, stating there is no concern.

"There is no problem with Jay Shah becoming ICC Chairman," Naqvi stated.

The PCB chief then shared that the renovations of the stadiums will be completed before the commencement of the Champions Trophy.

"The basement of Gaddafi Stadium will be constructed by September 30. Each floor will be completed in a three-week period. The front building would consist of a steel structure. The main building of Gaddafi Stadium will be completed by December 31," said Naqvi.

"Pindi Stadium will have to be completely demolished and rebuilt, the seats will be installed in the stadium before the Champions Trophy.

"The renovation at Karachi's [National Stadium] will also be completed before the Champions Trophy," he concluded.

## Shaheen Afridi aims to lead Lions 'from front' in Champions One-Day Cup



Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has expressed his aim to lead the Lions from the front with his performances both with the bat and the ball during the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup.

The five-team tournament will be played at Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from 12-29 September. This 50-over tournament will be played in a single-league format.

Shaheen Afridi, the two-time Pakistan Super League (PSL) winning captain, reflected on what lies ahead for both him and his team as they enter the tournament under the mentorship of former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis.

"Leading the Lions will be a thrilling experience for me, especially given the high stakes of the Champions One-Day Cup and the presence of several young and exciting players on our roster," said Shaheen.

"I look forward to giving my best to the team — with the ball, the bat, and through my leadership throughout the tournament."

Shaheen fondly recalled his debut in the domestic One-Day Cup back in 2018, when he burst onto the scene as a teenage prodigy.

"I have great memories of playing the One-Day Cup in Faisalabad as an 18-year-old in 2018. Returning here as captain with a wealth of international experience feels surreal. I'm committed to helping create memorable experiences for all the young players on our team."

Speaking about the intensity of the competition, Shaheen emphasised the importance of preparation in the Champions One-Day Cup.

"Our opening game is against a strong Stallions squad, which shows the level of competition we will face game after game. That's why I firmly believe our preparations must be spot-on so we can hit the ground running."

LIONS Squad (to be reduced to 15 players on 10 September) Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain, Peshawar), Abdullah Shafique (Sialkot), Aamir Jamal (Islamabad), Aamer Yamin (Multan), Faisal Akram (Multan), Hassan Nawaz (Islamabad), Hunain Shah (Lahore), Imam-ul-Haq (Lahore), Imran Butt (Lahore), Khushdil Shah (Bannu), Mohammad Asghar (Karachi), Muhammad Irfan Khan (Mianwali), Mohammad Taha (Karachi), Omair Bin Yousuf (Karachi), Rohail Nazir (Islamabad), Shahab Khan (Mardan), Sharoon Siraj (Sahiwal), Sirajuddin (Bajaur) and Waqar Hussain (Okara)

## India beat China to kick off triumphant Asian Champions Trophy campaign

Sports Desk

HULUNBUIR: Defending champions India kicked off their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 campaign with a dominant 3-0 victory over China at the Moqi Hockey Training Base here on Sunday.

Sukhjeet Singh opened the scoring in the first quarter to give the defending champions an early lead.

China posed no threat to the Indian side as Uttam Singh and Abhishek scored in the second and third quarters, respectively to seal the victory.

India will next face Japan on September 9 before facing Malaysia, South Korea and Pakistan on September 11, 12 and 14 respectively.

Earlier today, Malaysia came from behind to draw 2-2 against Pakistan in their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 opener.

The Green Shirts started the game strongly as they took the lead in the second quarter, thanks to a goal by Sufyan Khan.

In the third quarter, Nadeem Ahmed extended their lead with another goal, before Malaysia made a comeback with a goal from the penalty corner.

Pakistan were cruising towards victory with a 2-1 lead, however, Aiman Rozemi's late goal helped Malaysia level the scores in the dying minutes of the game.

Meanwhile, in the opening game of the tournament, South Korea and Japan settled for a 5-5 stalemate in the opening game of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024.

The ongoing tournament is the 8th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011, 2016 and 2023.

The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain.

Defending champions India won the prestigious tournament last year by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final.

Pakistan will face South Korea, Japan, China and India in their next fixtures on September 9, 11, 12 and 14 respectively.



# Mohammad Haris vows to uphold Stallions' legacy in Champions Cup

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Haris on Sunday stated that he is honoured to lead the Stallions side in the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup, which will be played at the Iqbal Stadium from 12-29 September.

The Stallions will kick off their tournament campaign against Shaheen Shah Afridi's Lions on Friday, 13 September, with the match scheduled to begin at 3 pm (local time).

Mohammad Haris assessed his squad as being particularly strong and is fully aware of the high expectations as the tournament gets underway.

"It is an honour to lead the star-studded Stallions in the Champions One-Day Cup. We have a strong squad, featuring some of the biggest names in Pakistan cricket, which naturally raises the expectations from the fans," he said.

With Shoaib Malik, a former Pakistan and Stallions captain, acting as a mentor, Haris acknowledged the legacy left by Malik and the team over the years in various domestic seasons.

He aimed to uphold that legacy by setting high standards as they prepare for their first of four league matches on 13 September.

"The Stallions have a rich legacy of winning in Pakistan's domestic cricket. With the talent and resources we have at our disposal, I assure you that we will entertain both the crowds in the stadium and the television audiences during the tournament."



Haris is also mindful of the challenges ahead, given the high-calibre competition in the Champions One-Day Cup, which features some of the best players in the country.

"The Champions One-Day Cup is exciting in every sense. All the teams are strong, the conditions are challenging, and the 50-over format will truly test our abilities.

I hope the fans in Faisalabad come out in large numbers to enjoy the tournament."

Stallions squad (to be trimmed to 15 on 10 September)

Mohammad Haris (captain, Peshawar), Abrar Ahmed (Karachi), Adil Amin (Peshawar), Azam Khan (Peshawar), Babar Azam (Lahore), Haris Rauf (Islamabad), Hussain Talat (Lahore), Jahandad

Khan (Rawalpindi), Junaid Ali (Lahore), Maaz Ahmad Sadaqat (Peshawar), Mehran Mumtaz (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Ali (Sialkot), Mohammad Amir Khan (Swat), Saad Khan (Hyderabad), Shamyul Hussain (Islamabad), Shan Masood (Karachi), Tayyab Tahir (Sarai Alamgir), Ubaid Shah (Lahore), Yasir Khan (Rawalpindi) and Zaman Khan (Mirpur)

# Pakistan, Malaysia settle for 2-2 draw in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

Sports Desk

HULUNBUIR: Pakistan started their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 campaign with a 2-2 draw with Malaysia at the Moqi Hockey Training Base here on Sunday.

The Green Shirts started the game strongly as they took the lead in the second quarter, thanks to a goal by Sufyan Khan.

In the third quarter, Nadeem Ahmed extended their lead with another goal, before Malaysia made a comeback with a goal from the penalty corner.

Pakistan were cruising towards victory with a 2-1 lead, however, Aiman Rozemi's late goal helped Malaysia level the scores in the dying minutes of the



game.

Earlier in the day, South Korea and Japan settled for a 5-5 stalemate in the opening game of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024.

The ongoing tournament is the 8th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011, 2016 and 2023.

The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain.

Defending champions India won the prestigious tournament last year by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final.

Pakistan will face South Korea, Japan, China and India in their next fixtures on September 9, 11, 12 and 14 respectively.

# Afghanistan captain demands 'one good home venue' in India to improve in Test cricket

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi has expressed his wish to have one permanent home venue in India ahead of the one-off Test against New Zealand.

Afghanistan was granted Test status in 2017 after becoming a Full Member of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

However, due to the political situation in Afghanistan, they cannot play international cricket back home in Afghanistan, consequently playing their home

Test matches in Abu Dhabi and different venues in India.

They are set to host New Zealand for a one-off Test in Greater Noida, near Delhi, starting from September 9.

However, Shahidi has claimed that Afghanistan's performance in red-ball cricket will improve if they have one permanent home venue rather than playing at different venues.

"If you see, India is our home and when we host teams, the other nations have played more cricket than us here," Shahidi said while addressing the media ahead

of the New Zealand Test. "So hopefully we will get one good venue here in India and we stick with that. If we stick with one venue, it will be more effective for us."

The Afghanistan captain also expressed hope that in future they might be able to host test matches in their own country, however, until then he wishes to have a dedicated home venue in India.

"And one more thing, if you see our players, they have a good record in first-class cricket because we play in our own grounds [in Afghanistan]. We know our own conditions very well. So hopefully the

time comes in future that teams come to Afghanistan," he added.

"Hopefully, our cricket board and BCCI give us a good venue in India and we play a lot of cricket at one venue."

Hashmatullah Shahidi also highlighted the lack of Test matches against top teams as the reason behind Afghanistan's below-par showing in the longer format.

For the unversed, Afghanistan suffered a bruising introduction to Test cricket in 2018 when they lost to India within two days. Since then, they have played



a total of nine Tests against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ireland.

"In six years, nine games is not, I cannot say it's a lot," Shahidi said. "If we get a lot more chances with the good teams, we will improve, and our cricket board is

doing that job."

"I think if we get more chances on a regular basis, we will improve a lot because if we see as a team and as a country, we are brave people and we always accept challenges."



## Security arrangements

RAWALPINDI: A view old Air Port road block with containers due to security reason during PTI public gathering (Jalsa) at Sangjani, in the Federal Capital.

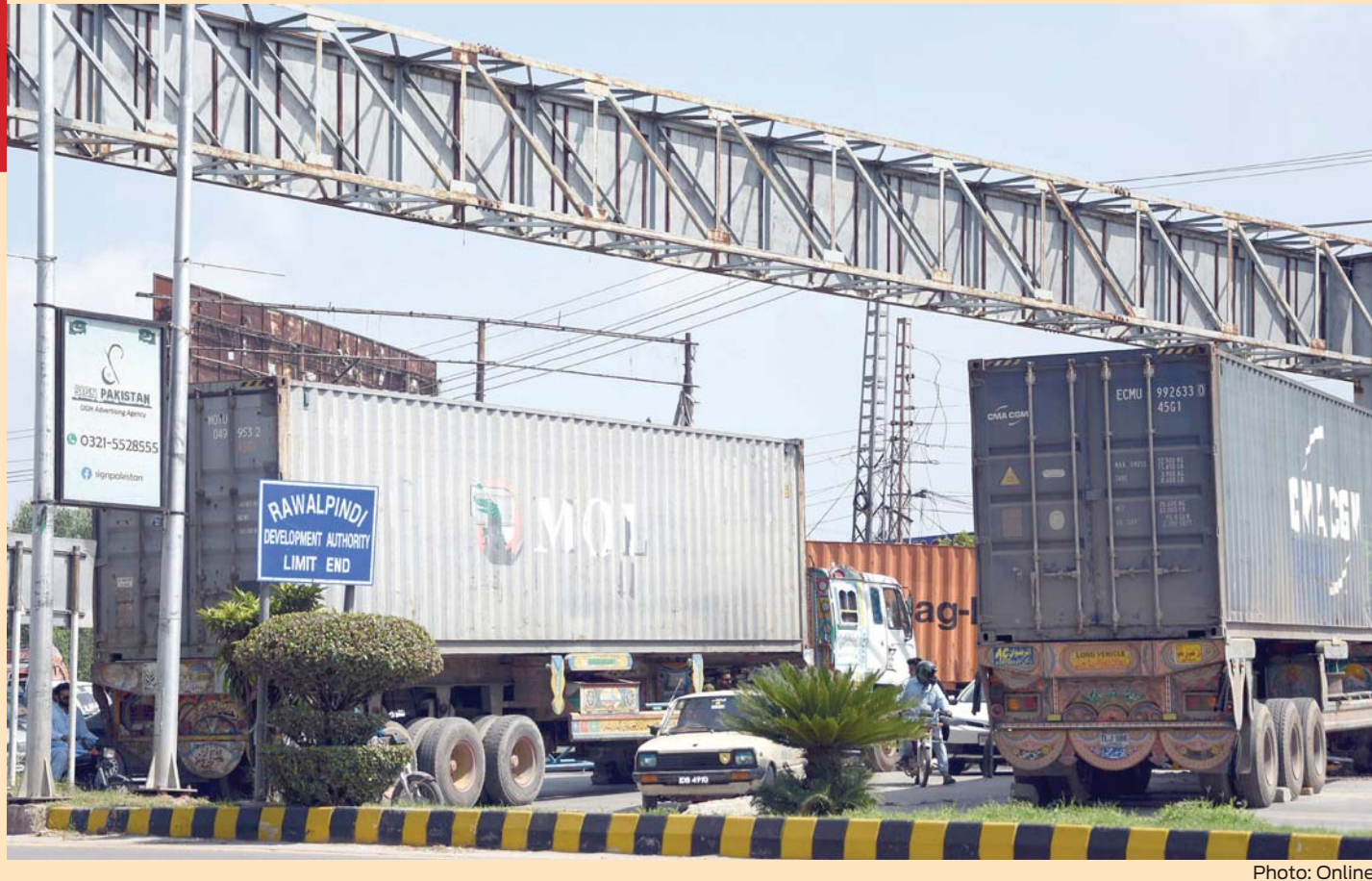


Photo: Online

# PM calls for promoting literacy, ensuring education for all

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called upon the nation to support the government's efforts in promoting literacy and ensuring education for all, emphasizing the importance of building a bright future for the children and the country.

"Literacy is a fundamental human and constitutional right that guarantee the future of our country," the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

He said literacy was not merely the ability to read and write, it was a gateway to empowerment, economic opportunities, and active participation in society.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the education agenda, striving for a more informed and sustainable nation," he said adding "Education is the backbone of our society. For this purpose, we have declared an educational emergency across the country, launched an enrollment campaign for students, and initiated mid-day meals for children in schools."



To reduce the dropout rate and encourage every child to complete their education, the prime minister pointed out that the government had introduced scholarships and

other incentives. In this rapidly emerging world, developing literacy and skills in line with technology is inevitable; the prime minister said adding that

the government was implementing a comprehensive plan to integrate technology into the educational system, ensuring that the youth were equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

He said private sector and civil society organizations were equal partners in the government's efforts.

"By establishing effective partnerships, we can link education with employment and self-employment opportunities, creating a stronger and more inclusive workforce," he added.

# Pakistan eyes enhancing bilateral trade with Iran within framework of SCO

IRNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Minister of Commerce announced the country's plan to send a trade delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran in near future and added: We are determined to pursue non-sanctioned routes in trade relations with Iran and our regional partners under the umbrella of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

On the eve of the 23rd meeting of the ministers of trade and economic affairs of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is to be hosted by the government of Pakistan, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan stated in an exclusive interview with IRNA in Islamabad that the upcoming meeting is very important with the presence of the key delega-



tions of the members of the cooperation organization. We will have Shanghai this week

in Islamabad, which is considered very important considering the current situation in

the region and various scenarios surrounding economic developments in the world and the

region.

He added: The presence of strong delegations such as China and Russia, as well as our neighbor Iran, in the upcoming meeting of trade ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an ideal opportunity to find new opportunities in the direction of strong regional cooperation and use effective methods in the field of trade, economic and Provides exchange of delegations.

The Minister of Commerce of Pakistan announced that he has invited the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to participate in the Islamabad Summit, and similar invitations have been sent to other ministers of the member countries.

# PM's climate change aide urges expansion of marine protected areas' cover

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Sunday urged the Sindh and Balochistan governments to boost efforts to conserve marine ecosystems.

Following the recent declaration of Churna Island as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) by the Balochistan government, Romina Alam called for additional MPAs to be established to achieve the global target of protecting 30% of the ocean area by 2030.

Alam also praised the

Balochistan government's move for protection of Churna Island, stating it a "positive step towards protecting marine resources and promoting environmentally sustainable development."

Churna Island, known for its extensive coral habitats and biodiversity, is now Pakistan's second MPA. The island is home to over 50 species of corals, 250 species of fish, and numerous invertebrates and vertebrates.

She offered full support to the Balochistan government in conserving marine biodiversity and safeguarding the

island's fragile ecosystem and diverse wildlife.

With over 5,000 MPAs globally, covering more than 8% of the ocean, the Coordinator stressed the importance of adopting ecosystem-based management approaches to minimize human impacts and ensure sustainable use of marine resources.

She highlighted the urgency of protecting marine ecosystems and wildlife from climate change and human activities, emphasizing the need for collective action and shared responsibility to address these environmental challenges.



# Pakistan Navy Day observed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Day is being celebrated today to honor the heroic achievements of the veterans and martyrs of the Pakistan Navy, who fought gallantly against a much bigger adversary.

Navy Day is a glorious reminiscence of the daring operation 'SOMNATH', when Pakistan Navy's Warships destroyed important shore installations and inflicted irreparable damage to the Indian side.

In his message, Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that Navy Day is a remarkable day in our naval history, where our fearless warriors, driven by unshakeable resolve, struck against the enemy with absolute impunity and bravado.

He said this day stands as an enduring tribute to the selfless sacrifices of our gallant officers and sailors, whose exemplary valor continues to

inspire generations and inflame the spirit of patriotism across the nation.

The Navy Day is an occasion to commemorate a series of extraordinary operations that embody the unflinching enthusiasm and unprecedented courage of our sea sentinels. Operation 'SOMNATH' shines as a beacon of valor, where a formidable Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising seven major warships executed a daring surprise attack on the Indian Port of Dwarka. This audacious operation inflicted significant damage on critical shore installations and a key radar station, which signified unparalleled professionalism and dealt a serious blow to the enemy.

During the 1965 war, PNS/M GHAZI emerged as a grisly deterrent, epitomizing our operational ascendancy and raising stakes for the enemy, harbouring malicious intent and harm to our homeland through violent force.

# President honors Naval heroes of 1965 war

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paying tribute to the Pakistan Navy on 'Navy Day', praised its role in the country's defense, the bravery of officers and personnel, and their sacrifices.

In a message on Navy Day, the president highlighted that the Pakistan Navy, during the 1965 war, proved its capabilities by conducting successful operations against the enemy.

The Pakistan Navy has full capability to deal with both traditional and non-traditional maritime challenges facing the country, the president added.

He emphasized that a strong navy



was the guarantor of Pakistan's security and prosperity.

# PM pays tribute to Pakistan Navy on 'Navy Day'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday commended the Pakistan Navy for their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country.

"On Navy Day, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all members of the Pakistan Navy. Their steadfast commitment to protecting our maritime boundaries exemplifies their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.

He said regardless of the challenges they faced, their determination and spirit remained resolute. "We deeply



value their service and sacrifices, and their contributions to safeguarding our maritime borders."

# Tarar visits Naval Headquarters, lays floral wreath on Martyrs' Memorial



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday visited the Naval Headquarters on the occasion of Pakistan Navy Day.

The minister laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to the sacrifices of Navy personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing on the occasion, Tarar expressed pride in being present at the memorial and praised the eternal services rendered by the Pakistan Navy for the country's defense.

He highlighted the significance of Operation Dwarka, launched on September 7, 1965, and commended the bravery of Navy personnel who targeted enemy positions during the operation.

Attaullah Tarar also remembered Lieutenant Aftab Ahmed Shaheed and other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

He emphasized the importance of unity in the face of terrorism and expressed confidence that the nation's morale would remain high.

Later, he offered Fateha and prayed for the departed soul of martyred.