

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ اور ایسا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم اس وقت بیٹھے ہوئے تھے کہ ایک صاحب نے آ کر سوال کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی طرف سے جو ہے اور فرمایا کہ تم ناموش کیوں بیٹھے رہتے ہو بلکہ اس کی سفارش کرو تاکہ تمہیں بھی اجڑے اور اللہ جہاں چاہے گا اپنے نبی کی زبان پر جاری کرے گا (ابن اثاب یوں کہتے ہیں) (تذکرہ صحابہ ص 27)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



## All praise for Ayaz Sadiq as detained PTI lawmakers produced in National Assembly

At least 10 PTI Members of National Assembly (MNAs), who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House in a late-night raid for allegedly violating newly-enacted public gathering law, were brought to the lower house on Thursday after their production orders were issued by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.



## Malala Yousafzai slams Israeli attacks on schools in Gaza

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai has condemned Israel's airstrikes in Nuseirat killing six United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) workers. Repeating UNRWA's post relaying the deaths of six of its workers, Malala took to her X account (formerly known as Twitter) and stated that she is "appalled that Israel keeps targeting schools in Gaza".

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## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet meeting on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# Federal Cabinet approves plan to boost Gwadar Port's operations

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to direct all government departments to route 50% of their imports, such as wheat, sugar, and fertilizer, through the Gwadar Port.

Earlier, the prime minister had issued the directives to increase the Gwadar port operations to ensure development and prosperity of the Balochistan province. He also directed that 50% of all public sector imports should be ensured through the Gwadar Port.

The meeting of the cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The cabinet also instructed to increase the volume of exports from Gwadar Port in the future. A subcommittee of the cabinet will be formed to submit a quarterly report on imports and exports through Gwadar Port to the cabinet.

The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Communications, approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the issuance of a commemorative postal stamp to mark the 75th anniversary of

diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Ministry of Industries and Production presented a report from the Cabinet Committee on Sugar Exports. The cabinet expressed satisfaction that, due to a well-timed decision on sugar exports, the country not only earned valuable foreign exchange, but sugar prices remained stable, and sugarcane farmers were adequately rewarded for their efforts.

The cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, also approved the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Korangi Fish

Harbour Authority, Karachi.

The cabinet instructed that all provinces should be given representation on such government boards. Additionally, the cabinet directed that any government-owned corporations with incomplete boards should be fully constituted as soon as possible.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Health Services, the cabinet approved the appointment of Muhammad Yaqoob, Assistant Director of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, as the Federal Inspector Drug Balochistan.

Likewise, on the recommendation of the Planning Ministry,

the federal cabinet approved an amendment to the Cabinet resolution dated October 30, 2013, regarding the appointment of Planning Commission members from the open market.

Under this amendment, the salaries of Planning Commission members will now be set under the Special Professional Pay Scale-II (SPPS-II) instead of the Management Pay Scale.

Furthermore, the cabinet also approved setting the salary of the Chief Economist of the Planning Commission, to be appointed from the open market, under the Special Professional Pay Scale-I (SPPS-I).

## Pakistan committed to conserving marine ecosystem: President Asif Ali Zardari



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to conserving its marine ecosystems and coastal areas by addressing challenges such as sea pollution and climate change. He said that maritime pollution was a major concern for Pakistan as it was negatively affecting aquatic life, causing a decline in the growth of the country's fisheries sector.

The President expressed these views while talking to the visiting Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday. Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh, Chairperson Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman,

and senior government officials attended the meeting.

Welcoming the Secretary-General, the President said that focusing on the blue economy was a cornerstone of Pakistan's development strategy as Pakistan was keen on modernizing its fisheries and shipbreaking sectors under the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He added that Pakistan was taking effective steps to tackle the effects of climate change.

The President also highlighted Pakistan's strong commitment to adhering to IMO regulations and standards for maritime safety, security and environmental protection. He said that Pakistan was looking forward to exploring potential areas for future collaboration with IMO, including technical cooperation and expertise-sharing to improve Pakistan's maritime sector.

The Secretary-General

## Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli airstrikes on Al-Mawasi humanitarian zone in Gaza



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the airstrikes by Israeli occupation forces on the Al-Mawasi humanitarian zone in Khan Yunis, Gaza on 10 September 2024, which claimed the lives of 40 civilians.

Executed in an area designated as a safe zone for displaced persons by the Israeli occupation forces themselves, constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, Spokesperson Foreign Office Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

said in her weekly briefing.

She said the carnage in Khan Yunis, without prior warning and in defiance of basic protections, demonstrates a disregard for human life and Israel's genocidal designs against the Palestinian people. The targeting of individuals seeking refuge in a designated safe zone represents a gross breach of international humanitarian law which necessitates the protection of civilian populations and humanitarian zones.

"We call on the UN Security Council to play its role in preventing Israeli occupation forces from continuing with their genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people and holding them accountable for their war crimes and crimes against humanity," the spokesperson added.

## Numbers game for constitutional amendments on judiciary becomes puzzle in NA

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's effort to pass a constitutional amendment bill regarding the higher judiciary has turned into a complex numbers game. While the government claims to have the required support, fulfilling the necessary vote count appears increasingly difficult.

The government aims to introduce a significant constitutional amendment related to the higher judiciary, which requires a two-thirds majority in the lower house—specifically, 224 votes out of a total of 336 members.

Sources stated that the government is facing considerable challenges in securing the necessary votes, resulting in delays in the proposed legislation.

There are 312 members present in the National Assembly, but 24 seats—comprising reserved seats for women and minorities—are either disputed or vacant pending notification. This situation complicates the government's efforts to achieve the required majority for the constitutional amendments.

The government's total membership in the NA stands at 213, with the Pakistan Muslim League-N contributing 111 members, the Pakistan Peoples Party providing 68, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan with 22, Pakistan Muslim League-Q with five, Istehkam Pakistan Party with four, and one member each from Pakistan Muslim League-Z, National Party, and Balochistan Awami Party.

## Saudi Arabia 'open' to using China yuan for oil sales: report



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A senior Saudi official, Bandar Al-khorayef, indicated that the country is receptive to new ideas, including the use of China's yuan for crude oil settlements, as Saudi Arabia seeks to diversify its economy and strengthen ties with China, South China Morning Post reported.

Al-khorayef emphasized that Saudi Arabia will prioritize its interests and explore new opportunities, separating politics from commerce. The broader adoption of the "petroyuan" is seen as a significant step in the yuan's internationalization, challenging the US dollar's dominance in global commodity markets.

China has been promoting the yuan's use in international trade, including a currency swap deal with Saudi Arabia and a preference for local currency settlements with trade partners.

The widespread use of the US dollar in oil transactions, generating petrodollars, reinforces its role as the global reserve currency.

Saudi Arabia and China have moved closer in recent years. Huawei, a leading Chinese telecommunications firm, has made inroads into the Middle Eastern market by establishing a cloud data center and offering automation expertise.

Saudi Arabia's civil aviation regulator has been discussing potential partnerships with multiple aerospace suppliers, including Chinese companies, to find innovative ways to use their upgraded aluminum in the aviation industry. This includes a recent agreement with a Chinese aircraft manufacturer to localize the aviation industry and strengthen the local supply chain.

## Pakistan likely to 'introduce mini budget' as FBR struggles to meet targets

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shoaib Nizami reports Finance, Federal Board of Revenue, Planning, Public Accounts, Banking, Capital Market, SECP, IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank.

Pakistan is likely to introduce mini budget as the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is facing difficulties in meeting its tax collection targets, ARY News reported on Thursday, citing sources.

According to sources, FBR needs to collect Rs2,654 billion in taxes for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, with Rs 1,190 billion required in September 2024 alone.

If FBR fails to meet the target by the end of the first quarter (July-September), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may push Pakistan for a mini budget in order to seal \$7bn loan deal, the sources said.

The government is reportedly considering several measures to boost tax collection, including stricter enforcement against defaulters and possible amendments to the Finance Bill.

There is also concern that individuals who fail to submit their income tax returns by September 30 could be classified as late filers for up to two years. Late filers would face higher withholding taxes on income, vehicle token taxes, and property-related transactions.

Sources further said, tax authorities may be granted additional powers under the proposed mini-budget, potentially leading to more aggressive action against non-compliance.

## PTI founder's acquittal plea rejected in £190 million reference

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court on Thursday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's plea seeking acquittal in a £190 million settlement reference.

As per details, the accountability court's judge, Nasir Javed Rana, heard the arguments in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail from both sides before dismissing the plea.

Imran Khan's counsel argued that Al-Qadir University is a trust and that his client did not get any personal benefits from it and was not involved in the financial dealings of the univer-

sity. However, the NAB prosecutor responded that the PTI founder had not disclosed the actual facts about the £190 million to the cabinet. He alleged that the cabinet was kept in the dark about the matter and the acquittal plea was not maintainable.

Earlier, an Accountability Court reserved its verdict on a plea filed by PTI founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, seeking acquittal in a £190 million settlement reference.

The accountability court judge conducted the hearing inside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi and reserved its verdict after hearing arguments from both.

# Central Seerat Committee meets with Azad Kashmir PM in Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A representative delegation of the Religious and Social Organization Central Seerat Committee under the leadership of President Central Seerat Committee Attique Ahmed Kayani met with the Prime Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq at the Prime Minister's Secretariat Muzaffarabad.

Azad Kashmir Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah was also present. Speaking to the delegation, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq praised the religious and social role of the Central Seerat Committee and said that the manner in which the Central Seerat Committee is conveying the message of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to the young minds according to the requirements of the present age and the current Committee is informing the Muslims about the condition of Ahl al-Bayt Athar, Sahaba and Saints



in the enchanting environment.

The delegation which met the Prime Minister under the leadership of the President of the Central Seerat Committee Attique Ahmad Kayani included Secretary General Khurram Shehzad and Additional General Secretary and Vice Chairman Ulama and Mushayikh Council of Azad Jammu

and Kashmir Qazi Mohammad Sohail Qureshi.

The President of the Central Seerat Committee Attique Ahmed Kayani also gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq on Jama Masjid Khadim al-Haramain Al-Sharifeen project. Atiq Ahmad Kayani also congratulated

the Azad Kashmir government on the role of the Azad Kashmir government for passing the resolution for the protection of the belief of the end of the prophethood by consensus in the Azad Kashmir legislative assembly and celebrating the "Day of the end of the prophethood" on the official level on September 7 every year.

## Bazil Ali Naqvi met Faryal Talpur on political situation and important issues



Bureau Report

KARACHI/MUZAFFARABAD: In charge of political affairs of Pakistan People's Party, Azad Kashmir and Member of the Provincial Assembly Ms. Faryal Talpur, Speaker of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar and Minister of Social Welfare and Women Development Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi met with Azad Kashmir's political situation and important issues. A detailed discussion was held. Earlier, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar and Government Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi congratulated Ms. Faryal Talpur on performing Umrah and presented bouquets of flowers.

## Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir condemns Indian incursions in occupied Kashmir

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The President of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of two innocent Kashmiri civilians at the instigation of the Indian Army and said that two people who entered the Indian Occupied Kashmir by mistake were killed by the Indian forces. Martyrdom is condemnable. Indian provocation is harmful to the peace of the region. We strongly condemn the provocation by the Indian forces. Indian provocation is harmful to the peace of the region. Ever since the martyrdom of Burhan Wani in occupied Kashmir, the right to self-determination has been demanded. As the tension is getting stronger, the firing on the LoC by India is also getting longer and longer, the only purpose of which is to divert the attention of the international community from the Kashmir issue and make it believe that in Occupied Kashmir, Pakistan is responsible for the ongoing freedom movement. The Indian army is violating the ceasefire line. The people of Kashmir should be given access to file a case against India's war crimes in the International Court of Justice. Unprovoked unprovoked firing by the Indian Army along the Kashmir ceasefire line is nothing but a campaign of war. Despite the aggression, India could not control the situation in Kashmir. India wants to divert the attention of the international community in Occupied Kashmir. India has targeted innocent children, women and civilians.

## Kashmiris won't accept pretense of elections from September 14: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Kashmiris will not accept the pretense of elections in Occupied Kashmir from September 14 in illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. For this heinous purpose, Article 35A 370 was amended on August 5, 2019 to abolish the special status of occupied Kashmir illegally and now flouting international laws under the guise of new domicile laws. He said that Kashmir is a disputed state and is regularly on the agenda of the United Nations. And under international law, India is not authorized to change the demography of Occupied Kashmir. Kashmiris will not accept such so-called election drama by India in any case, he said that instead of creating drama, if India conducts polls according to the UN resolutions, milk will turn to milk and water to water. But India knows that Kashmiris hate India, that's why India is going to pretend elections for its nefarious purposes from September 14. Kashmiris will not accept it at any cost. He said that the United Nations has become a facilitator of a few countries and is a protector of their interests and objectives, due to which small countries are not able to act. OIC is strong and active in situations where protection is vulnerable



## Monsoon Plantation Start For Green Pakistan in Multan Cantonment Area: Yaqoob Shera

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The President's Cantonment Board started the Monsoon plantation campaign in the context of Green Pakistan campaign by planting saplings on Quaid-e-Azam Road. In the light of the instructions of the President Cantonment Board and the Cantonment Executive Officer, the Cantonment Board also organized a plantation walk for public awareness.

Assistant Secretary Waseem Amir Garden Superintendent Chaudhry Zaheer Ahmed Principal Cantt Board Public School Beinish Saeed Students Vice President Cantt Board Yaqub Nasir Member Cantt Board Yaqub Shera and heads of civil society also participated fully. Plant the plants

Assistant Secretary Waseem Amir while talking to the media representatives said that tree planting charity is ongoing to make Pakistan green and it is the duty of every citizen to plant more trees to avoid the effects of climate change. In support of the Kent Board, this plantation drive will continue for one month continuously and more than 3 thousand shade and fruit trees will be planted in the Kent area.

Every citizen should play his role in planting trees so that the dream of clean and green Pakistan can be realized.



## Call on

ISLAMABAD: Indonesia's Charge d'Affairs, Rehmat Hindiarta Kusuma called on Federal Minister for Interfaith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# Police chief stresses need for improved security at Takht Bhai Press Club

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: DSP Takht Bhai Shakeel Khan said that protecting the lives and property of the people is our top priority. The cooperation of police and public is essential for establishing peace and tranquility. The young generation is getting addicted to drugs due to despair, and it is the responsibility of parents to keep an eye on their children's activities. Our office doors are always open for everyone, and we urge the



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public and traders to inform us about their problems without fear. Police are servants of the people, not rulers. He

expressed these views while talking to journalists during his visit to Takht Bhai Press Club.

On this occasion, SHO Takht Bhai Ali Akbar Khan and prominent political and social figure, Riaz Khan

Mehmood, were also present. They inspected different parts of the press club and emphasized the need for immediate construction and repair of the press club building's boundary wall, installation of lights, and deployment of a permanent guard for the security of the press club and journalists.

Press Club President Muslim Khan Sabir thanked DSP Shakeel Ahmed Khan and SHO Takht Bhai Ali Akbar Khan for visiting the press club and reviewing the security arrangements.

# Public awareness session on fortification of edible oil/ghee

Qayoom Sarohi

KARACHI: Awareness session was organized by the international organization Nutrition International for hotel, Restaurant, catering, bakery & sweet owners at food department, University of Karachi. The major purpose of this seminar was to orient food service providers on the importance of fortification of Vitamin A & D in edible oil/ghee, iron, folic acid, calcium, and iodine for better health and fulfilling the requirement of micronutrient deficiencies. Provincial Manager, Nutrition International Mr. Mueen Qureshi, shared that the shortage of vitamin A and D in the country is a matter of great concern. To fulfill micronutrient deficiencies, mill owners have been bound by law in the country for the fortification of vitamin A &



D. As per that law no mill will produce edible oil and ghee without fortifying

required vitamins. Sindh Food Authority will take strict action against the mill

owners not following the fortification law. So food services providers associations should use fortified oil.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Guffran, food department University of Karachi shared that lack of Vitamin A & D causes many diseases related to eye and bone weaknesses. For this, during the public awareness sessions, women and men should be aware that open oil should not be used at all and there is a need to encourage the consumption of fortified edible oil which is necessary for the health. Before buying oil see the mark on packing for better health.

Chairman of food department, University of Karachi, also insisted on participants to discourage the use of open oil and use only fortified oil having the fortified logo printed on brands.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4:25 am  
Zohr ..... 12:05 pm  
Asr ..... 4:32 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:18 pm  
Isha ..... 7:42 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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MH ..... 561116  
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Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

Naat competitions held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized Naat competition in collaboration with Bazm-e-Ahbaab-e-Qalam Pakistan, as part of the celebrations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The event was presided over by Muhammad Sharif Shad, with Naseem Sehar as the chief guest. Sajjad Hussain, Director of the Arts Council, the founder and president of Bazm-e-Ahbaab-e-Qalam Pakistan, Ali Asghar Samar, and Professor Hafiz Usman Ahmed participated as honorary guests. Muhammad Sharif Shad, stated that composing Naat is a form of worship, as the praise of the Prophet (PBUH) will continue until the Day of Judgment, since our Prophet (PBUH) is the last Messenger, and there is no need for any prophet after him. Chief guest Naseem Sehar mentioned that the Prophet (PBUH) taught us the way of life, and by following his teachings, we can achieve success both in this world and the hereafter.

Sajjad Hussain, the Director of the Arts Council, in his speech, said that the State of Madinah is a symbol of justice, equality, and fairness. The Prophet (PBUH) always emphasized the

Monthly Meeting Of Shura Hamdard

# Hamdard forum highlights exemplary governance of Prophet (PBUH)

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The monthly meeting of Shura Hamdard Karachi took place yesterday at the Hamdard Corporate Head Office, chaired by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan. The theme of the meeting was "Guidelines for Muslim Rulers in the Light of the Prophet (PBUH)'s Secret." The guest speaker, Prof. Dr. Zahid Ali Zahidi, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Karachi University, highlighted the exemplary governance of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as one of the most remarkable aspects of his life.

In his keynote address, he said that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) established a welfare state, and his approach to addressing social issues serves as an ideal governance model, not only for Muslim-majority nations but for countries across the globe.

Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan stated that Islam provides a complete way of life, and there is a need to fully follow the shining example of the Prophet (peace be



upon him). Before blaming others, we should reflect on whether we are fulfilling our personal and national responsibilities. If injustice is happening and we remain silent due to our own interests,

then we are also part of the injustice, as stated in the Holy Quran.

Zafar Iqbal said that the foundation of democracy lies in the Charter of Madinah and the Majlis-e-Shura. However, in

Pakistan, those in power under the name of democracy often have interests that conflict with the state's well-being.

Dr. Amir Tauseen explained that, according to a hadith of the Holy Prophet

(peace be upon him), we are all guardians and responsible for our actions. We are accountable to Allah for how we conduct ourselves in both social and worldly matters.

Dr. Anjad Jafari stated that Muhammad (peace be upon him), established an ideal state and a model society on earth through his excellent planning and management. The world still longs for such a stable society.

Deputy Speaker Colonel (Rtd) Mukhtar Ahmad Butt, Usman Damohi, Shehla Ahmed, Professor Dr. Tanveer Khalid, Engineer Ibnul Hasan, Syed Mohammad Arsalan, Director HFP and others also shared their thoughts during the meeting. Fatiha was recited in remembrance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his death anniversary, observed on September 11. The members paid tribute to Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Mohammed Said for his national services and offered prayers for the recovery of an ailing member, Shamim Kazmi. Colonel (Rtd) Mukhtar Ahmad Butt moderated the discussion.

## Drugs should be controlled

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain, Jose Antonio de Ory, Chairperson KKAFF, Cristina Afridi, ambassadors, diplomats, members of civil society at the launch of the Declaration of Oviedo a global initiative on drug use prevention held at the residence of Spanish Ambassador.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Emirates Supports Young Golf Hopefuls Journeys to the US for Higher Education



Coommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Emirates is supporting the flight journeys for Syed Daniah and Syed Abiha, two remarkable young golf prodigies from Karachi, as they head to the United States to pursue their higher education at Blinn College-Brenham Campus in Brenham, Texas.

Through supporting flights from Karachi to Houston, Emirates continues its commitment of positively impacting the communities it serves by providing opportunities for talented youth from diverse backgrounds to fulfil their potential and pursue their academic and athletic dreams. By facilitating the journey of Daniah and Abiha to continue their education while competing at the highest levels of collegiate golf, Emirates is also reinforcing its dedication to nurturing the pipeline of sporting talent as a new generation of players emerge.

Mohammed Alhashmi, Emirates' Vice President for Pakistan said "These sisters have already made a significant mark on the World Amateur Golf Ranking list and these remarkable achievements have earned them full scholarships.

Syed Abiha, currently playing with a handicap of 2 and a driving distance of over 240 yards, has achieved a best score of 70 (2 under) while her sister, Syed Daniah, with a handicap of 1 and a similar driving distance, boasts a best score of 69 (3 under).

Emirates is the award-winning global airline operating the world's largest fleet of wide-body Boeing 777 and Airbus A380 aircraft and serving 140 cities on six continents through its efficient hub in Dubai. The airline has earned customer recognition for its industry-leading services on the ground and in the sky, delivered by a passionate workforce representing over 160 nations.

## Reviving Angoor Ada Border trade, Peace top Priorities: Commandant SWS



Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A representative delegation of Wana Press Club journalists met with newly appointed Commandant South Waziristan Scouts (SWS) Force, Muhammad Tahir, on Thursday. The meeting discussed the peace and order situation in Lower South Waziristan district and the suspended trade activities at Angoor Ada border.

Commandant Tahir emphasized that reviving trade activities on the Angoor Ada border and establishing peace in the area are among his top priorities. He highlighted the importance of sustainable peace for the developing society of the region and the need for brotherhood, sincerity, and cooperation.

He expressed his support for mutual trust and respect, saying, "Love is an essential part of our society's values, and cooperation is indispensable for solving problems." He praised the role of journalists in promoting peace and development, calling them the "eyes and ears of society."

Commandant Tahir assured that he would bring the suspended commercial activities at the Angoor Ada border to the notice of IGFC South KP to improve the economic situation in the region. He emphasized the importance of working for the betterment of the entire region and the country. The meeting concluded with the members of the District Press Club Wana congratulating Commandant Tahir on taking charge and assuring full cooperation.

## Int'l Universities eye expansion at CBD Punjab's Education District in NSIT City

City Desk

LAHORE: A high-level delegation from the Scotland Chamber of Commerce and Robert Gordon University, led by Scotland's Trade Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Jeanette Forbes, OBE, paid an official visit to the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab).

The delegation included the Vice Principal Robert Gordon University Scotland, Professor Lynn Kilbride, Dr. Elliot Pirie, Associate Dean for Academic Development and Student Engagement, Robert Gordon University, Scotland, Director FPCCI Pakistan-UK Business



Council Arslan Ijaz Anwer, and Project Manager Taar Consulting Sana Mehwhish, highlighting the growing interest of international institutions in CBD Punjab's projects.

During the briefing, Imran Amin shared the authority's plans for the Education District, stating, "CBD NSIT

City's Education District is designed with state-of-the-art infrastructure and world-class facilities to accommodate local and international universities. Our goal is to create an academic hub where institutions from across the globe can establish their campuses and contribute to the intellectual and economic

growth of Punjab."

Dr. Janet Forbes, Scotland's Trade Ambassador, praised the initiatives taken by CBD Punjab, particularly the innovative concept of CBD NSIT City. She remarked, "The projects of CBD Punjab, especially the Education District, have the potential to significantly contribute to the economic development of Punjab.

The visit also saw active participation from CBD Punjab's Chief Operating Officer, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Director Business Development CBD Punjab Ali Waqar Shah, Director Marketing CBD Punjab, Waseem Siddiqi and Director Architecture & Planning CBD Punjab Sameer Aftab Sial.

## D. H. A. Multan & Hashoo Group Announce Landmark Joint Development Projects

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Hashoo Group's Real Estate Division—Pearl Real Estate Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (PREH) is pleased to announce strategic landmark joint development initiatives with D. H. A. Multan, marking a transformative step in the region's commercial and residential development. This strategic partnership combines the expertise and resources of both entities to create world-class real estate projects, ushering in a new era of growth and opportunity for Multan.



and D. H. A. Multan, following the successful inauguration of Rumanza by Pearl-Continental, Pakistan's first five-star golf resort.

Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Shakir Bhura, Chief Executive Officer, Real Estate Division, and

the Group Chief Financial Officer, Hashoo Group, said, "We are pleased to announce this joint venture with D. H. A. Multan, which is a pivotal step in our mission to transform the real estate landscape of Multan. Our projects, including a world-class

commercial mall and luxury Signature Villas, aim to establish Multan as a vibrant center for commerce and leisure. We are honored to partner with D. H. A. Multan and are excited to create unique spaces catering to residents and visitors."

Project Director DHA Multan Brigadier Ahmed Rizwan Ghuman expressed DHA Multan's vision for this partnership, stating, "We are delighted to collaborate with Hashoo Group on these transformative projects. These developments reflect our shared vision of excellence and innovation and will play a significant role in elevating the standard of living and enhancing the commercial appeal of Multan."

Both partners expressed their joint commitment into starting and completing these projects in an expedited time frame to set the standard for excellence and efficiency.

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# Harris vs. Trump: Views of the Pakistani-American Community

After Biden nominated Kamala Harris as his running mate, I authored an article titled "Trump vs Kamala Harris: What is for Pakistan." At the time, deeply immersed in Pakistan's political landscape, I predicted that although both candidates could be detrimental to our national interests, Kamala Harris might be slightly more favorable.

Now residing in Michigan, I have had the privilege of being admitted into a local Pakistani community's WhatsApp group which provided me with a unique opportunity to better understand the perspectives of the Pakistani diaspora, particularly regarding national and international issues.

To gather their input, I posed a simple question in the group: "Harris or Trump—who do you think would be better for Pakistan?" The responses were heartfelt and candid. While most agreed that both could pose challenges to Pakistan's interests, the majority leaned towards Kamala Harris, perceiving her as having a slight edge over Trump, particularly regarding the national interests of Pakistan and the Pakistani expatriate community. One member humorously remarked, "At least in the US, we don't have 'Ganjas', no immigrants, and no 'lota' politicians."

Under the Biden administration, the U.S. has cautiously engaged with Pakistan in post-Afghanistan dynamics, particularly recognizing Pakistan's influence over the Afghan Taliban. Security cooperation has been a key element, with U.S. aid aimed at

bolstering Pakistan's anti-terrorism capabilities. However, the U.S. remains wary of Pakistan's complex relationship with militant groups like the Taliban. Economically, while direct trade agreements have not expanded significantly, the U.S. has provided development assistance and supported Pakistan in its efforts to stabilize its economy through institutions like the IMF.

At the multilateral level, Pakistan has worked with the U.S. on platforms such as the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), where Pakistan successfully exited the FATF gray list.

Additionally, China's deepening economic ties with Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have remained a point of concern for the U.S., although the Biden administration has refrained from pressuring Pakistan to pivot away from China and the priority has remained on maintaining security cooperation and economic stability in the region.

The Trump administration took a more confrontational stance toward China-Pakistan relations, particularly in opposing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). U.S. officials under Trump expressed concerns that CPEC would lead to unsustainable debt for Pakistan, viewing the project as part of China's

broader strategy to extend its geopolitical influence in South Asia. Trump's administration also aligned closely with India, seeing it as a counterbalance to China, which further distanced Pakistan from the U.S. and deepened its partnership with Beijing. The focus was on limiting

China's regional influence, including in the military cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Domestically, issues like healthcare, reproductive rights, and economic stability also shape the community's preferences. Harris's stance on healthcare and social justice resonates with younger, progressive Pakistani Americans, while Trump's economic policies attract some within the diaspora who favor conservative fiscal approaches.

Donald Trump's policy of directly negotiating with the Afghan Taliban aimed to end U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, culminating in the 2020 Doha Agreement. The U.S. bypassed the Afghan government and engaged the Taliban as the primary power brokers, offering legitimacy in exchange for assurances against terrorism. This approach prioritized U.S. withdrawal and left Afghanistan's future governance to internal actors. The strategy marked a shift from military engagement to diplomatic resolution, with the ultimate goal of exiting a long, costly conflict.

In contrast, Pakistan's policy towards the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is

focused on internal security, dealing with a group that threatens the state's sovereignty. Pakistan has used a mix of military operations and occasional peace talks, but these negotiations have not led to long-term stability. Unlike the Afghan Taliban, the TTP is a domestic insurgency ideologically opposed to Pakistan's governance model. While military campaigns have weakened the TTP at times, the group continues to pose significant challenges, highlighting the more adversarial nature of Pakistan's approach compared to Trump's diplomatic efforts with the Afghan Taliban.

The Pakistani-American community's views on the upcoming U.S. election reflect both national and personal concerns. The majority lean towards Harris as the more favorable candidate. Key reasons include her support for immigration reform, which aligns with the needs of Pakistani expatriates, and her more predictable foreign policy approach, particularly towards South Asia. Harris's stance on healthcare, social justice, and her potential to balance U.S.-India relations also resonate with younger and progressive members of the diaspora. In contrast, Trump's restrictive immigration policies, alignment with India, and his administration's confrontational stance on China-Pakistan relations have left many in the community wary of a second Trump term.

*Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan in France, Former MD, SRBC and CEO, AIV*

Analysis



Qamar Bashir

## Israeli airstrike on 'safe zone' in besieged Gaza

Six staff members with the UN agency that assists Palestine refugees, UNRWA, were killed in Gaza on Wednesday when two Israeli airstrikes hit a school-turned-shelter and its surroundings.

"This is the highest death toll among our staff in a single incident," UNRWA said in a post on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

At least 34 people were killed in the strikes, according to media reports.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres deplored the bloodshed.

"What's happening in Gaza is totally unacceptable," he wrote on X.

"These dramatic violations of international humanitarian law need to stop now."

The UNRWA school in Nuseirat, located in the Middle Area of the Gaza Strip, was sheltering around 12,000 displaced people, mainly women and children.

This marked the fifth time that it had been hit since the conflict began 11 months ago.

Earlier on Wednesday the UN said the site had been previously deconflicted with the Israeli forces.

UNRWA called on all parties to the conflict to never use schools or the areas around them for military or fighting purposes.

"No one is safe in Gaza. No one is spared. Schools and other civilian infrastructure must be protected at all times, they are not a target," the tweet said.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini lamented the "endless and senseless killing, day after day" in Gaza.

Writing on X, he said at least 220 agency staff have lost their lives since the war began.

"Humanitarian staff, premises and operations have been blatantly and unabatedly disregarded since the beginning of the war," he said, warning that "the longer impunity prevails, the more international humanitarian law and the Geneva conventions will become irrelevant."

Separately, the UN reported that health workers continue efforts to vaccinate young children in northern Gaza against polio, part of a wider campaign to defeat the disease, which can cause paralysis.

More than 81,600 boys and girls were vaccinated as of Tuesday, according to preliminary data from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Polio was detected in Gaza in June and UN agencies and partners launched a two-round campaign this month to provide over 640,000 children with two doses of novel oral polio vaccine type 2. So far, nearly 528,000 children have been reached in the first round.

"More than 230 teams are on the ground trying to reach all children under the age of 10 with the first batch of the polio vaccination," UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said in New York, adding that "they will need to do this again in four weeks."

The campaign is taking place as Gaza's healthcare system remains in dire condition.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and partners said half of all essential medicines are not available in the enclave, while primary health centres are facing critically low levels of insulin.



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

## Brain Drain & Brain Dead Politicians

Indubitably, brain drain has become a serious concern in Pakistan. Many a highly educated and skilled workers are leaving the country for better opportunities abroad. Sadly, people are unable to find better jobs, healthcare facilities, sound education and above all protection to life, property and liberty. In fact, lawlessness and economic turmoil have ruined the lives of people. It has been swallowing the talent, abilities and capabilities of human beings. It has rendered many souls abortive and fruitless to prove themselves worthy for the human development in any dimension of life. This phenomenon has turned assets into

Analysis



Zahid Karim

liability. Keeping in view, the atrocities done upon human beings by ruthless political, economic, social and administrative system of the country, many natives have been compelled to leave the country with heavy hearts. Moreover, social sufferings are another reason behind this turmoil. In fact, financial stress accompanied with political landscape has badly damaged the social fabrics of the country. Social unrest causes instability among the low-to-middle income nations. It eventually leads to flight of academicians, healthcare professionals and skilled workers. Besides, it also results in poor law and order situation, bad governance and social violence in Pakistan. Volatile environment and sense of uncertainty have also been created due to ethnic, sectarian, and political tensions. This drives the educated and skilled workforce to seek refuge in more peaceful and stable countries. Resultantly, it becomes main reason to push the individuals to migrate to the politically and socially stable and strong countries.

Additionally, limited access to quality healthcare, education and social justice creates dissatisfaction and discomforts among the masses. Pakistan is beset with poor public

health infrastructure, widespread diseases, and limited access to quality care. It has pushed families to emigrate in search of healthier living conditions. Moreover, the education system of Pakistan is defective. It has been suffering from outdated curricula, poorly trained teachers, lack of research culture and inadequate resources. This situation has further perpetuated the cycle of brain drain. Besides, environmental degradation has also added fuel to the fire. Issues like pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and poor urban planning contribute to the overall decline in the quality of life. It results in more healthcare problems. The major cities of Pakistan are also characterized by overcrowding, traffic congestion and inadequate civic services. It has created a stressful and unhealthy living environment leading people to consider emigration.

The catastrophic impacts of the spiraling brain drain cannot be avoided in every segment of the society ranging from healthcare facilities to engineering and education services. In pursuit of better prospects, highly qualified individuals opt to leave the country elsewhere. The country has been facing a significant shortage of skilled professionals. The departure of highly proficient and educated individuals drains the nation of their experience, information and abilities. It impedes technological advancement and innovation. In addition, the mass exodus of researchers, scientists, and academics hampers research and development. It has led the country in the quagmire of poor quality of services offered in these vital areas. This hampers the ability of state to address its domestic challenges effectively. It undermines its long-term development objectives. Hence, competitiveness and the possibility of scientific advancements of Pakistan are at stake across the globe.

Indeed, out of gloom, there always comes a gleam of hope. In order to deal the menacing of brain drain in Pakistan, there should be sagacious strategies to deal economic pessimism that is rooted in political instability. Factors that are prerequisite to political stability in Pakistan include transparent governance, stringent anti-corruption measures, stable electoral processes, empowered democratic institutions, national unity, and economic reforms. Strengthening law enforcement and encouraging civil society engagement also play crucial roles in creating a stable political environment. It is conducive to sustainable development and citizen well-being. Moreover, by promoting national identity and collaborating with the diasporas, countries strive to create an environment that not only retains talent but also attracts skilled individuals back, ultimately mitigating the adverse effects of brain drain.

The crux of the matter is that Pakistan has failed to handle this issue with the urgency it deserves. The country is losing bright individuals at an alarming rate—nearly 10 million in the last 20 years. It has not only weakened economic growth and innovation, but also exacerbates healthcare system and information technology. The loss of young talent and professionals diminishes development of the country. If it is not stopped in a war footing manner and plans are not devised to deal with the loss, the nation might suffer severe consequences. In short, it requires urgent and comprehensive reforms like betterment of economic conditions, corroboration of political stability and creation of conducive environment for professional growth. If adjoined steps are taken with immense seriousness, Pakistan will be able to reverse this troubling trend and the fruit of human capital will be harnessed for national progress.

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## World Literacy Day

Islam created a revolution in the world of knowledge. Hazrat Ali (RA) is the inventor of grammar and the basic principles of syntax are attributed to him. Hazrat Ali (RA) had great God-given abilities in speech, which was very reasoned, that's why he was called the 'Door of Knowledge'. Hazrat Ali (RA) said: "A person who has wealth has enemies around him, but a person who has knowledge has friends around him." Wealth often darkens the heart and mind, but knowledge can burn the heart and mind. Knowledge is the trust of virtue and the messenger of truth. There are many who speak knowledge, but there are very few who practice it and protect it. Behind whatever knowledge Europe has acquired, there is the intellectual taste of Muslims. The hardships and sufferings faced by Muslims for the acquisition of knowledge are priceless facts of history. Young people can get brilliant lessons from history. Travel is the best way to acquire knowledge. Get knowledge even if you have to go to China for it. The Holy Quran has provided satisfaction to those who seek knowledge by saying "walk in the earth". In Islam, traveling for the sake of knowledge is worship, jihad, and if death occurs during this period, it is the status of martyrdom. Knowledge grows from search. Hazrat Ayub Ansari left the beautiful valleys of Madinah and traveled to Egypt to acquire knowledge. Imam Dawood and Imam Nasa'i traveled to Hijaz, Iraq, Syria, Kharasa'n and Egypt to seek Hadith. Looking at this taste of Muslims, Nicholson was forced to say, "These seekers of knowledge traveled three continents and arrived at their homeland like a bee coming to its hive and distributed the wealth of knowledge that they had accumulated among their numerous disciples."

September 8 is World Literacy Day. On this day, Muslims, especially the young generation, should make it their slogan to study the academic achievements of their forefathers and the books written by them. While studying, ask yourself why I am reading this article or book? What do I want to know about

it? You can't study well until you realize what I want to get out of that study. Merely memorizing dates, calculating formulas or memorizing paragraphs of literature will not make you a good student. You must read difficult subjects first when you are mentally prepared, take a break during study, take a short walk or exercise to refresh your mind. The quality of reading is not how much a person reads,

but the nature of the material, how well it is written. In this regard, the Chief Executive of Virtual University Wah Campus, Atiq ur Rehman Chughtai, provided a good opportunity for the students of the campus, for which he deserve a tribute. He organized a function in the POF Guest House regarding World Literacy Day in which intellectuals, columnists, journalists,

orators and writers participated and read papers while a large number of students participated. On this occasion, Atiq Chughtai said that the present century is the century of IT, in which IT education is being imparted without gender discrimination, unfortunately in Pakistan only 3% of women are getting IT education which is very low. He said that there is no age limit in this department, 18-year-old youth to 65-year-old senior citizens are also eligible for admission in the virtual university. Mother, son, siblings, spouses are also our students in Wah campus, it can be estimated that there are clear possibilities of IT development in the future. On this occasion, Prof Dr Haroon Yousaf Chairman dept of Computing Engineering UET Taxila, Muhammad Toufeeq Ex-Director Admin and Sports POF, Naeem Ashraf Vice President RCCI,

Ch Atta ur Rehman Educationalist, Prof Dr Javed Iqbal Ex-Director NIPA Peshawar, President Anjum Tajran Wah Cantt Raja Habib ur Rehman, Asad Bashir Campus Manager VU Wah, Usman Awan Freelancer, Abid Hussain from PYL, Anchor Person Iffat Rauf and others were also present.

*Writer is Senior analyst. He can be reached at shahidkawan61@gmail.com*

Analysis



Shahid Awan

# Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad Celebrates Ethiopian New Year at ICCI, Eve in Karachi

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad has celebrated the Ethiopian New Year 2017 with national zeal and fervor in presence of the Federal Ministers, Government Officials, Diplomatic Corps, Business and Religious Community, Ethiopian Diaspora Media and the Civil Society.

The celebrations were held in the Federal Capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan—Islamabad, and its business and cultural hub—Karachi.

A famous Ethiopian Troupe Biftu Oromia joined from Ethiopia in these celebrations and gave stunning performances with their melodious traditional songs and cultural dance not only on the eve of the Ethiopian New Year in Karachi, but also in Islamabad on September 11th.

The Embassy would like to express its gratitude to its major collaborators including the Governor House Sindh, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bukhari Groups, AirSial, Pakistan Ethiopia Business Council and COMSTECH.

The celebrations, coupled with the Ethiopian cultural performances, manifests the growing collaborations of the two countries.

In Karachi, the new year celebrations and cultural performances were held at the Governor House and the Residence of



Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi H. E. Ibrahim Khalid Tawab amid the presence H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special

Envoy and Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan and other high-profile guests including UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan H. E. Mohamed Yahya, Karachi Port Trust Chairman H. E. Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, former Minister for Commerce and Industry H. E. Khalid Tawab and others.

The new year celebrations also held in Islamabad which was followed by the traditional songs and dance from Amhara, Oromo, Somali, Afar, Tigray, southern part of Ethiopia and other culturally diverse areas.

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted the cultural troupe of Ethiopia who enthralled an audience of more than 500 individuals from all walk of life at its auditorium.

Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage H. E. Attaullah Tarar graced the occasion as a chief guest, while Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs and Inter-faith harmony, H. E. Salik Hussain was the guest of honor.

Additional Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H. E. Hamid Asghar Khan, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry H. E. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, and



Pakistan Africa Association Chairman H. E. Zafar Bakhtawari were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the New Year Celebration Ceremony, H. E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for joining the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad in the New Year Celebrations and appreciating the Ethiopian cultural diversity.

He explained the audience about Ethiopian distinct feature of having its own calendar which is seven years behind the Gregorian Calendar and falls on September 11th or 12th during a leap year.

The Ambassador said Ethiopia has its own calendar with 13 months with each of the 12 months has 30 days along with the 13th month which has five

days or six during each leap year.

H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker said the Ethiopian New Year—Enkutatash gives a message of hope and optimism that drives the Ethiopian nation towards peace and prosperity.

Both the Federal Ministers and the ICCI President also addressed the gathering and congratulated the Government and people of Ethiopia on their New Year 2017.

In addition to traditional clothes, the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Awards were also distributed among the chief guests, the ICCI President and the Pakistan Africa Association on the occasion.

A two-year book on the Ethiopian Embassy Diplomatic Journey in Islamabad was also launched on the occasion.

# Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations Starts in Pakistan

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Cultural Center in Pakistan in collaboration with Culture Office of the embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, launched a series of online activities to celebrate the 2024 Mid-Autumn Festival: 'A Moon Moment to Remember' in Pakistan and for people around the world.

The "Mid-Autumn Day in Poetry" video series and other colorful events are part of this year's Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in Pakistan, which is being organized by China Cultural Center in Pakistan.

Mid-autumn is one of the most celebrated holidays in China - a time for families to get together under the full moon and light up lanterns to symbolically illuminate the path to success for the rest of the year. Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the fifth day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, when the moon is at its fullest. The festival this year begins on 17th September.

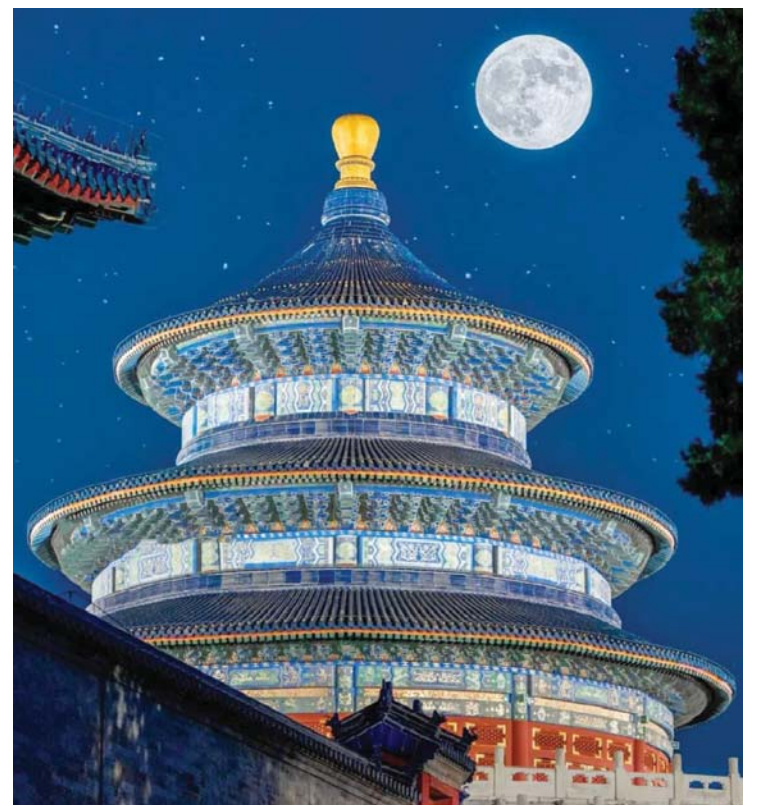
In Chinese culture, the Mid-Autumn festival celebration always



symbolizes reunion. Having great feast in round-shape tables and admiring the full moon are the hallmark traditions of this festival because a round shape symbolizes completeness and reunion.

Activities such as theme videos, performances, and other content showcasing Chinese Nation's celebration for this year's Mid-Autumn Festival will be displayed and published on Cultural Counsellor

and Director China Cultural Centre in Pakistan H. E. Zhang Heqing's twitter, Cultural Center's Official WeChat Channel, as well as Official Facebook Page of China Cultural Centre in Pakistan.



# Kaspersky Shares key Cybersecurity guidelines for safer remote work

By Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Remote work has become a new reality for many professionals. Employees, ranging from designers to accountants, often handle sensitive information, which presents a risk of compromise when operating outside an office environment. To help navigate these challenges, Kaspersky experts have shared key cybersecurity guidelines that empower remote employees to work in comfort while maintaining data security.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of remote workers has increased dramatically. According to Buffer statistics, the vast majority of employees (98%) are in favor of at least partial remote work.

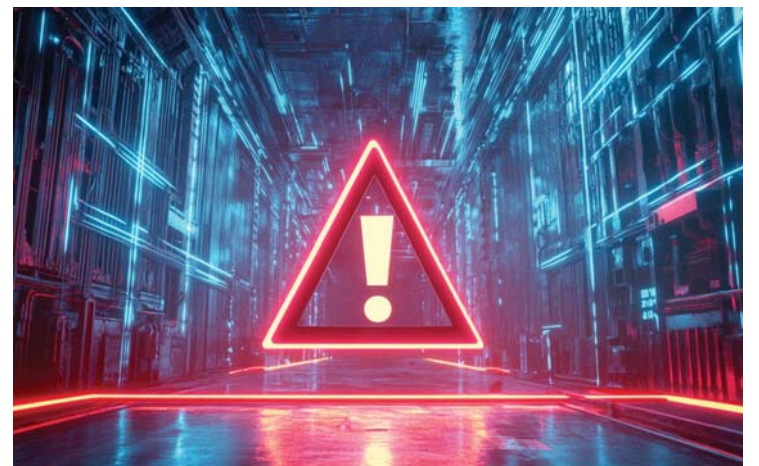
Kaspersky recommends to download and use only the applications provided or approved by the organization. Third-party software can introduce vulnerabilities that may compromise security. If additional tools are necessary for job performance, it is best to request them from the organization directly. For

remote workers, it's advisable to avoid using public Wi-Fi networks. When connecting with a personal device, utilizing a reliable VPN like Kaspersky VPN Secure Connection can enhance security by encrypting data and safeguarding online activities from unauthorized access.

Kaspersky reminds that passwords act as gateways to sensitive information, so maintaining their confidentiality is crucial. Storing passwords on paper, even in secure locations at home, is not a secure practice. It may be

beneficial to use the association method for creating passwords that are both memorable and complex.

"Although remote work can introduce security vulnerabilities, following few straightforward guidelines can significantly lower the risk of data breaches. It's essential to separate work and personal devices. This practice not only protects sensitive information from potential exposure but also reduces the chances of accidental breaches by employees. While using corporate security systems for work-re-



lated activities is advisable, enhancing the security of personal devices with robust and reliable solutions is also

important," comments Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel for META at Kaspersky.

# Pakistan committed to collaborate with HKH countries to protect climate-vulnerable communities: Romina Khurshid Alam

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that rapid glacial melting and resultant floods Hindukush Karakoram Himalaya (HKH) region has put lives and livelihoods of nearly two billion people at risk and, pose serious threats to the socio-economic sustainability of the regional countries.

However, tackling effectively these climate change-caused common environmental, social and economic risks through resilience building measures is possible only through close and innovative collaboration among the regional countries in developing, adopting and sharing workable solutions, Ms Alam said while addressing



the inaugural session of the 'Policy Action Dialogue on Tackling Climate Change Impacts' here on Wednesday.

The event was organized the international development and civil society organisations organization in collaboration with federal organisations working

on climate change, food security and water conservation.

While addressing participating policymakers, researchers, educationists, development sector experts, environmentalists, students and media at the event, Romina Khurshid Alam remarked that while the global

temperatures continued to rise untamed, climate change was having severe and far-reaching consequences in the Hindu Kush Karakoram Himalaya (HKH) region, which spans across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, and Bhutan, where consequently glaciers, river water flows, energy supplies and agriculture were being adversely affected, placing the livelihoods of over 240 million people in the mountainous areas, and around 1.65 billion people downstream, at increasing risk.

There is a pressing need for the HKH regional countries to work together to manage shared water resources and address regional climate challenges by fostering cross-border cooperation on climate change mitigation and

adaptation, as rivers and glaciers in the HKH region transcend national boundaries, PM's climate aide emphasised.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of Kathmandu-based ICIMOD organisation, emphasised in his welcome remarks the vital importance of addressing the complex environmental challenges of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region.

He said, "Pakistan, with 7,253 glaciers—the highest number outside the polar regions—is vulnerable to both floods and droughts. We must improve access to climate data for at-risk communities," he stated, highlighting that although technologies exist, scaling them effectively remains a challenge.

The disaster risk reduction should focus beyond preparedness and prevention, urging investment in planning and implementation, Dr. Pema Gyamtsho suggested.

Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), also spoke at the event, emphasizing the alarming impact of warming on the glacial regions in the country.

He revealed that glacial melt in the Indus River basin was accelerating at a dangerous rate. He cited a 23.3% decrease in snow cover between November 2023 and April 2024 and an annual glacial melt rate of 3%, with an additional 16% mass loss over the past five years.

The NDMA chairman warned

that while melting may provide temporary water surpluses, the long-term implications are dire and require urgent attention. He urged on the need for a regional approach to address the cryospheric crisis.

Special remarks delivered by Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Acting Secretary of MoCC&EC emphasized on the need for making the cryosphere an integral part of the climate discourse in Pakistan.

Ahmed Kamal, Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission and Neelofar Hafeez, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MoNFS&R) highlighted the importance of interagency cooperation to tackle the multifaceted challenges of climate change.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
79,017.61	78,651.79
Day's High	Day's Low
79,217.61	78,577.65
Index Value	Change
8,157,029,382	+365.82
Percentage	Time
+0.47%	12 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,240.97	+47.03
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	12 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,992.11	+130.40
Percentage	Time
+0.32%	12 Sept, 1:08 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
36,833.27	+1,213.50
Percentage	Time
+3.41%	12 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.75	189.00
Bahrain Dinar	735.25	743.25
Canadian Dollar	206.60	209.00
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	306.70	309.45
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.85	911.35
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
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	74.19	74.74
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	326.45	329.25
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.5
UK Pound Sterling	362.95	366.45
US Dollar	279.00	280.85

# Pakistan hosts successful SCO Business and Investment Conference in Islamabad

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Thursday inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Business and Investment Conference at local hotel, Islamabad.

The high-profile event saw participation from senior ministers, senior government officials, foreign diplomats, representatives from SCO member states, and leaders from Pakistan's business community, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to enhancing trade and economic cooperation within the region.

During his speech, Jam Kamal Khan welcomed the distinguished guests and praised the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for organizing the conference.

Jam emphasized the significance of people-to-people contact in fostering economic ties among SCO member states, adding that historic and cultural connec-



tions between these nations create a strong foundation for further collaboration.

Khan highlighted the multi-dimensional nature of relations among SCO countries, mentioning shared geography, ideology, and economic challenges.

He also extended a warm welcome to Belarus as the newest addition to the SCO family, expressing optimism about its active role in SCO-related activities.

In his remarks, Jam Kamal Khan urged businesses within the SCO region to diversify and capitalize on emerging opportunities, especially considering the global shift of economic activities towards Asia.

The two-day event is expected to bolster bilateral trade, encourage investment, and deepen economic ties among member states.

The Commerce Minister concluded his speech by thanking FPCCI for organizing the timely conference and expressed hope that it would lead to valuable partnerships and increased regional cooperation.

## SCO Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan on the occasion of 23rd Meeting of Trade Ministers of the SCO on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## S M Tanveer expresses disappointment over 2 percent cut in policy rate

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: S M Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief United Business Group (UBG), has expressed disappointment over the monetary policy, saying that the rate cut by 200 bps or 2 percent is too little, too late in the context of price data - domestically & internationally.

He said the core inflation is going to be around 7.0 percent for the month of September 2024 as per market estimates. On top of that, international oil prices have come down to a 3-year low at less than \$70 per barrel this week.

Tanveer said the business community was expecting that the SBP had all it takes to announce a substantive rate cut; but, it has still held on to regressive, counterpro-



ductive, and contractionary monetary policy practices.

He pointed out that the cost of doing business; ease of doing business and access to finance in Pakistan is at the lowest as compared to all its competitors in the export markets.

The only viable solution to get back on economic growth trajectory is to support industry and exports, he added.

## Trade & Industry disappointed with inadequate rate cut: President FPCCI

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan is disappointed with the monetary policy as it continues to be based on a heavy premium vis-à-vis core inflation. While we appreciate the rate cut by 200 bps or 2 percent, this is too little, too late in the context of price data - domestically & internationally, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh pointed out that core inflation clocked at 9.6 percent in Pakistan during August 2024 as per government's own available data



through Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Therefore, the real interest rate is still 790+ bps even after this rate cut as compared to the core inflation; which is anti-business and anti-growth; to say the least, he added.

Mr. S. M. Tanveer, patron-in-chief UBG, said that SBP should focus on core inflation rather than general inflation on an immediate basis as it excludes the most volatile and irrelevant components of the basket; i.e. food and energy. The government must ensure the effectiveness of price control measures through vigilant actions against hoarding, price gouging and malpractices.

## Direction of the economy is scarcely inspiring: Shahid Rasheed Butt

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Shahid Rasheed Butt, a former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said on Thursday that the government needs to move quickly to address structural issues that impede growth.

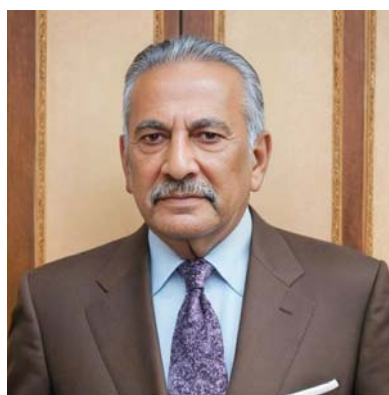
He stated that the government should properly handle issues such as unemployment, interest rates, power tariffs, public debt, and circular debt.

He continued that a further decline in living standards is possible due to persistent structural issues, as the economy is undergoing significant disorders.

Shahid Rasheed Butt stated in a statement made public here that while growth is encouraging, it is not adequate because per capita income growth is still declining, public debt is still rising, and rates of unemployment and poverty are too high.

He warned that the government must enact drastic reforms to solve long-standing issues and realise the economy's full potential; otherwise, we will continue to see low growth, massive debt, and declining living standards.

The business leader insisted that the administration must implement determined



structural and budgetary reforms without delay, in addition to sound monetary and financial policies.

Shahid Rasheed Butt stated that in order to permanently move the economy onto a higher and more inclusive growth path, the government must move quickly to execute the necessary reforms.

He underlined the need for structural changes to promote economic growth, job creation, prosperity, and the private sector's involvement.

He said that to increase investment and

jobs; the government must make a concerted effort to enhance the business environment and remove trade barriers. Reaping reform benefits requires strengthening governance and lowering corruption.

Debt should steadily decline instead of rising, while safeguarding the most vulnerable. He said it is to assist in adjustment and reduce fiscal risks, strengthen the procurement framework, enhance public investment management, and enhance the institutional fiscal framework.

He said SBP should only contemplate policy rate reductions if inflation steadily decreases. He added that to keep inflationary pressures under control, some policies will need to be tightened, and the flexible exchange rate is anticipated to serve as a shock absorber.

While a small group of people in the nation endure the most of the taxation and revenue collection, a sizable group of wealthy cats in other places are exempt from paying their fair share. This needs to change for Pakistan's future. Reducing public spending is also necessary, as it has steadily increased for a long time.

He said that Pakistan is facing significant internal and international issues, which raises serious concerns about the people in power.

## FFC Signs MOU with HBL to Boost Farmer Financing



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC), a key contributor to national growth, has partnered with Habib Bank Limited (HBL) to promote agricultural financing in Pakistan. The MOU was signed at FFC's Head Office on Monday, 9th September 2024.

This partnership aims to enhance credit accessibility for farmers and provide tailored financial solutions to meet their needs.

This initiative strengthens FFC's commitment to

fostering agricultural development and improving farmers' livelihoods across Pakistan. HBL's involvement highlights a shared vision of promoting sustainable agricultural growth by expanding financial access and boosting productivity.

Both companies expressed their enthusiasm for the collaboration, emphasizing its potential to make a positive impact on farming communities nationwide. They also reiterated their commitment to create an enabling environment for agricultural innovation and progress.

## Super Asia MDS to become ACCA Pakistan-Approved Employer

**News Desk**

LAHORE: Organized an important ceremony for Super Asia MDS Limited's Trainee Development program, focused on becoming an ACCA Pakistan-Approved Employer. Super Asia hosted the event at its Gujranwala head office, with leadership from both Super Asia and ACCA Pakistan attending. Notable attendees Muhammad Faisal Afzal, CEO of

Super Asia-Umar Ashraf, Director Super Asia, Muhammad Usman Qazi, Group CFO and Iqbal Cheema, CFO.

Representing from ACCA Pakistan Aamir Saleem, Head of Business Development and Mohammad Shahid, Business Development Manager.

This event marks a significant collaboration between Super Asia and ACCA, likely benefiting the professional development of future trainees.

## Powering growth: CCP approves Merger in Consumer Electronics Sector

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the merger between M/s. DWP Engineering Industries (Private) Limited and M/s. Digital World Pakistan (Private) Limited, as per the Scheme of Arrangement.

The CCP conducted a Phase I competition assessment, reviewing the business activities of both entities. DWP Engineering Industries is a private limited company incorporated in Pakistan, specializing in the manufacturing and sale of various interrelated consumer electronics and home appliances. Similarly, Digital World Pakistan is a private limited company engaged in the same line of business.

The CCP's assessment identified the relevant product market as "Consumer Electronics & Home Appliances," with the geographic market being Pakistan. Upon completion of the merger, DWP will be dissolved by Order of the High Court, and Digital World's market share is expected to increase slightly within the relevant market.

The CCP has determined that the proposed transaction will not result in Digital World attaining a dominant position, as defined under Section 2(1) (c) of the Competition Act.

As consumer demand for electronics and appliances continues to grow, this consolidation is expected to enhance operational efficiencies and expand product offerings. Post-transaction, Digital World's strengthened position is anticipated to foster increased competition, spurring innovation and potentially leading to improved pricing and product quality for consumers.

Furthermore, the merger aligns with Pakistan's broader economic goals by attracting investment in the manufacturing sector, boosting local production, and supporting job creation, thus contributing to economic growth in a key industry.

# Pakistan v South Africa women's T-20 Series

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan and South Africa women's cricket teams are set to feature in a three-match T20I series from 16 to 20 September at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The first and second T20I on 16 and 18 September, respectively, will start at 7pm while the third T20I on 20 September will begin at 10am.

Following the T20I series, both teams will head to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in the UAE. South Africa will fly from Lahore to Dubai on 21 September whereas Pakistan will depart for the UAE from Lahore on 23 September.

Below is important information for media covering or attending the training sessions and the T20I series:

Team media manager  
Lita Gqirana is the South Africa women's cricket team media manager

Schedule of training, media opportunities and T20Is:

13 September—South Africa women's team will arrive in Lahore early morning. They will travel to Multan from Lahore on a chartered flight. The PCB will provide arrival footage to the media in WhatsApp groups. Pakistan women's team will train at the Inzamam-ul-Haq Cricket Academy from 3:30pm. This will be a vision only opportunity and no media interviews are planned. For further information, please contact the team media manager.



14 September – Pakistan and South Africa are scheduled to train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 2.00pm. Before training, a Pakistan women's cricketer will be available for brief stand-up interviews.

15 September—Both teams will train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 6pm. Beforehand, opposite captains Laura Wolvaardt of South Africa and Pakistan's Fatima Sana will hold pre-series media conference at the press conference

hall and also participate in the pre-series photoshoot with the trophy.

16 September – The first T20I will begin at 7pm with the toss taking place at 6:30pm. At the conclusion of the match, the PCB will provide brief interview of the star performer of the match.

17 September—Both teams will rest and have no media commitments planned.

18 September—The second T20I will begin at 7pm with the toss taking place at 6:30pm. At the conclusion of the match,

the PCB will provide brief interview of the star performer of the match.

19 September – Both sides are scheduled for an optional training session. An update regarding the training session will be shared in due course.

20 September – The third T20I will begin at 10am with the toss taking place at 9:30am. At the conclusion of the match, star performers from both sides will hold post-series media conferences.

## Day One of Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Day one of the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup started in Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi arrived at Iqbal Stadium to witness the opening match between UMT Markhori and Lake City Panthers.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including Chief Secretary Punjab and PCB Board of Governors member Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Inspector General of Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar, Commissioner Faisalabad, RPO, CPO, Deputy Commissioner, and other PCB Board of Governors



members, who were all present to watch the inaugural match of the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup.

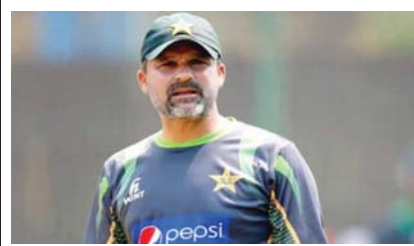
Chief Operating Officer of PCB, selectors Mohammad

Yousuf and Asad Shafiq, along with former cricketers and other officials, also attended the opening match. The spectators at Iqbal Stadium displayed tremendous enthusiasm.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi expressed his gratitude to those who came to the stadium to watch the match, stating, "It is heartening to see a large number of cricket fans at Iqbal Stadium. The people of Faisalabad have proven their deep love for the game of cricket."

He extended his best wishes to all the teams and players participating in the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup, expressing hope that new talent will emerge from this tournament. He emphasized that the Champions Cup tournaments will play a crucial role in establishing a solid foundation for domestic cricket in Pakistan.

## Moin Khan asks Indian legends to ensure Indian team's participation in ICC Champions Trophy



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani wicketkeeper Moin Khan has called on Indian cricket legends to persuade the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), to ensure their team's participation, in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, to be hosted in Pakistan.

"In my view, Indian cricket legends should advise the BCCI to keep sports separate from politics. Fans worldwide want India and Pakistan to play, benefiting not just Pakistan but the sport as a whole. India must honor ICC commitments, and if they don't, Pakistan should also consider taking a stand by not participating in future tournaments in India," cricketpakisthan.com.pk quoted Moin as saying.

Speaking about team's captaincy, he said, "A single captain can be appointed for all formats of cricket, but it's crucial for any player to perform across all formats to achieve this. Whoever becomes captain should have the responsibility for a long term," he added.

On Pakistan's performance in the recent World Cup, Moin said Pakistan's early exit was a result of substandard performances.

"In the World Cup, Pakistan's performance was so subpar that we were knocked out in the first round. Even a team like the USA, playing its first World Cup, defeated us. We couldn't chase a modest target against India," he said.

Moin stressed the significance of mental strength in such situations, particularly when facing long-standing rivals like India.

"There's always added pressure in a match against our arch-rivals, and after losing, you need to make a strong comeback," Moin said.

The former captain also pointed out that the only way for Babar Azam to counter criticism is through his performance. "The ground is the only place where you can show your worth by playing well. Babar needs to become mentally strong and take the criticism positively," he said.

## Cricket Lovers

FAISALABAD: A large number of cricket fans are present at the stadium taking advantage of the free entry, during the opening match of the Bahria Town Champions Cup tournament at Iqbal Stadium.



Photo: Online

## UAJK concludes inter universities sports championship

Sports Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) successfully concluded the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Inter-University Badminton (Boys) and Cricket (Girls) Championships with a grand closing ceremony held at the Chella Campus on Wednesday.

The Vice-Chancellor of UAJK, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, was the chief guest at the event.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi congratulated the winning teams and commended the runners-up for

their outstanding performances. He emphasized that sports are a vital means of connecting the youth from different regions on a single platform, promoting unity, teamwork, and healthy competition.

"I am also a volleyball player and a strong advocate for the promotion of sports," said Prof. Abbasi, adding, "Sports ignite a passion for winning and help us build resilience to gracefully accept defeat."

He further expressed his appreciation to all the participating universities and their officials for their enthusiastic participation and support throughout the championship.

Director of Sports from

the University of Poonch Rawalakot, Muhammad Younis also addressed the gathering, expressing gratitude on behalf of all the participating universities for the excellent arrangements made by UAJK. He lauded the university's efforts in creating a welcoming environment that ensured a smooth and successful championship.

UAJK's Director of Sports, Nighat Naz Gillani, also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the significance of such events in fostering sportsmanship and unity among young athletes.

In the Badminton (Boys) Championship, the University of Poonch Rawalakot emerged as the champion, while the Univer-

sity of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) secured the runner-up position, and the Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) achieved third place.

In the Cricket (Girls) Championship, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) stood as the champion, with the University of Poonch Rawalakot as the runner-up, and Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) took third place. Following the announcement of the results, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, along with UAJK dignitaries and directors of the participating universities, awarded trophies, certificates, and mementos to the winners and runners-up, recog-



nizing their dedication, hard work, and sportsmanship.

The championship was marked by intense competition

## Pakistan, Malaysia, India earn victories in Asian Champions Trophy



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Malaysia and India claimed significant victories on day four of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2024 at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir, China.

According to details, the stakes were high, with teams pushing for semifinal spots, and the action on the field did not disappoint.

Pakistan continued their unbeaten run with a convincing 5-1 win against China, moving up to second place in the standings. Ahmad Nadeem (36', 56') and Hannan Shahid (46', 60') led Pakistan's charge, each scoring twice. Pakistan weathered an early surge from the hosts, who created several scoring opportunities but failed to capitalize.

Rehman Abdul (29') opened the scoring for Pakistan, and Nadeem and Shahid's clinical finishing sealed a comprehensive victory. Despite a late goal from China's Jiesheng Gao (48'), Pakistan's defense remained unshaken. Hero of the Match, Hannan Shahid, praised his teammates: "It's a collective effort. We are learning with each match, and today, we showed discipline by conceding fewer cards."

Malaysia's determination was evident as they secured a hard-fought 5-4 win over Japan, climbing to fourth in the points table. With goals from Syed Cholhan (12', 40'), Norsyafiq Sumantri (21'), Syarman Mat (47'), and Kamal Abu Azrai (48'), Malaysia held off a resilient Japanese side. Hero of the Match, Aiman Rozemi, expressed the team's resolve: "After our 1-8 loss to India, we knew we had to come together as a unit. I'm proud of our fight today."

Japan, fresh off a Sultan Azlan Shah Cup victory, responded with a valiant effort, including goals from Ken Nagayoshi (24', 28') and Kazumasa Matsumoto (51'). Despite Japan's late push, Malaysia's defense held firm to secure the win.

Defending champions India extended their unbeaten run with a solid 3-1 victory over Korea, courtesy of goals from Arajiet Singh Hundal (8') and skipper Harmanpreet Singh (9', 43'), who surpassed 200 international goals during the match. The win cemented India's place at the top of the points table, keeping their momentum heading into the semifinals.

"Korea is a strong team, but our mantra today was to defend well," said India's Hero of the Match, Suraj Karkera, whose goalkeeping was pivotal in securing the win. Korea fought back with a goal by Jihun Yang (30') but couldn't break down India's disciplined defense. Harmanpreet's powerful drag flick in the third quarter gave India a commanding lead, while Korea struggled to find the net despite several attempts.

With one day remaining in the league stage, India leads the table, followed by Pakistan, Korea, and Malaysia. The race for semifinal spots heats up as teams prepare for their final pool-stage matches, promising more electrifying action in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy.

## Punjab Sports Dept to extend full support to PBCC for T20 Blind World Cup



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Sports Department will extend full support to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) for organizing T20 Blind World Cup 2024 in a befitting manner. According to details, Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said in a meeting with Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, who called on him at the Punjab Stadium on Thursday.

A total of seven teams, including host Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Nepal and Afghanistan will participate in the grand event.

The opening ceremony of the Blind World Cup will be held in Lahore while 24 matches of the mega event will be played at Lahore, Multan and Faisalabad from November 21 to December 3, 2024.

The Secretary Sports said that the organization of Blind World Cup in Pakistan promote the soft image of the country in the world.

"Definitely, it is a great honour that Pakistan is organizing T20 Blind World Cup for the first time," he said.

Meanwhile, Sultan Shah, said that the blind cricket will attain great boost in the country through successful organization of T20 Blind World Cup.

various universities, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect.

The participating universities included Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), the University of Management Sciences Kotli, the University of Poonch Rawalakot, and UAJK.

UAJK remains committed to promoting sports and extracurricular activities that contribute to the holistic development of its students and the youth of the region. The university looks forward to hosting more such events in the future to nurture talent, encourage healthy competition, and build stronger ties among academic institutions.

## Diplomat credentials

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Sweden, Alexandra Berg Von Linde, and the Ambassador-designate of Belgium, Charles-Idesbald Van Der Gracht De Rommerswael presiding Diplomat credentials to President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# President for further expanding trade ties with Sweden, Belgium

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday stressed the need to further enhancing the bilateral trade and economic ties with Sweden and Belgium.

He was talking to the envoys of Sweden and Belgium who presented their diplomatic credentials during a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The president received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Sweden, Alexandra Berg Von Linde, and the Ambassador-designate of Belgium, Charles-Idesbald Van Der Gracht De Rommerswael, who also held separate meetings with him.

President Zardari felicitated the two envoys on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving

mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan.

President for further expanding trade ties with Sweden, Belgium

The Ambassador-designate of Belgium, Mr. Charles-Idesbald Van Der Gracht De Rommerswael, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on 12-09-2024.

Talking to Ambassador

Charles-Idesbald Van Der Gracht De Rommerswael, the president highlighted that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Belgium.

He said that Belgium was an important trading partner and Pakistan wanted to further enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation with the country.

During the meeting with Ambassador Alexandra Berg Von Linde, President Zardari

said that Pakistan and Sweden enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations based on mutual respect and understanding. He underlined the need to further strengthen the bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Earlier upon their arrival at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the envoys were presented the guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

## Finance Minister chairs meeting of Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs)



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division today.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Petroleum Mr. Awais Ahmed Leghari, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Additional Attorney General for Pakistan, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from relevant ministries and departments.

The Ministry of Communications also proposed the categorization of the Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD) as a strategic and essential State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) under Paragraph 9 of the SOEs (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023. The proposal was reviewed in the light of the justifications presented by Ministry of Communications, and was approved by the CCoSOEs.

The Ministry of Defence Produc-

tion submitted a proposal regarding the strategic categorization of Defence Production Establishments, including entities like Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT), Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC), Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW), National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC), and Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP).

The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) presented a proposal for the reconstitution of the Boards of Directors of the Central Power Purchasing Agency Guarantee Ltd (CPA-G), Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC), and Power Information Technology Company (PITC). The proposal included the nomination of Independent Directors, Ex-Officio Directors, and the Chairman for each of these Boards. After consideration, the CCoSOEs approved the nominations, thereby reconstituting the Boards of CPA-G, PPMC, and PITC.

The meeting concluded with the Committee emphasizing the importance of strategic oversight and effective governance of State-Owned Enterprises to ensure their contribution to national development objectives.

## Warns against the consequences of extremist Jewish organizations committing a major crime against Al-Aqsa: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates warns against what is being circulated in the name of the "Temple Mount Activists Organization" on social media networks regarding the bombing of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in preparation for building the alleged temple in the place, under the slogan "Soon in these days", noting that this is not the first time that the so-called "Temple Mount Organizations" Union has incited against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, as the image of the alleged temple in place of the Dome of the Rock is constantly promoted.

The Ministry views this ongoing incitement with great concern, especially since it is accompanied by the escalation in the storming of the mosque by Jewish extremists and the performance

of Talmudic prayers and religious rituals in its courtyards in an unprecedented manner, especially epic prostration, blowing the trumpet, various forms of dancing, raising the Israeli flag, and others, which the Ministry considers a noticeable escalation in targeting Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities in general and Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, in light of the participation of ministers and members of the Knesset in these stormings, most notably the extremist Minister Ben Gvir, which means official political protection and support for these Judaization colonial measures that target the mosque to consecrate its temporal division on the path to dividing it spatially, if not demolishing it completely and building the alleged temple in its place.

The Ministry also warns against the consequences of extremist settlement organizations and associations attacking

Al-Aqsa, especially the repercussions of this aggression in exploding the arena of conflict and the entire region.

The Ministry continues to coordinate its efforts to confront the targeting of Al-Aqsa, the holy sites and Jerusalem with our brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to amplify global condemnations of this targeting and demand urgent action to mobilize the broadest international pressure front to stop this targeting, and provide international protection for our people in general and for Jerusalem, its holy sites and Al-Aqsa in particular.

The Ministry affirms that the failure of the international community to assume its legal and moral responsibilities towards what our people and Al-Aqsa are exposed to encourages the extremist Israeli government to escalate its aggression, crimes and targeting of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

## Canadian High Commissioner meets Amir Muqam



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Leslie Scanlon Thursday met with Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Engr Amir Muqam and discussed mutual interest issues including bilateral ties here at the ministry.

Secretary SAFRON Zafar Hasan and Joint Secretary Agha Waseem Ahmed also attended the meeting, said a press release.

The minister and the High Commissioner discussed number of matters relating to refugees including management, repatriation and common matters during the meeting.

Amir Muqam said that Pakistan's already ailing economy was immensely burdened due to hosting three million Afghan refugees and added Pakistan wanted dignified repatriation of Afghan refugees.

He said that Pakistan deeply values Canada's interest in resettlement of Afghan refugees. Pakistan was in dire need of financial assistance to maintain documented Afghan refugees in the country, he added.

## Pakistan, Russia to sign agreement for enhancing agricultural, industrial cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia are set to sign a memorandum of understanding to promote agricultural cooperation aimed at developing the local agriculture sector and enhancing the productivity of agricultural products.

Russia will also provide technical assistance for modernizing fertilizer manufacturing plants in Pakistan to boost the output of fertilizers and meet local agricultural input requirements.

This consensus was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khuriev, said a press release.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interests, with focus on enhancing cooperation in the industrial and agricultural sectors, as well as promoting trade and investment relations between the two countries

came under discussion.

Rana Tanveer emphasized Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations with Russia, particularly in trade and investment.

He assured that Pakistan would offer all possible support to Russian investors to advance bilateral trade and investment ties.

The minister highlighted that modern agricultural machinery and other inputs were essential for increasing agricultural productivity. He noted that bilateral cooperation in agriculture would facilitate technology transfer, enhancing the productivity of both major and minor crops as well as livestock output.

Ambassador Khuriev invited agricultural experts from Pakistan to visit Russia and share their knowledge with Russian agri-scientists and experts, with the aim of improving per-acre crop output in their country.

## SVA Ruba Plastic Injection Molding Company Pvt. Limited

### Leading Innovation in Plastic Pallets Since 2002, Tahir Zeb Khan, General Manager, Ruba Group of Companies



Tahir Zeb Khan, GM Ruba Group of Companies said that SVA Ruba Plastic Injection Molding Company Pvt. Limited, a key player in the plastics industry and was established in 2002 and continues to provide dynamic services in the manufacturing of high-quality plastic pallets. One of its standout products includes plastic pallets with five steel rods made from co-polymer materials, designed for durability and strength.

In a recent interview, Mr. Tahir Zeb Khan, shared insights into the company's long standing legacy and contributions to the plastic injection molding industry. With a background in electronics engineering and over 22 years of experience within the group, Mr. Khan has been a driving force behind the company's continued success.

"Our company manufactures a wide range of injection-molded products including TVs, refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, air coolers, plastic buckets, plastic pallets, auto parts, and agricultural and poultry-related products," said Mr. Khan. "We source some of our machinery from China, ensuring our production



remains at the cutting edge of technology. Our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility is located on Raiwind Road, Lahore."

Mr. Khan emphasized the durability and reliability of SVA Ruba's plastic pallets, stating, "We provide a 5-year warranty on our plastic pallets, demonstrating our commitment to quality. Our pallets are used in major retailers like Intiaz Store, Carrefour, and Metro. Each product undergoes stringent testing in our lab before being distributed to the market, ensuring they meet the highest standards."

Highlighting the company's flagship product, the SVA Ruba Plastic Pallet 1000x1200x150 P4, Mr. Khan described it as "ideal for food storage and cold storage applications." He added, "The robust design supports maximum stacking loads, and the pallets are both durable and washable, ensuring hygiene standards are maintained for perishable goods in

demanding environments." "Our range includes products such as the 1212 plastic pallet with five steel rods in co-polymer material, the Four-Way 1509 in co-polymer, the lightweight 1150x1150 plastic pallet, and many more. Each is meticulously designed for reliability, especially in export scenarios where durability and strength are paramount," said Mr. Khan.

Concluding the interview, Mr. Khan expressed his optimism for Pakistan's business environment despite current challenges. "Pakistan is a beautiful country, and we love it dearly. While there are significant crises affecting businesses right now, we are committed to overcoming these obstacles. We must work hard, make sacrifices, and rise again to ensure the continued success of our industry."

Contact Information:  
SVA Ruba Plastic Injection Molding Company Pvt. Limited