



**Shaza Khawaja reaffirms govt commitment to elevate cutting edge space technologies**

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment towards leveraging cutting-edge space technologies for national growth. She was addressing the 'PAKSAT-MM1 Satellite Application Conference' held here to celebrate the operationalization of the PAKSAT-MM1 satellite.



**After pagers, Hezbollah's walkie talkies explode in Lebanon, 3 killed**

A series of explosions targeting walkie talkies and other devices rocked Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon on Wednesday, killing at least three people and injuring 15 others. This incident follows a previous attack attributed to Israel, which left more than 2,800 people injured and claimed 12 lives due to exploding pagers. Hezbollah confirmed that the recent blasts specifically targeted devices used by the group.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Called on**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of migrants from the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, led by Mr Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.

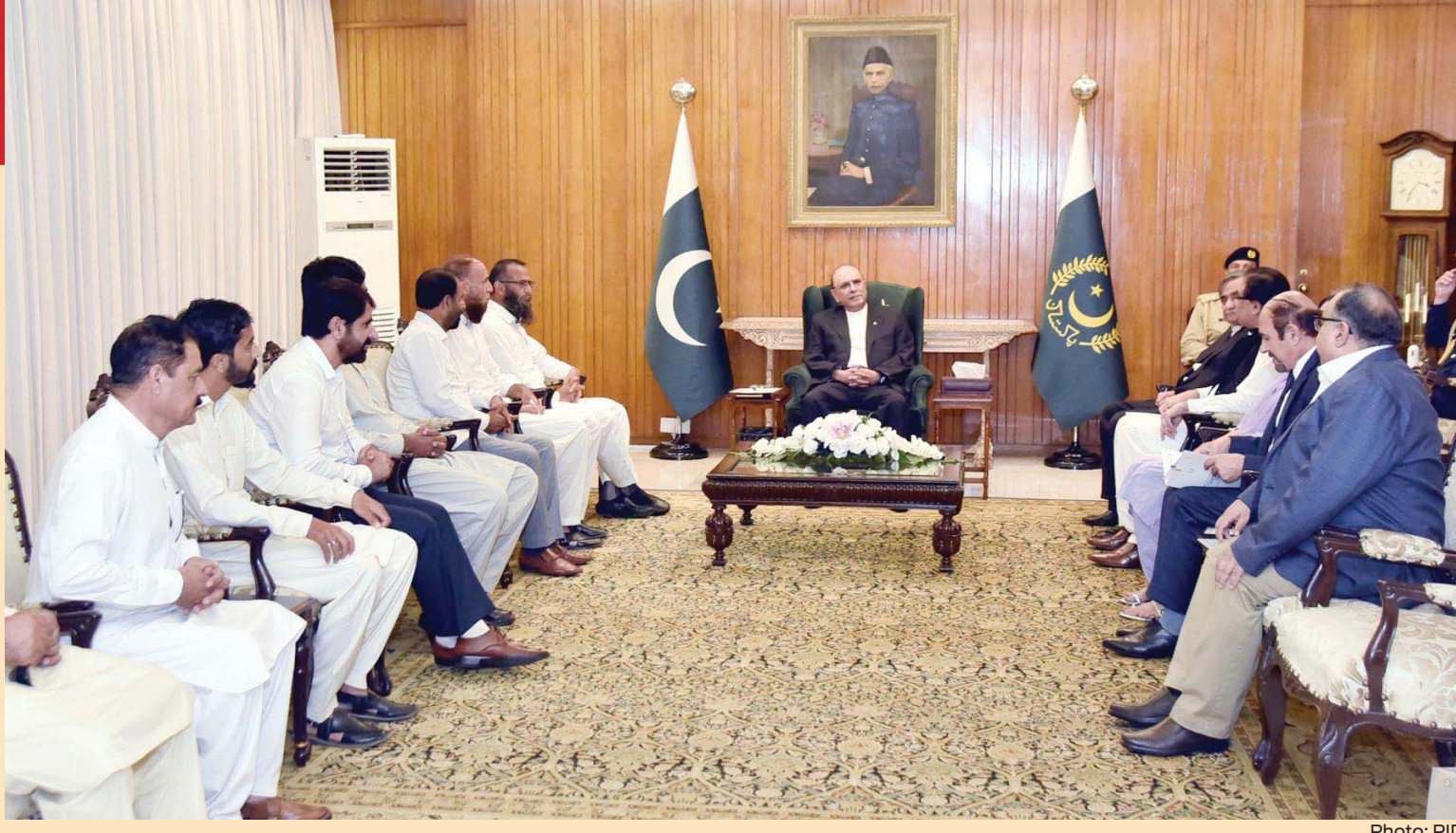


Photo: PID

**Russia's top diplomat calls on Pakistan chief of Army Staff on security and defence ties**



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Alexey Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, paid a courtesy call on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters. During their meeting, they engaged in productive discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and bilateral cooperation across various sectors. The COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering traditional defence ties with Russia. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen security and defence cooperation in multiple domains. The visiting dignitary praised the Pakistan Armed Forces' pivotal role in combating terrorism and their tireless efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Alexey Overchuk, will lead a high-level delegation to Pakistan on 18-19 September 2024. Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk will hold meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Pakistan and Russia enjoy cordial relations based on goodwill, amity and trust, which is reflected in the multi-faceted bilateral cooperation including in trade, energy and connectivity.

**President rejects IIOJK Legislative Assembly polls**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday categorically rejected the elections for the Legislative Assembly of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), asserting that the polls were no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. President Zardari, talking to a delegation of migrants from the IIOJK residing in Pakistan since 1989 led by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, emphasised that such elections

were unacceptable to the people of Kashmir and called upon the international community to hold the Modi government accountable for ongoing human rights violations in the occupied territory. He further urged the need to take concrete steps toward conducting a plebiscite in line with relevant the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Welcoming the delegation, the president condemned the Legislative Assembly elections in the IIOJK, terming them part of India's broader strategy to consolidate its illegal occupation of the region. He highlighted that such measures could neither legitimize India's occupation nor suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. He stated that India was trying to alter the demographic structure of the IIOJK by turning the Kashmiri Muslims into a minority and transforming them into a disempowered community in their own land. President Zardari said that Pakistan greatly valued the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri

people for their rights and would continue to stand in solidarity with them. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination. The delegation apprised the president about the atrocities being committed by the Modi regime in the IIOJK. It was highlighted that the entire Kashmiri leadership had been imprisoned to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people. He further assured that

Pakistan's social safety net would be extended to include 8,000 migrant families under the Benazir Income Support Programme. The delegation thanked the president for Pakistan's continued moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people. They also commended the efforts and role of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who strongly advocated the cause of the people of IIOJK at various fora during his tenure as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

**Imran Khan skeptical of Fazl's role in constitutional amendments**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed skepticism about Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Maulana Fazl ur Rehman's role in constitutional amendments. Speaking to the media from Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, Khan stated he could not comment on what role Rehman would play in supporting these amendments,

which he believes are aimed at extending the tenures of three key 'umpires'. Khan highlighted that the constitutional amendment is necessary because the government, despite having the support of four "umpires," still lost. The judges involved in this extension include the Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, and the Chief Election Commissioner. He accused the government of



seeking to protect fraudulent elections through these amendments. Khan remarked that the government is determined to pass the amendment as they have the numbers. He emphasized that all political forces must unite for democracy, and if Rehman stands for democracy, that's a positive development. Khan also expressed concern that if Chief Justice Isa were removed, investigations into the

events of May 9 and the fraudulent elections would be reopened. He alleged that attempts were made to dismantle his party on May 9 and that efforts to delay the elections were unconstitutional and intended to crush PTI. He mentioned that he had faced 140 cases before May 9 and had survived two assassination attempts, asserting that his party was not collapsing, which led to the crackdown on that date.

**Maulana 'firmly rejects' proposed constitutional amendment**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The government has suffered a major setback as Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), has firmly rejected the proposed constitutional amendments and laid out his party's stance on the issue. On Wednesday, Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited the residence of PTI leader Asad Qaiser for a luncheon meeting, invited by Qaiser. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress on the constitutional amendment process. Following the meeting, Asad Qaiser stated that Maulana Fazlur Rehman had completely rejected the draft amendments. The luncheon was hosted by Asad Qaiser in honor of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Former President Arif Alvi, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, and other PTI leaders were also present. Responding to a journal-



ist's question, Maulana Fazlur Rehman stated that he had attended the luncheon because Asad Qaiser had "fed him well." Sources indicate that the luncheon meeting discussed the progress on the constitutional amendment process. The meeting also saw a discussion on the political situation, including the potential for unity between the two parties. The PTI legal team also visited Asad Qaiser's residence and briefed participants on the meeting with the PTI founder. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said he had rejected the draft constitutional amendments outright. He added that both parties have agreed to move forward with all matters through consultation.

**Tarar says constitutional amendment draft 'not final'**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar has stated that the constitutional amendment package currently circulating is provisional and not finalized until it receives cabinet approval. Addressing a meeting of lawyers' representative organizations, Tarar expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court Bar Association for providing the opportunity. He explained that discussions on legislation took place with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in late February. He was part of the negotiating team and the PPP



had raised the demand for judicial reforms, which are also part of the government's manifesto. The PPP requested to work on the

incomplete agenda of the Charter of Democracy. Tarar highlighted that legislation goes through various stages, with lawyers being well-versed in the process. He emphasized that the current package is temporary and the draft is not finalized until cabinet approval. Subsequently, the bill is presented to parliament and may be referred to a committee. This being a constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds majority for approval. Tarar confirmed that the amendments incorporate the Charter of Democracy, recommendations from bar councils, and demands from political parties.

**Proposed amendment draws govt, opposition and lawyers closer**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The government's plans to introduce the 26th amendment to the constitution of Pakistan have drawn it closer to the opposition, especially the PTI, and lawyers bodies. PTI and Maulana Fazlur Rehman's JUI are also experiencing unprecedented bonhomie among themselves. Ruling PMLN's leader Rana Sanaullah approached PTI leaders on Wednesday after first contact was made two days ago at a dinner hosted by NA Speaker

Ayaz Sadiq for PTI MNAs who were arrested from the parliament. Sources in the party revealed that Sanaullah has told Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar to share the draft of the proposed amendment with the PTI leaders. Meanwhile, Ali Mohammad Khan of the PTI in a press talk on Wednesday said that they first want Imran Khan to be released from jail before any amendment could be passed. The government has also decided to hold talks with lawyer

bodies and the law minister will be meeting representatives of bar association on Thursday. Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday attended a luncheon at the residence of PTI's Asad Qaiser in Islamabad in what could be seen a reciprocal move. However, Imran Khan is not ready to blindly trust the Maulana. During a court hearing inside Adiala Jail on Wednesday, when journalists asked how he views the role played by Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Khan said "I cannot say anything."



# AJK PM Haq lands in Azad Kashmir to address people at Azad Patan Bridge

**Bureau Report**

**PALANDRI/SUDHNOTI:** Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq arrived on a day-long visit here today.

At Azad Patan Bridge, the PM Haq was given a rousing welcome by Sardar Muhammad Hussain Khan Advocate, Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani, Special Assistant Nabila Ayub and a large number of people who gathered there to receive the premier. Speaking briefly at Azad Pattan, the PM thanked the people of the area for their warm welcome.

Later, on his arrival at Palandri, a smartly turned out contingent of AJK police presented a salute to the prime minister.

The Prime Minister was accom-



panied by Government Ministers including Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Mian Abdul Waheed, Zafar Iqbal Malik, Chaudhry

Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Sardar Amir Altaf, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, Nisar Nasr

Abdali and others. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq planted a sapling at the PWD Rest House.

## In AJK celebrates Eid Milad-ul-Nabi with grand rally



**Bureau Report**

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Like the rest of the country, in Azad Kashmir, on the occasion of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi, celebrations, rallies and processions were organized in all district and tehsil headquarters including the capital Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, the biggest procession was taken out in the capital Muzaffarabad. The largest procession of Milad-ul-Nabi was organized by the Central Seerat Committee headed by its President Attique Ahmed Kayani and Mr Secretary General Khuram Shezad. The gathering of Milad-ul-Nabi was held in Jamia Masjid Sultani, organized by the Central Seerat Committee. Addressing the ceremony speakers advised the Muslim Ummah to follow the rules of Rasulullah sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam and said that the Ummah can successfully face the difficulties it is facing only through consensus and unity. A grand rally was organized after the meeting. In this grand rally, President Sirat Committee Attique Kayani, Khuram Shahzad, Mian Rafiq Jhagui, Mian Muhammad Attique Jhagui, Sahibzada Badrul Islam Gilani, Mayor Municipal Corporation Sikandar Nisar Gilani, Sahibzada Kokab Saleem Chishti, Shaikat Nawaz Mir, Shaikat Javed Mir, Syed Naveed. Shah, Anjam Zaman Awan, Asif Mustafai, Shaikh Geelani, Qazi Sohail Ahmad, Nazir Ahmad Makno, Nazir Ahmad Sheikh and others participated.

## Attock Police arrested three gangs

**Raza Naqvi**

**ATTOCK:** The elements who attack the lives and property of the citizens cannot escape from the punishment of the law, Attock Police will spare no minute to protect the life and property of the people by using modern scientific technology, DPO Attock. Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan According to the details, Attock Police's major operation in which 3 different inter-provincial gangs snatching cash, vehicles, motorcycles and mobile phones from citizens at the point of arms, in which police station Hazro, Sadar Hasan Abdal and police station Fateh Jang, totaled 11 robberies. The members were arrested, from whom a total value of RS 70 lakhs was recovered during the interrogation, Cases were registered against him. On this occasion, District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan said that the elements who attack the lives and property of the citizens cannot avoid the punishment of the law. No minute will be spared to protect property.

## 'Barmar elections in Jammu and Kashmir' are 'fraud': Chaudhry Latif Akbar

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Speaker Legislative AJK Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar termed the conduct of fraudulent elections in the first phase of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as a clear violation of the Charter of Demand and the approved resolutions of the Security Council and demanded plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that thousands of innocent citizens, including men and women leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, were left behind, atrocities of nine lakh paramilitary forces, black laws, state terrorism, human rights violations. One and a half million Kashmiri people are not ready to accept the drama of elections in Barmar as a substitute for the right to self-determination. The chief minister expressed these views while talking to the media after meeting with the party officials, workers and public delegations in his chamber yesterday. In response to a question, he said that Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, taking into account the large-scale operations against Indian terrorism and Kashmir's freedom movement, is the issue which is the biggest nuclear flashpoint of the present time. Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that India is an aggressor and Pakistan is a peace-loving country. They will raise their voice on every front and will not spare a single moment in fulfilling their responsibilities.

## Pakistan's first 3-day 'Sirat Festival' to take place from 20th

**ISLAMABAD, SEP 18 (APP):** For the first time in Pakistan's history, the three-day 'Sirat Festival' will take place from September 20 to 22 in Islamabad, themed 'Searching for World Peace: In the Light of the Prophet's Teachings.'

The festival, will be organized by the National Rahmatul-lil-Aameen Wa Khatam an-Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA), will feature over sixty research papers presented by scholars from both Pakistan and abroad. Special sessions dedicated to children, women, and minorities will also be included in the festival agenda.

At a joint press conference held in Islamabad on Wednesday, Khurshid Nadeem, Chairman of the National Rahmatul Lil Aameen Wa Khatam-ul-Nabiyyin Authority, along with Federal Education Secretary Muhyuddin Ahmad Wani, announced that the festival will transform the atmosphere of the capital during Rabi-ul-Awwal. The event will be held at the National Skills University in I-8 Islamabad.

## Enjoyment

**ISLAMABAD:** Citizens enjoying parasailing and jet boating at at Khanpur Lake on holiday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Journalists, social media activists exposure visit to Gomal Zam Dam

**Adam Khan Wazir**

**SOUTH WAZIRISTAN:** The Mehsud Press Club in collaboration with Gomal Scouts arranged a trip on Tuesday, for over 70 journalists and social media activists to Gomal Zam Dam. The purpose of the visit was to inform participants about the significance, benefits, and positive impacts of the dam on the region.

During the visit, Nauman Khan, the Resident Engineer of WAPDA gave a detailed briefing on the dam's construc-



tion, agricultural benefits, electricity generation, and improvements in the groundwater level. Representatives from the offi-

cial of the agriculture department and other relevant departments also provided valuable information to the visiting dele-

gation of media persons.

The participants lauded the initiative, saying the visit enhanced their understanding

of the importance of Gomal Zam Dam.

One social media activist remarked, "Even though we live here, we were not fully aware of the dam's significance, and today's visit has greatly increased our knowledge."

The president of the Mehsud Press Club highlighted the importance of projects like Gomal Zam Dam in the development of South Waziristan and expressed gratitude to the Gomal Scouts Commandant and other institutions for their cooperation in facilitating the visit.

# Eid Milad-un-Nabi observed in Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

**ATTOCK:** A central event in celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) was held at the District Council Hall in Attock, where the chief guest was Member of the National Assembly, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed.

The event was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed, officials, members of the Seerat Committee, and a large number of the public. Speakers at the event highlighted the significance of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal for the Muslim Ummah, as it marks the birth of the Prophet of Islam (Peace Be Upon Him), who is the perfect human, a guide for all mankind, and the reason for the creation of the universe.

The month of Rabi-ul-Awwal holds key importance for the Muslim Ummah as it was in this blessed month that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to bring light to a world engulfed in darkness. The Prophet (PBUH) came as a role model for the entire world, achieving unparalleled excellence in every field, unmatched by anyone before or after. Eid Milad-

un-Nabi is a celebration observed by Muslims globally, commemorating the birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It falls in the Islamic month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the third month of the Islamic calendar. Though events celebrating the Prophet's life and Naat gatherings continue throughout the year, Eid Milad-un-Nabi is celebrated with deep religious reverence and respect, particularly in this month. From the first of Rabi-ul-Awwal, mosques and other venues begin to host gatherings where scholars highlight various aspects of the Prophet's (PBUH) blessed life, and poets and Naat reciters express their devotion through praises and salutations.

On the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, a public holiday is observed in all Islamic countries. Additionally, Muslims in non-Islamic countries like the U. S., U. K., Canada, Korea, Japan, and others also organize Milad and Naat gatherings. Referring to the Holy Qur'an, the Almighty has commanded, "Remind them of Allah's days." According to the eminent commentator of the Qur'an, Abdullah Ibn Abbas (RA), the days of Allah refer to those days when Allah's blessings were bestowed. Among these

days, the most significant are the days of the Prophet's (PBUH) birth and ascension.

Remembering these days is in accordance with this divine instruction. Hazrat Amina (RA) narrated that when the Prophet (PBUH) was born, a light emerged that illuminated the entire world from east to west. Muslims, in their joy over the birth of the Prophet (PBUH), decorate their homes and mosques, while Allah illuminates the entire universe, bringing the stars closer to Earth as chandeliers and lanterns.

Hazrat Uthman ibn Abi al-As' (RA) mother said that when the Prophet (PBUH) was born, the Kaaba was filled with light, and the stars descended so close that it felt as though they would fall upon her. The celebration of Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) is an expression of happiness and joy in honor of the birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Even a disbeliever like Abu Lahab benefited from rejoicing over the Prophet's (PBUH) birth. If Abu Lahab, a disbeliever, receives some respite in punishment every Monday for celebrating the Prophet's (PBUH) birth, what then can be said about a believer who spends their life rejoicing in the



Prophet's (PBUH) birth?

The Prophet (PBUH) himself honored his birthday by fasting on Mondays in gratitude for his existence in this world. Celebrating the Prophet's

(PBUH) birth was in line with Allah's command, as the entire creation benefits from the blessed existence of the Prophet (PBUH). The celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) encour-

ages Muslims to engage in important acts of devotion like sending blessings upon the Prophet (PBUH), fostering a heartfelt atmosphere of love and reverence.



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30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:30 am
Zohr	12:02 pm
Asr	4:25 pm
Maghrib	6:10 pm
Isha	7:33 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224

**Asma Butt recalls Altaf Hussain as 'pioneer of Pakistani film industry'**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The renowned author, director and dolphin communications chairperson Asma Butt expressed deep grief over the passing of renowned director Altaf Hussain and said that today the film industry will lose an experienced director whose services should be remembered for the rest of the world. Will

Asma Butt said in a condolence statement on the death of senior director of Pakistan film industry Altaf Hussain that Altaf Hussain was a big name in the film industry. The experienced personalities that lead us are losing the film industry. Ask for their forgiveness. They were their own example, no one else could replace them. In his time he gave famous films to the film fans. These include super-hit films like Sahib ji, Qudrat, Loriyan, Rustam and Khan, Rani Beti Raj Karey Ge, and Mehndi. During his time, the film industry made great progress. Just as these famous personalities from the film industry are leaning, the performance of the film industry is also being affected. Artists will remember their name to the rest of the world.

**Pakistan and Turkmenistan discuss strengthening bilateral trade relations**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Turkmenistan, H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the enhancement of bilateral trade and explore avenues for increased cooperation between the two nations.

The meeting, held at the Commerce Minister's office, focused on finalizing key agreements and exploring new sectors for future collaboration.

Minister Jam Kamal emphasized the need for robust business-to-business (B2B) engagement to boost trade volumes between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

He highlighted the untapped potential in various sectors including energy, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and construction materials. Despite longstanding brotherly ties, trade between the two countries remains meagre, and steps are very essential to increase it.

A key focus of the conversation remained the expedited finalization of the Turkmenistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, which is expected to significantly enhance the movement of goods between the two nations.

This agreement will also improve cooperation in banking, customs, and trade transit operations.

Minister Jam Kamal also underscored the importance of revisiting and revitalizing existing agreements such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2015 between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Turkmenistan.

This MoU aims to foster trade collaborations, organize joint exhibitions, and develop national markets.

He also called for reviewing the 2019 MoU for the establishment of the Joint Business Council, which is crucial for facilitating direct business contacts between the two countries.

Other key issues discussed included improving direct cargo links, resolving challenges related to trade routes, and simplifying procedures.

Both sides expressed optimism about increasing bilateral trade and addressing the current challenges that hinder economic cooperation.



**Digital Parking**

ISLAMABAD: First digital parking has been launched, initially soft launching of digital parking has been taken place in Sector G-8 of the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Nadeem Ashraf Visits Sundas Foundation**

City Desk

LAHORE: Distinguished Punjab member of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Nadeem Ashraf paid an official visit to Sundas Foundation to review its operations and meet with patients benefiting from the Foundation's services. During his visit, Mr. Ashraf toured various departments and interacted with patients, gaining firsthand insights into their treatment experiences and the Foundation's healthcare initiatives.

While speaking to the media, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf commended Sundas Foundation's unwavering commitment to serving humanity, particularly its efforts in providing critical healthcare services to underprivileged patients.



During the visit, Dr. Saira Moeen, a senior medical professional at Sundas Foundation, gave a comprehensive briefing on the organization's operations. She explained that Sundas Foundation provides free treatment to more than

7,000 patients, primarily those with Thalassemia, along with others suffering from hemophilia and related blood disorders.

At the conclusion of the visit, the President of Sundas Foundation, Yaseen Khan, presented Mr. Nadeem Ashraf with a commemorative shield as a token of appreciation for his visit and continued support of the Foundation's efforts. The event was also attended by COO Abdul Sattar, Director of Finance Ali Rauf, and social activist Abdullah Malik, who all participated in discussions about improving services for patients and future collaboration.

**Kausar Abbas urges Punjab government to enact effective local government law**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Executive Director of Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) Syed Kausar Abbas said while talking to the media yesterday in Rawalpindi, that the Punjab government should enact effective legislation to empower the local government system in the province. Funds of local development should be spent by elected local representatives rather than administrators and members of national and provincial assembly. All political parties and stakeholders should be consulted for effective and empowered legislation, immediately terminate the administrator system and ban all funds and projects. Empowered local government and inclusive local development is the real democracy.



Syed Kausar Abbas said in his important statement that the law of local governments are not properly promulgated yet which needs to be developed in consultation with all the stakeholders of Punjab including civil society, local government institutions and political parties. For the past several years, the system of local governments has been inactive, which is a question mark on democratic governments. It is a violation of Article 140-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

**CTD and terrorists exchange fire near Nankana Sahib Interchange three terrorists killed**

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In a significant counter-terrorism operation, three unidentified terrorists were killed in an exchange of gunfire with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) near the Nankana Sahib Interchange, according to a CTD spokesperson. Two other terrorists managed to escape.

The CTD launched an intelligence-based raid to apprehend the terrorists. However, the suspects opened fire on the CTD team, resulting in a firefight. The spokesperson revealed that three terrorists were killed by the gunfire from their own accomplices, while two fled the scene.

During the operation, the CTD recovered three hand grenades, three detonators, safety fuse wires, two rifles, ammunition, and explosive materials from the terrorists.

A search operation is underway to capture the terrorists who escaped, and the CTD has set up roadblocks near the Nankana Sahib Motorway Interchange.

The identification of the slain terrorists is in progress. The CTD spokesperson also disclosed that the terrorists had completed planning for a major attack in Lahore.

**Jammu and Kashmir protest rally held in Mirpur against Indian election**

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: On the appeal of the Azad Kashmir government, a protest rally was held at the Mirpur district headquarters against the so-called elections supervised by the Indian Army in the Indian occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir, in which intense hatred and grief were expressed against India. The protesters carried banners and placards with slogans condemning the atrocities of the Indian forces and supporting the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The participants demanded the United Nations and other international organizations to take notice of the situation in Occupied Kashmir and take immediate steps to stop the human rights violations there. The protest rally was started from District Kachhari Mirpur, led by Deputy

Commissioner Yasir Riaz, Additional SP Aamir Nawabi, President District Bar Association Chaudhry Shakeel-Uz Zaman, General Secretary Bar Mohammad Basheer Tabasim, Chaudhry Mohammad Naem of Muslim League (N), Zulfikar Ahmed Zulfikar of Peoples Party, Mehboobur Rehman of Jammu and Kashmir United Movement, Zahid Farooq, Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim Conference and other political and religious parties, Assistant Director Liberation Cell Sardar Azim Sarwar, Jammu and Kashmir Writers Forum Farooq Jaral, Masood Rathore, Syed Qaiser Shiraz Kazmi, Rashid Bazmi, Shaukat Gujjar, students of schools, civil The members of the society participated. The participants of the procession, our freedom is our right, we will take away our freedom, Indian oppression and oppression



and the United Nations was demanded to help the Kashmiris. In another resolution India strongly condemned the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution and demanded that the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir be restored. Another resolution expressed full solidarity with the innocent people of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that Kashmiris will continue their struggle until the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir is freed from India. In the resolution, India strongly condemned the issuing of domicile to non-state persons in the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir under its guise. Condemned the settlement of non-Kashmiris under its guise. Condemned the arrest and framing of false and so-called cases against them and demanded their immediate release.

He said that India has become the champion of democracy. The rights of the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir have been badly violated, which Kashmiris express their hatred against India. Political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris will be continued until Occupied Kashmir is freed from India.

President District Bar Association Chaudhry Shakeel-Uz-Zaman Advocate presented various resolutions in which the elections in the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir under the control of the Indian Army were strongly condemned

and the United Nations was demanded to help the Kashmiris. In another resolution India strongly condemned the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution and demanded that the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir be restored. Another resolution expressed full solidarity with the innocent people of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that Kashmiris will continue their struggle until the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir is freed from India. In the resolution, India strongly condemned the issuing of domicile to non-state persons in the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir under its guise. Condemned the settlement of non-Kashmiris under its guise. Condemned the arrest and framing of false and so-called cases against them and demanded their immediate release.



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# Challenges in Transitioning from ATMIS to a New Peace Support Mission: The Ethiopian Perspectives

The changing patterns of contemporary Horn of Africa politics cannot be understood without knowing Addis Ababa's unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the region. The Ethiopian government's determination to ensure peace and stability in East Africa has convinced leading Addis Ababa-based state authorities to play a valuable role in introducing and supporting various peacekeeping efforts and the inter-state level proposal for conflict resolutions. This support mainly focused on the emerging interconnectedness of regional and international efforts to address the question of violent non-state actors in the Horn of Africa. The presence of Al-Shabaab and Daesh violent non-state actors and clandestine terrorist entities in Somalia causes great danger to Horn of Africa states particularly peacekeeping contributing countries. The widespread terrorist activities of the Al-Shabaab group have been internationally considered a serious threat to the entire East African regional security, and the Somalia-based origin of this non-state element dragged the attention of the entire region towards Somalia. The cross-border terrorist activities of this Somali-based extremist group have challenged the legitimate state structure of the country parallel to expanding its activities to the territorially adjoining nations. The covertly designed violent activities of this non-state actor have jeopardized the position of East African nations in their home region by disturbing everyday life, increasing the number of displaced people, and preventing the chances of foreign investment and economic development. Thus, the transnational violent activities of Al-Shabaab mainly target the countries

supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) and the states advocating the operations of peacekeeping forces in the Horn of Africa. The PSC's decision to convert AMISON into ATMIS originated from its 1068th meeting of PSC, and highlighted the issue of peace and stability in the region generally, and the Somali Peninsula specifically. Addis Ababa's vision for launching direct and indirect military campaigns against terrorist outfits in Somalia was inherited with the objective of preventing the presence of Al-Shabaab significantly beyond Somalia's territorial jurisdictions. For the

in the Horn of Africa that advance regional integration through policy harmonization and mutual benefits and respect. To this end, Ethiopia's peace and stability cannot alienated from the peace and security of its neighbors. Hence, Ethiopia will not tolerate any external forces that tried to destabilize and create hostile environment and erode the trust between or among the region that has a ramification on the success gained on the terrorist entities. In this perspectives, Ethiopia communicated to the regional and international communities the serious concerns of Addis Ababa regarding the transition of ATMIS into a new peace-supporting mission with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. The statement recalled the sacrifices of Ethiopian defence forces in preventing the overwhelming role of non-state violent entities in Somalia and rationalizing Addis Ababa's mission for ensuring peace and security in the region. Several international and regional reports and various formal government statements from different countries have acknowledged the critical role of Addis Ababa in the support of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in the Somali Peninsula in fighting against the anti-peace elements. So, it can be maintained that the Ethiopian role must be connected to the greater multilateral efforts for installing durable peace and sustainable development in Somalia. The contribution of Addis Ababa to the greater cause of peace will enable the region to benefit from the Ethiopian vision of development in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad has

already introduced its energy diplomacy with the completion of a mega hydropower project and coupled with infrastructure connectivity, and port diversification that enhance regional integration and collective prosperity. Given the serious threat of cross-border terrorism, it is crucial for the countries committed to maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa to develop and enhance their existing counterterror measures. The formal decision-makers of Ethiopia advocate for more comprehensive and coordinated regional counterterror approaches, with the support of the international community, to establish East Africa as a prominent terror-free area. Ethiopia's significant contribution to multilevel counter-radicalization efforts has earned the nation high ranks and demonstrated its deep commitment to keeping the Horn of Africa safe from the threats of non-state actors. A comprehensive overview of Ethiopian foreign relations suggests that the country has become a hub of regional counterterror campaigns, and the formulation of new or upgraded anti-terror alliances can only be effective with the active involvement of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's active participation in the Somalia-centric counterterror efforts could enable the participating countries to achieve the desired objectives from their multilateral anti-terror collaboration. In the light of these, leaders of the region should unite their policies, resources, capacities, and actions to fight and eliminate the terrorist groups from Somalia peninsula and ensure peace and stability in the region.



Analysis

Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula

Writer is Special Envoy, and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan

## Diplomats discuss int'l public procurement, business expansion at Beijing Forum

The Global Procurement and Enterprise Overseas Expansion Forum, held in Beijing, focused on critical issues including international public procurement, global business expansion, and talent development.

The forum brought together key diplomats, ministers, and commercial counselors from 12 countries, to explore collaborative opportunities and address pressing challenges in these areas. China Economic Net reported.

Babagana Wakil, the Nigerian Ambassador to China, stressed the close and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Africa.

"As one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria holds immense development potential," he said. "To harness this potential, it's essential to leverage the platform provided by the China Association for Promoting UN Procurement to foster collaboration of stakeholders."

Grasiano Nyaguse, Economic Counselor of the Zimbabwean Embassy in China, said Zimbabwe was no stranger to Chinese companies. "China is our largest trading partner and investor, particularly in mining, manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, and agriculture. I invite Chinese companies to invest in our country."

Elsie Maseke, Charge d'Affaires of the Namibian Embassy in China, highlighted Namibia's rich natural resources and its commitment to sustainable development and green energy. "Namibia is an ideal partner for investments in renewable energy, especially solar power. I warmly invite Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities in Namibia."

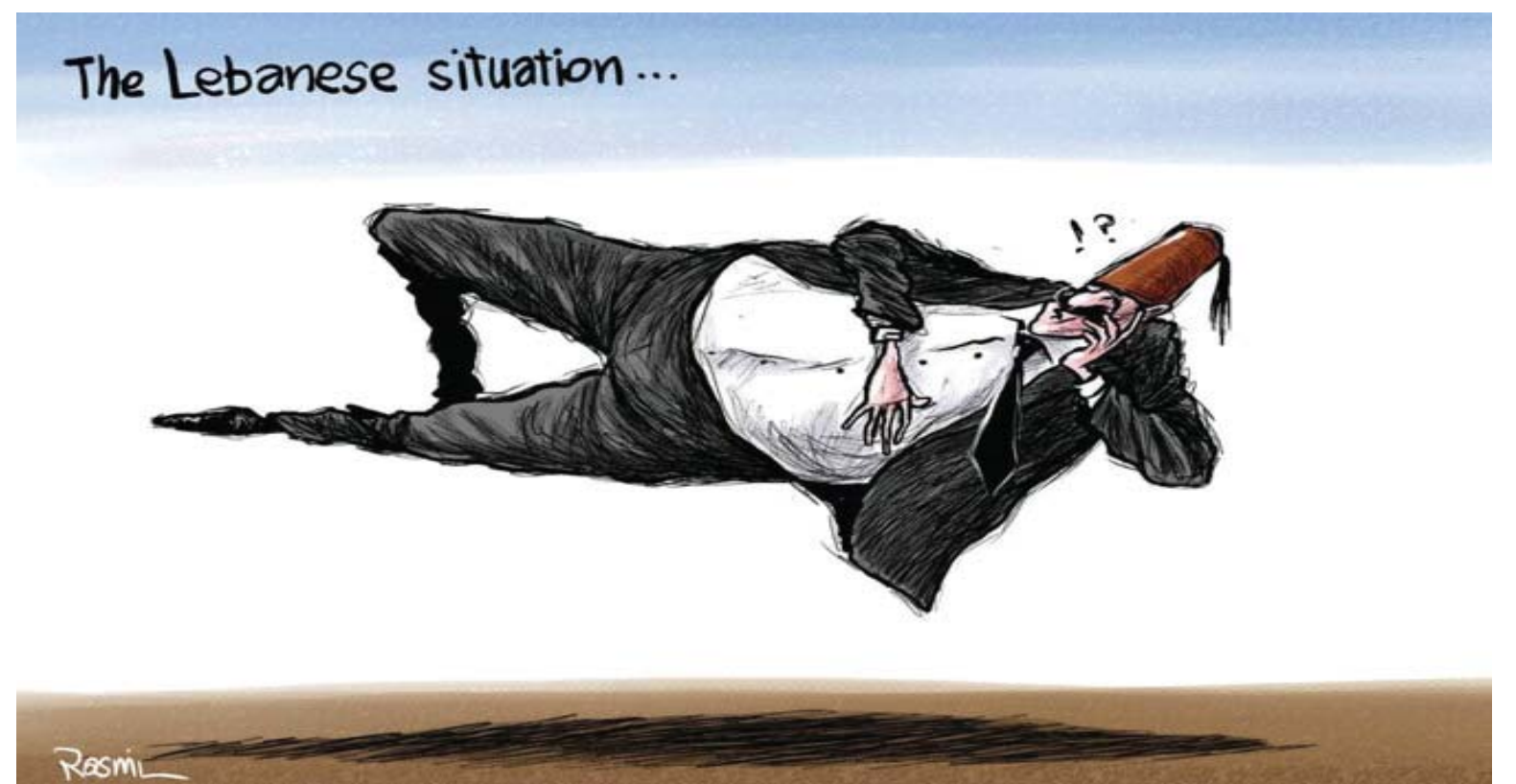
Sabita Nakarmi, Counselor of the Nepalese Embassy in China, said trade between Nepal and China had been progressing well. Events like the CFTIS and the China International Fair for Investment and Trade had facilitated Nepalese businesses to expand their businesses in China and around the globe, he added.

Tricia Bethel, First Secretary of the Grenada Embassy in China, said Grenada was renowned for its scenic beauty and rich culture, and was becoming an important investment destination. "We invite you to explore industries such as tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy in Grenada," she added.

Hugo Siles, Ambassador of Bolivia to China, highlighted that China had welcomed Bolivian agricultural products, including coffee, quinoa, soybeans, and beef.

She said, "The Bolivian government fully supports Chinese companies and investors. We sincerely invite you to learn about Bolivia and look for business opportunities."

The conference launched the "Enterprise Overseas Expansion Plan", which intends to provide one-stop, full-process services for enterprises to go overseas and participate in global cooperation through international resource sharing, overseas brand building and talent training.



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

## A Day of Reflection Peace: 12 Rabiul Awal Inspires Individual Lives

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) the founder of Islam is consider one of the most influential figures in history. His (P. B. U. H) teaching have a profound impact on the world and have shaped the way millions of people live their lives. One of the key teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) is the importance promoting peace and harmony in the society.

Throughout his life, Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) preached a message of peace, tolerance and understanding. He taught his followers to treat each other with kindness, compassion and respect regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) emphasized the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means and encouraged his followers to work towards creating a peaceful society.

Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) emphasis on peace and harmony seen in many aspects of his life. HE known for his compassion towards others, HE often went out of his way to help those in needs. Prophet (S. A. W) encouraged his followers to practice forgiveness and to treat others with kindness and respect, even in the face of adversity. One of the most famous examples of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) commitment to peace and harmony is the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.

In 628 CE, Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) signed a peace treaty with Quraysh tribe ending years of conflict between the two groups.

The birth of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) is a significant day in Islamic history as it signifies the beginning of a new era of guidance and enlighten for humanity. Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) chosen by ALLAH (S. B. T) to convey HIS message to humanity and to set examples of moral conduct and compassion for people to follow. On the 12th day of Rabiul Awal, Muslims around the world commemorate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, (PEACE BE UPON HIM). This day holds special significance in Islamic history as it marks the arrival of a figure who would profoundly inspiration the lives of millions of people.

On this auspicious day, Muslims gather to recite prayers, offer special prayers and reflect on the teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H). It is a time of ALLAH Blessings as Muslims remember the life and teaching of their beloved Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) and seek to emulate his examples in their own life. For believers, 12 Rabiul Awal is not just a day of celebration, but also a day of reflection and self-examination.

The life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) serve as an inspiration for individuals to lead lives of peace, compassion, and righteousness. His example of humility, kindness, and tolerance continues to guide Muslims in their daily lives, reminding them of the importance

of embodying these qualities in their interactions with others. 12th Rabiul Awal offers an opportunity for individuals to reflect on how they can follow the Prophet's noble characteristics and strive to be better versions of themselves.

One of the key lessons that collected from the Prophet's life is the importance of promoting peace and harmony in society. In a world widespread with conflict and dissonance, the message of peace that the Prophet preached is more relevant than ever. By following his example of forgiveness, empathy, and understanding, individuals can contribute to creating a more peaceful and inclusive world. Moreover, the day of 12 Rabiul Awal encourages individuals to reflect on their spiritual journey and relationship with the Divine.

The Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) known for his deep faith, devotion, and connection to ALLAH and his example inspires believers to strengthen their own spiritual practices and seek closeness to ALLAH Almighty. 12 Rabiul Awal is a day that offers a chance for individuals to pause, reflect, and recommit themselves to living lives of peace and goodness. Muslims drawing inspiration from the Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) teachings and example, people can strive to make positive changes in their own lives and contribute to a more harmonious and compassionate society.

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## The High-Stakes Push for Constitutional Amendments - I

Why was the government so desperate to push through half-baked, poorly conceived constitutional amendments, cloaked in mystery and secrecy, despite knowing that constitutional amendments are akin to rewriting the social contract? Such amendments should have evolved from a well-thought-out process, starting in schools and universities, developed through think tanks, analysts, and thinkers, backed by thorough research and detailed surveys. These drafts should have been shared with both private and public stakeholders, carefully examined by the National Assembly and Senate committees, and then debated thoroughly in both houses of parliament, under full media coverage, ensuring transparency at every stage.

However, in a strange and unconventional manner, these amendments—still shrouded in secrecy—were pushed forward aggressively. Members of parliament were gathered like herds of goats and cattle, treated as mere numbers rather than representatives. Most members knew little to nothing about the content of the amendments but were still prepared to cast their votes in favor.

The haste and urgency behind these amendments must have been driven by some compelling reasons, possibly a matter of life and death for the proposers and seconders—far more significant than the image of the country, the economy, or the will and consent of the 250 million people of the nation. This urgency, along with bypassing the conventional legislative process, suggests several potential motives for the government.

The amendments could be aimed at centralizing power, weakening opposition forces, or ensuring control over key institutions such as the judiciary and the Election Commission. This might involve creating legal frameworks that legitimize the extension of executive authority, increased military involvement in civilian affairs, or altering election rules to secure favorable outcomes.

In one scenario, the government could assume powers

to appoint the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts, reduce their tenure to three years, hold them accountable for their performance, and write their annual confidential reports. Additionally, the government could gain authority to transfer and post superior court judges. Such amendments would effectively end judicial independence, placing judges under the complete control of the government and reducing them to political tools, much like civil servants who have been turned into pawns of the government and establishment.

The government may have felt threatened by the Supreme Court's decision to restore PTI and allow independent candidates to join the party, which would potentially undo efforts to marginalize PTI. This verdict could have shifted the balance of power back in favor of PTI, threatening the political dominance of the ruling coalition. The amendments could have aimed at preventing the PTI from regaining its full political strength leading to reconfiguring the Election 2024 results on the basis of form 45 or holding new elections which could have catapulted the PTI as a major political player. Only this aspect was tied to political survival of the ruling elite.

The amendments could have sought to provide constitutional cover to the composition of election tribunals, which now include retired judges or individuals such as lawyers, who could be appointed as tribunal judges. This could empower the government to apply the Election Act 2024 retrospectively, allowing it to be implemented for Election 2024. As a result, the election tribunals, which were constitutionally mandated to finalize complaints within six months of the election date, would only begin functioning eight months after the election, violating the constitutional timeline. These tribunals would now operate under retired judges or lawyers handpicked by the government, who may endorse election results based on Form 47, which is a derivative of Form 45, making it more difficult to challenge the results, particularly for opposition parties like PTI.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



# Study in Malaysia Education Fair in Pakistan to showcase top Malaysian universities in Islamabad

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The highly anticipated Study in Malaysia Education Fair in Pakistan is set to take place in Islamabad on 18th September 2024, at Hotel Ramada by Wyndham. This event, Organised by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) aims to provide Pakistani students and their parents with a unique opportunity to explore the diverse range of educational Programmes offered by leading Malaysian universities.

The fair will be officially officiated by the H. E. Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan. A distinguished lineup of Malaysian universities will be participating, including University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU),



UCSI University, INCEIF University, Multimedia University (MMU), University Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), University of Cyberjaya (UoC), University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and University Malaya (UM). Visitors to the fair will have the

chance to interact directly with university representatives, learn about the various courses and programmes available, understand the admission requirements, and explore the vibrant Malaysian student life. Additionally, the event will feature informative seminars and workshops on topics such as scholarships, visa procedures, and career prospects in Malaysia.

Malaysia has long been a preferred destination for international students due to its high-quality education system, multicultural environment and affordable education and living costs. Based on the latest statistics from EMGS, Pakistan is among the top 5 countries for new applications received to study in Malaysia in 2024. International students from Pakistan have a growing interest in studying abroad in Malaysia, with more than 7000 applications received since 2020.

## Pakistan, Nepal needs to jointly voice climate action on global climate forums: Pokhrel

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) has urged that the governments of Pakistan and Nepal to work jointly to raise effective voice for effective climate action at the global climate forums.

Mr. Pokhrel underscored that the joint efforts at global forums of Pakistan and Nepal should focus on demanding the world community to ensure accessible climate finance instruments for the developing countries facing adverse impacts of climate change.

In an exclusive interview with media at the sidelines of the regional climate dialogue, NDRRMA, Chief Executive, Anil Pokhrel said Pakistan and Nepal shared same Hindukush Himalaya region with similar landscape and monsoon patterns and also hazards like earthquakes, forest fires, floods, and landslides in its disaster-prone terrain in the Hindukush Himalaya Region.

He added that the NDRRMA was eager to learn more about the NDMA, Pakistan's experiences during climatic disaster and also have an experience sharing opportunity.

"In Nepal, we have been tackling hazards from a single aspect of disaster and missing intersectoral links of disasters. We have seen GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood) events, whereas glacial lakes and moraine dams are weakening," Anil Pokhrel said.

The 2005 Earthquake in Muzaffarabad was a massive earthquake and any such earthquake during monsoon would have more devastation like the glacial lakes' explosion chances were increasing due to faster melting in the north, he added.

The NDRRMA chief pointed out that the forest fires' suite was also aggravating the GLOF activity as its black surface absorbs more heat and accelerates melting as permafrost is melting faster in the entire Hindukush Himalaya Region.

"We need start looking at its intersectionality and complexity of disasters that also cascades into larger devastations downstream," he said.

The debate of least greenhouse gas emitter, he said was decades old, whereas the countries like Nepal and Pakistan sharing same risks need to come together as a one singular voice to negotiate more effectively at the forums like COP forums as the COP29 was ahead in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Pakistan and Nepal should work together to narrate the hazards and risks devastations faced by the two countries due to increasing global warming and climate change impacts on the region due to the historical emissions of the developed world driving glacial melt, droughts and forest fires in the region, he added.

"This is where the international finance structure has to be designed in such an effective way that it should be substantial, quick, and directly drawn by the climate vulnerable countries like ours that should help in recovery and reconstruction post disasters," Anil Pokhrel said.

Commenting on mega dams construction in the disaster Faultline areas, the NDRRMA Chief Executive said the science and technology evolution around dams construction had evolved over the last few decades. The countries undertaking such projects should not forget in addition to one time investment in risks assessment and designing alongwith long-term observation, monitoring and network systems as there is a need to design a disaster component for it as if it fails then what do in that scenario, he added.

Such projects, he said should have early warning systems and insurance for these dams in case of failure, whereas its design should be able to withstand these extreme events of earthquake, debris flow, GLOFs, forest fires that could damage these structures.

# IIUI inaugurates workshop titled 'quality first: enhancing online teaching in higher education'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Education at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), and the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Development (QAD), successfully inaugurated the two-day workshop titled "Quality First: Enhancing Online Teaching in Higher Education."

The event aims to strengthen the quality of online education across higher education institutions in Pakistan, focusing on best practices for course design, student engagement, and assessment in digital platforms. The workshop is part of NRPUE Project Quality Assurance for Online Teaching in Higher Education in Pakistan by Dr Fouzia Ajmal (PI) and Prof. Dr. N. B. Jumani (Co-PI). The opening ceremony was graced



by the Acting President IIUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, who lauded the participants for the urge to adopt the modern means of teaching and learning. He said that factor of relevance is mostly missing that must be the prime focus of the teachers. Dr. Sarwar highlighted the importance of training faculty to adapt to new technologies and teaching strategies. Mr. Ubaidullah Anwar, Deputy Director HEC explained the role of HEC and its efforts for the open and distance learning policy as well as he clarified certain misperceptions about this mode of learning.

The workshop's resource persons include experts from renowned institutions including Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees (Pakistan Institute of Education), Prof. Dr. Tamim Ahmed Khan (Bahria University), Dr. Azhar Mahmood (IIUI), Mr. Shahid Minhas (SDPI), Dr. Zarina Akhtar (IIUI), Dr. Rukhsana Durrani (Allama Iqbal Open University), Dr. Fatima Maqsood (IIUI), Dr. Mubeshera Tufail (AIU), Dr. Munawwar Ahmed (Virtual University) and Dr. Fouzia Ajmal (IIUI). Participants from universities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are attending the event.

The opening ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rehmat Ellahi, Director QAD. He expressed gratitude to the organizers, resource persons, and participants, recognizing the joint efforts of the Faculty of Education, IRD, and QAD in making this workshop a reality.

# Karachi Women Chamber Malir emerges as a strong voice for women entrepreneurs: Nazli Abid

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: In the Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI Malir) annual elections for 2024-26, Tasneem Hamid was elected President, Shiza Farooqui Senior Vice President, and Mehwish Kiyani Vice President. At the Annual General Meeting held at a local hotel, the founder president of KWCCI Malir and former Vice President of FPCCI, Nazli Abid Nisar, administered the oath to the newly elected officials and the 15 members of the Executive Committee.

During the AGM, all Executive Committee members and members approved the annual accounts by a large majority, and responsibilities were assigned to the newly elected officials. The meeting was attended by KWCCI Malir's Patron-in-Chief Abid Nisar, Chief Guest and Chairperson of SAARC Women Chamber Hina Mansab Khan, Dermatologist Zarnaz Wahid, former VP of FPCCI Shabbir Mansha, former VP of FPCCI Adeel Siddiqui, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Youth, and Sports Yousuf Baloch, Collector of Customs Naima Batool,

Psychologist Fiza Aslam, PP Information Secretary City Hyderabad Nadeem Jatoti, former SVP of KWCCI Malir Afzala Shaheen, former VP Yasmin Arif, among others.

Nazli Abid Nisar cited the life of Hazrat Khadija (RA) as a role model for women, emphasizing that our beloved Prophet (SAW) fully supported Hazrat Khadija (RA) in her business endeavors. Nazli Abid urged support for women entrepreneurs, acknowledging that behind every successful person, there is a significant role played by a woman.

Hina Mansab Khan, Chairperson of the SAARC Women Chamber, praised the efforts of KWCCI Malir's founder president Nazli Abid for providing a strong platform to address women entrepreneurs' issues.

Patron-in-Chief of KWCCI Malir Abid Nisar commended the struggles of women entrepreneurs and urged them to take advantage of government loans. He requested the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to introduce simplified forms for funds allocated for women entrepreneurs to meet the criteria. Shabbir Mansha, Former FPCCI



Vice President requested the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Youth, and Sports Yousuf Baloch to talk to the Sindh government about providing land for KWCCI Malir's office.

Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Youth, and Sports Yousuf Baloch assured that he would speak with the Sindh government and the Secretary of Land about providing land for KWCCI Malir's office.

## Spotify Icon Pakistan

# Spotify ICON Pakistan will celebrate Legacy Artists and their Timeless Music

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024: Spotify is gearing up to launch Spotify ICON Pakistan, a nostalgia-driven music program that shines a spotlight on legendary Pakistani artists who have shaped the country's music scene for decades. This innovative and first-of-its-kind initiative is designed to connect these iconic musicians with a new generation of young listeners—an audience that is mobile-first and already enjoying tracks from the past.

Through a blend of curated playlists, on-platform promotion, and offline activations Spotify ICON Pakistan bridges the

gap between past and present, allowing younger audiences to discover and rediscover the timeless music that has been instrumental in shaping Pakistan's cultural heritage.

"From October, Spotify ICON Pakistan will reintroduce & pay tribute to iconic artists from eras spanning the 1950s to the 2000s — legends like Noor Jehan, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Saheb, Abida Parveen, and Vital Signs among others — who have experienced a resurgence in popularity among younger listeners," said Khan FM, Spotify's Senior Artist & Label Partnerships Manager for Pakistan, Bang-

ladesh, and Sri Lanka. "With almost 400,000 new discoveries in 2024 alone, it's clear that classic hits are striking a chord with today's generation. This blend of nostalgia and discovery showcases the enduring influence of these legendary artists on modern audiences, proving that great music truly transcends time," he added further.

**The Golden Era of Melodies: 50s and 60s**

On Spotify, Mehdi Hassan has seen a remarkable 142% year-on-year increase in streams, while Noor Jehan's fanbase has seen a 66% year-on-year increase in active listeners, with 50% now

being Gen-Z (aged 18-27), clearly demonstrating that classic hits resonate with today's younger audience. Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan also saw an astonishing 82% increase in annual streams. What's even more interesting is that 49% of these streams came from Gen-Z.

**The Revolutionary Age: 70s and 80s**

Gen Z's deep connection to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's legacy is evident as they make up 60% of Nusrat's listeners. Millennials (aged 28-44) make up 32% of Abida Parveen's audience, suggesting that they have a particular affinity for Sufi and

spiritual music, reflecting their deeper connection to soulful and introspective sounds. Nazia Hassan's pop revolution also continues to have strong cross-generational appeal, with 54% of her listeners coming from Gen Z and 25% from Millennials.

**The Expressive Wave: 90s and Early 2000s**

According to Spotify's data, 90s legends such as Sajjad Ali and Hadiqa Kiani have seen the highest year-on-year growth in listeners, with both seeing a 75% increase. 2000s icons such as Noori and Mustafa Zahid have also seen a 75% increase in their listener base within 12



months. Meanwhile, artists such as Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Atif Aslam, although relatively new compared to the older legends, have a significant 63% of their audience under the age of 27. This shows that Gen Z, the generation that grew up during the rise of these artists, is now the core audience supporting these modern yet legacy-conscious acts.

Spotify's ICON Pakistan celebrates decades of music, honoring iconic artists who shaped Paki-

stan's culture through the ages, from October onwards, and will exist next to other local and successful music programs of Spotify like Spotify EQUAL and Spotify RADAR. To mark the launch of ICON Pakistan, Spotify will host a special event this weekend at the HOUSE OF ICON, introducing the first artist featured under Spotify ICON Pakistan and bringing fans closer to the music that they have and continue to love to this day.

Best regards.







# More than 45,000 applications received for Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial presided over an important meeting regarding Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme at Punjab Stadium on Wednesday. Director General PITB Sajid Latif, Additional Secretary Farhan Farooq, Chief Digital Officer of Bank of Punjab Nofal Dawood, Head of Branches Adnan Saleem, Ahmed from PITB and other officials participated in the meeting. Important decisions were taken regarding the affairs and arrangements of Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that more than 45,000 applications have been received so far for Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme. "Out of this aggregate, 9284 male and female students have qualified for this unique programme", Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the applications will be received till September 30. "The beneficiaries of this



programme will play a key role in the development of the country". Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that through the Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme, 25 thousand fresh graduates will be given

Rs 25 thousand per month for a period of six months. "Definitely, this is the best initiative of Chief Minister Punjab to end unemployment in the Punjab province". Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said

that the youth who will benefit from this programme will play an important role in the progress of Pakistan. "Young people from top universities of Punjab are applying for Chief Minister Punjab Internship Programme

## Pakistan Football Federation Launches Football Central Studio

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The launch of Football Central, a community studio project by the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) in collaboration with FIFA, took place on Monday, September 16th, at Football House, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The event marked a significant step towards the development and promotion of football in Pakistan, creating a platform for discussions on the sport's future. It was a lively gathering, with a mix of bloggers, well-known personalities, and figures from the football community coming together to celebrate this milestone.

Message from the Chairman FIFA PFF Normalisation Committee and President Pakistan Football Federation Mr. Haroon Ahmed Malik was:

"Our objective is to establish a dynamic platform where football enthusiasts can converge to exchange ideas, share narratives, and offer insightful commentary. Whether your goal is casual enjoyment, thought-provoking discussions, expert analysis, or personal brand development, this studio is designed to cater to your



aspirations. Through this platform, we aim to empower content creators, cultivate a vibrant community, and facilitate personal branding opportunities."

Attendees had the opportunity to explore the newly developed podcasting setup, which aims to provide a voice for

football enthusiasts, analysts, and players alike. The conversations throughout the event revolved around the growth of football in Pakistan, with many expressing excitement about the potential impact of Football Central. It was clear that this initiative would play a key role in shaping

the football narrative in the country, giving both fans and professionals a space to share their stories and insights.

The event also featured moments of camaraderie as sportspeople and influencers mingled, posed for pictures, and shared their excitement on social media. The sleek design of the studio and its state-of-the-art equipment garnered a lot of attention, making it a focal point for discussions. With a backdrop of passionate football conversations, Football Central was introduced not just as a studio but as a symbol of the growing football culture in Pakistan.

Overall, the launch was a resounding success, showcasing the collective vision of the PFF and FIFA to elevate football in the country. Event was organised by Elysium. It left attendees inspired and hopeful for what lies ahead, with many expressing their eagerness to see how Football Central will contribute to the sport's evolution. This event not only celebrated the start of a new chapter for football in Pakistan but also highlighted the importance of community and collaboration in achieving that goal.

## Gorakh Bike Rally promo released

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The much-awaited promo for the Gorakh Bike Rally has officially been released, building excitement for the highly anticipated event scheduled from September 29 to October 1.

Organized by Green Tourism in collaboration with the Sindh Tourism Development Corporation, this three-day event is set to bring bikers and adventure enthusiasts from across the country to the stunning Gorakh Hill Station, said a press release.

The newly launched promo showcases thrilling glimpses of the Gorakh Hill Station also known as the 'Murree of Sindh', capturing its rugged beauty and challenging terrains that will be part of the rally. Set against the backdrop of the Kirthar Mountain Range, the promo highlights the event's blend of adventure, nature, and culture, sparking interest among bikers, tourists, and nature lovers alike.

With its release, Green Tourism and STDC aim to draw attention to the event's focus on eco-tourism, promoting sustainable travel practices while experiencing the untouched beauty of Gorakh Hill. The rally will feature adrena-



line-pumping off-road biking competitions, camping under the stars, and cultural performances showcasing the rich heritage of Sindh.

The Gorakh Bike Rally is expected to attract participants and spectators from all over Pakistan, making it a landmark event for local tourism.

The promo offers a sneak peek into the excitement, adventure, and camaraderie that await at this high-energy event.

## Arbaz Khan, Razaul Hasan and Tariq Khan shine as Zone VI defeat Zone VII by an innings & 97 runs in PCB Senior District

Sports Desk

KARACHI: One more match was decided on the second day of the fourth round of the PCB Senior Inter-District Cricket Tournament Karachi Region. Zone VI defeated Zone VII by an innings and 97 runs. Batting first at KCCA Stadium, Zone VII scored 257 runs in 74.1 overs. Arbaz Khan scored 82 runs, Abdul Rahman 47, Kashif Ali 30, Muhammad Nafay 29 and Jehanzeb Sultan scored 25 runs, Fayyaz Hussain took 4 wickets while Saad bin Yusuf took 3 wickets. In reply, Zone VI was bowled out for 100 runs in their first innings. Mehmood Shah's 43 runs gave some resistance to the bowlers of Zone VI. Off-spinner Razaul Hasan bowled devastatingly and took five wickets with 21 runs. Saifullah and Muhammad Tariq Khan dismissed 2 players each.

After the follow-on, Zone VII once again looked helpless in front of the devastating bowling of the bowlers of Zone VI and the entire team got out after scoring 60 runs in 30.5 overs. In this innings also Mehmood Shah played a resistance innings of 27 runs. Left arm leg spinner Tariq Khan was devastating. While bowling, taking 6 wickets and taking 8 wickets in the match, Razaul Hasan took two wickets and took 7 wickets in the match. Zone six is leading the group with 30 points.

## Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal grabs bronze medal in Snooker World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueist Asjad Iqbal bagged a bronze medal in the Mongolia Snooker World Cup 2024 at Ulaanbaatar.

Michael Georgiou of Cyprus outplayed Asjad in the semifinals of the championship by 5-4 (85(85)-0, 80(74)-0, 35-64, 15-62, 24-78, 73-36, 11-74, 76-65(65), 51-08).

Earlier in the quarterfinals Asjad beat Gao Yang of China by 4-3 (76-0, 25-64, 0-135(135), 81(76)-34, 65-64, 50(50)-69(69), 69-50) while Ali Gharahgozou of Iran defeated Pakistan's Awais Muneer by 4-2 (68-60, 66(58)-64(55), 8-78, 37-65, 66(53)-23, 111(65)-09).

The final of the mega event will be played between Ali Gharahgozou of Iran and Michael Georgiou of Cyprus.



## Bahria Town Champions ODI Cup: UMT Markhors beat Engro Dolphins by 92 runs

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: UMT Markhors defeated Engro Dolphins by 92 runs in the sixth match of the Bahria Town Champions ODI Cup thanks to Kamran Ghulam's century and Salman Ali Agha's all-round performance.

This is Markhors third win in this tournament. Kamran Ghulam was adjudged player of the match. Dolphins captain Saud Shakeel won the toss and allowed Markhors to bat, who scored 284 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 50 overs.

The Dolphins were bowled out for 192 in 43.5 overs. In the innings of Markhors, Mir Hamza dismissed both the openers Bismillah Khan and Muhammad Faizan for a total score of just 10 after which Kamran Ghulam and captain Muhammad Rizwan added 122 runs in the third wicket partnership.

Kamran Ghulam scored 113 runs with the help of 12 fours and 3 sixes. This is his second century in this tournament. Earlier he had scored 115 runs against Panthers. This is his eighth hundred in List A ODIs overall.

Muhammad Rizwan scored 51 runs with the help of 3 fours and a six and was stumped by the ball of Usman Qadir.

Salman Ali Agha scored 49 runs with three fours and a six and added 71 runs in the fourth wicket partnership with Kamran Ghulam.

Faheem Ashraf was the most successful bowler of Dolphins, he gave 50 runs to Salman Agha. Iftikhar Ahmad Abdul Samad and Muhammad Imran took the wickets.

The first two wickets of the Dolphins, Harira (zero) Akhlaq (one) fell for just 13 runs. These difficulties increased when Salman Ali Agha took the wickets of Sahibzada Farhan (24), Qasim Akram (13) and Saud Shakeel (41). Asif Ali got out after scoring 50 runs with the help of 3 sixes and 3 fours, then this match was just a formality for Dolphins.

Apart from Salman Agha, Mohammad Imran also managed to get three wickets.

The seventh match of the tournament will be played between Dolphins and Stallions on Thursday.

Short score.

UMT Markhors 284 runs 9 players out (50 overs) Kamran Ghulam 113, Muhammad Rizwan 51, Salman Ali Agha 49, Faheem Ashraf 50 / 4 wickets.

Engro Dolphins, 192 runs (43.5 overs). Asif Ali 50, Saud Shakeel 41, Mohammad Imran 28 / 3 wickets, Salman Ali Agha 34 / 3 wickets.

The result UMT Markhors won by 92 runs.

## All 10 teams set to compete for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 is all set to take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in October, with 10 teams to compete for the trophy across 23 matches.

The tournament will get underway on October 3 when Bangladesh face Scotland at Sharjah Cricket Stadium and will run until the final at Dubai International Stadium on October 20, said a press release.

"Here, we look at how each of them qualified for the tournament. Pakistan qualified

through being the next highest ranked side in the ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings at the end of February 2023. They have yet to reach the semi-finals," it said.

Bangladesh qualified as hosts before the competition was moved to the UAE, with this set to be the sixth time they have participated in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. They have yet to make it beyond the group stage.

Six teams qualified courtesy of their performances in the 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

Australia lifted the trophy for the sixth time as they continued

their dominance with a 19-run victory over the hosts at Newlands Cricket Ground.

The Australians won all six of their matches in the tournament and have not lost a match in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup since being beaten by India in their opening group match in 2020.

For South Africa, it was their first ever final and they will be aiming to go one better when the competition comes to Sharjah and Dubai.

Inaugural champions in 2009, England, qualified after reaching the semi-finals in South Africa



where they were beaten by the host nation.

Since lifting the trophy 15 years ago, the English have been beaten in the final on three occasions.

India were the other beaten semi-finalists, edged out by just five runs in a thriller against

Australia in Cape Town, only just missing out on a second consecutive final.

West Indies, champions in 2016, were one of the teams to finish third in their group after they defeated Ireland and Pakistan in Group 2.

The third-placed team in Group 1 was New Zealand, finalists in 2009 and 2010, who qualified thanks to comprehensive victories over Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Two teams booked their place through the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier in May.

That includes Sri Lanka, who claimed a stunning win over host South Africa in the opening game of the tournament in 2023 only to eventually finish fourth in Group 1 via net run-rate.

Sri Lanka won all four of their Group A matches in the Qualifier before sealing their spot with

a 15-run victory over hosts the UAE at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Scotland are the only team making their debut in the competition and they had to come through the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier in 2023, facing the Netherlands, Italy and France.

They won five of their six matches to reach the global Qualifier, where they finished second, behind Sri Lanka, in Group A before making history by defeating Group B winners Ireland by 54 runs at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.



## MoU signing ceremony

ISLAMABAD: The MoU between Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) and Saint Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) are signing by Acting Managing Director PMEX Farhan Tahir from the Pakistan side and by President SPIMEX Igor Artemyev from the Russian side.



# Pakistan, Russia agree to continue coordination on multilateral fora

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Wednesday held delegation-level talks with the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Alexei Overchuk. According to a press statement issued by the Foreign Office, the two sides discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations over the last two decades.

Pakistan and Russia agreed to pursue robust dialogue and cooperation in areas of trade, industry, energy, connectivity, science, technology and education. Ishaq Dar expressed Pakistan's desire to intensify bilateral, political, economic and defence dialogue with the

Russian Federation.

"The two sides also agreed to continue coordination on multilateral fora including at the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," the statement read.

Ishaq Dar thanked the Russian side for its support to Pakistan's bid for the membership of BRICS.

The two deputy prime ministers agreed to maintain

close cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk's visit is taking place in pursuance of the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Vladimir Putin on transforming bilateral relations into a solid, mutually beneficial economic partnership.

Earlier in the day, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk arrived in

Islamabad on a two-day visit to Pakistan.

As per details, a high-level delegation is also accompanying the Russian Deputy Prime Minister during the visit.

He was welcomed by Foreign Ministry officials and the Russian ambassador at the airport. Alexei Overchuk will also meet with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

# Jam Kamal holds high-level talks with Russian Deputy Trade Minister to boost bilateral trade

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, welcomed Mr. Alexey Gruzdev, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, for a meeting aimed at enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Held at the Ministry of Commerce, the discussions focused on strengthening economic cooperation and exploring new trade opportunities between the two countries.

During the meeting, Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the significant untapped potential in Pakistan-Russia trade. He

emphasized that with active and consistent engagement, the trade volume could be significantly increased.

The upcoming 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting, scheduled for September 26-27, 2024, in Islamabad, was also discussed. The agenda includes discussions on industrial cooperation, customs, investments, transport and logistics, and agricultural trade.

The Russian Deputy Minister expressed his satisfaction with the current state of trade relations but agreed that there is vast room for improvement. He outlined areas for future cooperation, including the supply of



mineral fertilizers, modernization of Pakistan's fertilizer plants, export of agricultural machinery, supply of railway

machinery, collaboration in the pharmaceutical industry, supply of metal products, and cooperation in digital technol-

ogies.

Mr. Gruzdev emphasized Russia's willingness to offer expertise in modernizing Pakistan's fertilizer plants and to provide training programs for Pakistani farmers to enhance agricultural productivity.

He also highlighted Russia's interest in expanding exports of agricultural and railway machinery, as well as metal products, to Pakistan.

In conclusion, both ministers acknowledged the strong potential for growth in areas such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, livestock, and steel, and expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-Russia economic relations.

# 40th Anniversary of China at IAEA: Chairman PAEC felicitates as Guest of Honour

### Spokesman Report

VIENNA, AUSTRIA: On the sidelines of the IAEA General Conference, People's Republic of China organized a special event to commemorate 40 years of its partnership with IAEA. Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar was invited by China as one of the Guest SPEAKERS, along with the IAEA Director General Mr Rafael Grossi, on this occasion.

Speaking at the event, Chairman PAEC extended heartfelt felicitations to China on completing 40 years of accession to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a member state.



The Chairman observed that Pakistan-China friendship has blossomed into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and that the lasting Pakistan-China friendship was a legacy of our forefathers and

cherished by every generation of Pakistanis.

Dr. Ali Raza further said that Pakistan and China had a history of bilateral relationship characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect,

and goodwill towards each other. With the launching of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Chinese President, Xi Jinping's initiative of "One Road and One Belt", the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a higher level.

He added that as we are gathered here to talk about peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, I would like to mention our long standing cooperation with China in the field of nuclear energy.

Chairman PAEC highlighted that Pakistan was safely operating six nuclear power plants (NPPs) constituting a total electricity generation capacity of 3530 megawatt (MW). All these NPPs were constructed

in cooperation with China. Another NPP of 1200 MW is under construction with the cooperation of China. Pakistan looks forward to further enhance this cooperation with our Chinese friends in other areas including Food and Agriculture, Human Health, Water Resource Management and Industrial Applications." Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar concluded his speech that

Pakistan and China by commending the active role being played by Pakistan and China at the IAEA. Both countries have well established Collaborating Centres of the IAEA. Pakistan looks forward to establishing collaboration between IAEA Collaborating Centres of both the countries.

# PNS shamsheer participates in operation 'talon grip one'



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship SHAMSHEER participated in Surge Ops TALON GRIP ONE while operating in support of Pakistan Navy led Multinational Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150). The ship is currently deployed in Gulf of Oman (GOO) to undertake Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

During the deployment, PNS SHAMSHEER also undertook Passage Exercise with Royal Navy Ship HMS LANCASTER. The exercise was aimed to improve synergy

and mutual understanding between the two Navies while demonstrating interoperability to undertake combined operations in the region. Pakistan Navy is maintaining presence in the Indian Ocean to keep the national and international sea lines of communications under surveillance.

Pakistan Navy actively collaborates with regional and international partners deployed in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), fostering a collective effort for counter-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in support of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

# Kashmiris boycott shame polls under guns shadows, demand freedom: Mushaal



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of Jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik has categorically stated that the brave Kashmiri people boycott the farcical elections in the occupied valley because these fraudulent polls are not substitute to freedom in any way.

Mushaal, who was also a Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, in a video message on the scheduled fake elections in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) said that Kashmiris demanded free and fair plebiscite mandated under UNSC resolutions, not fraudulent elections under the shadows of guns of Indian occu-

ation forces.

She made it clear that Kashmir nation would expose Indian notorious government's every action, Illegal tactics and conspiracy that was further strengthening the Indian status quo on Kashmir.

The Chairperson reiterated: "Our fight is for right to self-determination and liberation from Indian subjugation."

She said that Kashmiri people rejected the world most fraudulent and farcical elections and they would never accept anything less than freedom of Kashmir.

Mushaal went on to say that Kashmiri people democratic struggle and voices were for right to self-determination and freedom from Indian slavery.

# Israel planted explosives in 5,000 Hezbollah's pagers, say sources



### Reuters

Israel's Mossad spy agency planted explosives inside 5,000 pagers imported by Lebanese group Hezbollah months before Tuesday's detonations, a senior Lebanese security source and another source told Reuters.

The operation was an unprecedented Hezbollah security breach that saw thousands of pagers detonate across Lebanon, killing nine people and wounding nearly 3,000 others, including the group's fighters and Iran's envoy to Beirut.

The Lebanese security source said the pagers were from Taiwan-based Gold Apollo, but the company said in a statement it did not manufacture the devices. It said they were made by a company called BAC which has a licence to use its brand, but gave no

more details.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate against Israel, whose military declined to comment on the blasts.

Hezbollah said in a statement on Wednesday that "the resistance will continue today, like any other day, its operations to support Gaza, its people and its resistance which is a separate path from the harsh punishment that the criminal enemy (Israel) should await in response to Tuesday's massacre".

The plot appears to have been many months in the making, several sources told Reuters.

The senior Lebanese security source said the group had ordered 5,000 beepers from Gold Apollo, which several sources say were brought into the country earlier this year.