

**Iran summons Afghan envoy for 'disrespecting' anthem**

Iran summoned the acting head of Afghanistan's embassy Friday after saying a visiting Afghan official disrespected the country's national anthem by not standing, days after a similar incident in Pakistan. Standing up during the national anthem is a widely practiced gesture of respect in many countries. Pakistan condemned the "reprehensible disrespect" for the country's national anthem by an Afghan diplomat, who decided to remain seated when the anthem was played.



**Musadik invites Chinese investment**

Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik invited on Friday Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors, a statement from the petroleum ministry said. Malik's statement came during an economic and trade event on the sidelines of the 8th Silk Road International Expo currently taking place in China. The minister emphasised that this invitation was part of Pakistan's broader efforts to attract foreign direct investment to strengthen infrastructure and energy production.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on transformation plan of Federal Board of Revenue on Friday.



Photo: PID

**FBR's digitisation, improved enforcement vital for economic reforms: PM**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the digitisation of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and its improved enforcement mechanism were the need of the hour to bring about economic reforms in the country.

The prime minister chairing a meeting to review the matters related to the FBR, directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive strategy to improve FBR's enforcement, according to a PM Office press release.

Calling the FBR the backbone of the national economy and appreciating its transformation plan, he said enhanced tax receipts would upgrade service delivery and the social sector.

He called for consulting the prominent taxpayers and all stakeholders on the FBR transformation plan and seeking approval of amendments in coordination with the relevant government departments for their effective implementation.

The prime minister said the promotion of the private sector was among government priorities calling it inevitable for a

strong economy.

He instructed the third-party audit of FBR's projects and expedited efforts to curb smuggling.

During the briefing, Prime Minister Shehbaz was told that the FBR transformation plan featured effective utilisation of technology, awarding efficient officers to improve tax receipts, and improving enforcement of taxation laws.

Formulated by FBR officers and experts within the last 40 days, the program would ensure tax collection without impeding economic development besides facilitating the honest taxpayers.

It also provides for strict action or restrictions on transactions against those failing to pay full tax on time or those involved in fraud, to prevent tax evasion.

It was told that such measures would be enforced after consultation with the good taxpayers.

The participants were told that in order to curb custom duties theft, an appraisal and enforcement mechanism had been devised to assign the task to appraisers and inspectors without their prior knowledge, who would also be monitored through cameras.

A carrot and stick policy

would be enforced for customs inspectors and new check posts would be set up in collaboration with the FWO to curb smuggling.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, and Dr Musaddik Malik, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, Coordinator to PM Rana Ehsan Afzal, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed, FBR Chairman Rashid Mehmood Langrial and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

**12 Khwarij killed, six soldiers martyred in North & South Waziristan**



**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Friday killed 12 Khwarij terrorists and six army troops were martyred in two different fierce encounters in North and South Waziristan districts on September 19 and 20.

According to the ISPR, on September 19, the movement of a group of seven terrorists, trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was detected by security forces in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District.

The infiltrators were surrounded, effectively engaged and after an intense fire exchange, all the seven Khwarij were sent to hell. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition

and explosives was also recovered from them, the ISPR said.

In the second incident in general area Ladha, South Waziristan District, a group of Khwarij attacked a security forces' post. The army troops fought bravely, foiling the attempts of intrusion and killed five Khwarij. However, during intense exchange of fire, six sons of soil, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji present in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthens our resolve," the ISPR said.

**President lauds security forces for anti-terror operations in Waziristan**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out anti-terror operations in North and South Waziristan and eliminating

Khawarij (terrorists).

The president reiterated the nation's resolve to purge the country of terrorists and paid tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the operations.

"The sacrifices of soldiers for their homeland will never be squandered. The security forces will keep up fighting till the elimination of terrorism in toto. The whole nation stands by its security forces to curb this scourge," the president remarked.

He also expressed sympathies for the bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of martyrs' ranks in paradise.

**PTI eliminated from National Assembly as secretariat issues new party position**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat on Friday updated the party position, effectively removing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as a political party from the lower house of Pakistani parliament.

Following a letter from the Speaker to the Election Commission regarding the Election Amendment Act, the new party position was outlined and notified.

All 80 PTI members are now listed as part of the Sunni Ittehad Council. Previously, 39 members were recognized as PTI and 41 as independents following a Supreme Court order on July 12. The apex court had concluded in its interim order that ECP has recognized PTI as a political party and MNAs who filed party ticket before the electoral body before the February 8 elections should

be considered as PTI's members.

The revised party position issued on Friday also includes details about the seats reclaimed from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI). The update was made immediately after the Speaker's correspondence with the Election Commission.

Under the new composition, PML-N has 110 seats, Sunni Ittehad Council has 80 seats, PPP has 69 seats, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has 22 seats, JUI-F has eight seats, Independents have eight seats, Pakistan Muslim League-Q has five seats, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) has four seats, and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMap), Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP), Majlis

**PTI gets permission for rally, but venue and timing changed**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Lahore administration has allowed the PTI to hold a rally in the provincial capital's Ring Road, Kahna instead of Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday (today), with changes made to the venue and timing.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan has described the rally as a "do-or-die" situation and expressed confidence in the success of the party's power show in Lahore.

The decision came after a meeting involving the district administration and district intelligence concluded on Friday, during which, sources said, it was decided to grant conditional permission to the PTI rally based on police reports. Previously, the PTI was offered three alternative locations for the rally, including Jallo Park, but the administration stated that the party could also hold gatherings at Wagah and Shahpur Kanjra, which the party declined.

According to Insaf Lawyers Forum's Punjab President Shadab Jafri, the event would take place at the Kahna Cattle Market.

The deputy commissioner has set 43 conditions for the public gathering, including fixing a time limit for the



LAHORE: A view of heavy shipping containers placed alongside a road for road block due to PTI public gathering (Jalsa) at Minto Park, heald on 21 September Saturday, in the Provincial Capital.

Another critical condition specifies that no proclaimed offenders are allowed to partake in the rally. If any such individuals do participate, it will be the responsibility of the rally's administration to facilitate their arrest; failure to do so will result in charges of abetment against the organisers.

In a statement, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan thanked the district administration for issuing the NOC and urged it to not place any blockades so that party supporters could gather for the rally and timely end it.

He called for party supporters to arrive at the site by 1pm.

**Punjab police begin crackdown on fugitive PTI workers' ahead of Lahore rally**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab police arrested on Friday "fugitive supporters of PTI" ahead of the Lahore rally, having previously indicated plans to apprehend around 4,000 individuals wanted in connection with the May 9 incidents.

Multiple arrests have already been made during a corner meeting in Gulberg, Lahore. Police raided the event, leading to clashes between the police and PTI supporters. When PTI workers responded with stones, the police resorted to aerial firing.

Following such confrontations, more than 20 PTI workers were taken into custody and transported to

**PM Shehbaz lauds security forces for anti-terror operations in Waziristan**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful anti-terrorist operations in North and South Waziristan.

The prime minister lauded the gallantry of the soldiers in eliminating several terrorists in the operations and



# We Reject the Government Constitutional Amendments as Well as the Draft Ordinance: Maulana Fazlur Rehman

✉ **Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Top Leader of Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rahman has said that if an ordinance is brought regarding the constitutional amendments, it will be based on malice. We reject the government constitutional amendments as well as the draft ordinance. fulfill his promise and along with the establishment of constitutional courts, a constitutional draft should be presented on which it should be brought to the parliament after reaching an agreement. We will continue to play our legal role, he expressed these views during a press conference held at Madrasa Qasim Uloom Gulgasht Multan. On this occasion, Provincial General Secretary Hafiz Nasir Ahrar, District Amir Mufti Amir Mehmood, General



Secretary Noor Khan Hans, District of Information Rana Muhammad Saeed and others were also present. Maulana Fazlur Rehman was asked that the government has issued an ordinance

regarding the establishment of constitutional courts. Regarding establishment, the matter is in the parliament, then the ordinance has no status and the ordinances are malicious. In the

meeting with Bilawal Bhutto, it was agreed to prepare a draft, but if the ordinance is brought, we will not accept it. And we reject it though I have gone through the Ordinance in detail but no Ordinance can be supported in the presence of Parliament.

It would be better to reach a consensus in the matter of legislation. It was demanded in the square that no one has any right to make someone's children disappear. He said that it was sad to see the copy that has been provided to us, where the scope of human rights has been reduced and the military role has been extended. Given that things like expansion, appointment of judges and the High Court would affect the system, we rejected any proposals that were affecting human rights and the independence of the judiciary.

## Former PM says so-called elections in IOJK not possible in presence of Indian soldiers

✉ **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the so-called elections in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir cannot be a substitute for the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan while talking to the media said that fair elections are not possible in Jammu and Kashmir in the presence of more than one million occupying Indian soldiers. He said that there is no credibility in the mock elections conducted by imprisoning the entire Hurriyat leadership in jails. He said that in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, Kashmiris have been guaranteed their right to self-determination and the so-called elections in Occupied Kashmir are a violation of the resolutions of the international organization. He said that the Indian government has never fulfilled the promises made to the Kashmiri people both at the global and local levels. He said that the Modi government is creating an election pretense in the occupied territory to justify its illegal actions of August 5, 2019. He said that another purpose of these elections is to elect a Hindu Chief Minister in the occupied area. Sardar Atiq said that the BJP cannot achieve any major success in the elections of Occupied Kashmir due to the intense anger and resentment among the Kashmiri people. He said that the so-called constituencies in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir were done to give BJP an advantage in the elections. He said that after the cancellation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, 32 lakh non-Kashmiri Hindus were issued domiciles of Occupied Kashmir and given the right to vote to change the Muslim majority identity of Occupied Kashmir into a minority.



## Modi's baseless claims can't change IOJK's ground realities: DFP

✉ **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: The Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), a constituent of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, has asserted that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot alter the ground realities of the territory through his unrealistic attitude and baseless claims.

Responding to Modi's recent speech in Srinagar, DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement criticized the Indian Prime Minister for exhibiting arrogance and an authoritarian demeanor. He contended that Modi's assertions of peace and development are mere façades, masking ongoing plans that perpetuate violence and bloodshed in the territory.

The spokesman emphasized that the Kashmiri people will never betray the sacred blood of their martyrs and remain unfazed by the hollow rhetoric and empty promises of Indian leaders. He pointed out that if Modi's claims of peace and development were true, thousands of Kashmiris would not be languishing in jails.

Highlighting the immense sacrifices made by Kashmiris in their quest for freedom, he stated that the oppression they face has only strengthened their resolve. The DFP spokesperson noted that India has deployed over one million forces' personnel in Jammu and Kashmir to uphold its illegal occupation, subjecting the local population to severe atrocities for their demands for freedom.

## Congratulations to National Group for a clean sweep in the election FCCI: Alhaj Naseer

✉ **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Central Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan President Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra has congratulated the success of the National Group and said that President Rehan Naseem Bharara will fight hard for the rights of small traders. He congratulated the top leadership as well as the executive members. Naseer Vohra paid tribute to National Group Leaders Mian Muhammad Idris and Mian Javed Iqbal and said that they have supported all the business organizations of Faisalabad on every election. Consultation with the leaders to make their group the best leadership is the reason that the business leaders from all over Faisalabad division want to join the National Group and get full success with the votes of their business community to boost the morale of their group leaders. Raise hopes of bringing positive change to them. Naseer Yousuf Vohra appreciated the business politics of National Group Leaders Mian Mohammad Idris and Mian Javed Iqbal and assured full cooperation from Central Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan. He once again congratulated all the group members and prayed for the efforts of these leaders in the development of the country of Pakistan. Pakistan Army Zindabad Pakistan Pinedaabad



## Railway employees will resist any attempt to privatize trains: Sh Anwar

✉ **Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: In the second phase of the protest movement of the Railway Prime Union, under the leadership of President Prime Union Sheikh Mohammad Anwar, addressing the meeting at the railway station at the end of the train march from Lahore to Faisalabad via Shalimar Express, Sheikh Mohammad Anwar, Chairman Railway and Administration, has warned that if anyone tries to fire the TLA employees, they will strongly resist. They will not accept the decision to privatize the trains. The mental torture of the railway employees will become a bone in the neck of the government. The railway employees have turned the railway from loss to a profitable company for the first time in the history of the country by their day and night performance, but the government has turned a blind eye to the demands of these employees. Chief organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Faisalabad Prof. Remahboob-ul-Zaman Butt, Superintendent Prem Union Mian Tahir Ayub, Zonal President Prem Zahiruddin Babar, Kazim Farooq Gul, Nooruddin, Bau Tahir, Sajid Imran, Muhammad Kashif, Malik Manzoor, Rana Zahid Mahmood, Noor Ahmad, Abdul Sami, Babar Nawaz, Muhammad Wasim. Among others, hundreds of railway employees welcomed Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunyu, Divisional President Fayyaz Ahmed Shahzad, Muhammad Nasir Khan, Muhammad Jameel Malik, Khizr Hayat Baig, Haji Abdul Aziz Madni, Junaid Khurram, Faridwari and other leaders with enthusiastic slogans and garlanded them with flowers.

## Cycling for Life

ISLAMABAD: People take part in a cycle rally title "Cycle for Life" organized by Prime Minister Youth Program in collaboration with the FPCCI, at Constitution Avenue, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Awareness Seminar on Anti Dengue Day at Women University Multan

✉ **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Anti-dengue awareness seminar and walk organized in Multan Women's University According to the spokesperson Dr Anum Zhahra, an anti-dengue awareness seminar was organized by Zoology Department of Women's University Multan. The focal person of the seminar was Zoology Department's Dr. Asia Bibi. The special guest of the seminar, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsom Paracha said that awareness is necessary to deal with an endemic disease like dengue. She said that all people should take care of cleanliness, do not let water stand



in any place. Registrar Dr. Mehmuna Khan speaking at the dengue seminar said that awareness seminars should be

organized to prevent dengue and citizens should not allow water to stand in their houses, roofs and parks anywhere, guest speaker Dr. Ansar Naeem Ullah said that under the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a dengue awareness campaign has been started in the entire Punjab. According to her vision, the entire Punjab will be freed from dengue.

Students can help to fulfill this mission because they are the only ones who can help the society in the right way. After that, a walk was held in which the participants carried posters. Teachers and students were also present in the seminar.

## Multan police arrested 3 gang of 6 criminal and recovered 30 lakh rupees: DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar

✉ **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: City Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar. SSP Investigation Rana Muhammad Ashraf. SSP Operations Multan Hasan Raza Khakhi and ASP Anum Tajamal while addressing the press conference said that police station Chelek arrested 06 members of 03 gangs wanted in the incidents of robbery, theft and motorcycle theft and recovered 30 lakhs. Stolen goods worth more than Rs.17 motorcycles, 03 mobile phones, AC, LED, gold ornaments and cash recovered, 29 cases traced.

Multan police station Chalek arrested 06 members of 03 gangs wanted in the cases of robbery, theft and motorcycle theft and stole property worth more than 30 lakh rupees, including 17 motorcycles, 03 mobile phones, AC, LED, gold. Jewellery and cash included were recovered, 29 cases traced

29 cases of robbery, robbery, theft and motorcycle theft were traced from the arrested accused.

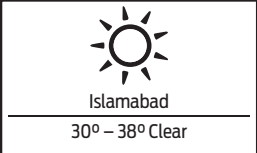


Among the arrested gangs:  
4- Abid Gang (02 members)  
5- Bilal aka Bilal Gang (03 members)  
6- Ali Hassan aka Hasina Gang (02 members)  
According to the orders of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, the operation against the criminals of Multan Police is going on under the supervision

of SP Cant Division Javed Tahir Majed in the limits of Chelek police station under the supervision of ASP Cantt Tayyab Wazir. Chalek Irfan Hashmi, acting along with Stunt Sub-Inspector Lal Khan, Sarfaraz Ali, Rana Tawfiq, Stunt Sub-Inspector Ansir Abbas and his other teams, traced and arrested the wanted gangs. The accused were arrested using modern technology including CCTV cameras and Arrested using other traditional methods.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar SSP Operations Multan Hasan Raza Khakhi, SSP Investigation Multan Rana Muhammad Ashraf and SP Cantt Division Javed Tahir Majed, ASP Cantt Tayyab Wazir and ASP New Multan Dr. Anam Tajamal. While holding a press conference, he said that operations are ongoing to prevent robbery, theft, motorcycle theft and other incidents. CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar handed over the recovered property to the original owners who expressed their happiness on receiving their property and thanked CPO Multan.





**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:31 am  
Zohr ..... 12:02 pm  
Asr ..... 4:23 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:07 pm  
Isha ..... 7:30 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

**Prominent business leader Zafar Bakhtawari appointed member BoG Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore has appointed Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari as member its Board of Governors. Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari is a prominent business leader, philanthropist, columnist, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Secretary General United Business Group and son of Pakistan Movement's gold medalist worker Ghulam Nabi Bakhtawari.

According to the notification of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan dated Sept.10, 2024, its Management Committee has unanimously approved the name of Zafar Bakhtawari as its member in recognition of his services for the country in different fields of life.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari is also Secretary General of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Forum Islamabad.

Moreover, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, former Federal Ministers Raja Zafar ul Haq and Lt. General (Retd) Abdul Qayyum are also the members Board of Governors Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore from Islamabad.

In a statement, Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari has expressed gratitude to the Management of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan Lahore for the honour and vowed to work from the platform of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan with more devotion and zeal to earn more and more respect and honour for the country by following the teachings of its founders to materialize their dreams.

# Seerat-ul-Nabi Seminar held at PARC Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Islamabad organized the "Seerat-ul-Nabi Seminar" on 19th September, 2024. The seminar focused to shed light on the teachings of Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) and their significance in our lives. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, graced the occasion as the guest of honor and commended the Milad Committee PARC for their efforts in organizing the seminar. On this occasion, Chairman PARC said that the life of Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) is a torch of guidance for the entire world and by following His teachings; we can achieve Success in this world and the hereafter.

Internationally renowned Qari, Salah Abdullah from Egypt recited verses from Holy Quran. Qari Rehan Habib Suharwardi, Muhammad Rizwan Attari and



Hafiz Muhammad Javed recited naat. Renowned scholar, Mufti Muhammad Gul Raza Attari, while addressing the seminar emphasized the importance of implementing the teachings of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) and highlighted different aspects of his life. He said that the life of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) is a source of light, guiding us through the darkest of times. His teachings are not limited to time or place but are universal and everlasting. They are a center of wisdom, compassion, and a pathway to leading a just and prosperous life. DG, Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) Sahibzada Arshad Farooq also shed light on the importance of implementing the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) in our lives. He thanked all the honorable guests and participants for their participation in this gracious occasion.

## Sawasdee Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Thai artists performing Thai traditional dance during a ceremony title "Sawasdee Pakistan" organized by Thai Embassy at a local Mall, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# PPRA launched Master Trainers Program for the implementation of e-PADS

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with the Prime Minister's vision for a Digital Pakistan, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has launched the Master Trainers Program for the implementation of e-PADS. Following the Prime Minister's directives to enhance transparency, efficiency, and value for money in public procurement, PPRA has initiated a five-day training for over 50 officers from federal ministries starting September 18, 2024.

Hasnat Ahmad Qureshi, Managing Director of PPRA, highlighted that today marks the first step in developing a total of 200 Master Trainers across various federal ministries. These trainers will be crucial in implementing e-PADS nationwide, ensuring a seamless transition within their organizations. He emphasized that the successful rollout of e-PADS will drive economic development and enhance accountability in the use of public funds. Mr. Qureshi also noted that the e-PADS system has

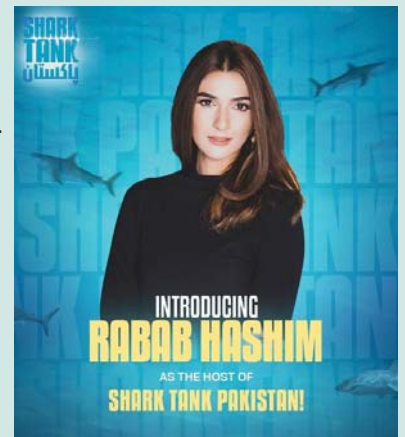


already been successfully implemented in 37 ministries and more than 300 departments.

## Rabab Hashim becomes the first ever to Host Shark Tank Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: Acclaimed actress and television personality Rabab Hashim has been announced as the official host of the highly anticipated new season of Shark Tank Pakistan. The celebrated star, known for her charisma, poise, and vibrant screen presence, is set to bring a fresh dynamic to the globally popular reality show, which offers aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of seasoned investors or 'sharks.'



Rabab Hashim's involvement adds a new layer of excitement to Shark Tank Pakistan. With her strong connection to the youth and her diverse experiences across the media landscape, Rabab is expected to engage audiences and innovators alike, making the show both entertaining and inspirational.

"When it came to choosing the face of our show, we knew we needed someone bold, brilliant, and ready to dive deep—Rabab Hashim is exactly that and more," according to the official announcement on the Shark Tank Pakistan social media

## TikTok becomes official Entertainment Partner of Shark Tank Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TikTok has announced its role as the Entertainment Partner for the inaugural season of Shark Tank Pakistan, acquired by Grenlit Studio. This partnership marks a milestone in TikTok's mission to inspire creativity and bring joy, providing a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

Shark Tank, the globally acclaimed business reality show, that has seen adaptation in over 40 countries, debuts in Pakistan in October 2024. This venture is brought to the local audience by Grenlit Studios in collaboration with Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Under this partnership, TikTok will host exclusive content under the hashtag #SharkTankPakistan, featuring #WhatToWatch and trending topics, engaging users with interactive and fresh content surrounding the show. The official Shark Tank Pakistan TikTok account has already amassed over 30,000 followers, illustrating the community's enthusiasm and engagement with the show.

This partnership will also encourage the creation and sharing of engaging long-form content, extending beyond one-minute videos, enhancing viewer engagement, and offering deeper insights into the entrepreneurial journeys featured on the show.

"This partnership with Shark Tank Pakistan aligns with our commitment to supporting local talent and entrepreneurs. We are excited to see this collaboration foster innovation and creativity, and we look forward to becoming a part of the entrepreneurial journey of many Pakistanis," said Saif Mujahid, Head of Content Operations, Pakistan, TikTok.

TikTok, as the Entertainment Partner, will play a crucial role in amplifying these stories of innovation and determination, inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs.

## Aurora Tech Award 2025: Expanding Support for Women Innovators in Tech

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 2025 Aurora Tech Award opens for applications on September 2nd, inviting women tech entrepreneurs from around the world to showcase their innovations.

As the tech industry evolves, the need for diverse voices and leadership continues to grow. The Aurora Tech Award was established in 2020 to recognize and empower women founders of IT startups who are driving innovation and breaking down barriers. This year, the award returns with expanded opportunities, increased financial support, and an ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of women tech leaders.

2025 Highlights: What's New This Year  
The 2025 Aurora Tech Award introduces several updates to provide greater resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs:

1. Increased Prize Fund: In recognition of the vital role women play in the tech industry, the prize fund has been significantly increased. The new prize distribution is as follows:

- 1st Prize: \$30,000
- 2nd Prize: \$20,000
- 3rd Prize: \$15,000
- 4th Prize: \$10,000
- 5th Prize: \$10,000

Refined Evaluation Process: The application process now includes three stages of assessment: longlist, midlist, and shortlist. After an initial evaluation by venture fund analysts, 100 participants will be selected for a pitching session. Fifteen of these will advance to the final shortlist.

# Shan Foods inaugurated a state of the art international standard production facility

City Desk

KARACHI: Shan Foods inaugurates a state-of-the-art international standard production facility for its strategic partnership with Symrise, the Leading Global Taste, Nutrition & Health player, to shape the future of food innovation for consumers in Pakistan.

Shan Foods, a global culinary brand & Recipe Mixes market leader in Pakistan & UAE has entered into an exclusive strategic partnership with Symrise, a leading Global Taste Nutrition & Health player.

Together Shan Foods & Symrise will deliver winning and innovative Savory products for leading local and global food brands.



"Shan has invested in a research, development and application labora- together."

tory and a manufacturing facility with quality management systems in Pakistan. The partnership with Symrise reinforces its position as a brand that continuously explores new ideas, drives food innovation and taste development in Pakistan" says Imran Sherani, Advisor Strategy, Growth & Investment of Shan Foods.

Raheel Qadri, Country Head - Pakistan at Symrise, said, "The inauguration of this facility represents a new chapter in our partnership with Shan Foods and our dedication to Pakistan's food industry. This advanced facility will help us quickly bring high-quality, locally produced products to market, meeting the demand for innovation and authenticity, setting new industry standards



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## “Trump’s Achilles’ Heel: Immigrant Voters”

**D**uring his last debate with Kamala Harris, Donald Trump made two fundamental mistakes. First, his tirade against the Russia-Ukraine war lacked depth and coherence. Second, his venomous rhetoric against immigrants failed to distinguish between legal and illegal immigration. His positions on both critical issues were shallow, unsupported by evidence, and lacked cogent arguments. His poor articulation of these topics further highlighted his ignorance, which may severely damage his chances of retaining the presidency of one of the world’s most powerful nations, the United States of America.

Moreover, Trump appeared unaware of the significant impact immigrant voters can have on the election. Immigrants can either swing the vote in his favor, shift it towards Kamala Harris, or choose not to vote at all. His alienation of this crucial demographic could prove to be a critical miscalculation in the upcoming election.

Currently, I am staying in Macomb, Michigan, where the sentiment among immigrants, both new and longstanding, is largely negative towards Trump. This hostility has intensified, especially after hearing his inflammatory and offensive remarks, where he labeled all immigrants as “dog and cat eaters.” These derogatory comments have deeply alienated the immigrant community here.

The demographic of Michigan state is very interesting. Out of the total population of 10 million the black and immigrants make up 25% of the population. The immigrant population in the U. S., especially in key swing states like Michigan, is growing and becoming a more politically active and decisive voting bloc. Immigrant communities from South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and East Asia are playing an increasingly prominent role in elections.

Trump’s anti-immigrant policies, such as the Muslim travel ban, his derogatory rhetoric about Mexican immigrants, and his hardline stance on border security, have alienated many immigrant and minority groups. These voters view Trump as a threat to their communities, families, and values, which was reflected in increased minority voter turnout against him in 2020. This alienation is likely to persist, if not intensify, in the upcoming election.

Kamala Harris, as a woman of South Asian and Jamaican descent, holds particular significance for immigrant communities. Her nomination and vice presidency represent a historic milestone in the U. S. political landscape, and her background could galvanize South Asian, African-American, and Caribbean-American voters. Harris’s candidacy could act as a rallying point for immigrant and minority voters, particularly those who see her as an advocate for civil rights, immigration reform, and inclusive policies.

In Michigan, immigrant and minority voters are concentrated in urban areas like Detroit, Dearborn, and Ann Arbor. Arab-American voters, particularly from the Lebanese, Syrian, and Yemeni communities in Dearborn, have historically played a decisive role in local and national elections. Similarly, the South Asian population in suburban Detroit is growing and becoming more politically engaged.

Given the state’s narrow margins in recent elections, the mobilization of immigrant voters could be crucial. In 2020, Joe Biden won Michigan by around 154,000 votes. Immigrant and minority voters, particularly in urban centers, contributed significantly to this victory. If the Democratic Party can further energize these

communities, particularly through the candidacy of Kamala Harris, it could more than compensate for any losses among the white working-class voters Trump retains.

In Michigan in particular and across the USA in general, the white vote is no longer a monolithic bloc. Trump continues to enjoy strong support among white working-class voters, particularly those without a college degree, due to his populist message on trade and immigration. However, college-educated whites, particularly in suburban areas, are increasingly turning away from Trump’s more extreme positions on race, immigration, and governance.

Applying the theory of a divided white vote and a unified immigrant vote across the U. S. in 2024 gives much deeper insights into Harris’s potential gains.

Texas has a large Latino and South Asian population. Latino voters, in particular, are a significant force in Texas, making up about 40% of the population. A 3-5% immigrant vote swing in Harris’s favor could be enough to make Texas a competitive state.

Florida has a large Latino (primarily Cuban-American and Puerto Rican) and immigrant population. Harris could see gains in South Florida if she can energize Latino voters with policies on immigration, economic opportunity, and healthcare. Potential Gain for Harris: 2-4% swing, particularly in Miami-Dade and Orlando regions, could bring Florida back into the Democratic column.

Arizona has a sizable Latino population and saw Joe Biden win in 2020. Harris could potentially build on this success by increasing turnout among Latino and younger immigrant voters. A 2-3% increase in immigrant turnout

could solidify Arizona as a Democratic win. Georgia has seen a growing Black and immigrant population, particularly Latinos and Asians in the Atlanta metro area. A 2-4% increase in turnout among Black, Latino, and Asian communities could help secure Georgia for Harris.

Pennsylvania has a smaller immigrant population compared to some other states, but urban centers like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have significant Black and Latino communities. A 1-2% gain among immigrants and urban voters could solidify her hold on the state.

Immigrant voters, especially from South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and East Asia, are becoming a politically decisive bloc in key swing states. Many immigrants view Harris, the daughter of South Asian and Jamaican immigrants, as a symbol of inclusivity and progress, and her candidacy could galvanize these voters, particularly in states like Michigan, Texas, Florida, and Georgia, where immigrant populations are significant.

The potential for Harris to increase voter turnout among first-generation immigrants and young voters could be a game-changer in battleground states. Immigrant and minority communities in Michigan, for example, were instrumental in Joe Biden’s 2020 victory, and similar turnout in 2024 could be decisive.

Ultimately, if Harris can capitalize on a divided white electorate and the growing political power of immigrant voters, she stands to gain a 2-4% increase in key swing states. This shift could tip the balance in her favor, particularly in states like Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, where narrow margins have defined recent elections.

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

## China shifts from solar manufacturing giant to solar IP innovator

**C**hina is transitioning from a solar manufacturing powerhouse to a leading innovator in intellectual property (IP) as in 2022, China has accounted for over 80 per cent of capacity and production in all stages of the solar PV supply chain including polysilicon, wafers, cells, and modules.

Executive Deputy Director of China’s Photovoltaics Industry IP Operation Centre, Chen Wei informed the participants at the China IP annual meeting, citing the Photovoltaics IP Development Report for 2023 in Beijing, China Economic Net reported on Friday.

Beyond PV manufacturing, Chen also noted a significant increase in research and development (R&D) investment among Chinese firms. “Several Chinese PV giants have been allocating about 5 per cent of their business revenue to R&D in PV technology over the past years,” he said adding, “This is a significant investment given the specialised nature of PV technology.”

The manufacturing prowess and R&D investments have encouraged more Chinese enterprises and research institutes to innovate in the industry. In solar cell efficiency research, more and more Chinese solar enterprises and research institutes have become contributors to the best research-cell efficiency chart.

The chart, updated by the Colorado-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a national laboratory under the US Department of Energy, documents the highest confirmed conversion efficiencies for research cells for a range of solar technologies.

“Solar cell efficiency is a critical metric in the industry,” Chen explained adding, “It measures how effectively a solar cell converts sunlight into electricity. Higher efficiency means more power from the same surface area.”

The R&D push has driven a surge in intellectual property initiatives. As per data from the photovoltaics IP development report, China’s annual solar patent applications skyrocketed from 40.8 per cent of the global total in 2014 to 82.6 per cent in 2021, totaling more than 175,000 cumulative applications by 2022, taking up 48 per cent of the world’s total.

The country now holds 33,970 valid patents in key PV technologies including raw materials, wafers, cells and modules, representing 48% of the global total and equivalent to the combined number of patents from the U. S., South Korea, Japan and Europe, according to the photovoltaics IP development report.

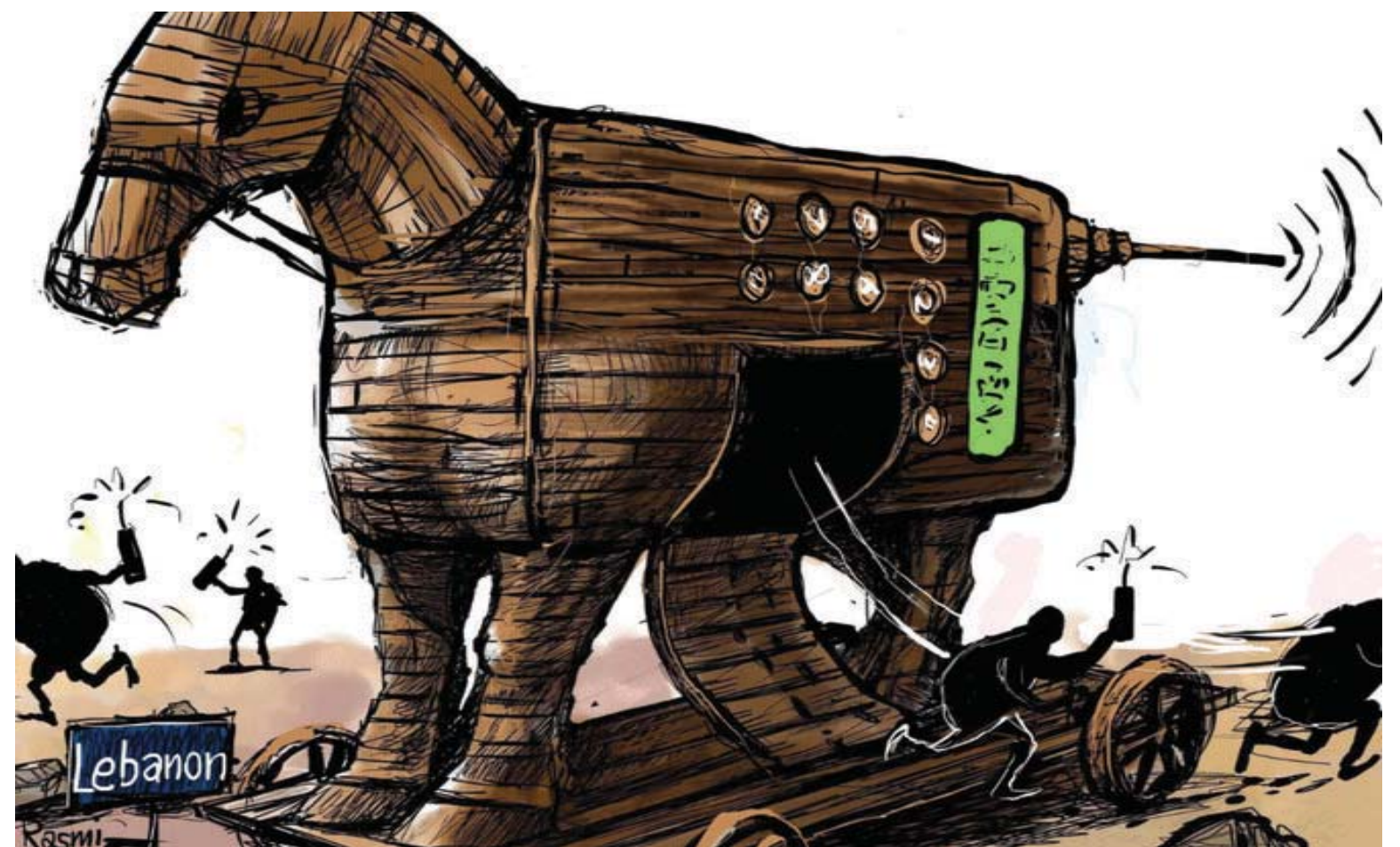
To better harness the power of IP, Chen highlighted that efforts should be made to increase international patent protection through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) mechanism and to increase patents in more critical technology branches. “We need to focus on cultivating high-quality patents through improved writing and strategic portfolio management,” he said.

Industry forecasts suggest renewable energy could account for 76% of global power generation by 2050, with solar playing a significant role. “The peak of China’s solar IP operation is yet to come, but I believe it is on the horizon,” Chen concluded.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

## Keeping the Badge Clean: Enforcing Boundaries Between Police and Press

**T**he relationship between law enforcement and the press is an essential one in any democratic society. The media plays a crucial role in holding institutions accountable and providing the public with information, while the police are tasked with maintaining law and order. However, when the boundaries between these two institutions blur, the integrity of both can be compromised. Enforcing clear boundaries between police officers and the press is vital to ensuring that the badge remains clean and that the public’s trust in these institutions is preserved.

The Punjab government should take decisive action by issuing clear directives to its police bureaucracy, specifically instructing police officers to maintain a professional boundary in public spaces. One such directive should be that police officers avoid attending private events while in uniform and abstain from taking selfies with citizens or journalists. These seemingly harmless interactions are being exploited by certain individuals, particularly within the media, who use these photographs to boost their influence within their communities. This has given rise to a trend where journalists capitalize on these images, using them to project close associations with law enforcement officers, which in turn allows them to facilitate both legal and illegal activities in exchange for financial gain.

A particularly troubling case came to light when an individual, against whom the police had lodged a formal complaint accusing him of involvement with drug dealers and gambling rings, was spotted meeting the CPO Multan. This person, posing as a journalist, has been known to use his media credentials to manipulate situations and exert pressure on law enforcement. Despite the allegations against him, such individuals continue to take advantage of police officers by taking photos with them and sharing these images on social media, further legitimizing their false claims of

influence. He who influence police officers sit in police stations and make TikTok videos. SHOs are unable to take action against them. This behaviour underscores the serious lapses in judgment by police officers, who, often unknowingly, find themselves entangled in these manipulative schemes.

There have been recent reports from Multan highlighting this issue. It was revealed that a group of journalists demanded Rs 150,000 from a police officer in return for helping him with his reinstatement. This unethical demand has been reported to the Chief Police Officer (CPO), signalling a disturbing trend where journalists exert undue influence over police officials for personal gain. Many of these journalists were previously blacklisted by the police during earlier administrations, with formal letters issued to restrict their access to police officers. However, these individuals are now using legitimate journalists as intermediaries to regain influence over police officers.

In light of these incidents, it is imperative that the Punjab government takes swift action. A formal notice should be issued to police officers across the province, instructing them to restrict journalists’ access to the Public Relations Officer (PRO) room only. If a journalist needs to obtain official information, they should follow proper procedures by submitting a formal request under the Punjab Citizens Information Act. This would ensure that information is shared transparently and prevent casual access to police officers, which has been a source of numerous issues.

The unrestricted access journalists currently have in government offices is hindering the proper functioning of these institutions. Their constant presence distracts officers from their official duties and increases the risk of sensitive information being disclosed. Additionally, this persistent access has fostered divisions within civil and police bureaucracies, complicating internal dynamics and undermining organizational integrity. By implementing these directives, the Punjab



### How to be creative?

According to Kampylis and Berki (2014),

“Creative thinking is defined as the thinking that enables students to apply their imagination to generating ideas, questions, and hypotheses, experimenting with alternatives, and evaluating their own and their peers’ ideas, final products, and processes.” Knowledge and education culminate in creativity. Creativity allows a student to generate his or her unique work, find a solution to a problem, or develop their own idea into a theory or product. Creativity connects us to different ideas, which helps us to easily draw conclusions. Whenever someone tries to find something new, there is an element of creativity involved. Creativity boosts learning and lights up the brain. Now, after discussing the concept of creativity, the daunting challenge that comes is: how to be creative? We grew up hearing from our teachers to be creative, but most of us could not help ourselves to be creative. The reason is crystal clear because we didn’t get the concept of creativity—for it was convoluted. Creativity is a skill, and it comes with practice. Creativity lurks behind curiosity; curiosity spurs the thirst for discovering new ideas and learning. If you are curious, you have ascended the first rung of the ladder of creativity. The second point is to be courageous to face failure. History is a testament to the creation of mind-boggling products after being

failed hundreds of times. Failure is a chance to correct your mistake. If you are always successful and right, your chances of being creative are less. The third point is to read and write. Reading and writing is one of the beautiful ways to boost our creativity. I personally love reading and writing, and it has helped a lot to discover and express different ideas. Reading is the key to boosting creativity. Reading opens our eyes to new ideas and other perspectives. It expands and deepens our knowledge. The more deep you know about something, the greater the chances of discovering something new. The last but not least point is to be confident about yourself. Having confidence in your work can help you develop creativity. If you are afraid to try new things, it is difficult to be creative. According to a Harvard Business article by Tom Kelley and David Kelley, there are four types of fear that impede people from becoming creative. These include fear of the messy unknown, fear of being judged, fear of the first step, and fear of losing control. Each of these fears has the potential to hinder your creativity, but with confidence and self-belief, it can be overcome.

In today’s fast, developed, and digitised world, creativity has become the need of the hour. One cannot afford to fall behind in this world of artificial intelligence. One must equip themselves with the skill of creativity to compete in the market. Especially for students, if they want to set their ball rolling and want to sit on a cosy chair right after their graduation, they must adopt this skill.

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# Rahmatal-lil-Alameen Conference hosted by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels

**Spokesman Report**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: Today, the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels commemorated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) by hosting the Rahmatal-lil-Alameen Conference, a tribute to the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The conference began with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by soul-stirring Naats. Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Minister Faraz Zaidi, conveyed a special message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, empha-

sizing the profound importance of the day.

Mr. Sagheer Wattoo, Counsellor Press of the Embassy, served as the Master of Ceremonies and shared his devotional poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The event was warmly received by members of the Pakistani community from Brussels and the surrounding areas.

The conference closed with collective prayers for the well-being of Pakistan and relief for Muslims enduring hardships in IIOJK and Palestine.



# CCAR and IRC Partner to Strengthen Humanitarian Support in Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In order to strengthen humanitarian support in Pakistan, The Chief Commissioner Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Pakistan have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to solidify their collaboration. This strategic partnership addresses the pressing needs of vulnerable populations, particularly Afghan refugees, through a holistic approach that entails institutional strengthening, humanitarian programming and coordinated actions.

Under this collaboration, CCAR and IRC intend to pursue actions aimed at developing and backstopping multi-sectoral humanitarian support through a consultative process, with an emphasis on capacity building and technical support. Both organizations are committed to sustaining and replicating the Urban Support Units supported by IRC.

Moreover, the partnership aims to engage and bring together donors and organizations for livelihood &



skill development initiatives along with Community-Based Disaster Risk Management/Reduction models tailored for vulnerable Afghan refugees and host communities.

Shabnam Baloch, Country Director, International Rescue Committee in Pakistan, stated, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in our collective ongoing efforts to support Afghan refugees and other

vulnerable populations in Pakistan. The collaboration with CCAR will enable us to develop and implement more effective and sustainable programs that address both the immediate needs and long-term resilience of these communities. We are excited to combine our expertise and resources to create a meaningful impact."

Muhammad Abbas Khan, Chief

Commissioner, CCAR, also highlighted the importance of this partnership, saying, "The challenges faced by Afghan refugees are multifaceted, particularly in the context of climate change. Our partnership with IRC is a crucial step towards developing robust and resilient systems that can support these communities. Together, we are committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of those most affected."

Pakistan's vulnerability ranking (37 out of 191) is driven by its high rates of multidimensional poverty and Climate Change. There is a dire need for mainstreaming knowledge of climate impacts on vulnerable populations including Afghan refugees and host communities CCAR and IRC hope to foster a more coordinated and united approach to addressing these critical issues.

The signing of this MOU sets the stage for a strong and collaborative partnership between CCAR and IRC, with both organizations dedicated to implementing sustainable, evidence-based interventions that will have a profound impact on the ground.

# 'IEEE R10 Young Professionals UpSkill 2024'

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Ziauddin University's IEEE Student Branch organized a One-Day event titled "IEEE R10 Young Professionals UpSkill 2024", in collaboration with IEEE Young Professionals Karachi Section, supported by IEEE Region-10 Young Professionals, at Ziauddin University's Education City Campus, Link Road site, Karachi.

The primary aim of the event was to equip young professionals with the skills needed to face the challenges of Industry 4.0 and Industry 5.0.

On this occasion, renowned experts from academia highlighted the optimization of manufacturing through cloud-based data exchange and AI-driven solutions (Industry 4.0), while emphasizing human-centric collaboration between people and machines (Industry 5.0).

The experts included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif, Dean of Sir Syed University; Prof. Dr. Zeeshan Ul Haque, Dean of Salim Habib University; Prof. Dr. Abdul Qadir, Chairman



of the Biomedical Department at MUET Jamshoro; and Prof. Dr. Ahsan Naeem, Professor at UET Lahore shared their views at the event.

As the Chief Guest addressing the attendees, the Vice-Chancellor of Ziauddin University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Khan emphasized the transformative impact of AI-driven tools like ChatGPT on modern education. "Our students are not only embracing AI but are actively using

it to enhance their learning experiences. This shift from traditional, rigid methods to more dynamic, interactive, and self-assessing approaches is revolutionizing how education is delivered," he remarked.

Engr. Dr. Fahad Azim, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Science, Technology, & Management, and Director Site, Ziauddin University emphasized the importance of these cutting-edge technologies for professionals in fields such as

electrical, biomedical, and civil engineering. He further elaborated on IEEE's Region 10 initiatives, which provide resources for professional development through seminars, workshops, and short courses aimed at both technical and non-technical skill enhancement.

The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Saad Jawaid Khan, Principal of the College of Engineering and Technology at Ziauddin University, who led discussions on the significance of biomedical engineering and Industry 4.0/5.0 technologies.

The event also highlighted the role of IEEE Young Professionals, a dynamic, international community that fosters professional growth.

The event concluded with a reflection on how AI-driven tools like ChatGPT are transforming education. The event, marking IEEE's continued commitment to empowering young professionals, catered to a diverse audience and emphasized the pivotal role of advanced technologies in shaping the future.

**Cycle Rally**



ISLAMABAD: Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and Aziz Karim Malik and others started the cycle rally title "Cycle for Life" organized by Prime Minister Youth Program in collaboration with the FPCCI, at Constitution Avenue, in the Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO by Sultan Bashir

# Fashion and Design Innovation Discussed: Prof. Hina Tayyaba Meets Commerce Minister



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Hina Tayyaba, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the introduction of a "Design Centre Concept" aimed at boosting Pakistan's fashion and design industry.

The meeting focused on how this concept could foster opportunities in education, research, and development within the fashion industry, with the ultimate goal of promoting exports and tapping into international markets.

Prof. Hina Tayyaba explained that the concept is inspired by internationally established design centers in countries like Australia, the UK, China, and the U.S. (Miami).

She emphasized that such a center in Pakistan would significantly enhance the industry's potential, especially in higher education and research, contributing to the country's global competitiveness.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan appreciated the concept and accepted the proposal for submission, promising to discuss it further at the next Export Development Fund (EDF) board meeting.

He also assured full support from the Ministry of Commerce and encouraged more proposals related to the fashion industry for the upcoming EDF meeting.

# Asma Butt congratulates MNA on his appointment as Federal Parliamentary Secretary



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's well-known writer and director Asma Butt congratulated National Assembly member Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, son of former Senator Chaudhry Tanveer, a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, on his appointment as Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Information and Broadcasting and expressed her best wishes.

Asma Butt, representing the artists, met MNA Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry at his residence yesterday. Where she congratulated Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on his appointment as Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Information and Broadcasting. A bouquet of flowers was presented, and the cake was also cut. On this occasion, senior artist Sheeba Butt, Babar Nasir Aslam, Anjam Abbasi, Arshad Khan, Haseeb, Safia, members of the Provincial Assembly Zeb Nisa Awan, Rifat Abbasi, Mrs. Mumtaz Malik and a large number of other women were present with her. Asma Butt said that Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry is the rising star of the bright future of the youth. The PML-N is fortunate to have an excellent young leader in their party in the form of Daniyal Chaudhry, who is highly educated and has a devotedly served his services for the country. She said that The country and the nation are focused on the young leadership. It is hoped that MNA Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry will establish the supremacy of justice and law. He will play his key role in solving the problems of the people and especially the artists for the elimination of negative activities.

# UK expertise to support 7 innovative Pakistani climate change projects

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Projects building floating solar farms, using AI to reduce emissions, converting agricultural waste into clean energy sources, and building zero-emission electric motorbikes will receive UK specialist support.

Pakistan is not only one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, but also one of the most poorly prepared. While Pakistan cannot easily change its exposure to climate hazards, climate preparedness is something the UK and Pakistan partner closely on.

Funded by the UK Government, the CEA provides one-on-one specialist support including on financial, gender equality and social inclusion issues. The aim is to strengthen proposals, making them more attractive to investors to secure funding.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "The extraordinary range of these projects shows Pakistani climate leadership at its best. It is

also an example of the UK working in partnership with Pakistan to find home-grown solutions to tackle big issues. I look forward to seeing how these proposals progress on the international stage and wish them the very best."

1. Go Energy (Sector: Power) – building a 500MW floating solar project in Keenjhar Lake. It will generate clean energy, create thousands of jobs, and boost regional economic growth while reducing fossil fuel dependence and improving air quality in Pakistan.

2. Ahya (Sector: Technology) – offering an AI-powered platform for emission measurement and reduction, with a digital carbon marketplace, aiming to significantly reduce CO2 emissions.

3. Quintech Sciences (Sector: Healthcare) – aims to introduce Quintech's bio-degradables to European consumers, focusing on eco-conscious, health-conscious, and general consumer segments.

4. National Rural Support Programme (Sector: Agriculture) – the Biochar Project

will convert agricultural waste into biochar, enhancing soil health and boosting crop yields. This initiative reduces reliance on synthetic fertilizers, promotes environmental sustainability by sequestering carbon and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Vlektra (Sector: e-Mobility) – with vehicles designed for the country's tough road conditions Vlektra aims to revolutionize environmentally friendly mobility by enhancing production capacity of their zero-emission electric motorcycles.

6. Pakistan Environment Trust (Sector: Energy) – is pioneering Pakistan's first at-scale, sustainable biomass supply chain, transforming agricultural waste into a clean energy source for industries.

7. Five Star Foods (Sector: Food & Beverages) – establishing a state-of-the-art facility to produce Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (R-PET) resin. The initiative reduces the need for virgin plastic, conserves natural resources, and lowers the carbon footprint of plastic production.

# ISSI to host One-Day Int'l Conference on "Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archeological and Civilisational Heritage"

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) will be hosting a One-Day International Conference, titled "Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archeological and Civilisational Heritage", at ISSI on 30 September 2024.

As the cradle of ancient civilisations, Pakistan boasts millennia-old, multi-layered heritage, including the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Buddhist Gandhara Civilisation. It is home to pre-historic cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa and iconic archeological sites at Taxila, Swat and Takht-e-Bahi. While the Indus Valley civilisation was the contemporary of ancient Egyptian and Babylonian civilisations, the Buddhist Gandhara evolved with multiple influences and

is known particularly for its distinctive iconography. With six archeological marvels designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and a treasure trove of pre-historic and historic artefacts, Pakistan's incredible civilisational legacy is imprinted deep on the global cultural landscape.

The International Conference will serve as a platform for insightful expert and policy discourse, focused on enhancing global awareness about Pakistan's rich and varied heritage and devising strategies for a range of objectives from improved conservation and preservation to promotion of sustainable tourism.

The Conference sessions will explore archeological and cultural aspects of this unique heritage from technical and scholarly perspectives and contribute to enhanced under-

standing as well as interfaith dialogue and harmony.

Additionally, the Conference participants will undertake comprehensive analysis of tourism models and international best practices that support local economies, better preserve cultural heritage, and offer enriching experiences for tourists from within and abroad, while promoting cross-cultural ties and dynamic people-to-people exchanges.

By bringing together eminent international and Pakistani scholars, archeologists, experts, area specialists, and policymakers, the Conference aims to provide an avenue for underscoring the global salience of Pakistan's ancient archeological and civilisational heritage and catalysing it for sustainable tourism development.



## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
82,074.44	81,459.28
Day's High	Day's Low
82,372.19	81,387.57
Index Value	Change
24,398,522,009	+615.16
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	20 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,229.99	-98.73
Percentage	Time
-1.19%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,093.82	+68.63
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,723.91	+568.58
Percentage	Time
+1.53%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.25	190.50
Bahrain Dinar	734.20	742.20
Canadian Dollar	204.70	207.10
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.00	310.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.65	910.15
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	718.50	727.00
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	74.08	74.63
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	328.70	331.50
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.7	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	367.5	371
US Dollar	279.25	280.75

# IT, food, and other areas need attention: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that the performance of the export sector is satisfactory despite high business costs and adverse conditions.

Exports of the textile sector have seen a five percent increase in the last two months, while the same can be increased through a reduction in bank markup and other costs.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that exports have seen a 14.4% increase in the last two months, which is a welcome development. He added that a 30% increase in IT exports, 29% in pharmaceuticals, and 100% in rice have been witnessed.



The business leader said that more attention should be given to halal food, IT, and other sectors so that the country's income can be increased, after which the people and the business community can get some relief.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that for many decades, Pakistan imported goods and services worth more than two dollars for one dollar of export earnings, which is the main reason for the country's problems.

He observed that the current account deficit of Pakistan has also turned into a surplus in the last two months due to some prudent policies.

For the last several decades, due to terrorism and law and order problems, Pakistan has been forced to make import growth-based policies. Still, it has become imperative to make export-based policies necessary to reduce the cost of doing business.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government needs to strongly patronize the export sector and added that the export sector needs to be interested in increasing production, competitiveness, diversification, valuation, better access to global markets, and research and development.

He underlined that 250 million people would benefit from the increase in exports. He stressed that the trade agreements made with other countries would cause harm to the country instead of benefit.

These agreements have damaged the country's industrial sector; hundreds of factories have closed while imports have increased, showing our bureaucracy's ingenuity.

Termination of such harmful trade agreements is in the national interest. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Bangladesh's exports are currently more than Pakistan's because they have made export-friendly policies. Bangladesh's exports have more than doubled since 2013, while we can barely maintain the volume of exports.

Mian Zahid Hussain asked how a country that imports goods and services worth 60 billion dollars and its exports are stagnant at \$30 billion can run.

## Souvenir

KARACHI: Nazli Abid Nisar, Founder President of KWCCI Malir, along with Hina Mansab Khan, Chairperson of SAARC Women Chamber, presenting crest to Yousuf Baloch, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Youth, and Sports Sindh. Abid Nisar, Patron-in-Chief KWCCI Malir, and Shabbir Mansha, former VP of FPCCI, also seen in the picture.



Photo: Online

## PIAF PBG sets stage for Victory in LCCI 2024-26 elections

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) elections for the 2024-26 term are underway, and the PIAF PBG, led by the dynamic Anjum Nisar Group, has emerged as a strong contender. The grand election meeting held yesterday by the PIAF-PBG has been touted as the largest and most successful gathering in the history of Lahore's business community, further solidifying their position as frontrunners in the race.

Mian Abuzar Shad, former PIAF Chairman and one of the top leaders of Lahore's business community, addressed the gathering, expressing confidence in the alliance's success. He noted the overwhelming turnout as a sign of the alliance's deep-rooted support within the city's business sector.



He also lauded Ali Hassam Asghar, Mardan Zaidi, Yousaf Shah, Harris Attique, Mian Imran Asghar, Usman Malik and others for their untiring efforts for making the show a thumping success.

## Master Changan's Pure EVs from Huawei, Changan, and CATL arrive at Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: [September 20th, 2024]—Master Changan introduces DEEPAL, its latest venture into the pure EV lineup, showcasing the collaborative power of three global titans of electric mobility: Huawei, Changan, and CATL, the world's no. 1 EV battery company. The newly released launch video, featuring Danial Malik, CEO, showcases Deepal's S07 SUV and L07 Sedan while highlighting their innovative advancements in EV technology.

The Deepal S07 SUV and L07 Sedan are now available across 18 Changan dealerships in 12 cities.

The S07 is priced at Rs 14.99 million and offers a 485 km range, while the L07 is available for Rs 13.99 million and offers a range of 540 km.

Both vehicles come with an exclusive complimentary



package, including a 7 kW AC fast charger. With the Deepal, you can enjoy the convenience of charging once a week and travel from Islamabad to Lahore on a single charge.

Danial Malik emphasizes Pakistan's crucial role in Changan's global strategy "Vast Ocean Plan" and invites customers at the Changan selected 18 dealerships nationwide to experience and touch the future of electric mobility. This launch marks a significant step towards mass EV adoption for a more sustainable Pakistan.

## Jazz Hosts Beach Cleanup to Celebrate World Cleanup Day



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, organized a beach cleanup at Clifton Beach, Karachi, on World Cleanup Day. The initiative, aligned with Jazz's ESG agenda, aimed to raise awareness about marine pollution and encourage the protection of marine ecosystems, with employees actively participating to promote a cleaner environment.

This year's World Cleanup Day, themed 'Make Room For Life', emphasizes the urgent need to tackle global waste and

marine debris. With 80% of ocean pollution from land-based sources, over 10 million metric tons of plastic enter the oceans annually, threatening marine life and ecosystems, and introducing harmful microplastics into the food chain.

Syed Fakhar Ahmed, Jazz's Chief Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Officer, stated, "Jazz's commitment to environmental sustainability drives us to actively combat marine pollution. By raising awareness about solid waste's impact on ecosystems, we aim to foster environmental stewardship and protect the planet for future generations. Every step towards a cleaner

environment contributes to a better future for all."

Jazz is committed to reducing its environmental footprint through its Net Zero program, aiming to become a net-zero carbon-emitting entity by 2050. Over the last two years, the company has diverted 77 tons of waste from landfills, promoted recycling, and composted food waste into organic fertilizers. Jazz has also organized tree plantation drives in Peshawar and Islamabad as part of its Carbon Sink project, reinforcing its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability.

## Survey finds that 89% of accountants recognise importance of living wages yet only 53% see it as their responsibility

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The report, 'A living wage - Crucial for sustainability', calls on finance and accountancy professionals to take immediate action in addressing wage inequality, highlighting the critical role they play in driving sustainable business practices and fostering social stability. The report underscores that without urgent intervention, wage disparities will continue to erode economic and social systems worldwide.

Using the insights from over 1,000 survey respondents

across 93 countries and discussions with more than 50 finance and business professionals, the report provides compelling evidence for the socio-economic multiplier effect of living wages. It finds that paying a living wage benefits not only workers but also employers, economies, and governments.

Paying workers below a living wage is inconsistent with preserving and enhancing the value of human capital. Business and investor initiatives involving leaders from across all regions are increasingly highlighting the impor-



tance of paying living wages to reduce inequalities and the related risks to societies, economies and financial systems.

Yet only 34% of the respondents felt that it was a responsibility which extended to their first-tier suppliers and even

less beyond this. The report highlights the undeniable link between living wages and sustainability, with 82% of global survey respondents recognising this connection. Living wages reduce inequality, boost economic stability, enhance business resilience, support human rights, strengthen supply chains, and meet growing regulatory and investor demands for socially responsible practices.

Helen Brand OBE, Chief Executive of ACCA, emphasised that: 'Accountancy and finance professionals are held

to the highest ethical standards.

Caroline Rees, President and Co-founder of Shift commented that: 'A living wage is a fundamental human right. Organisations' responsibility under international standards to respect human rights means paying workers in their own organisation adequately.'

Richard Karmel, Managing Partner - London, Forvis Mazars, explained that: 'Organisations face significant transitions as their business models seek to become more sustainable.'

## Samsung in collaboration with Simpaisa launches



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Samsung is excited to announce its collaboration with Simpaisa by launching the Digital Wallets payment option on Samsung's official eStore for Pakistan, www.samsung.com/pk. This marks a significant step towards the enhancement of the online shopping experience for Samsung customers in Pakistan. Over the past years, Samsung has made substantial investments in its eStore by continuously enhancing its features to meet the evolving needs of its customers. The addition of Digital Wallets is aimed to provide customers with a seamless, secure, and convenient payment option.

As Digital Wallets continue to gain attraction globally and in Pakistan, Samsung continues to offer a seamless shopping experience with multiple payment solutions, including the newly integrated leading Digital Wallets into its online shopping platform. Simpaisa's advanced platform facilitates this new feature, allowing customers to make payments via EasyPaisa, JazzCash, HBL Konnect, and Alfa, ensuring fast, secure, and convenient transactions on Samsung.com.

Mr. Shahroze A. Khan, Head of Business at Simpaisa, shared his excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to be at the forefront of revolutionizing digital payments in Pakistan through this collaboration with Samsung. By enabling the acceptance of mobile wallets and direct bank transfers on Samsung's platform, we are not just advancing financial inclusion but also setting a new standard in the market."



# South Africa Women Cricket Team clinch the Three-Match T-20 Series 2-1 against Pakistan Women's

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: South Africa women beat Pakistan women by eight wickets in the third T20I to win the three-match T20I series 2-1 at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Friday afternoon. The first T20I was won by South Africa by 10 runs, while Pakistan won the second T20I by 13 runs on Wednesday evening at the same venue.

Chasing 154 to win, South Africa lost their opening batter Tazmin Brits (0,1b) in the first over to Sadia Iqbal. At that stage of the game captain Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch got together in the middle and added a crucial 81-run partnership for the second wicket. Bosch after scoring a 37-ball 46, which included six fours and a six, got retired hurt.

Wolvaardt was dismissed for a 37-ball 45, hitting two fours and as many sixes. That the tourists were able to achieve the target with nine balls to spare was largely due to a quickfire unbeaten knock by Annerie

Dercksen, who struck six fours and two sixes in a 23-ball 44. Player of the match Dercksen was equally supported by Sune Luus (14 not out, 13b, 2x4s) as the pair added an unbroken 51-run partnership for the third wicket.

For Pakistan, Sadia and Tuba Hassan bagged a wicket each.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Pakistan openers Muneeba Ali and Gull Feroza got off to a brisk start, adding 49 runs in the batting power-play. Gull (18,18b, 3x4s) was the first batter to return back to the hut with 50 runs on the board in 6.3 overs. Left-handed batter Muneeba Ali after scoring a 26-ball 33, which included four boundaries run herself out in the 11th over.

Sidra Amin was joined by Nida Dar and the pair added 33 runs for the third wicket before Nida (12,7b,1x6) was bowled by Nonkululeko Mlaba. Captain Fatima Sana was the next batter to return back to the hut not before playing a cameo of 27 off 17

balls, smashing two fours and a six. She stitched a 46-run partnership with Sidra for the fourth wicket. Sidra was the top run-getter for the side, scoring 37 off 40 balls, hitting three fours.

Aliya Riaz and Tuba Hassan returned undefeated on eight and six runs, respectively as the hosts scored 153 for five in their 20 overs.

Both sides will now travel to the UAE to feature in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 commencing from 3 October. South Africa, who are in Group B alongside Bangladesh, England, Scotland and West Indies will fly from Lahore to Dubai tomorrow to participate in the mega event. Pakistan, who are in Group A alongside Australia, India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka will fly from Lahore on Monday morning.

Scores in brief  
South Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets  
Pakistan 153-5, 20 overs (Sidra Amin 37, Muneeba Ali 33, Fatima



Sana 27  
South Africa 154-2, 18.3 overs (Anneke Bosch 46 retired hurt, Laura Wolvaardt 45, Annerie Dercksen 44 not out, Sune Luus 14 not out)  
Dercksen (South Africa) Player of the Series - Sune Luus (South Africa)  
Player of the match - Annerie Dercksen (South Africa)

## Pakistan Cricket Board rescheduled ICC World Test Championship

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced the revised schedule of the three ICC World Test Championship fixtures between Pakistan and England from 7-28 October.

The second Test, which was originally planned at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi from 15-19 October, will now be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The remaining two Tests will be played as originally planned, i.e. 7-11 October in Multan and 24-28 October in Rawalpindi.

The match has been shifted from Karachi to Multan as the National Bank Stadium is undergoing major facelift for next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which will also be played at the Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and Rawalpindi's Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



The England men's cricket team will arrive in Multan on 2 October, while the Pakistan men's cricket team will also assemble in Multan on 2 October.  
Usman Wahla, PCB Director - International:

PCB is thrilled to welcome the England men's cricket team back to Pakistan. Despite minor adjustments, we are committed to supporting fans and ensuring a memorable tour. We look forward to a fiercely competitive Test series and

showcasing Pakistan's renowned hospitality."1  
Revised schedule:  
7-11 Oct - First Test, Multan  
15-19 Oct - Second Test, Multan  
24-28 Oct - Third Test, Rawalpindi

## PFF Normalisation Committee advances towards goal as Provincial elections enter final stage

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee has made significant progress towards its objective of forming an elected body, with the provincial elections now in their final stages. The second phase of the elections successfully concluded today, marking an important milestone in the election process.

In the Punjab elections, representatives from 38 districts participated, while in Balochistan, officials from 37 districts also took part in the voting process. Additionally, the presidents of four districts from Gilgit-Baltistan exercised their right to vote, contributing to the smooth completion of the election phase.

The first phase of elections, which covered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, had already been completed, along with the election processes in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad.

The Election Commissioner will officially announce the results within two days. Following the announcement, candidates will have a five-day window to file any appeals related to the election outcomes, ensuring a transparent and fair process for all involved.



FAISALABAD: In the Bahria Town Cricket Tournament, the Lions squad set a target of 368 runs for Markhors to win. Lions batsman Irfan Khan Niazi's brilliant century, including 10 fours and 5 sixes. Photo Abdul Majid

## Zone III and Zone IV win in PCB Senior Inter District Cricket Tourney

Sports Desk

KARACHI: RCAF Zone-III beat RCAF Zone-II by 166 runs and RCAF Zone-IV beat RCAF Zone-I by 116 runs in PCB Senior Inter-district Cricket Tournament Forth round of Karachi Region at various Cricket Grounds of the City.

At RLCA Ground Gulberg, Zone III, 1st innings 208-10 in 40 overs, 2nd innings 331-6 declared in 89.2 overs, Malik Zafar 70, Sami Ullah Afridi 48, Hashir Ansari 39, Ubais Ullah 118, Abdul Rafay 72, Ali Shenwari 6-62, Baseer Shah 2-54 & 2-48.  
Zone-II, 1st innings 144-10 in 41.1 overs, 2nd innings 279-10 in 72.1 overs, Tariq Bakht 34, & 53, Omar Zeeshan Loya 34, & 53, Muhammad Sohail 91, Israr Ahmed 4-25 & 5-73.

At Landhi Gymkhana Ground, 1st innings Zone-IV 309-10 in 73.4 overs, 2nd innings 157-8 declared in 45.4 overs, Abdullah Fazal 122 & 31, Ahad Ali 50, Yasir Mushtaq 41, Bahadur Ali 3-64, Mirza Ahsan Jamil 3-58, Rehman Ghani 3-48.

Zone-I, 1st innings 139-10 in 41.5 overs, 2nd innings 161-10 in 36.1 overs, Ahmed Khan 24, Farman Ahmed 20, Zubair Dilawar 37, Afnan Khan 5-38, & 5-54.

## More attention needed to improve fielding: Fatima

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Pakistan women cricket team captain Fatima Sana said that the team's performance was commendable but the fielding needed more attention for improvement.

Holding a press conference after the match, she said that one area that still needs attention was fielding, as it has not been up to the mark. She said that the team aimed to address this in upcoming team meetings, with a focus on improving this aspect. Fatima expressed that the team's energy and spirit have been excellent and "we were optimistic about our future performances." She said that though some crucial moments were lost due to dropped catches at critical junctures and despite the setbacks, the team demonstrated resilience and showcased solid play throughout the matches.

"The batting form has significantly improved at a time when the team was preparing for major upcoming events, particularly the World Cup," she added.

She said that both teams delivered impressive performances, making it a competitive series.

To a question, Fatima said that the team had been experimenting with new strategies throughout the series and the experimentation would boost the team's confidence as it approached the World Cup. She confessed gaps in the batting lineup had caused setbacks in the past, but the team worked hard to bridge them and showed consistency.

## Shahzaib Rind wins World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Championship

Pakistan's Shahzaib Rind from Balochistan has won the World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Championship in Singapore, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Shahzaib defeated Brazilian rival Luiz Victor Rocha in the final of the event. The country and Shahzaib himself are overjoyed with the win. The new champion took to his Instagram handle and wrote, "Dream came true, Alhamdulillah."

## Registration process of biggest ever Khelta Punjab Games 2024 started

Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: The registration process of biggest ever Khelta Punjab Games 2024 has started in all tehsils, districts and divisions of Punjab. The registration process will continue from September 20 to 27.

The under-22 players will be able to participate in the Khelta Punjab Games.

The players born on or after December 13, 2002 will be eligible to participate in these games. The players belonging to department will not be allowed to participate in the grand event.

In this regard, Director General Sports Punjab has issued instructions to all the sports officers of province that sports is the right of every citizen and all sports officers should actively participate in the registration process of Khelta Punjab Games.



The competitions of inter-club at district level, inter-district events at division level and inter-division events

at provincial level will be organized in Khelta Punjab Games. The hefty cash prizes of more than 10 crores will be

distributed among top performing players. As many as six games—Athletics, Cricket (Tape Ball), Badminton, Football, Hockey and Kabaddi competitions will be organized at inter-club level from 2nd to 11th October.

The players can register themselves at their respective tehsil, district and division offices and besides this they can also register online by scanning the QR code provided by Sports Board Punjab.

A meeting of the officers of Lahore Division was held under the chairmanship of Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, in which the sports officers of Lahore and representatives of sports associations participated. The rules of Khelta Punjab Games have been issued to participants of meeting. They also have been directed to participate fully in the registration process.

## Virat Kohli equals Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing Test record

A Sports

CHENNAI: Star batter Virat Kohli on Friday, joined batting great Sachin Tendulkar in an elusive list of India batters with more than 12,000 international runs on home soil.

Kohli achieved the feat on the second day of India's first Test of the three-match series against Bangladesh when he reached six runs in the second innings.

The right-handed batter is the fifth batter in history to amass 12000 runs on his home soil across formats, joining the ranks of greats like compatriot Tendulkar, Australia's Ricky Ponting, South Africa's Jacques Kallis, and Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara.



Tendulkar leads the elite list with 14,192 runs in 258 matches across formats, followed by Ponting with 13,117, Kallis with 12,305 and Sangakkara with 12,043. Batters with more than 12000 runs on

home soils  
Sachin Tendulkar: 14,192 runs  
Ricky Ponting: 13,117 runs  
Jacques Kallis: 12,305  
Kumar Sangakkara: 12,043 runs  
Virat Kohli: 12,011 runs  
Despite achieving a significant milestone in the aforementioned fixture, Kohli was far from his best as he managed meagre scores in each of the innings.

He fell for just six in the first innings, getting caught behind off Hasan Mahmud as he tickled a length delivery way outside the off-stump on its way to Litton Das

behind the stumps. Meanwhile, in the second innings, Virat Kohli appeared to have found the rhythm, having amassed 17 runs and was middling the ball quite effortlessly.

However, the star batter once again failed to convert a good start into a big knock as he was trapped lbw by Mehidy Hasan Miraz on just 17.

Miraz bowled a flighted full ball, landed just outside off and spun in. Virat Kohli stretched forward and looked to flick it away but got deceived by the sharp spin and the ball went through his defence and hit low on his front pad.

The right-handed batter decided not to review the decision but the replay showed that he had faintly edged the ball.



## MoU

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses signing of an MoU between Board of Investment and RUYI Shangdong on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Ordinance on Practice and Procedures Act to further improve transparency in judicial proceedings: Tarar

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the promulgation of Ordinance on Practice and Procedures Act will further improve transparency in the judicial process.

Talking to the media here, he said an ordinance for amendment in the Practice and Procedures Act has been promulgated by the President after approval from the federal cabinet.

He said that from now

on, the case that comes first would be taken up first by the court and the cases coming after would be fixed on their number.

He said that in a case under section 184(3), it will have to be written why it was a matter of public importance.

A formal order will be issued that if a case under Section 184(3) was taken up, whether it was a case of public importance, or human rights issue.

He said under the ordinance, on 184 (3) any order passed by the Supreme Court, the right of appeal had been



granted.

According to this ordinance, a transcript will be prepared of the proceedings including judges' remarks and observations during the case and this text will also be available to the

public.

This step had been taken to make the judicial process more transparent, he opined.

He said that in the proposed constitutional package, there is mention of providing convenience to the people.

He said a committee had been set up under the Practice and Procedure Act headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the puisne judge and the third Senior Judge were its members.

He said under the ordinance, now the Chief Justice will head the committee whereas the puisne judge will

be a member and a third judge of the Supreme Court will be its member.

The Chief Justice will nominate one of the judges of the Supreme Court as a member of this committee from time to time, the minister added.

He said cases were delayed due to the non-availability of the third member of the committee in Islamabad.

Tarar said that a petition regarding the review of 63-A was pending till date. He remarked that some decision should have come regarding the revision of 63-A as it was an important matter.

## BISP and State Bank of Pakistan agree to further improve and simplify payment system

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, called on the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jameel Ahmed, today. The meeting aimed to discuss the establishment of a new, improved, and trans-

parent system for disbursement of stipends to deserving women under the Benazir Income Support Programme. Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme, Amer Ali Ahmad, was also present during the meeting.

During the discussion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the vision of the

President and Prime Minister of Pakistan for a transparent and dignified payment process for the poor women benefiting from the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Governor State Bank, Mr. Jameel Ahmed, assured that a simplified procedure for the payment of stipends to deserving women will be



developed in mutual consultation between the Benazir Income Support Programme and the State Bank of Pakistan. This will ensure that the beneficiaries receive their payments in a transparent and respectful manner.

## 92 % Consumers of M. Tag, Revenue Increased: A. Aleem Khan

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment & Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan chaired high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority in which more improvement plans have been required in minimum possible time.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan was briefed by Chairman NHA that by implementing his instructions number of M Tag users has been increased to more than 92% while the revenue of the NHA has also been significantly improved during last 6 months. Federal Minister while expressing satisfaction over the betterment asked the NHA to adopt a Hi-Tech System and bring the entire working of National Highway Authority Online in the shortest possible time.

He observed that the implementation of the best tracking system on all highways should be ensured in any case and in this regard any shortcoming will not be tolerated. Federal Minister for



Communications Abdul Aleem Khan further said that the number of vehicles and all kinds of monitoring should be done on the Motorways and GT Roads and every vehicle should receive a message that it has paid with M Tag or not.

Abdul Aleem Khan directed NHA to prepare its dashboards to keep the data updated on a daily basis and to build state-of-the-art monitoring rooms on the pattern of Safe City.

Federal Minister for Communi-

cations Abdul Aleem Khan further directed that NHA should integrate its working with Motorway Police by using modern cameras and best technology to deal with any unusual situation. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the increase in the revenue of the National Highway Authority is a welcome thing which will make this institution more stable, financially.

He said that during the last 6 months it has been proven that improvements can be made with solid policies and

proper enforcement. He said that those who give cash instead of M-Tag on highways should be discouraged and the message of fine should also be sent to the vehicle which has M-Tag without cash. Federal Minister of Communications Abdul Aleem Khan directed that the National Highway Authority without waiting for the approval of Government funds, should increase own resources.

He indicated that our Motorways and GT Roads should be more modern, clean and safe. Therefore, uniform rules and regulations should be made which should have one policy for every consumer. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated the officers of the National Highway Authority for making clear improvements during last 6 months and he commended the officers for increasing revenue and taking other positive measures. Abdul Aleem Khan announced that certificates of appreciation will be awarded to such officers by the Prime Minister who have contributed towards development in NHA.

## Chinese firm to set up textile parks in Pakistan aiming \$5b exports, 0.5m jobs; MoU signed

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment and Chinese textile firm RUYI Shangdong on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which the latter would establish textile parks of international standards in Pakistan to boost country's exports to \$5 billion and create around 0.5 million jobs.

The document was signed as a nine-member delegation of RUYI group led by Chairman QiuYafu called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here as a significant development regarding Chinese investment in Pakistan following the prime minister's recent China visit.

According to the MoU signed at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Chinese company would establish textile parks in Sindh and Punjab provinces where around 100 Chinese textile firms would be invited to invest.

The prime minister lauded the time-tested Pakistan-China friendship and observed that the bilateral economic ties were strengthening with each passing day.

He welcomed the Chinese RUYI group to Pakistan and lauded its investment in Pakistan's textile sector, recalling that the firm had been the first investor of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

## PM AJK Anwar ul Haq meets former PM of Azad Kashmir



## Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq along with ministers came to the residence of former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan. Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Government Advisor Sardar Ahmed Sagheer were present while Member of Assembly Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni, Political Advisor Sardar Iftikhar Rashid were

also present in the meeting. In the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was discussed in detail.

The two leaders agreed to adopt a joint strategy to highlight the Kashmir issue at the global level and bring Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir before the world. On this occasion, the two leaders have strongly rejected the fake elections in Occupied Kashmir by the Modi government and urged the United Nations to play its role.

## Yasin Malik case hearing adjourned

## Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: According to Kashmir Media Service Yasin Malik, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, leader of revolution, son of Jammu Kashmir, has been on hunger strike for the seventh day in Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail.

Due to his unwell condition, he has been transferred to the hospital where he is kept under strict security in the intensive care ward. Today,



due to hunger strike and poor health, court appearance was not possible.

The next hearing of the case was adjourned till September 25. Yasin Malik will fight his own case.

## PTI eliminated from NA ...

## Continued from Page 1

Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) have one seat each.

If the Election Act is implemented, 23 reserved seats will be allocated to the PML-N, PPP, and JUI, with PML-N receiving 15, PPP getting 5, and JUI receiving 3 reserved seats.

The parliament amended the

election act after July 12 judgment barring MPs from changing political party. The ruling PMLN argues that SC's July 12 judgment allowed Sunni Ittehad Council MNAs to switch to PTI and that such a move was against the law. The recent amendment to Election Act only removed any doubt on switching parties, they said.

## Punjab police begin crackdown ...

## Continued from Page 1

the police station in a prisoner van. In response to the arrests, agitated protesters blocked the Mini Market road and set tyres on fire.

In a strategic move, sources with the Punjab government said that the government has developed a plan to apprehend approximately 3,700 suspects and proclaimed offenders linked to the May 9 events.

The Lahore police have gathered

data on these wanted individuals using Safe City cameras and have established special teams tasked with identifying and arresting them.

Police arrested four individuals, including the district president of the Insaf Students Federation Rana Mohsin Munhas in Vehari. They have been transferred to the district jail for 30 days.

Sources said that raids were also being conducted on the houses of other PTI leaders in district.

## PM Shehbaz lauds security forces...

## Continued from Page 1

reiterated the nation's resolve and priority to eliminate terrorism from the country, according to a PM Office press release.

Paying tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the operations, he prayed for the elevation

of martyrs' ranks in paradise and strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The sacrifices of our soldiers will never be squandered. Our war against terrorism will continue till the country's riddance from this menace," the prime minister remarked.