



**Iran president hails Iran-China relations as sustainable, strategic**

Tehran, IRNA – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed his eagerness for more expanded ties with China, appreciating relations with the East Asian country as sustainable and strategic.



**Imran's political approach undermines democracy: Rana Sana**

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination and Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, on Tuesday said that political approach of the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) negates the essence of democracy in the country. Speaking to a private news channel, he said that the PTI leader spent three and a half years attempting to undermine every politician and political party in Pakistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Fresh Attacks**

TEHRAN: Resistance groups in Lebanon and Iraq have launched fresh attacks on Israeli targets.



Photo: IRNA

**Hezbollah, Iraq resistance launches fresh attacks on Israeli regime**

IRNA

TEHRAN: The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance in Iraq have launched a series of separate missile and rocket attacks against Israeli targets in the occupied territories.

In a statement on Tuesday, Hezbollah said it carried out a missile strike against an Israeli airbase near Tel Aviv.

The group said its fighters fired "a salvo of Fadi-4 rockets at the Sde Dov air base" in retaliation for Israeli attacks on civilians in Lebanon and in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Additionally, Hezbollah continued its offensive by targeting a gathering of enemy forces at the Metulla site with artillery shells, resulting in casualties.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said in a statement they had launched Al-Arqaq advanced cruise missiles at three vital targets in the occupied territories.

Resistance groups across the region have ramped up their strikes against Israeli positions since the regime assassinated Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a massive airstrike on southern Beirut on Friday.

**Iran's IRGC Fires dozens of missiles at Israeli regime**

IRNA

TEHRAN: Iranian retaliation against Israel has begun as ballistic missiles fired by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) at the occupied Palestinian lands (Israeli regime) on Tuesday evening.

Iran's IRGC said that it has started hitting important military targets with dozens of missiles.

Previously, the Israeli army

claimed that Iran had begun launching missiles at occupied Palestine, Press TV reported.

Video footages from different cities across Iran like the capital Tehran show that barrage of missiles were fired at against Zionist entity.

Tehran, Isfahan, Tabriz, Shiraz, Khorramabad, Arak etc. across Iran have witnessed missiles launched in the sky.

**PM vows further relief as inflation slows at lowest in last four years in Sept**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his satisfaction at the slowing down of price hike which now clocked in at the lowest 6.9 percent when compared with runaway digits in the last 44 months.

The prime minister lauded the government's economic team for capping the headline inflation which now clocked in at 6.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024.

The price hike had nosedived in the month of August this year at one digit 9.6pc for the first time in the last 34 months, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) index reading remained at the lowest in September this year



bringing the spiraling inflation to record low in the last 44 months.

"With the grace of Allah Almighty, the promises made with the public have started yielding results. With inflation rate at

6.9pc, the common man will get relief," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further observed that with continuous reduction in the petroleum prices,

the public was getting relief, whereas after interest rate slide, the business activities would get a spur.

He also expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of target of bringing the inflation rate to 7 percent in 2024 ahead of next year.

The prime minister said that from the day first, they had accorded priority to the measures aimed at providing relief to public, adding that the machinations of those who wished Pakistan ramming into default had been foiled.

The entire nation suffered due to incompetence of a junta during their previous rule, but now the journey of common man's prosperity has started with economy on the right track and diplomatic relations being strengthened.

The prime minister opined that

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, the country's economy would get further boost and Pakistan's journey towards progress which was halted way back in 2018, had once again commenced.

According to a report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased further to 6.9 percent during September 2024 as compared to 9.6 percent recorded during August 2024.

According to data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (September 2023) was recorded at 31.4%. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 0.5% in September 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.4% in the previous month and an increase of 2% in September 2023.

**Judiciary has continuously attacked parliament: Bilawal**

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that the state has become more like a father than a mother, criticizing the mindset of individuals like Iftikhar Chaudhry for damaging the judiciary. He added that the judiciary has continuously launched attacks on the parliament.

He denied any involvement in the legal battles in Islamabad, explaining that Article 63-A was introduced to prevent floor-crossing and that every member of parliament has the right to vote according to their conscience.

Addressing lawyers at the Balochistan High Court Bar, he asserted that they would not allow any tampering with the country. He expressed his high regard for Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

He further lamented the killing of lawyers in Balochistan, highlighting their knowledge of the province's history and voice. He expressed sorrow over the loss suffered following the incident.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti and the President of the High Court Bar, Afzal Harifal, also attended the event. The Bar President addressed the gathering, expressing lawyers' concerns regarding constitutional amendments and advising the PPP to exercise patience.

Pakistan visit

**Zakir Naik calls for unity among Muslims**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamic preacher Zakir Naik has stressed the need for the Muslim Ummah to set aside their differences and unite amid the growing challenges in the world. "The Muslim community must come together and forget their disputes," he told anchorpersons in Islamabad on Tuesday.

The Islamic preacher arrived in Pakistan on Monday where he would meet with senior parliamentarians and politicians. He also met with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

The tour, which kicks off on October 5 in Karachi and concludes in Islamabad on October 20, will see Dr Naik deliver lectures in three major cities.

Special security arrangements have been made for his visit to



Sindh's capital. He is set to meet with esteemed scholars such as Mufti Taqi Usmani and Mufti Munib-ur-Rehman.

While reflecting on his past, Naik mentioned that he has faced accusations of having connections with terrorist elements multiple times. "Many allegations against me have been made in the past."

He expressed gratitude that, over time, all the accusations against him

have been proven false. "By the grace of Allah, all the charges levelled against me have been shown to be incorrect," Naik said.

The Islamic preacher also highlighted the importance of prayer, stating: "The best time to pray is during Tahajjud."

He lamented that Muslims around the world "are not united" and added that "many are distant"

Continued on Page 8

**How will no-confidence motions work if dissenting votes don't count, CJP asks in Article 63-A case**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A five-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan adjourned hearing appeals in the Article 63-A case on Tuesday. The hearing took place after the bench was reconstituted.

Led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the bench includes Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Jamal Mandokhail.

Chief Justice expresses surprise at the merging of two boundaries, questioning the government in power at the time of the PTI's petition.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa questioned Supreme Court Bar Association lawyer, Shahzad Shokat, about the President of Pakistan at the time a petition was filed by the PTI. Shokat confirmed that Arif Alvi was the President.

The Chief Justice noted that the same government

was also the petitioner in the case. Shahzad Shokat then read aloud Article 63-A of the Constitution.

The Chief Justice inquired about the legal questions raised by the President. The lawyer explained that the President had raised four questions in the reference, seeking an opinion on the element of treason under Article 63-A.

The court stated that Article 63-A cannot be considered in isolation. The court ruled that political parties are essential for democracy and that deviation from party policy is cancerous for political parties.

The Chief Justice asked if the judgment included a provision for disqualifying the dissenting members. The Additional Attorney General clarified that while the votes of the dissenting members would not be counted, the judgment did not order their disqualification.



# Chairman Senate urges Punjab to fast-track pace of development in South Punjab

By Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Makhdoom Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of development in South Punjab and ensure thorough monitoring of ongoing projects so they can be completed within the stipulated time-frame. He remarked that winning the hearts of the people can only be achieved by improving public service delivery and addressing issues promptly. Gillani also urged that recommendations be sent to the Punjab Government to appoint permanent officers in institutions where officers have been transferred in Multan. He expressed these views during a meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary of South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, at Circuit House, Multan. Member of the National Assembly Syed Ali Musa Gillani and former MPA Syed Mujtaba Gillani were also present on the occasion.



The Chairman Senate asked for the organized security arrangements at shrines and the removal of encroachments around Qila Kohna Qasim Bagh and its walls, to widen the roads and

improve traffic flow. He mentioned that during his tenure as Prime Minister, plazas were constructed in Shaheen Market and Ghanta Ghar to provide alternate shops to the traders affected by the anti encroachments drive, but the plan was not been fully implemented

despite the construction of these plazas. Gillani further shared that, upon his recommendation, the Italian government provided a fund of \$10 million to restore and preserve the historic fort and its walls in their original shape. However, the funds have not been fully

utilized, and the work needs to be expedited. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, briefed the Chairman Senate about the ongoing projects in South Punjab and also informed him of new initiatives

## APWA donates 20,000 to the children of Children's Complex



By Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Apwa members women visited the Children's Complex, Multan, distributed ready-made garments to the sick children, and provided 20,000 financial support. In this regard, Nazia Khan, General Secretary of All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) Multan, members Executive Body Tahira Najam, Hina Chaghtai and Principal Mrs. Abida visited Children's Complex Multan and went to the Thalassemia Ward along with Social Welfare Officer Farah Naz. Distributed ready-made garments among the sick children while Tare Zameen Par Trust also visited the special room made for the children of the nursery ward and spent time with the children there. 20,000 in cash was also donated to Apwa. On this occasion, Nazia Khan and Mrs. Tahira Najam, while talking, thanked Mrs. Farrukh Mukhtar and Mrs. Farah Faisal, whose efforts helped welfare organizations and other organizations at every opportunity, continues to do and under their leadership, Apwa is playing an active role in social welfare works and facilities are being created for people.

## Conjunctivitis Epidemic Sweeps Takht Bhai



By Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Conjunctivitis Epidemic Sweeps Takht Bhai, A widespread outbreak of conjunctivitis has gripped Takht Bhai, sparking severe anxiety among residents. Schoolchildren are disproportionately affected, with a significant number contracting the infection. Concerned parents, locals, and educational staff are pressing the Health Department to intervene promptly. If unchecked, this epidemic risks, Disrupting children's education, Causing distress for parents and teachers Demands from parents of schoolchildren include:

Urgent deployment of medical teams to affected areas, Strict adherence to health and hygiene protocols in schools, Awareness campaigns to educate the public on prevention and treatment, Educational institutions must, Implement precautionary measures, Maintain cleanliness, Educate students on preventive strategies Parents should, Closely monitor their children's health, Seek medical attention promptly if symptoms arise, Keep infected children home from school, The community seeks immediate action to contain this outbreak and safeguard the well-being of Takht Bhai's children.

## Ahsan Bakhtawari term as president ICCI ends, vows to continue serving business community



By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Bakhtawari, outgoing President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), was given a grand farewell by the business community for his dedicated services. At a ceremony organized by the business community, he was praised for his two-year tenure, during which he worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community. Addressing the gathering, former president ICCI said, "As President of ICCI, my team and I worked day and night to serve the business community, keeping the Chamber's doors open to all. We transformed ICCI into a true representative body of the business community."

He outlined his future goals, including serving the city, achieving a clean and green Islamabad, empowering youth and women, and ensuring citizens' access to clean water. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group, praised Bakhtawari's leadership and stressed the importance of unity among the business community. Nasser Chaudhry, Vice President ICCI, paid tribute to Ahsan Bakhtawari invaluable services, while other notable members of ICCI, including Babar Chaudhry, President talagang Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Shabbir, yousf rajpoot, Ms. Nina, Ms. Nagina Khalil, and Fatima Hassan, also acknowledged Bakhtawari's contributions.

## Inferno

KARACHI: Firefighters trying to extinguish inferno erupted at a solar panels and perfumes warehouse in Hawke's Bay.



Photo: Online

## Sardar Attique says PM's UN address is reflection of aspirations of Kashmiris, Palestinians

By Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's address to the United Nations General Assembly is a reflection of the aspirations of all Pakistanis, Kashmiris and the Muslim Ummah. He thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for supporting the freedom of the oppressed people of Palestine and Kashmir in the eighty-ninth session of the United Nations.

The world should take this statement of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif seriously, in which he said that the achievement of world peace and sustainable development

is not possible without solving the problem of Palestine and Kashmir. He said that no one can forget the sacrifices of the oppressed Kashmiris and Palestinians of Occupied Kashmir.

The Kashmiri and Palestinian people have been fighting against the usurping powers like Israel and India for more than seven decades. The world is facing one of the most dangerous challenges to the global system, including the Israeli genocide in Gaza, the Ukraine conflict, devastating conflicts in Africa and Asia, rising geopolitical tensions, resurgent terrorism, poverty, Debt burden, increasing impacts of climate change and other issues are included. The United Nations has great responsibilities to play a vital role in addressing these challenges for global peace and prosperity.



He said that the United Nations has not fulfilled the expectations of the oppressed Kashmiris for which it came into being because the suffering of the oppressed Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir continues and has turned the region into the biggest prison in the world. He said

that the historic address of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif not only reflects the aspirations of the Kashmiri people but also expresses the desire for lasting peace and stability in the region.

He said that the United Nations Security Council has great responsibilities to give the oppressed people of Occupied Kashmir the right to self-determination and take strict notice of human rights violations and organized state terrorism in the Occupied Valley. Meanwhile, President Muslim. Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan led the funeral prayer of former political secretary and senior leader of Muslim Conference Sardar Aurangzeb Abbasi in Lahasar and prayed for forgiveness late deceased.

## Indonesian Consulate hosts business lunch for Sindh Entrepreneurs

By Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Consulate General of Indonesia held a business lunch with Sindh businessmen, prior to their participation in the 1st Indonesia South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) and the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2024, which will take place from October 7 to 12, 2024, in Jakarta. These events represent one of the largest platforms for business and trade in Indonesia, showcasing the best of Indonesian products, services, and innovations.

During the two major economic events, participants will have access to a vast exhibition, as well as business matchmaking sessions, trade missions, and international seminars. This presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen connections and

explore partnerships. Approximately 50 businessmen from Sindh Province have registered to attend the trade event.

The Acting Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E. Teguh Wiweko, hosted the lunch to express appreciation for the Sindh business community's interest in engaging with Indonesian enterprises. The event was also attended by Abid Nisar, Chairman of the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council, and Shamoos Zaki, President of the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Forum.

Indonesian envoy highlighted that the participation of the Pakistani business community is not just an opportunity to explore new ventures but also to foster relationships and collaborations that will bring mutual benefits to both countries. He noted

that Indonesia has much to offer, including high-quality exports and cutting-edge innovations across various industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing, textiles, and services.

The involvement of the Pakistani business community, supported by the Consulate, underscores the growing ties and opportunities between Indonesia and Pakistan.

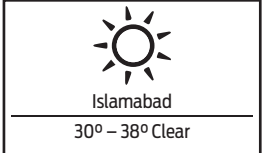
Today's business lunch served not only as a celebration of the businessmen's commitment but also as a platform to provide important details regarding their upcoming trip to Indonesia.

Ahmad Syofian, Ph. D., the Economic Consul of the Consulate, encouraged all participants to fully engage in this opportunity. "This trip is about more than just business; it's



about forging long-lasting relationships and understanding each other's cultures and markets," he stated.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 4:40 am  
 Zohr ..... 11:58 am  
 Asr ..... 4:10 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 5:52 pm  
 Isha ..... 7:15 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
 Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
 Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
 Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
 & Rescue Services ..... 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  
 Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
 DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
 RGH ..... 9290301-7  
 Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
 PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
 Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
 Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
 CDA ..... 9208301-04  
 Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
 RDA ..... 5555864  
 TMA ..... 5770886  
 Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3

**NA body urges IT Ministry to accelerate 5G spectrum auction**

ISLAMABAD, OCT 01 (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the slow progress of the 5G spectrum auction and directed the Ministry of IT to expedite the hiring of consultants.

The meeting, chaired by Syed Amin ul Haque, MNA, emphasized the need for swift action to meet the 2025 target for launching 5G services.

Recognizing the necessity for comprehensive reforms in the telecom sector, the committee stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders in the design of the auction, spectrum valuation, and the development of appropriate 5G models.

"The timely completion of the auction is seen as critical to Pakistan's technological advancement," it added.

The committee also raised concerns about the unresolved property dispute between PTCL and Etisalat, which had lingered for 18 years.

The ministry informed the committee that a special task force, led by the Finance Minister, had been established by the Prime Minister to address the issue, with progress being made towards a resolution, and its detailed report on any final decisions was awaited.

The committee sought a comprehensive overview of PTCL properties leased or rented at its next meeting.

# DCFA Pakistan meets new livestock & Dairy Development Board CEO to address sector challenges

**Spokesman Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Dairy and Cattle Farmers Association of Pakistan (DCFA Pakistan) met with Dr. Shahid Amin, the newly appointed CEO of the livestock & Dairy Development Board, to extend their congratulations on his new role and discuss key challenges facing the dairy and cattle farming sector in the country.

The DCFA Pakistan delegation was led by Chief Organizer Shahbaz Rasool Warraich and included senior officials such as General Secretary Shahid Imran Gondal, Chief Media Officer Abid Saeed, and President of the North Chapter Raja Zahid Sarfraz. The meeting was also attended by key members of the dairy

farming community from different regions of Pakistan. Founder President of DCFA Pakistan, Shakir Umer Gujjar, joined the meeting online.

During the discussion, the delegation highlighted the significant challenges being faced by dairy and cattle farmers in Pakistan, and the potential for the sector to contribute more effectively to the economic growth of the country.

President DCFA Pakistan Shakir Umer emphasized the need for strong governmental support and policy reforms that could enable farmers to play a more impactful role in meeting the country's growing demand for dairy products.

DCFA Pakistan announced its intention to submit a detailed proposal of recommendations to the government



aimed at fostering long-term policy-making for sustainable growth of the sector. These recommendations will focus on addressing the issues that hinder productivity and profitability for farmers, especially small-scale producers.

Dr. Shahid Amin expressed his gratitude to the delegation for their visit and assured the farmers of his full support. He acknowledged the crucial role that dairy and cattle farmers play in society, stating that the government is taking special initiatives aimed at supporting small farmers and enhancing their capacity to contribute to the economy.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to continue working together to strengthen the dairy and cattle farming industry in Pakistan.

## Funeral Prayer

ISLAMABAD: People offering funeral prayer of elder brother of staff photographer Online News Agency, Sultan Bashir at H-11 graveyard in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Indigenous conference on Pakistan's ancient archeological and civilization heritage concludes

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The International Conference on 'Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archeological and Civilizational Heritage', organized by ISSI, concluded with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ms. Amna Baloch, reaffirming commitment to preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich archeological and civilizational heritage. The one-day conference drew a significant gathering of diplomats, cultural experts, and academics, underscoring the keen interest in exploring, preserving, and promoting Pakistan's rich archaeological and civilizational heritage.

The Inaugural Session, addressed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Hassan Nasir Jamy, was followed by three insightful working sessions.

Addressing the concluding session, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch expressed



safeguarded for future generations. She lauded the ISSI's initiative of focusing on this subject.

The Key Takeaways of the Conference were presented by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China Study Centre (CPSC). He highlighted the need for comprehensive preservation strategies, including field expeditions, digital preservation, and addressing climate-related risks.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, underscored the vital role of cultural and civilizational heritage in shaping Pakistan's national identity and image. He noted that Pakistan is blessed with immense cultural and civilizational treasures and stressed the importance of community involvement in preserving these assets. He highlighted the economic potential of cultural and religious tourism, which could create opportunities for local communities and contribute to Pakistan's economic development.

her deep pride in the country's rich and multi-layered legacy. She highlighted how the ancient civilizations of the Indus Valley and Gandhara, which flourished in present-day Pakistan, continue to inspire modern society. The Foreign Secretary emphasized the importance of preserving heritage, noting that the values of innovation, resilience, and coexistence seen in these ancient cultures remain relevant today. She called for a balanced approach to conservation, tourism, and development, ensuring that Pakistan's cultural assets are

## Price control efforts in Multan: A call for accountability

**Zain Khan**

MULTAN: On August 12, an additional deputy commissioner issued a notification assigning responsibilities to 51 special price control magistrates for price control in the Multan district. The list includes only a few names along with their designations.



The actions of the special price control magistrates have been ineffective in controlling inflation. On the other hand, shopkeepers have complained that they are receiving fines with receipts that lack signatures, details of the offense, and complete identification records of the vendors. For instance, receipt number 45, book number 409, does not have the signature of Special Magistrate M. Iqbal Khan, nor does it specify whether action was taken against a meat seller or if a baker's bread weight was low, or any other details. The location of the shop or bakery is also missing, and the vendor's identification card number is not mentioned. It is astonishing that fines are being collected without the magistrate's signature. Legally, a hearing cannot be completed without a phone number, identification card number, and address.

When we sought the position of the DC office Multan regarding this receipt, PRO Waseem Yousaf stated that signatures are not necessary on the receipt, nor is it required to include the shop's address. When other price control magistrates were consulted, they said that two signatures from the magistrate are required on the issued receipts, and the complete address and identification card number of the vendor must be documented. A magistrate is a court; if there are no signatures on the receipt, it holds no value, and collecting a fine is inappropriate. Without signatures, anyone could easily forge similar receipts and extort money from shopkeepers.

The Commissioner of Multan should take notice of this negligence. Issuing receipts for fines without signatures and shop names undermines public trust and requires immediate attention from the government to ensure transparency and accountability. The Chief Minister of Punjab should intervene in this matter to address public concerns. It has also come to light that special price control magistrates operate beyond their jurisdiction, which is why they do not write the shop address. This practice should be stopped.

## Sajjad Mustafa Syed Elected Chairman P@SHA

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITes (P@SHA) – the apex trade body of IT industry – has elected its new leadership unanimously for 2024 – 2026 at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024. It is pertinent to note that CEOs of top IT companies are members of P@SHA's general body. The agenda of the meeting also encompassed achieving \$5 billion in IT exports during FY25 through aggressively yet sustainably advancing Pakistan's tech industry.

Muhammad Zohaib Khan, immediate past chairman of P@SHA, highlighted that the IT industry earned \$3.2 billion precious foreign exchange reserves (FER) for Pakistan in FY24; which helped stabilize rupee-dollar parity; generated employment and projected soft-image of Pakistan on a global-scale.

Outgoing Chairman, Muhammad Zohaib Khan and Secretary General, Nadeem Malik, presented P@SHA's annual performance review during AGM – emphasizing the association's indispensable role as the sole representative of private-sector of IT industry in coordination and synergy with Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC); Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT); Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB); TechDestination Pakistan and provincial IT ministries.

## Three-Lane Walton Road carriageway now open for traffic

**City Desk**

LAHORE: Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has successfully delivered on yet another commitment by making the three-lane carriageway of Walton Road fully functional. This development comes in line with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, marking a major step toward resolving long-standing issues of traffic congestion and infrastructure deterioration on this vital roadway.



CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, praised the project's progress, stating, "We are committed to improving the infrastructure of Lahore and delivering on our promises in a timely manner. The completion of the Walton Road carriageway is a testament to our team's dedication and the trust placed in us by the people of Punjab. We are confident that the remaining work on this project will be completed on schedule, providing long-term solutions to the traffic and infrastructure challenges of this area."

CBD Punjab's efforts are part of a broader initiative to modernize Lahore's infrastructure, focusing on long-term urban planning and sustainable development. By executing these projects efficiently, CBD Punjab is not only enhancing the quality of life for the city's residents but also contributing to the economic growth of the province by easing transport and promoting better connectivity.

# Pakistan Hotels Association Election Results for the Year 2024-2026

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hotels Association's annual elections were held from July to September 2024 and the results were announced at its 60th Annual General Meeting held on September 30, 2024, at Pearl-Continental Hotel, Karachi. The following Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members have been elected for the term 2024-2026:

**Shakir Bhura – Chairman**

Shakir Bhura is a seasoned Project Management and Finance Executive with over 32 years of diverse multi-industry experience in Hospitality, Real Estate, Sustain-

ability,



**Barrister Mansoor Ali Shah – Senior Vice Chairman**

Mansoor Shah is a legal and strategy professional working on various projects within Pakistan and internationally. Currently, he is an Advisor to the Board of Samsons Group of Companies – a Pakistani FMCG and tourism multinational organization.

**Irshad B. Anjum – Vice Chairman North**

Irshad is veteran of the hospitality industry with great ideas about the future

and challenges facing the hotel industry in Pakistan. **Haseeb Qureshi – Vice Chairman South**

Haseeb Qureshi excels across the hospitality and digital marketing sectors. As Executive Director of Ramada Plaza & Ramada Creek Hotels by Wyndham in Karachi, he elevated luxury hospitality standards.

Following are the Executive Committee Members of PHA with active participation in enhancing Pakistan's hotel and tourism industry: Mr. Muhammad Khurram Awan, General Manager, Movenpick Hotel Karachi, Mr. Kamran Ahmed, CEO, HHL/Islamabad Marriott

Hotel, Mr. Muhammad Raza Abbas, General Manager, Karachi Marriott Hotel, Mr. Rahim Khaimani, GM Finance, Tourism Promotion Services (Pvt.) Ltd. / Swat Serena Hotel, Ms. Fauzia Hashim Ollia, Head of Karachi Office, Islamabad Serena Hotel, Mr. Yasir Ahmed, General Manager, Hotel Mehran, Karachi, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed, Director Finance, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Rawalpindi, Mr. Muhammad Jawad, Director Finance, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Lahore, Mr. Saghir Ahmed, Assistant Director Finance, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Muzaffarabad, Mr. Zohaib Aslam, Consultant,



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# Use and Misuse of Charter of Democracy

One of the biggest flaws in most Muslim societies, especially in Pakistan, is the selective and self-serving interpretation of Quranic injunctions, teachings, Sunnah, and Hadith. We have developed a habit of choosing verses from the Holy Quran and quoting Hadiths and Sunnah to suit specific occasions and events, only to forget them once those events are over. We tend to recite Quranic verses that align with our narrative and then disregard them once our objectives are achieved.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that any system, way of life, political philosophy, agreement, or charter must be implemented fully and comprehensively; selective application defeats the very purpose of any agreement or charter.

Therefore, the impact of using Quranic verses, Hadith, or Sunnah will only have the intended effect when the entire Islamic System of Shariah is practiced in both letter and spirit. Selective use, outside the context of the Shariah system or a holistic Islamic framework, is counterproductive and detrimental to any society.

This selective approach may explain why not a single Islamic country, or even all Islamic countries collectively, has the courage, means, or resolve to leverage their power to put an end to the Israel's genocide of Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, or elsewhere, despite being surrounded by Muslim-majority countries.

Our selective use of Quranic verses and other religious authorities has also permeated our political ecosystem. All allied political parties are fully prepared and committed to bringing about constitutional changes to establish Constitutional Courts, arguing that the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed on May 14, 2006, by the leaders of all political parties, including Pakistan's two major political parties—the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), led by Benazir Bhutto, and the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif—promised to do so.

Forgetting that the main thrust of the CoD was not the formation of a constitutional court but to allow democracy to flourish, enable democratic forces to take deep roots, end military intervention, ensure free and fair elections, uphold judicial independence, and above all, guarantee the supremacy of the Constitution while working towards a parliamentary system with checks and balances to prevent military interference in politics.

The most important and foremost point was a pledge to end military involvement in politics and curb the influence of intelligence agencies in civilian matters, ensuring that the armed forces remain subordinate to civilian authorities. This included abolishing the National Security Council (NSC), which had allowed military leaders to influence national security and foreign policy matters. The agreement emphasized ending the political role of intelligence agencies like the ISI and MI, ensuring that they operate strictly within their defined mandates.

The second and third most important points were ensuring an independent judiciary by reinstating judges who were removed unconstitutionally and making the process of judicial appointments more transparent, as well as ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections, with an independent and autonomous Election Commission to oversee the electoral process.

The third, fourth, and fifth important elements of the CoD called for strengthening the parliamentary system, empowering the parliament, and making the prime minister the chief executive, thereby reducing the power of the president. This

was coupled with establishing a fair and transparent accountability mechanism to tackle corruption without political victimization, ensuring that accountability institutions operate independently, and a commitment to good governance, devolution of powers, reforms in public institutions, and respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and the rule of law.

The Charter of Democracy (CoD) also proposed the establishment of a Federal

Constitutional Court in Pakistan to handle constitutional matters exclusively, ensuring the Supreme Court could focus on other judicial responsibilities. This court would comprise experienced judges who had previously served as chief justices or judges

of the Supreme Court or High Courts, ensuring expertise in constitutional interpretation. The CoD emphasized a transparent and merit-based appointment process for these judges to maintain independence and prevent political interference. The aim was to strengthen judicial independence, uphold the Constitution's supremacy, and create an impartial forum for constitutional issues, reflecting the broader goals of ensuring democratic values and a fair judicial system in Pakistan.

Finally, the signatory parties agreed to respect each other's political mandate, avoid political victimization, and work together for the country's democratic and economic development.

However, all sections of CoD have been trampled, disregarded, overlooked, and set aside, while only the part calling for the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court has been selectively picked up and used as one of the most powerful arguments in favor of constitutional amendments. If these amendments are passed,

they would defeat the main objectives of the CoD by selectively pushing for the establishment of the Constitutional Court, and re-endorsing the establishment's role in politics, the executive, parliament, and the judiciary.

The Charter of Democracy (CoD) could have played a significant role in shaping Pakistan's political landscape if it had been applied in a holistic manner. In its proper application CoD could have served as a roadmap for restoring democratic norms, particularly after military rule, by emphasizing the need for free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, and parliamentary supremacy.

It could have played a crucial role in curbing military interference in politics, reinforcing judicial independence and encouraging reforms and accountability mechanisms to promote good governance and transparency.

However, the CoD has also been subject to misuse, often diverging from its original intent. Political actors have selectively implemented its provisions to suit their immediate interests, ignoring key aspects such as reducing military influence and ensuring transparent elections.

Recently, parties have used the CoD's call for a Federal Constitutional Court to justify constitutional amendments that undermine judicial independence, contrary to the CoD's broader objectives. This selective approach has also reinforced political vendettas, marginalized parliamentary supremacy, and failed to establish truly independent accountability mechanisms, ultimately undermining the CoD's vision of democratic stability, fair governance, and constitutional supremacy. This pattern reflects a tendency among political parties to prioritize short-term gains over the long-term goals of the CoD.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Israel's war in southern Lebanon

The official Israeli army version of why it has targeted civilian areas during its intense and deadly bombardments in southern Lebanon is that the Lebanese are hiding long-range missile launchers in their own homes. This explanation was used to justify the killing of 492 people and the wounding of 1,645 in a single day of strikes.

This ready-to-serve explanation will accompany us throughout the Israeli war in Lebanon, however long it takes. The Israeli media is now heavily citing these claims and US and Western media outlets are following suit.

Keep this in mind as you reflect on the statement made by Israeli President Isaac Herzog in October last year, when he argued that there are no civilians in Gaza and "there is an entire nation out there that is responsible."

Israel does this in every war it launches against an Arab nation. Instead of removing civilians and civilian infrastructure from its bank of targets, it immediately turns the civilian population into the main targets of its war. A quick glance at the number of civilians killed in the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza should be enough to demonstrate that Israel targets ordinary people as a matter of course.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza, children and women constitute the largest percentage of the war's victims at 69 percent. If we factor in the number of adult males who have been killed — a number that includes doctors, medics, civil defense workers and numerous other categories — it will become obvious that the vast majority of all of Gaza's victims are civilians.

Only the Israeli media and their allies in the West continue to find justifications as to why Palestinian civilians, and now Lebanese, are being killed in large numbers.

Compare the following two statements on Gaza and Lebanon by Israeli military spokesperson Daniel Hagari, both of which received much attention in the media. " Hamas systematically uses hospitals to wage war and consistently uses the people of Gaza as human shields," Hagari said in March. Then, " Hezbollah's terror headquarters was intentionally built under residential buildings in the heart of Beirut, as part of Hezbollah's strategy of using human shields," he said on Friday.

Lebanon is a sovereign Arab state. Gaza is an occupied territory and its people are protected under the Geneva Conventions. Lebanese and Palestinian lives are not without worth and their mass murder should not be allowed to take place for any reason, especially one that is based on utter lies communicated by an Israeli military spokesman.



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

## Cultural Differences in the Expression and Treatment of Depression - II

Dua Tariq

In Western societies, depression treatment often involves a combination of medical and psychological therapies. Antidepressant medications, like SSRIs and SNRIs, are frequently used to help regulate mood by balancing brain chemicals. Psychological therapies are also important in treating depression. Popular approaches include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). CBT helps people identify and change negative thought patterns and behaviors, while DBT helps people be mindful and regulate their emotions. Counseling provides individuals with support and coping strategies, often addressing interpersonal issues and emotional well-being. Also, Technology has become very important in treating depression in recent years. Teletherapy, or online therapy, allows people to access therapy sessions remotely, making mental health care more convenient and accessible. Mental health apps offer various tools for managing symptoms, including tracking mood, doing relaxation exercises, and using self-help strategies. Digital solutions such as online support forums and virtual counseling platforms provide additional ways for support and connection.

Family, community, and religious institutions play a crucial role in supporting individuals with depression in Eastern cultures. Family support is often central, with close relatives providing emotional and practical assistance. Community networks and religious organizations may offer counseling, spiritual guidance, and a sense of belonging, helping individuals navigate

their mental health challenges within a culturally familiar context. This support system can be vital in providing comfort and encouragement, complementing formal treatment methods. Despite the strong presence of traditional methods, there is a growing adoption of Western medical practices in the Eastern world. This includes the use of antidepressants and psychotherapy, though accessibility to these treatments can vary. Some regions face challenges such as limited availability of mental health professionals or stigma associated with mental health care. As a result, many Eastern countries are blending modern medical interventions with traditional approaches to create comprehensive treatment plans that address both cultural preferences and contemporary needs.

Cross-cultural understanding and treatment of depression face significant challenges due to the diverse cultural perceptions, expressions, and stigmas related to mental health. Different cultures attribute varying causes to depression, resulting in diverse ways symptoms are expressed—while Western contexts often highlight emotional symptoms, many non-Western cultures may present primarily physical complaints. The stigma surrounding mental health issues can also hinder help-seeking behaviors, as individuals may fear social repercussions. Moreover, healthcare providers may have difficulty recognizing depression in patients from different cultural backgrounds because of these differences. To address these challenges effectively, it is essential to develop culturally sensitive interventions and provide training for healthcare professionals to enhance their understanding of cultural nuances in mental health.

Depression is a global health issue characterized by diverse cultural expressions and treatment methods. In Western societies, it is commonly treated with medical interventions such as antidepressants and psychotherapy, focusing primarily on emotional symptoms. Although technology has improved access to care, stigma and cultural differences can still hinder accurate diagnosis and treatment. Conversely, in Eastern cultures, traditional and spiritual practices play a significant role in addressing depression, often emphasizing physical symptoms. There is a growing trend to integrate modern medical practices with these traditional methods; however, stigma and accessibility remain challenges. A holistic approach that combines cultural insights with medical practices is crucial for effective treatment. By honoring cultural beliefs and utilizing evidence-based methods, we can enhance care and outcomes for individuals facing depression worldwide.

Future research and cultural exchange are vital for enhancing global mental health care. By exploring how different cultures perceive and treat depression, we can gain a deeper understanding of diverse needs, which will lead to improved diagnostic accuracy. Cultural exchange facilitates the sharing of effective practices and innovative treatment methods, promoting more inclusive and adaptable mental health care strategies. Integrating insights from various cultural contexts will enable the development of more effective, culturally sensitive approaches, ultimately improving access to care and outcomes for individuals around the world.

*Writer is Student of Bahria university psychology department semester 4*

## War in Lebanon: A Nation on the Brink amid Intensified Conflict

The Third Lebanese War has escalated into a full-blown crisis, with Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemning the conflict as a "war of extermination" against his country. As Israeli airstrikes target civilian households in Beirut and across southern Lebanon, the conflict is threatening to pull Lebanon into deeper turmoil.

This war comes after nearly a year of ongoing violence in Gaza, where Israel's military operations against Hamas have seen mounting civilian casualties and international outcry. Now, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has turned its focus to Lebanon, reigniting an old and volatile front. The escalation has drawn global concern, but for Lebanon, a country already weakened by internal divisions and economic collapse, the stakes have never been higher.

The humanitarian toll is also mounting. Thousands of Lebanese civilians have fled their homes, seeking refuge in northern Lebanon and beyond. The UN and aid organizations are sounding the alarm about a potential refugee crisis if the conflict intensifies further. With Lebanon already hosting over a million Syrian refugees, the country's ability to absorb more displaced people is limited. Prime Minister Najib Mikati's rhetoric, describing this as a "war of extermination," reflects the gravity of the situation. Lebanon, already on its knees economically, cannot afford a prolonged conflict with Israel. The targeting of civilian households has heightened fears of an all-out war that could devastate Lebanon's population. The Lebanese government has called for international intervention, but with global attention divided between various crises, the response has been tepid at best.

Mikati's statement also taps into a broader sentiment of anger and frustration among the Lebanese populace. For many, the Israeli strikes are seen as part of a broader pattern of aggression, one that disregards the lives of civilians. Hezbollah, for its part, has framed the war as one of resistance, vowing retaliation for the strikes on Lebanese soil. The group's ability to launch rockets deep into Israeli territory remains a potent threat, and the poten-

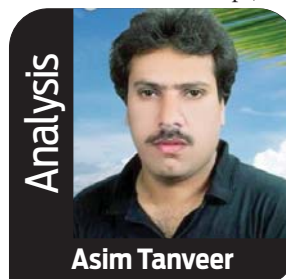
tial for a prolonged cross-border conflict looms large. The Israeli-Lebanese conflict has broader implications for the region. Iran, which backs Hezbollah, may seek to use the conflict as a proxy battleground against Israel, further entrenching itself in the Lebanese crisis. Syria, too, remains a player in Lebanon's political and military landscape, and any destabilization in Lebanon could have ripple effects across the Middle East.

Israel, meanwhile, is grappling with its own internal political and social divisions. Netanyahu's government has faced mounting criticism for its handling of both the Gaza conflict and its broader security policies. By shifting the focus to Lebanon, Netanyahu may be attempting to shore up domestic support. However, the risk of being drawn into a protracted and costly conflict with Hezbollah could undermine his government's stability.

International actors, including the United States, France, and the United Nations, have called for restraint, but there is little appetite for direct intervention. The United States, historically Israel's strongest ally, has signaled its support for Israel's right to defend itself but has also urged caution in escalating the conflict further. The European Union, meanwhile, is deeply concerned about the humanitarian implications and the potential for Lebanon's total collapse.

As the Third Lebanese War unfolds, Lebanon finds itself at a critical juncture. The country's ongoing political and economic collapse has left it ill-prepared to deal with the new wave of violence, and the prospect of further destabilization is real. For Israel, the decision to strike Hezbollah in Lebanon carries significant risks, both in terms of regional fallout and its own national security.

Ultimately, this war could have far-reaching consequences not just for Lebanon and Israel, but for the entire Middle East. As the conflict intensifies, the need for diplomacy and international pressure to halt the bloodshed is more urgent than ever. But with the stakes so high, the road to peace seems uncertain at best, leaving Lebanon to face yet another chapter in its long history of conflict and survival.



Analysis

Asim Tanveer



# WHO validates the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD CAIRO, GENEVA: In a monumental achievement for public health, the World Health Organization (WHO) has validated the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Pakistan. Trachoma is a disease caused by infection by the Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium and can result in irreversible blindness if left untreated.

Pakistan becomes the 19th country globally to reach this historic milestone. Its success in doing so underscores the Government of Pakistan's political commitment to public health, the value of WHO technical support and the incredible contributions of health professionals, endemic communities,

civil society and partners like Sightsavers, Christian Blind Mission and the Fred Hollows Foundation. The achievement is a significant marker in the global fight against preventable diseases and their elimination.

In 1997, Pakistan was the first country to be certified free of dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease) transmission. Elimination of trachoma as a public health problem adds to this legacy. This latest success is not the end but a precursor to more milestone achievements along the road.

As Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated: "Today marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards a healthier Pakistan. Together with our partners, we not only celebrate this

achievement but reaffirm our unwavering commitment to effectively control and eliminate diseases impeding our socioeconomic development by placing quality health care within the reach of everyone in Pakistan."

"Elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Pakistan is a monumental achievement for the country and for the global fight against the disease," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "This milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication of Pakistan's health workers, including many working at community level. It underscores the power of collective action, innovative thinking and a shared commitment to a healthier future for all. I commend Pakistan for its dedi-



cation and success in safeguarding the vision of millions."

WHO's Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy underlined the significance of the achievement: "Congratulations to Pakistan on the elimination of trachoma! Now Pakistan has eliminated two neglected tropical diseases, demonstrating the country's dedication

to public health and serving as an inspiration to all."

"This is a remarkable achievement which will save thousands of people from preventable visual impairment or blindness," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Luo Dapeng.

Pakistan's success highlights the effectiveness of the WHO-recommended SAFE strategy for eliminating trachoma,

which includes Surgery for trichiasis, Antibiotics to clear infection, and Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvement to reduce transmission.

Pakistan's successful elimination of trachoma as a public health problem serves as a powerful reminder that the control, elimination and eradication of many neglected tropical diseases is an attainable goal.

# Denmark, Pakistan to jointly work for green energy transition, climate resilience

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed various bilateral matters of interest, particularly assistance to Pakistan for transition to green energy, building climate resilience, water conservation, biodiversity conservation and protection.

In the significant meeting held on Tuesday, the Danish ambassador also engaged with the PM's climate aide to discuss at length possible ongoing and future collaborative initiatives aimed at tackling climate change challenges facing both nations.

Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and Secretary



Climate Change & Environmental Coordination ministry Aisha Humera Ch. Also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the PM's

climate aide Ms Alam highlighted the country's commitment to the global climate action through support to various initiatives being taken globally for protection of ocean, biodiversity, water and energy resources.

She shared the present government's vision and commitment for protecting its ocean waters from growing pollution, saying that preserving marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable practices along the country's extensive coastline is top priority of the country.

Efforts are being taken with government, non-governmental organizations and corporate sector to achieve 'clean ocean agenda' of the present government, the PM's climate aide emphasized.

She remarked, "Our oceans are vital to our economy and our environmental sustainability. The clean ocean agenda

is a crucial step toward ensuring that our marine resources are preserved for future generations and efforts are being taken in support with various stakeholders to combat pollution and protect our oceans."

The Danish envoy Jakob Linulf also highlighted his country's extensive experience in renewable energy and sustainable practices, emphasizing the potential for knowledge sharing and technology transfer with Pakistan to achieve environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals.

Meanwhile, the Danish ambassador and the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the unprecedented significance of the global climate action and the urgent need for joint efforts to advocate for equitable climate financing for developing nations, which adversely

affected by the growing intensity and frequency of recurring climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods, heat waves, cyclones, shifting rainfall patterns.

"This meeting marks a pivotal step in strengthening the partnership between Denmark and Pakistan," said the PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam. "Together with Pakistan, we both countries can create sustainable solutions that not only address our national challenges but also contribute to global climate goals."

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to pursue further dialogue and collaborative projects-related to green energy transition, e-vehicle promotion, water conservation, climate and disaster risk management-that promote sustainable development and climate resilience in Pakistan.

# 3-Day Pak-Russia Trade & Investment Forum in Moscow

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Addressing the opening session of the 3-Day Pakistan Russia Trade & Investment Forum in Moscow, Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that in Pakistan investments are fully secured and safe, promotion of business in going on in all sectors and especially there is a wide scope of Joint Ventures between Russia and Pakistan based on mutual business activities. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that during the last one year, trade volume between Pakistan and Russia was more than 1000 million dollars as we are associated with each other and has connectivity via land route as both countries have now implemented the Transportation Agreement.

While appreciating the holding of Trade and Investment Forum in Moscow, Abdul Aleem Khan said



that Pakistan and Russia have longstanding diplomatic, trade and mutual relations which can be further enhanced as the population and markets are increasing day by day. Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan further said that Pakistan has prepared a Roadmap for the next 5 years for trade with Russia especially in Exports and the purpose of this Forum is also to promote Business to Business activities for both countries. In his address, Abdul Aleem Khan mentioned the recent meeting between Russian

President Vladimir Putin and Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and said that we want to make Pakistan a hub of Trade & Transit and after improving the Visa Regime and adding regional cooperation both the countries have to minimize the tariff and non-tariff barriers. He said that Pakistan Exports to Russia Leather, Textiles, Fabrics, Fruits, Rice, Vegetables, Surgical & medical equipments. Similarly, different appliances, cutlery, ready-made garments and other products are also exported to Russia from Pakistan.

He mentioned that from Russia we import crude oil, mineral coal, frozen vegetables, synthetic rubber and various chemicals. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that from the platform of this august Forum, the business community of both the countries can be brought closer together so that the trade volume at the country level can be increased. He welcomed the participation of 70 companies from Pakistan and more than 100 entrepreneurs of Russia in the Trade & Investment Forum started in Moscow. In this context, he especially offered his thanks to the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of Russia Mr. Alexey Gruzdev who has played his best role to enhance bilateral relations. It is noteworthy that Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Muhammad Khalid Jamali and Trade Minister Shaukat Hayat have also remained active to organize this Business Forum in Moscow.

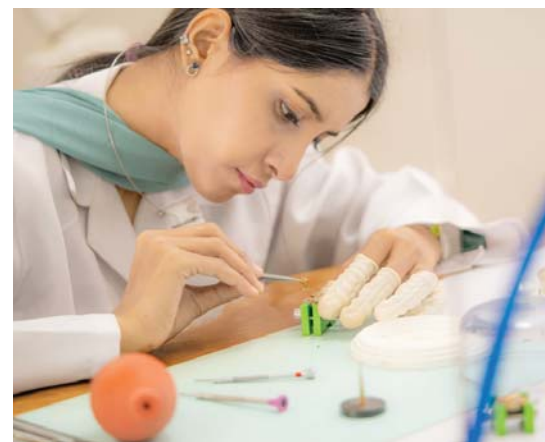
# Sonraj inducts Pakistan's first professional female watchmaker in Karachi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leading Pakistani watch and jewelry brand, Collectibles by Sonraj, has made history by training and inducting Pakistan's first professional female watchmaker, Saira Akram, at its service center in Karachi. By choosing watchmaking as a profession, Saira serves as a trailblazer, inspiring young people to explore unconventional career paths that offer both professional success and personal fulfillment.

Sonraj has an illustrious legacy in Pakistan's watch industry for over five decades. The company has been an exclusive purveyor of top global luxury brands such as, Omega, Hublot, Chopard, Breitling, Gucci, Glashütte, Blancpain, and many more.

Sonraj, the parent company of Collectibles, established its first service center in 1976, training highly skilled individuals. Today, under CEO Rameez Sattar, the company is committed to reviving Pakistan's watch-



making industry by nurturing local talent and continuing training efforts at the Collectibles Service Center. Sattar remarked, "Watchmaking has always been my passion, but the industry in Pakistan has nearly disappeared due to the closure of professional institutions. We aim to create employment opportunities and revive the country's proud heritage."

Sonraj recently made history by training and inducting Pakistan's first professional female watch-

maker, signaling a brighter future for the industry. The company has played a pivotal role in training hundreds of watchmakers, many of whom work with renowned global brands. With Pakistan's large, tech-savvy youth population, Sattar believes there is immense potential to meet global demand, particularly by empowering young minds, including women, who make up half of the population.

Despite a global shortage of watchmakers, Pakistan can reclaim its place in the

industry by leveraging this untapped talent.

Saira Akram said, "I am thrilled to have joined Sonraj Service Center and become the first professional female watchmaker in Pakistan. Watchmaking is a field renowned for its intricacy and prestige and therefore is quite challenging, however, I am happy to break barriers and set new precedents in the industry. I am grateful for the opportunity and support from my organization, which holds great value for me to aspire and achieve excellence in the field."

Renowned banker and Chairman of HBL, Mr. Sultan Ali Allana who hails from watch making family in a special message said, "As someone, whose family roots have had a deep connection with the art of watchmaking, long before the creation of Pakistan, as P. Allana & Bros in Karachi, I am delighted to learn of Saira Akram's remarkable achievement as Pakistan's first professional female watchmaker.

# Unlocking the Tourism Potential between Pakistan and Uzbekistan



Muhammad Ramzan Mughal

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have significant potential for tourism growth and collaboration due to their shared cultural heritage, strategic connectivity, and economic opportunities. Both countries are well-placed to leverage historical ties and geographic advantages to create mutu-

ally beneficial tourism experiences.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have deep-rooted historical connections, dating back to the Silk Road and shared cultural influences that have shaped both societies. These historical ties, alongside their shared Islamic heritage, offer a strong foundation for tourism. The shrine of the renowned Islamic scholar Imam Bukhari in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, holds significant religious and cultural importance for Muslims worldwide, particularly those from Pakistan. The Uzbek government's focus on promoting tourism around this holy site presents a unique opportunity to attract Pakistani tourists seeking religious and cultural experiences.

One of the key factors contributing to tourism opportunities between Pakistan and Uzbekistan is improved connectivity. Plans for direct flights between the two countries are underway, which will greatly facilitate travel for tourists. This initiative

will not only increase tourist flow but also foster stronger people-to-people connections. Additionally, a proposed rail link through the Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar corridor is a strategic move to connect both nations, enhancing access to Central Asia via Pakistan and vice versa. Such improved connectivity will reduce transportation costs and provide both countries a route to the Arabian Sea, expanding the tourism sector's reach.

Uzbekistan has been making concerted efforts to enhance its tourism infrastructure and diversify its offerings. The Uzbek government has set ambitious targets to increase the number of foreign tourists to 15 million by 2030, more than doubling the 6.6 million tourists in 2023. Efforts to improve infrastructure, including airports, highways, and accommodation facilities, align with these goals. To attract tourists, Uzbekistan is introducing niche forms of tourism such as geolog-

ical, industrial, and military tourism, beyond traditional cultural and historical attractions. Efforts to promote Uzbekistan as a safe, modern, and green destination, particularly through partnerships with international media and influencers, aim to elevate its global tourism profile.

For Pakistan, enhanced tourism relations with Uzbekistan could lead to increased exchanges and economic gains. The revival of historical and cultural ties through tourism can deepen relations and contribute to stronger economic partnerships. Both countries stand to benefit from joint projects in media, trade, education, and health sectors, which will boost tourism through people-to-people interactions and increased cultural exchanges. Initiatives like scholarships for Uzbek students in Pakistani universities, academic partnerships, and joint media coverage will foster goodwill and provide educational tourism oppor-

tunities.

Tourism cooperation will support broader economic objectives such as trade enhancement, regional connectivity, and peace-building. Pakistan's strategic location offers Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries a gateway to the Arabian Sea for trade, enhancing the scope for tourism-related business ventures. However, while opportunities are abundant, challenges must be addressed for tourism development to flourish between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Issues related to infrastructure, political stability, and security concerns have historically impacted tourism potential in the region. Recent improvements in infrastructure, such as better transportation networks and digitalization efforts in Uzbekistan, are helping overcome these hurdles.

For Pakistan, promoting its rich history, scenic beauty, and cultural diversity alongside offering modern amenities can attract tourists from

Uzbekistan and beyond. Both countries can also work on simplifying visa procedures and providing incentives for tour operators and travel agencies to boost tourism exchanges.

The tourism sectors in Pakistan and Uzbekistan are poised for significant growth, backed by shared historical ties, religious tourism, and strategic initiatives to improve connectivity and infrastructure. By collaborating and promoting cultural heritage, offering diverse tourism experiences, and addressing logistical challenges, both countries stand to benefit economically and culturally. The development of tourism infrastructure and policies will play a critical role in shaping the future success of tourism between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. As tourism fosters greater understanding and cultural exchange, it will contribute not only to economic growth but also to enhancing the regional ties and friendships between these two nations.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
81,804.59	81,114.20
Day's High	Day's Low
81,980.36	81,119.24
Index Value	Change
13,320,841,298	690.39
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	1 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,276.65	+39.70
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	1 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,057.96	-272.19
Percentage	Time
-0.64%	1 Oct, 1:06 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,651.97	+732.42
Percentage	Time
+1.93%	1 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.59	194.50
Bahrain Dinar	732.30	740.30
Canadian Dollar	206.10	208.50
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	307.75	310.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.7	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.75	908.25
Malaysian Ringgit	63.65	64.25
New Zealand \$	175	176.66
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	716.75	725.25
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.30
Singapore Dollar	214.38	216.38
Swedish Korona	27.20	27.51
Swiss Franc	327.29	329.75
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	369.55	373.05
US Dollar	278.50	280.00

# Asim Munir saved Pakistan from bankruptcy: Dr. Shahid Rasheed

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, the former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stated on Tuesday that Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir deserves the credit for saving Pakistan from bankruptcy.

General Asim Munir was also behind on the approval of the IMF loan, which was necessary to save Pakistan, he said.

He has also managed to keep the exchange rate stable for a long time, an achievement that would not have been possible without stopping the smuggling of dollars and controlling the unruly currency dealers.

In a statement issued today, Shahid Rasheed Butt stated that Munir is now

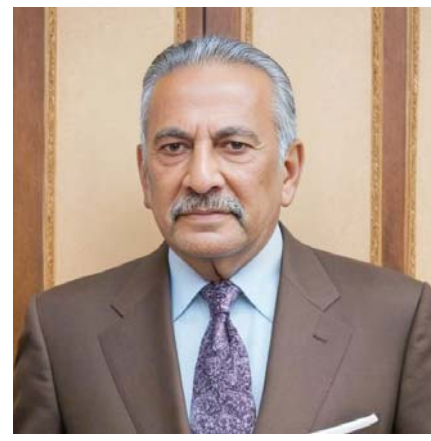
trying to make electricity cheaper, and people are likely to get 20 to 25 percent relief in their electricity bills.

The business leader said that due to Asim Munir's efforts, fears of the dollar reaching 350 rupees have died down, and the economy is recovering.

He is well aware that only a stable economy allows for the protection of ideological and geographical borders.

He stated that COAS make life difficult for tax evaders and implement a mechanism to control growing government expenditures.

Shahid Rasheed Butt pointed out that while there have been some initial steps to broaden the tax base, they remain insufficient. However, the continuation of "business as usual" will no longer be viable.



We need structural reforms right away, especially in the area of state finances. Even though there is an IMF program in place, the government is still having a difficult time getting financial help, he added.

He said that foreign investors and the rest of the world are still not sure that real reforms are happening. He continued, "If Pakistan doesn't completely change its public finance system, it will have the same budget problems when the current program ends."

Mr. Butt continued by emphasizing the necessity of creating fiscal room in order to achieve growth without worsening the current account. Making major changes to the government's money handling practices is the only way to achieve this.

## Pakistani and Malaysian flags

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) installed Pakistani and Malaysian national flags on Rawal Dam Overhead bridge, in the Federal Capital. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is expected to visit Pakistan in the first week of October, marking his first official trip to the country, diplomatic sources revealed on Thursday.

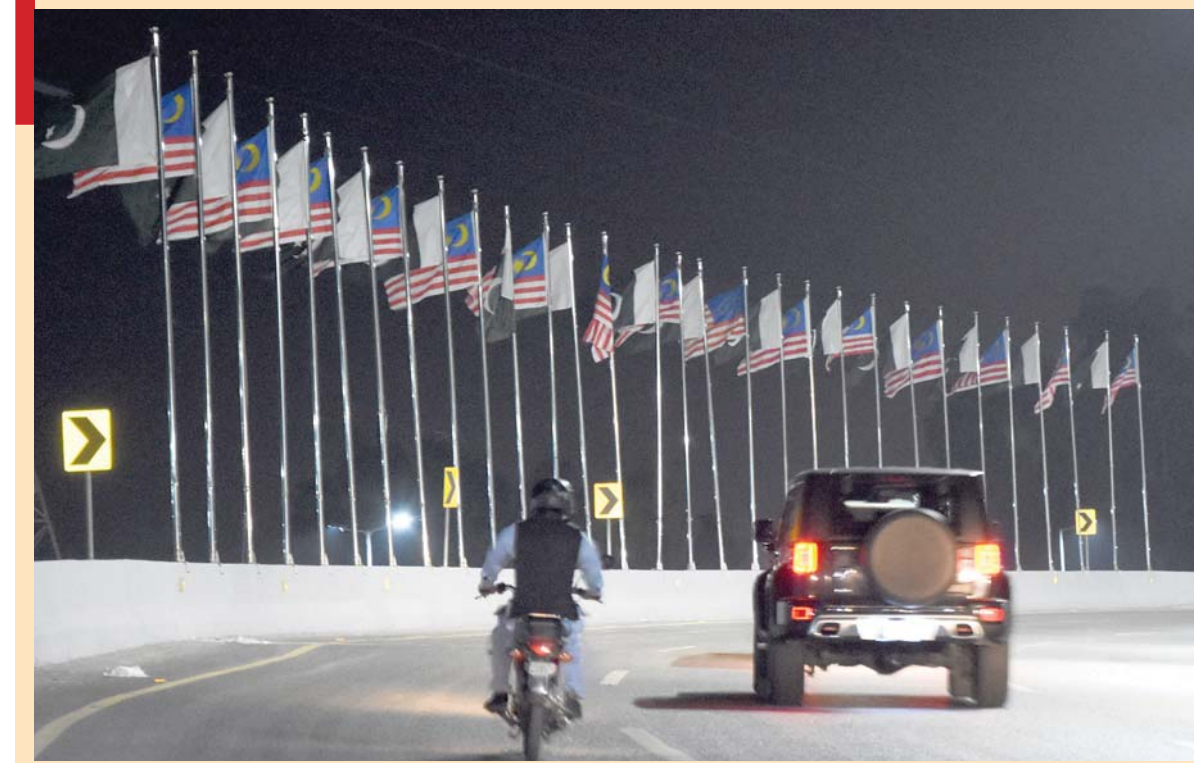


Photo: Online

## Women Chamber to continue struggle for uplift of women: Farah Mukhtar

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Patron-in-chief of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Begum Farah Mukhtar, President Farah Saqib, former President Mahnaz Aamir Shaikh have said that the new members will continue their struggle to solve the problems faced by women from the down-trodden sections of the society. Work with hard work and dedication and identify the problems so that they can play their role together to solve the problems, he expressed these views while addressing the annual general body meeting of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Division.

Saeed Altaf Agha highlighted the performance of



the last two years and the new executive committee members, new president Farah Saqib, senior vice president Nadia Wasim, vice president Shahnaz Nasir were introduced in the meeting. General Secretary Saeeda Altaf Agha, Sadia Ali, Falza Mumtaz, Tahira Najam,

Samina Waqar, Marsa Batool, Qaratul Ain, Nosheela Naem, Taiba Asif, Ayesha Yasmin, Khalida Javed, Shahzana Asif, Rabia Tariq Awan, Asma Arsalan, Alina Gilani from TIDP Multan and others participated while General Secretary Saeeda Altaf Agha

thanked the participants of the event.

The women leaders added that in order to get rid of the rising inflation and economic crisis, women can work hard on sewing and embroidery and other issues to support their families better

## New office-bearers of ICCI assume the charge

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has taken over charge as President, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President, and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry as Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during a simple but impressive ceremony held at Chamber House here on Tuesday.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaikat Masud, Sheikh Amir Waheed and others also attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that taking over charge of the ICCI Presidency was a great honor and that his only mission is to serve the business community.

He declared that he would work hard to promote the interests of traders and indus-



trialists and take all possible measures to resolve their key issues. He said that he would also work to develop markets, industrial areas, and the city better.

Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik congratulated the newly elected office bearers on assuming charge of their

portfolios and expressed good wishes to them. He hoped that the new team would effectively resolve the key issues of the business community.

Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, senior vice president, and Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, vice president, assured that they would make all possible efforts to

deliver to the expectations of the business community.

Executive Body Members and ICCI members largely attended the ceremony and congratulated the new Office Bearers by assuring them of their cooperation in the efforts to serve the cause of the business community.

## Congratulations to the newly elected officials with good expectations

**Commerce Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former president of supermarket and senior member of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sarfraz Mughal, newly elected officials of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, Senior Vice President Abdul Rahman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood. With best wishes to ChCongratulatory. And expressed his best wishes for success. He praised the newly elected President Nasir Qureshi for his pledge to solve the problems of the business community and the industry in his opening address. There are those who are well aware of the problems of their community. We expect

that income tax, sales tax, CDA, ISCO, administration, police and other related institutions will use their full capacity to solve the problems of the business community on a priority basis. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Election Commission Chairman Zahid Maqbool While appreciating the process of performing his duties with hard work and dedication, he also appreciates the tenure of his presidency and appreciates his good wishes.

## BF Biosciences IPO General Subscription on 2nd and 3rd Oct!

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The general public will subscribe 6.25 million shares, 25 percent of the total offer size of BF Biosciences IPO on October 2nd and 3rd at the strike price of Rs 77.

The general public can subscribe the IPO on 2nd and 3rd October from 9.00 am to 5pm during banking hours. However, in the case of e-IPO, the process continues for 24 hours.

The book-building phase of BF Biosciences concluded last week with an oversubscription of 3.4 times.

The IPO received an overwhelming response from

institutional investors and high-net worth individuals as the strike price clocked in at Rs 77/share, 40 percent higher than the floor price of Rs 55 and raised Rs 1.93 billion.

Shahid Ali, CEO Arif Habib Limited said that investing in the public offering of BF Biosciences presents a decent opportunity for retail investors to engage with a fundamentally strong company at a more attractive valuation compared to the broader pharmaceutical sector.

This unique positioning allows investors to capitalize on potential growth while benefiting from a favorable entry point.

## Samina Fazil elected President IWCCI unopposed



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari has said that women's empowerment is crucial to the advancement of the country and cannot be overstated.

He said that we cannot achieve progress and equality unless we give women, who make up the majority of Pakistan's population, more power.

Speaking at the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) Annual General Meeting, Chief Guest Zafar Bakhtawari stated that women's empowerment is very important for national development.

He went on to say that despite many obstacles, there

has been a notable change in public views, laws, and programs meant to promote gender equality.

Education, according to the business leader, is one of the main tenets of women's empowerment, and we are improving the percentage of female literacy.

Positive changes have resulted from initiatives to build schools, give scholarships, and raise awareness of the value of education for girls.

Adil Sheraz, Country Manager Care Pakistan, Muqadas Ali, CEO of Power Play, Ammara Batool, Head of Business Development Jazz Cash, and others also spoke on the occasion.

Then the oath of office was administered to the newly elected office bearers, which included President Samina Fazil, SVP Shamaila Naz, VP Rabia Farhan, and Executive Members such as Nabila Sami, Saima Naz, Jamshed, Samina Bashir, Shazia Imran, Mumtaz Akhtar, Rabia Ali, Tasmiyah Rina, Farida Rashid, and Sana Amin.

## Mobilink Bank introduces climate insurance to protect agri-borrowers from climate risks

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, has introduced Climate Shock Insurance to protect small and medium-scale farmers and livestock owners from the escalating risks of climate change. Under the initiative, the Bank provides financial security by covering losses to crops and livestock resulting from unpredictable climate catastrophes, enabling farmers to maintain their livelihoods amid growing weather volatility. The insurance product is integrated into the Bank's existing Agri-Lending and Livestock offerings, streamlining access to coverage and accelerating payout times compared to traditional disaster relief methods. Through this initiative, Mobilink Bank reinforces its commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, promoting resilience and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Atta-ur-Rehman, Chief Business Officer Mobilink Bank, highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating, "The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat — it is a pressing reality for the borrowers in our crop and livestock portfolio. We strive to provide them with peace of mind, knowing they are financially protected against climate-related disasters, ensuring the survival of their crops and livestock."

Mobilink Bank is a forward-thinking and future-ready organization committed to addressing the pressing needs of Pakistan's agriculture sector, which employs over 40% of the country's labor force. Mobilink Bank safeguards small-scale farmers and livestock owners by partnering with leading insurance providers and providing access to reliable, climate-specific insurance products.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.



# Schedule of Training Sessions Pakistan and England Cricket Teams

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan men's cricket team will commence its preparations for the first Test against England at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, 1 October. The England men's cricket team will arrive in the wee hours of Wednesday, 2 October, while the first Test will get underway on Monday, 7 October.

Below is important information for the media attending or following the first Test (7-11 October):

Media contacts:

Danny Reuben - Head of Team Communications, England Cricket  
Syed Naem Ahmad - Media & Digital Manager, Pakistan cricket team,  
Shakeel Khan Venue Accreditation, Facilities and Services Manager; shakeel.khan@pcb.com.pk; +92 301 844 0284 Pakistan support staff

Naveed Akram Cheema (team manager), Jason Gillespie (head coach), Azhar Mahmood (assistant coach), Tim Nielsen (high-performance coach), Cliffe Deacon (physiotherapist), Drikus Saiman (strength and conditioning coach), Talha Butt (analyst), Usman Anwari (security manager), Syed Naem Ahmad (media and digital manager) and Mohammad Shahid Iqbal (masseur).

2 October - Pakistan men's cricket team will training at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1200. A player or member of the support staff is expected to be available for media interviews after training.

3 October - Pakistan men's cricket team will training at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. A player or member of the support staff is expected to be available for media interviews after training.

4 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will train at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, an England player or member of the support staff is expected to hold his media conference.

5 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, an England player or member of the support staff is expected to hold his media conference.

6 October - England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, opposite captains Ben Stokes of England and Pakistan's Shan Masood will take part

in a photo-shoot with the trophy, which will be followed by their pre-series media conferences.

7 October - The toss will take place at 0930, with the first ball to be bowled at 1000. After the day's play, star performers from either side are expected to hold their media conferences.

Playing hours (Mon-Thurs):  
1st session - 1000-1200  
2nd session - 1240-1440  
3rd session - 1500-1700  
On Friday:  
1st session-1000-1230  
2nd session - 1330-1500  
3rd session - 1520-1720

Schedule of matches:  
7-11 Oct - First Test, Multan  
15-19 Oct - Second Test, Multan  
24-28 Oct - Third Test, Rawalpindi

## Pakistan Cycling Federation announces successful election of new President, Vice-President and Finance Secretary

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) proudly announces the successful conclusion of its elections, conducted under the supervision of the Election Commission of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA). After 13 years, a proper election has been held under the umbrella of the POA, with the participation of all affiliated units. Representatives from all four provinces—Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Balochistan—as well as key departments such as the Pakistan Army, Pakistan WAPDA, and Pakistan Railways, actively took part in the process.

Mr. Idrees Haider Khawaja has been elected as the President of the PCF, Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair as General Secretary, Mr. Rai M. Asghar as Senior Vice President and Ms.



Sadia Alvi as Finance Secretary.

The newly elected officials have committed to promoting

cycling at both grassroots and international levels, ensuring fairness, inclusivity, and the development of the sport

across the nation. In a major development, they have announced the return of the Tour de Pakistan, which will

take place from 15th to 27th February 2025, after a 13-year hiatus. This iconic event is expected to elevate the profile of cycling in Pakistan and attract both national and international attention.

Additionally, the 63rd National Track Championship is scheduled to be held from 30th November to 4th December 2024 at the Cycling Velodrome in Lahore, further emphasizing the Federation's commitment to fostering competitive cycling in the country.

Their leadership has been welcomed with enthusiasm by cyclists and the broader sports community, who view this as a step toward advancing cycling in Pakistan. The Pakistan Cycling Federation is set to pursue excellence in the coming months, aiming for notable achievements on both national and international stages.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Traditional Games, Mukha competitions started in Mardan

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: In the context of traditional sports organized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Department, the Mukha competitions have started in Mardan, inaugurated by Additional Assistant Commissioner Ibn Amin and Deputy Director Operations Jamshed Baloch.

On this occasion, Regional Sports Officer Sulaiman Khan, District Sports Officer Saeed Akhtar, Provincial President Mukha Tir Andazi Association Amjad Hasan Yousafzai, General Secretary Farman Shah along with the Cabinet and other personalities were present.

The final of the event will be played on October 6, 2024. Adviser to the Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakher Jahan will be the chief guest of the event. Eight old teams of Mardan



district are participating in these competitions, including teams from Babuzai Club, Shamozai Club, Mian Khan, Singaon, Artona and Chapalabad.

The organizing secretary of this event was Amjad Khan Yousafzai who made

the best arrangements for the event. On this occasion, Deputy Director Operations Jamshed Baloch appreciated the efforts of DG Sports Abdul Nasir and said that traditional sports are continuing with his hard work day and night

and events will be organized in other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said Mukha is an ancient game which is played vigorously in Swabi, Mardan and Buner, club level competitions will be organized in these districts in the first phase under the auspices of Department of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

After organizing the traditional games in different regions, the winners of the various events will be specially invited to Peshawar Horse and Cattle Show and Horse and Cattle Show and Mukha Tournament finals to be held in Dera Ismail Khan.

The players will be awarded more prizes, the purpose of organizing the traditional games is to make efforts to keep the traditional games alive across the province and it is hoped that such initiatives will further promote the traditional games in these areas.

## Akbar ul Rehman, Tariq Khan and Saifullah shine as Zone VI lift PCB Senior Inter District Title

Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Regional Cricket Association Zone VI beat Regional Cricket Association Zone V by an innings and 73 runs to win the title of PCB Senior Inter-District Cricket Tournament Karachi Region. At KCCA Stadium, Zone V won the toss and elected to bat first, scoring only 95 runs in 26 overs in the first innings. Ibadur Rahman and Wasim Ahmed scored 19 runs each. off-spinner Saifullah and left-arm leg-spinner Tariq Khan bowled devastatingly, taking 4-4 wickets for 19 and 24 runs respectively, while Raza-ul-Hasan took 2 wickets.

In reply, Zone VI was



bowled out by making the first inning. Skipper runs, Khawaja Muhammad 255 runs in 72.2 overs in Akbarul Rehman scored 67 Nafay 36, Habibullah 24,

Syed Haider Abbas 46 and Abdul Rehman 33. In the second innings, Zone V was once again bowled out by the destructive bowling of the bowlers of zone six after making 87 runs in 31 overs. Hasan Khan scored 23 runs and Moazzam Malik 25. Medium fast bowler Ali Umar took 3 for 13, Tariq Khan took 4 for 42.

Tariq Khan and Saifullah took 45 and 33 wickets respectively in the tournament and played a key role in the success of Zone VI.

President RCAK Zone VI Zia Ahmed Siddiqui congratulated the players and announced cash awards for the team's great success.

## President Cup ODI tournament will start from October 3

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: The President Cup ODI tournament will start from October 3.

9 departmental teams will participate in the tournament, 19 matches will be played in five cities.

The President Cup One Day Tournament is starting on October 3. This 50 overs departmental team tournament will be played in five cities, Abbottabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Lahore.

The two semi-finals will be played on October 13 and 14, while the final will be played on October 16.

These will be all day matches which will start at 9:30 am.

The total prize money of the tournament is 77 lakh fifty thousand rupees. The winning team will be entitled to a prize money of Rs 50 lakh and the runners-up team will be entitled to a prize money of Rs 25 lakh.

Higher Education Commission (HEC), Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) have been placed in Group A while Ishal Associates, Ghani Glass, Oil And Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Television (PTV) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) are part of Group B.

Winners of the previous edition of the President Cup, SA will play their opening match of the GPL tournament against Ghani Glass on October 3 at Saeed Sports City, Bedian, Lahore.

Group A matches will be played in Abbottabad, Islamabad and Rawalpindi while group B matches will be played in Faisalabad and Lahore. The venue and time for semi-finals and finals will be announced in due course.

## Pakistan's Arshad breaks Guinness World Record

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Arshad Mehsood, has broken the Guinness World Record of India's Chinmay Sharma for the most full contact elbow strikes in one minute using alternate elbows.

Pakistan's top Guinness World Record holder Irfan Mehsood said Chinmay Sharma had the record of 334 while Arshad broke the Indian record by a huge margin for hitting 373 elbow strikes.

"Arshad, who runs a Chingchi Rickshaw for a living is my student and more than 20 of my students have made Guinness World Records so far," he told APP.

Meanwhile, Irfan Mehsood has achieved 100 Guinness World Records in less than 8 years including the deadlift by lifting 40 pounds for 3 minutes and 20 seconds. Mehsood lifted 70 kg weight with his toe and set a new world record.

"I have set 46 Guinness World Records for the most world-level pay in the push-ups category and 31 records with a weight of 100 pounds," he said.

Mehsood said he has so far held the world record of 100 lbs, 80 lbs, 60 lbs and 40 lbs.

"I have set records for pushups, squats, jumping jacks, step ups, knee strikes, elbow strikes, side jumps, high jumps, star champs etc. I have broken world records of 16 countries so far including America, Great Britain, India, China, Norway, Germany, France, Finland, Philippines, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Syria," he said.



## Pak golfers to feature in Asian Amateur Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A four-member Pakistan contingent, including the country's No. 1 ranked amateur golfer Numan Ilyas will feature in the Asian Amateur Championship to take place from October 3 to 6 at the Taiheyo Golf Club, Gotemba, Japan.

According to the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF), organized by the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC), the event will run till October 6.

Pakistan contingent includes Numan Ilyas (Pakistan Number 1), Hussain Hamid, Salman Jehangir, and Qasim Ali Khan.

The Asian Amateur Championship is one of the most significant stroke play events in the region, featuring 72 holes of competition. Pakistan's golfers, who are ranked among the top 100 players in Asia according to the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR), have earned their place in this prestigious event through their exceptional performances.

The President of the Pakistan Golf Federation, along with all executive members, extends their best wishes to the team.

The PGF expresses full confidence in the abilities of these players to perform admirably on this highly competitive international stage.

"We are extremely proud of our team heading to Japan and are hopeful that they will showcase their best skills. This championship is a great opportunity for our players to further enhance their experience and represent Pakistan with honor," stated the President of PGF.

The PGF continues its commitment to supporting and promoting the development of golf in Pakistan, ensuring that the nation's best talent competes at the highest level on global platforms.

## World Qualifiers TeQ Ball Championship, Pakistan team trials completed

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The trials of the Pakistan TeQ Ball team for the World Qualifiers TeQBall Championship completed here at the Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar, in which more than forty players from all over the country participated.

Pakistan will be represented in the World Championship and World TeQ Ball Tour. On this occasion, Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex and Chief Coach Syed Jafar Shah, Rahat Mian Chairman Absar Welfare Foundation, Junaid Ahmed Vice President KP TeQ Ball Association, Miss Sumayyah (Swat), Akhtar Rasool General Secretary were also present.

The guests formally inaugurated the TeQ Ball trials by cutting the ribbon and playing some exhibition strokes. Under the auspices of Pakistan TeQ Federation, World Qualifiers TeQ Ball Championship Trials were held at Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar in which male and female players from all over the country participated.

In the participation trials, Hidayatur Rehman was selected in men's singles, Safa Marwah in women's singles, Muneem Siddiqui and Kamran Ahmed in doubles, who will represent Pakistan in the World Championship and World TeQ Ball Tour in Hungary, Romania as well as in Vietnam.



## Fatiha

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering condolences to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on the demise of his elder brother on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## PM Shehbaz effectively pleaded Palestinians case as leader of Ummah: Tarar

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively pleaded the case of Palestinians during his historic speech at the United Nations General Assembly as the leader of Muslim Ummah.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that PM Shehbaz's address to the UNGA was highly appreciated all over the world, which was an honour for Pakistan.

The prime minister cham-

pioned the causes of Muslim Ummah, including Palestine and Kashmir, he added.

His bilateral meetings with heads of state and government of other countries on the sidelines of the UNGA session also proved very fruitful and constructive in that regard, the minister said.

Tarar said that the PM's speech also proved that Pakistan's foreign policy was successful and that Islamabad was an important player both at the international level and in the region.

"The prime minister vociferously raised the Palestine issue in his UNGA session



and during his meetings on the sidelines, which was acknowledged by the international community and that is a matter of pride for Pakistan," he reiterated.

The minister said that PM Shehbaz had always raised the Palestine issue at all interna-

tional fora. He not only highlighted the Palestinians' genocide and Israeli war crimes in Gaza but also stressed that the aggressor should be brought to justice.

The PM's UNGA address was among the most watched events on the internet, and it would figure on top in the UN history as there was a true representation of the sentiments of entire Muslim Ummah, he added.

Tarar said that led by PM Shehbaz, the Pakistani delegation boycotted the address of Israeli prime minister and many other countries followed suit, whose representatives

also walked out of the General Assembly hall. Netanyahu delivered his speech in an almost empty hall, he added.

He said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also appreciated Pakistan's support and termed PM Shehbaz his brother.

"The President of Palestine recognized and lauded the role of Pakistan highlighting the Palestinian cause at every world forum," he maintained.

The Palestinian president, he said, also appreciated Pakistan for sending medical supplies and granting admission to Palestinian students in its medical colleges.

## Induction Ceremony of GIKI Batch 34

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) as the chief guest for the induction ceremony of the new batch of students. The event was attended by Salim Saifullah Khan, President of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology (SOPREST) and Board of Governors GIK Institute, Executive Director SOPREST Shakil Durrani, Rector Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, students from across the country, Pro-Rectors, Deans, Heads of Departments,



and various dignitaries.

Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of unity and

working together to strengthen the country. She encouraged the youth to promote tolerance, critical thinking, and social change actively.

"There is a dire need for social change, and the younger generation must play a role in distinguishing right from wrong and fostering a culture of understanding," she said.

President of SOPREST, Engr. Salim Saifullah Khan addressed the students: "You are the future of Pakistan."

On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid remarked: "GIKI Institute has become an icon of quality education over the past three decades." He noted that the Institute's over 7,500 alumni work in multinational companies worldwide

## Murad invites Chinese investors to invest in Electric buses, bikes, waste-to-energy

## Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a meeting with a delegation of Chinese investors led by Chairman Belt & Road (B&R) Group Mr. Wan Xiaowu, agreed to facilitate private Chinese investment in the city.

The CM was assisted by Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani, Chairman P&D Najam Shah and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh.

The chief minister said that his government would welcome Chinese public and private firms to invest directly in the projects of their choice or strike a Public-Private partnership with the Sindh government.

Chairman B&R said that over 12 different top Chinese firms were interested in investing in Karachi, particularly in waste-to-energy, wastewater treatment, desalination water plant, manufacturing of Electric buses, and kits to convert patrol motorcycles on electric energy and reconstructions of the sewerage system of the city.



The CM said that his government would provide all necessary facilities to the Chinese firms to set up their plants.

The CM and the Chairman of B&R Group agreed to have another sitting with the Planning & Development

department and Board of Investment to select the project and negotiate so that work could be initiated.

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## On China's 75th anniversary, PM extends greetings with commitment for stronger ties

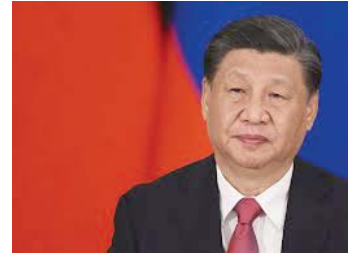
## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As China celebrates its 75th founding anniversary on Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended his warmest felicitations to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the Chinese people.

Annually observed on October 1, China's National Day commemorates Mao Zedong's formal proclamation of the establishment of the People's Republic of China on the day in 1949.

On his X timeline, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan was proud of China's remarkable progress and achievements under President Xi's visionary leadership.

"Pakistan and China are iron brothers. Our All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership continues to grow from strength to strength. Paki-



stan and China are fully committed to ensuring the success of CPEC, the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative," the prime minister remarked.

The prime minister also reaffirmed the resolve that Pakistan would continue to work closely with China to further strengthen its bilateral ties across all spheres, and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

## PM Shehbaz congratulates Japan's new PM Shingeru Ishiba



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on

Tuesday congratulated Shingeru Ishiba on his election as Prime Minister of Japan.

The prime minister, in a post on X, emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for its long-standing and friendly relationship with Japan, which had developed consistently over the years.

He expressed his eagerness to collaborate closely with Prime Minister Ishiba to enhance and diversify the strong bilateral ties between the two nations.

## PM felicitates Abdelmadjid Tebboune on re-election as Algeria president

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday felicitated Abdelmadjid Tebboune on his re-election as the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The prime minister wrote on his X timeline that he looked forward to continue working closely with him to strengthen Pakistan-Algeria ties in all spheres of mutual interest, especially in trade and investment.

According to the media reports quoting the country's electoral authority ANIE, Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected for a five-year term with almost 95 percent



of the vote.

In the electoral contest, he defeated Abdelali Hassani, who won 3.17 percent of the votes, and Youcef Aouchiche, who won 2.16 percent votes.

## Non-tax filer to face restriction on purchasing property, car: Minister

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that non-tax filer will have to face restriction on purchasing property, vehicles and opening of a bank account. The government is taking serious measures to expand tax network in the country and for this, some restriction have been imposed on non-filers, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Whole sale sector, distributors, retailers and real estate would be

brought into tax-net in a proper manner, he said.

Subsidy on wheat and sugarcane would be reduced through phase-wise system, he said.

In reply to a question, he said, we have decided to implement tax uniformity in all the provinces of Pakistan.

All the provinces would sign new financial agreement to strengthen the system, he said.

To a question about increasing the number of tax filers, he said, five hundred thousand more filers have brought into the tax-net this year.

## Zakir Naik calls for unity ...

Continued from Page 1

and support one another. Sadiq further stated that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights for all citizens, ensuring full protection of minority rights in the country. He highlighted that the solution to the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah lies in unity and solidarity.

Dr Naik reiterated that Islam is a religion of peace, love, and brotherhood. He praised Pakistan's role in promoting unity among Muslims.

Accompanied by the NA speaker, he also toured the assembly hall. Later, Dr Naik arrived at the residence of Maulana Fazlur Rehman for a meeting.

Earlier in the day, Dr Naik visited the National Assembly to meet with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. The meeting focused on "important issues," including interfaith harmony. The preacher said: "The people of Pakistan are very loving and hospitable."

NA Speaker Sadiq said: "Islam is a complete way of life, conveying messages of peace, tolerance, and love." He stressed the need for the Muslim Ummah to work together