

# Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
 ہم سے سعید مقبری نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے  
 عمر بن سلم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ابو قتادہ  
 رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ کبھی کبھی  
 ﷺ ہاں نظر پڑے اور ان سے اور ان سے  
 العاص (جو بی بی کنی سے آپ کے شوہر ہوں)  
 پر جس پر بی بی کنی رضی اللہ علیہا نے نماز  
 پڑھی جب آپ رکوع کرتے تو انہیں اتار  
 دیتے اور جب کھڑے ہوتے تو پھر اٹھالیتے۔  
 (بخاری: ص 996)

Barkat Rice Mills  
 (Pvt) Limited



## UN chief slams 'broadening' of Mideast conflict' as Iran attacks Israel; urges truce

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres denounced the escalation of tensions Tuesday in the Middle East, especially between Iran and Israel. "I condemn the broadening of the Middle East conflict with escalation after escalation," Guterres wrote on X. Urging that the escalations "must stop," Guterres said,



## Pakistan joins CERN 70 celebrations, groundbreaking achievements

Pakistan proudly joined the international scientific community in celebrating CERN 70 – the 70th anniversary of European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, marking seven decades of remarkable discoveries in the field of Particle Physics. A special ceremony was held in Geneva, Switzerland, witnessed by the participation of 39 national delegations, including Pakistan's delegation led by the Chairman PAEC, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul Awwal 28, Thursday, October 3, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 170 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Answered

A mourner reacts during the funeral of Israeli soldier Captain Eitan Itzhak Oster, who was killed fighting in Lebanon, amid hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, at Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem, October 2, 2024. Reuters



Photo: Online

## Malaysian PM arrives to a red carpet welcome



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warmly received Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is undertaking a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Upon his arrival at the airport, children clad in traditional attire presented bouquets to the Malaysian Premier. He was also given a static guard of honour by smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army while 21-guns boomed in the background as gesture of warm welcome.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and members of the federal cabinet were also present to welcome the visiting dignitary.

The Malaysian prime minister is accompanied by a

high level delegation. During his stay, he will hold meetings with the leadership of Pakistan.

Premier Anwar Ibrahim is undertaking the official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

They will also discuss regional and global developments.

"Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith. This visit provides an important opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia relations," Foreign Office said in an earlier press release.

## Hezbollah killed 14 Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon: report

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hezbollah killed at least 14 Israeli soldiers during ground clashes in southern Lebanon, with numerous injuries reported among the troops, Sky News Arabia reported while quoting sources, as its military escalated operations against the armed group.

Israeli Channel 12 also noted the death of a third soldier from the Israeli Egoz Unit amid the fighting in the region.

This marks the deadliest day for the Israeli military on the Lebanon front in the past year amid ongoing

clashes with the Iran-backed group.

Hezbollah confirmed that its fighters were engaged in ground clashes with Israeli forces inside Lebanon, marking the first such confrontations since Israel initiated its ground advance.

Israeli Army Radio reported that a commando unit engaged with Hezbollah fighters inside a building in a southern Lebanese village, necessitating the deployment of medical rescue teams to assist injured soldiers.

"During the rescue operation, Hezbollah fighters continued to fire mortar shells, prompting the

Israeli forces to respond with heavy gunfire," the report stated.

But the Israel Defence Forces in a social media post at 7:56pm (PST) confirmed the killing of only eight of its army men.

They are identified as Captain Eitan Itzhak Oster, Captain Harel Etinger, Captain Itai Ariel Giat, Sergeant First Class Noam Barzilay, Sergeant First Class Or Mantzur, Sergeant First Class Nazaar Itkin, Staff Sergeant Almken Terefe and Staff Sergeant Ido Broyer.

These developments follow an infiltration by the Israeli army into Lebanese territory, leading to

escalating clashes along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

The Israeli military announced that regular infantry and armoured units were joining the ground operations in Lebanon. This escalation follows a missile strike on Israel by Iran, raising concerns about the potential for a broader conflict in the oil-rich Middle East.

Iran stated that its missile attack—its largest ever against Israel—was concluded unless provoked further. In response, both Israel and the United States vowed to retaliate strongly.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military

said that several missiles fired by Iran hit inside Israeli air force bases but did not cause any casualties or damage.

"During the Iranian attack yesterday (Tuesday), several missiles fell within Israeli air force bases. No offensive infrastructure or capabilities located on IAF (Israel Air Force) bases were damaged," the military said, adding that no casualties or damage to aircraft were reported.

The Lebanese group stated that it also targeted three Israeli Merkava tanks with guided rockets in the village of Maroun al-Ras on the eastern side of the border.

## Islamabad's Red Zone sealed, containers deployed throughout city

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Red Zone has once again been sealed off to prevent protests by political parties, causing significant disruption for citizens.

Containers have been placed on roads leading into the Red Zone, with only Margalla Road remaining open for access. Similarly, in anticipation of a PTI protest call on Friday, containers have been positioned at Chungi Number 26, IJP Road, Faizabad in Rawalpindi, allowing for potential road closures.

The morning saw significant traffic congestion as citizens struggled to reach offices and educational institutions within the Red Zone.



Many expressed frustration, urging political parties to resolve their issues through dialogue and an end to the frequent disruptions impacting daily life.

All vehicular and pedestrian traffic is currently restricted from entering the Red Zone, resulting in considerable inconvenience for residents and commuters. A large police presence has been deployed throughout the sealed areas.

## SC dismisses objection from Imran Khan's lawyer on Article 63-A review petition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court dismissed on Wednesday an objection raised by the counsel for Imran Khan, the PTI founder, regarding the bench hearing a review petition related to the defection clause under Article 63-A of the Constitution.

The apex court's original ruling on May 17, 2022, stated that votes cast against party lines as outlined in Article 63-A should not be counted. The law is designed to limit lawmakers' voting powers, requiring them to follow the decisions of their party head. Violations can result in disqualification from the National Assembly and the loss of the lawmaker's seat.

The Supreme Court Bar Associ-

ation (SCBA) had filed the review petition. It was heard by a five-member bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. The bench also included Justices Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel. Justice Afghan joined the bench after Justices Munib Akhtar and Syed Mansoor Ali Shah opted not to participate.

In the hearing, SCBA President Shahzad Shaukat presented his case while CJP Isa scrutinized the previous opinion given by the larger bench concerning a presidential reference made by former President Arif Alvi. The CJP noted that his arguments had already been completed.

In court, Senator Ali Zafar represented Imran Khan, alongside SCBA President Shaukat and Pakistan Bar Council Vice Chairman Farooq H Naek.

The registrar's report regarding the detailed judgment on Article 63-A was presented to the court, indicating that the detailed judgment was issued on October 14, 2022.

The SCBA president explained that the delay in filing the review petitions was due to the wait for the detailed judgment. Justice Mandokhail responded by questioning whether the SCBA was unaware of the timeframe for filing such petitions, contrasting it with the situation of an ordinary citizen's case.

## Bilawal fears constitutional amendment passage through Parliament will be difficult after 'Oct 25'



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his fear that the tabling of the constitutional amendment in Parliament would be difficult after October 25.

"There will be challenges to constitutional amendment after October 25," the scion of the Bhutto dynasty told a Supreme Court Press

Association delegation at the Zardari House on Tuesday. "The reserved seats case decision suggests this direction. If amendments occur before October 25, there will not be any complications."

He did not present any context for his statement, but the aforementioned date is significant for the legal fraternity as incumbent Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa who will retire on this date. Senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah will precede him as next CJP.

Last month, CJP Isa clarified that he had refused a proposed extension in his tenure under

Continued on Page 8

## PTA indicates end of internet slowdown by end of October

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has indicated that the ongoing internet disruptions in the country are expected to be resolved by the end of October.

PTA Chairman Major General (retd) Hafeezur Rahman addressed journalists, reaffirming that the authority does not intend to slow down internet services further.

X (formerly Twitter), which is currently only complying with 27% of regulations.

He clarified that decisions regarding the closure of X are made by the federal government, and the service will be restored upon government request.

The chairman compared the frequency of internet shutdowns, stating that India experienced 116 shutdowns in 2023, while Pakistan had only seven.

He emphasized that although he does not support internet shutdowns, national security remains a priority.

## Forces kill 12 BLA terrorists in major operation

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Security forces in Pakistan have dealt a significant blow to the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in a successful counter-terrorism operation in Harnai, Balochistan.

Intelligence-based operations conducted on September 12 resulted

in the deaths of six key BLA militants.

Sources within the security forces confirmed the operation, identifying the slain militants as Shafo Samalani (alias Tadin), Sarmad Khan (alias Dastin), Muhammad Gul Mari (alias Wahid Baloch), Ghulam Qadir Mari (alias Anjir Baloch), Obaid Baloch (alias Fida), and Taj Muhammad (alias

Babel).

All were reportedly involved in direct attacks on security forces and civilians.

Police mobile targeted in Quetta explosion, 12 injured

Seven labourers killed in Balochistan's Panjgur

Gas company attacked in Musakhel, machinery burnt, 20 workers abducted

Defense experts are hailing the operation as a major victory for security forces, stating that the loss of these six key members represents a substantial setback for the BLA.

The experts further noted that the people of Balochistan have rejected these militants who cloak themselves in the guise of seeking freedom.

# Chairman Senate states that the country's economic future relied heavily on agricultural productivity

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani stressed the urgent need to focus on enhancing cotton production in the country. He said this at the oath-taking ceremony of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani stated that the country's economic future relied heavily on agricultural productivity, with cotton playing a pivotal role.

"Our primary focus must be on increasing cotton yields, as the weakening of the cotton sector is already causing mills to relocate, resulting in significant economic losses," he observed. Gillani recalled that during his tenure middlemen's role was abolished and the support price for cotton was increased which provided relief to farmers. He assured the ginners that he would push for cotton to be a top



priority for the government in order to revive the sector. Talking about the issue of high markup rates raised by Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) members, Gillani promised efforts to bring the interest rate down to single digit and hoped that it would facilitate remarkable growth for cotton-related

industries. "The cotton revival issue will be given precedence in the Senate, and we will work towards resolving challenges, including high financing costs, to boost production and support the ginners," he added. Congratulating the newly elected members of the PCGA, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani reiterated that

cotton was the backbone of the country's agriculture-driven economy, and any decline in its production would have far-reaching consequences. He urged all stakeholders to come together and ensure that the cotton sector is given the attention it deserves at both provincial and national

## Bilawal to address lawyers in Multan soon: PLF South Punjab



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: In connection with the arrival of Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Multan, PLF South Punjab President Sheikh Ghayas ul Haque Advocate and other officials Rana Javed Akhtar, Miss Ayesha, Hasnain Shah Gillani, Wajid Hussain Rizvi, Rubina Rana, Fayaz Bhutta, Shabbir Mazhar, Pahor, Sheikh Shahid Hameed and others while addressing the press conference said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's full support for the implementation of reforms in the Judiciary through constitutional amendments as per the wish of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto is a good step of the time. It is necessary to establish a constitutional court, which has to be formed in any case, in which all the provinces will be represented. In the light of this, judges can be appointed by consensus. The participants of the press conference also expressed concern over the distribution of judges in the Supreme Court, which is not only in the interest of the judiciary but also not in the interest of Pakistan. Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will come to Multan soon and will address the lawyers at the High Court Bar Multan.

## Pak army, FC kicks off waziristan sports festival with a bang



**Adam Khan Wazir**

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A thrilling sports festival has commenced in South Waziristan Lower, marking a significant milestone in the region's journey towards peace and prosperity.

The festival, organized on Wednesday in collaboration with the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aims to promote sports and physical activities among the tribal youth.

According to FC sources, the sports festival will continue until October 26, featuring a series of events that will showcase the talent and enthusiasm of the local youth. A total of 136 cricket, 97 volleyball, and 146 football teams from South Waziristan will participate in the festival, competing in various stages and categories.

The competitions will be held across 10 locations in South Waziristan Lower and Upper, two tribal districts that have faced significant challenges in the past. The purpose of the festival is to encourage the youth to engage in academic and sports activities, fostering a sense of enthusiasm and passion among them.

Security forces sources highlighted that there is no shortage of talent among the youth of Waziristan, but opportunities have been scarce. However, concrete steps are being taken to provide various activities for the youth, and a positive change is expected soon.

The Waziristan Sports Festival is a beacon of hope for the region, promoting peace, unity, and development.

As the festival progresses, it is expected to bring together people from all walks of life, celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

## Takht Bhai, 18-Member Chinese delegation visits Takht Bhai ancient ruins



**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: An 18-member Chinese delegation visited the world-renowned ancient ruins of Takht Bhai in Mardan. The district police made stringent security arrangements to ensure the delegation's safety, under the instructions of DPO Mardan, Zahoor Babar Afridi. Takht Bhai is a site of historical and cultural significance, recognized globally as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracting a large number of domestic and foreign tourists. DSP Takht Bhai Circle, Shakeel Khan, personally supervised the security arrangements and directed the police force to tighten security measures to prevent any untoward incident. Under DPO Mardan's special instructions, a heavy police contingent was deployed at all entry and exit points, with strict checking measures in place. DSP Shakeel Khan stated that, under DPO Zahoor Babar Afridi's leadership, Mardan Police remains committed to protecting foreign delegations and tourists. Today's visit also saw foolproof security arrangements, ensuring the Chinese delegation's safety. The delegation praised Mardan Police's security measures and expressed satisfaction with their protection and facilitation. During their tour, they appreciated the police's efforts, saying they felt completely secure and comfortable.

## Protest

FAISALABAD: Protest demonstrations on the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf in the city.



Photo: Online

## CM Sindh to arrange funds for remaining 16480 damaged schools

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a meeting, directed the education department to complete the reconstruction of 3328 schools out of 19,808 damaged by the 2022 floods during the current financial year.

He issued these directives while presiding over a review meeting of the school education department here at CM House. Minister P&D Syed Nasir Shah, Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, and others attended the meeting.



The CM was told that out of 19808 schools, reconstruction and repair of 3328 schools under different projects have either been started or are in the tender process. The CM

directed the minister of education to personally monitor the construction work so that these schools could be reconstructed by the end of June 2025.

During the briefing, the CM was told that the repair of 1769 schools and the reconstruction of 1559 school buildings have been taken up under 10 different local and foreign-

sisted projects for Rs114.3 billion.

Minister of Education Syed Sardar Shah told the CM that 824,008 children were enrolled in the 3328 schools damaged by the floods. The CM directed the school education department to keep visiting the schools where repair work has been started or would be taken up to review their educational activities.

The chief minister directed the P&D and the School Education Department to complete the construction work of the 3328 school buildings by the end of the current financial year. Meanwhile, he would arrange funds for the remaining 16480 schools so that they could also be repaired/reconstructed.

## One-day 'Ramatul-ul-Alamin' conference held at Muzaffarabad



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Under the auspices of the Department of Religious Affairs, a one-day Ramatul-ul-Alamin wa Khatam-ul-Nabiyeen (peace be upon him) conference was held at the central Jamia Masjid Khadim al-Haramain al-Sharifain.

The conference was attended by a large number of prominent scholars. Chairman Ulama and Sheikh Council of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Maulana Intiaz Siddiqui, Secretary of Religious Affairs Sardar Zafar Hussain, Director of Religious Affairs Mufti Nazir Ahmad Qadri, Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Farooq, Vice Chairman of

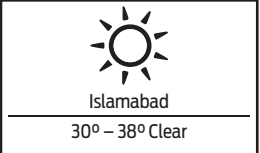
Ulama Council Qazi Sohail Ahmed, President Central Seerat Committee Attique Ahmad Raza Kayani, Maulana Qazi Mahmood Al Hasan Ashraf, Maulana Hameeduddin Barkati, Mufti Tawfiq Ahmed, pro Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, Maulana Abdullah Mustafai, Maulana Zahid Asari, Qazi Manzoorul Hasan, Mufti Tanveer,

Allama Tahir Hamid Barkati, Allama Shakeel Ahmed Jalali, Mufti Abdul Rauf Nizami, Muhammad Amin Butt, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Syed Adeel Geelani, Qari Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Mufti Shizan, Maulana Muhammad Altaf Saifi, Qari Muhammad Altaf Awan, Maulana Mansoor Akhtar, Qari Muhammad Fareed, Maulana

Muhammad Asif Baloch, Qari Muhammad Sajid Haruni, Maulana Abdul Qayum Kayani and others spoke. Addressing the conference, the speakers said that the Imam of the Prophets, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa SWA, was sent by Allah as a mercy to the worlds and the seal of the prophets for the entire universe and all the worlds.

Protection is part of our faith.

The speakers said that success lies in following the Prophet ﷺ. Chairman Ulama and Mashaikh Council Maulana Intiaz Ahmad Siddiqui said that we are thankful to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for declaring September 7 to be celebrated at the official level as the protection of the end of Prophethood.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:40 am
Zohr	11:57 am
Asr	4:09 pm
Maghrib	5:51 pm
Isha	7:13 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80

# Ethiopia, Pakistan Discuss Youth Exchanges to Strengthen People-to-People Contacts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Wednesday discussed potential areas to further promote people-to-people relations between the two countries, especially by exchanging delegations of youth leaders.

The discussion to this end took place during a meeting between H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan and H. E. Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Youth Programme.

Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration to empower youth of both the countries, mainly by imparting training, education and skills in modern technologies.

The Ambassador informed the Chairman Youth Programme about the home-grown economic reforms 2.0 which was undertaken by the Govern-

ment of the FDR Ethiopia following the success of its first phase that has corrected macroeconomic imbalances, increased Ethiopia's productivity and attracted the foreign direct investment.

There is a huge potential in Africa for the IT services, the Ambassador said, while urging the Pakistani entrepreneurs to participate in the Single Country Exhibition being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2025.

The Ambassador said Ethiopia has been playing a key role in the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan especially by launching the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi which has given a major boost to the people-to-people and business-to-business relations between the two countries.

The Chairman of the Youth Programme acknowledged the Ethiopian Airlines' role in connecting Pakistan with the African continent of more than 1.4 billion people.

H. E. Rana Mashhood said he is deeply impressed by the socio-economic



development in Ethiopia under the leadership of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the FDR Ethiopia.

He said the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is looking forward to strengthening bilateral relations with FDR Ethiopia, and would like to collaborate with Ethiopia for empowering youth of both the countries.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a high-level meeting on the Country Programme Framework 2024-28 with the Global Green Initiative held in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## TVI holds over a dozen free medical, vaccination camps for the marginalized communities

Rafiullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: In order to improve the vaccine's acceptability and cover missed and not available children during the anti-polio drives, the Trust for Vaccines and Immunization (TVI), in collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation, organized over a dozen free medical and vaccination camps on mother and child health in different far-off areas of the district.

Hundreds of patients, including women and children, suffering from various seasonal diseases were examined by male and female doctors. DHO Dr Syed Muaffar Shah, Advocate Azmat Khan Mandokhail and Dr Mir Dad Kakar flanked by the TVI district coordinator Rohullah Babar and health staff inaugurated the camps in both rural and urban parts of district Zhob.

According to the provincial coordinator, TVI Abdullah, who visited the camps, the camps have been set up in different high-risk districts of Balochistan, including Zhob. The aim of holding camps was not only to provide medical facilities to the underprivileged communities, but also to restore their trust in vaccines.

## ChildLife Foundation issues guidelines for early detection, prevention of Mpox in children

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ChildLife Foundation has released guidelines for the early detection and prevention of Mpox in children.

Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, is a viral infection that has become a growing concern worldwide.

"The guidelines aim to help parents, caregivers, and healthcare providers identify and prevent Mpox in children early on," said Dr. Irfan Habib, Medical Director at ChildLife Foundation.

He added that parents need to know that symptoms of Mpox in children typically include fever, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, and swollen



lymph nodes, followed by a rash that starts on the face and spreads to other body parts. "Unlike chickenpox, Mpox lesions look similar at the same time, and the rash usually starts on the face before spreading," said Dr. Irfan. Therefore, he added, distinguishing Mpox from other similar illnesses, such as chickenpox, measles, and skin infections, is critical.

Dr. Irfan said that Mpox is mainly spread through close contact with an infected person or by touching contaminated items such as clothing or bedding.

"In settings where children are in close proximity, such as schools or daycare, it is important to be aware of how the virus spreads," he added.

Talking about prevention and supportive care, he said that preventing the spread of Mpox is crucial hence the ChildLife Foundation advises parents and caregivers to practice regular handwashing, clean surfaces frequently, and avoid close contact with anyone showing virus symptoms.

## MAG VENTURES Launches: Pakistan's Latest Business Empire Unveiled

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: MAG VENTURES one of the largest business empires, held its grand inauguration ceremony. MAG VENTURES is a role model of this century, leading the way with innovative business practices.

MAG VENTURES is a diverse conglomerate consisting of various industries, contributing significantly to the country's progress and economic development, by offering opportunities for partnerships in business to the partners and shareholders.

At the inauguration ceremony, many esteemed personalities and honored guests were in attendance. Among the participants were Chief Executive Officer of MAG VENTURES, Syed Mohsin Sultan Shah, Managing Director Rana Fayyaz Ali, Director of



Sales Punjab Muhammad Javed, and Legal Advisor Sakhaawat Ali Dayyal. Founder and Chief Executive Officer Syed Mohsin Sultan Shah expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees.

He proudly announced that in 2024, MAG VENTURES will embark on a new project, MAG ORGANIC MEATS, along with the launch of MAG CATTLE FARM, which will focus on

exporting and trading meat to Gulf countries. He further revealed plans for the launch of MAG BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS and MAG SUPER-MARKET in 2025.

## easypaisa takes strict action against misinformation and fake news

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platforms, has filed a formal complaint with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against individuals spreading false and misleading information on social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. The fake news claims that easypaisa accounts will be blocked on 30th September 2024, urging account holders to withdraw their funds, which is completely false.

The complaint was lodged by easypaisa's Head of Litigation, Mr. Naresh Kumar Aruwani, who stated that the frivolous rumors are creating unnecessary panic among customers and damaging the company's reputation. easypaisa reassured the public that this is a completely baseless rumor, and all accounts will continue to function as usual.

The FIA's Cyber Crime Wing, Sindh has taken the complaint seriously and assigned the case to Mr. Ameer Ali Khoso, an experienced investigator, to look into the matter. An inquiry has been launched to identify and take legal action against the culprits involved in spreading this misinformation.

Furthermore, easypaisa's Legal Counsel for the North Region Mr. Bilal Mustafa confirmed that a similar complaint has been registered at Federal Investigation Agency Cyber Wing Islamabad. The FIA, Islamabad has initiated action by reaching out to NADRA for facial recognition of the accused individuals and has also directed the PTA to block the relevant social media links that are associated with the defamatory content.

## Systems Limited and Temenos showcase the future of AI-driven banking at Bank of the Future Forum



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Systems Limited and Temenos hosted the 13th edition of "The Bank of the Future Forum (BOFF)" on 2nd October 2024 at Marriott Hotel Karachi. This year the event brought together over 500 banking leaders and technology experts under the theme "Banking Modernization in the Era of AI." The event highlighted AI's transformative role in banking, covering key topics such as digital innovations, cloud adoption, Islamic banking, and payment modernization.

An important highlight of the event was the address by Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), who offered crucial insights into the regulatory frameworks required to support digital transformation in the banking sector. Addressing the Forum, Mr. Jameel Ahmad said, "We must understand new trends and challenges, as they are both innovative and disruptive. One such trend is the rapid advancement of computing power and storage, leading to the rise of cloud computing and mobile smartphones that are now more powerful than the computers of yesteryear. Another major innovation is the advancement of Artificial Intelligence, reaching levels we could not have imagined just a few years ago.

Innovation in banking is the future and plays a pivotal role in driving Pakistan's economic growth. Over the last two decades, we've witnessed a technological revolution, enabling banks to better cater to customers' needs with tailored products. The State Bank has been instrumental in modernizing the nation's financial services industry through various initiatives, one of which is RAAST, launched in 2021. RAAST has successfully processed nearly 850 million transactions worth over PKR 19 trillion, with 380 million unique IDs registered, and its adoption continues to rise.

As a result of these efforts, today, Pakistan has around 59 million branchless banking wallets, 19 million mobile banking apps, 3.7 million e-money wallets, and 12 million internet banking users. Since 2020, the number of retail transactions processed digitally has increased by 30%, and the share of digital payments in total retail payments by volume has grown from 76% in FY 2023 to 84% in FY 2024.

By embracing technological advancements and encouraging innovation, the State Bank can further strengthen the economy. The IT sector of Pakistan is also critical to this progress, and addressing challenges like the low tax-to-GDP ratio will be crucial to securing a strong and prosperous future for our nation."

Other key sessions included a keynote by Asif Peer, Group CEO and Managing Director of Systems Limited, who highlighted Systems' unwavering commitment to building the Banks of the Future. He unveiled how their innovation and AI-driven solutions and deep expertise continue to power the transformation of financial institutions. Ammara Masood, Global Industries GM BFS at Systems Limited, provided a comprehensive overview of the current challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's banking sector, shedding light on emerging trends, regulatory developments, and technological advancements shaping its future.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**  
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Head Office: **AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.**  
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,  
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408  
 Karachi office: **A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,**  
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390  
 Email: **spokesmankarachi@gmail.com**  
 Lahore Office: **7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.**  
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

# Looming Iran-Israel War: Consequences for Pakistan

Iran has fallen into a strategic trap for the second time, and only with capabilities comparable to Israel's military strength and allies as powerful as the USA and the West would Iran have any realistic fighting chance to safeguard its economic, industrial, and military assets.

The formidable offensive and defensive military capabilities of Israel, the United States, and their allies collectively represent the most advanced military force in the world, equipped with cutting-edge technology and an extensive range of assets.

The US leads with an extensive nuclear arsenal, a powerful air force equipped with F-22s, F-35s, long-range bombers, advanced missile systems like Tomahawk cruise missiles, and a dominant naval fleet with 11 aircraft carriers. Its capabilities are complemented by sophisticated cyber warfare and elite special forces such as Navy SEALs.

Israel adds significant strength with its highly advanced air force, Jericho ballistic missiles, and leading drone technology, backed by elite units like Sayeret Matkal. Defensively, Israel's multi-layered missile defense systems, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and the Arrow series, provide comprehensive protection against various missile threats.

If Iran faces a combined and coordinated attack by Israel, the US, and their allies, it would face severe challenges in safeguarding its military, economic, and human assets. The overwhelming firepower would target Iran's missile sites, command centers, and critical infrastructure, but Iran's extensive underground

facilities, advanced air defenses, and asymmetric warfare tactics, including proxy forces like Hezbollah and the Houthis, would allow it to maintain some retaliatory capability.

Economically, Iran would struggle as oil infrastructure and exports face disruption, but its experience with sanctions, black market operations, and self-reliance in key sectors would help it endure to some extent.

Civilian infrastructure would be heavily impacted, but Iran's civil defense measures and nationalistic mobilization could sustain public morale. Iran's cyber warfare capabilities and proxy forces would likely launch retaliatory strikes, imposing costs on its adversaries. Although Iran would suffer significant losses, its asymmetric strategies, resilience, and capacity for retaliation would make a prolonged conflict costly for its opponents, deterring a swift resolution.

The US, Israel, and their allies possess overwhelming war sustainability capabilities, given their advanced military technology, vast economic resources, superior logistics, and access to global supply chains.

The US leads with unparalleled firepower, precision weaponry, and a massive defense budget, while Israel has a highly advanced military and robust missile defense systems. These strengths are supported by the financial power and military assets of NATO and Gulf allies, making them capable of sustaining a

prolonged conflict.

In contrast, Iran's war sustainability relies on asymmetric warfare, underground facilities, and a large but less technologically advanced military.

Its resilience is rooted in decades of sanctions, proxy warfare, and nationalistic mobilization, allowing it to endure initial attacks and impose costs on its adversaries.

However, Iran's limited access to advanced weaponry, economic vulnerabilities, and dependence on black-market operations would eventually strain its ability to sustain a prolonged high-intensity conflict. While the US and its allies have the clear advantage in a long-term war, Iran's ability to prolong the conflict through guerrilla tactics and proxy forces could make it costly and challenging, potentially deterring a drawn-out engagement.

A war between Iran and a US-Israel-led coalition would have severe and destabilizing effects on Pakistan, impacting its security, economy, humanitarian situation, and diplomatic relations. The conflict would likely escalate border tensions, risk spillover violence, and inflame sectarian tensions within Pakistan due to its significant Shia population.

Economically, soaring energy prices from disrupted Gulf oil supplies and trade disruptions, especially affecting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), would exacerbate Pakistan's

financial challenges, leading to inflation and power shortages.

A potential influx of Iranian refugees would strain Pakistan's already limited resources, while navigating diplomatic pressures to take sides would complicate its relations with Iran, the US, Saudi Arabia, and China. The war would force Pakistan to balance its foreign policy in a volatile regional environment, with the potential to disrupt its internal stability, economic growth, and regional alliances.

To prevent an imminent and devastating war between Iran and a US-Israel-led coalition, international bodies like the UN, OIC, and others must take coordinated and proactive measures. The UN should urgently facilitate direct dialogue, appoint a special envoy, and pass resolutions calling for restraint, while offering phased sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's adherence to peace efforts.

The OIC should leverage Islamic solidarity to mediate between Iran and its neighbors, deploy fact-finding missions, and initiate a regional security dialogue to address broader issues.

Other organizations like the EU and Arab League should engage in multilateral diplomacy, prepare humanitarian assistance, and promote arms control agreements to prevent escalation. By working together, these international bodies can use diplomacy, mediation, and incentives to steer all parties towards peaceful resolution and mitigate the risk of a full-scale conflict.

*The 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

## Iran's shock' attack on Israel

Iran's attack on Tuesday night marked its biggest ever military blow against Israel. Unlike its first ever direct strike against Israeli territories in April this year, the barrage of nearly 200 ballistic and hypersonic missiles represented a serious, uncalculated escalation, even though almost all of them were intercepted, as Israel claimed, despite Iran not giving any prior warning like last time.

Iran described the attack as defensive in nature, solely aimed at three Israeli military facilities and being a response to the Israeli killings of militant leaders and its aggression in Lebanon and in Gaza. However, this action points to a change in Iranian posture and a newfound readiness to risk an avoidable war in its continued efforts to carve itself a dominant regional role.

Clearly, Israel's elimination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, alongside many of his top lieutenants, local commanders and even foot soldiers, was a masterful strike. It came just under a year after Hamas attacked southern Israel in what was seen as the most serious of threats faced by the Israeli state in the 75 years since its inception. But that act must have been one blow too many for Iran to digest, meaning it could no longer stick to the usual rules of engagement and asymmetric warfare practiced in the Middle East for more than three decades.

The forceful Iranian retaliation showed that the gloves are now off in Tehran and, even at the risk of an all-out war against a superior enemy, the country's leadership seems to have reached the conclusion that it can no longer sit idly by. Hezbollah has long been the "jewel in the crown," an enabler of Iranian power and the spearhead of its militant architecture regionally and internationally, ensuring Iranian influence stretches through Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon all the way to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Iran also benefited from and helped to stretch Hezbollah's underground networks across Africa, Latin America, the US and Europe. This afforded Iran and its regime's ideology an unparalleled reach.

Tuesday's strike and its timing also show that Iran's Revolutionary Guard hawks have undoubtedly been feeling vulnerable, if not outright scared, as a result of the routing of Hamas and the near-total decapitation of Hezbollah's leadership and command structure. Tehran viewed that as critical, on top of the serious breaches of Iranian defenses. After the bombing of Hezbollah's headquarters that killed Nasrallah, Iran rushed to move its supreme leader to a safe location, surely with all security measures reviewed and updated.

The exploding Hezbollah walkie-talkies and pagers had already prompted Iran to reassess its military and security forces' communication tools, with all the disruption that might cause. A similar security assessment must have proved crucial at its key state installations after the July assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed while staying in a government guest house in Tehran.

It seems that Iran's usual pragmatism could not prevail this time, as the regime must feel that its back is against the wall. The choice to retaliate directly against Israel could surely lead to severe consequences for the regime's future, as Israel, with the US behind it, has pledged to hit back forcefully.



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

## SCO's Digital Transformation in AJ&K and GB – Empowering Youth through IT

The Government of Pakistan, along with various organizations, is actively working to empower the youth of Pakistan through IT initiatives. SCO is a key player in this field. The Special Communication Organization (SCO) is crucial in delivering telecommunications and information technology services in the strategically important regions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Founded to improve communication infrastructure in these remote and mountainous areas, SCO has been vital in closing the digital divide and promoting socio-economic development. A core service of SCO is the provision of dependable telecommunications infrastructure, which is essential, especially considering the challenging terrain of AJK and GB where traditional communication networks often struggle to meet needs. SCO has established a robust network that includes fixed-line, mobile, and broadband services, ensuring residents have access to essential communication facilities. This connectivity is crucial for personal communication, as well as for businesses and government services. SCO has significantly expanded mobile network coverage in both AJK and GB, enabling residents to stay in touch with family and friends,

access vital information, and communicate with healthcare and educational institutions. The availability of mobile services also supports local businesses by facilitating better engagement with customers and suppliers.

In an era where connectivity is paramount, SCO has made impressive progress in delivering high-speed internet services to remote areas. Through initiatives such as deploying fiber-optic cables and utilizing satellite technology, SCO has improved broadband access, enabling online education, telemedicine, and e-commerce. This advancement has created new opportunities for economic development and access to information for youth and entrepreneurs in AJK and GB.

Given the susceptibility of AJK and GB to natural disasters like earthquakes and landslides, SCO plays a critical role in disaster management by ensuring communication networks remain operational during emergencies. The organization collaborates with local authorities and agencies to provide timely information and coordinate rescue efforts, ultimately saving lives and assisting in recovery.

SCO's initiatives also extend to enhancing educational and healthcare services in AJK and GB. With improved communication infrastructure, schools and healthcare facilities

can harness technology for better service delivery. For instance, online education platforms and telehealth services can reach remote areas, granting students and patients access to quality resources and specialists that might otherwise be unavailable.

By improving telecommunications infrastructure, SCO has stimulated economic development in the region. Enhanced connectivity enables local businesses to thrive and expand their markets. Additionally, the growth of the IT sector, driven by SCO's services, has generated job opportunities for young professionals in both AJK and GB, helping to reduce unemployment and nurture local talent.

SCO is dedicated to community engagement and development, conducting awareness programs to educate residents about the benefits of digital communication and technology. These initiatives encourage local communities to effectively utilize available services, promoting digital literacy and enhancing the overall quality of life.

The Special Communications Organization (SCO) has made significant strides in advancing the IT infrastructure of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In an impressive timeframe of just 11 months, SCO has established 12 state-of-the-art Software Technology Parks (STPs) and 37 Freelancing Hubs (FLHs) across these regions under its "Swift Action Plan."

*To be continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan: Political Concerns and Implications

Pakistan's constitutional framework is a living document that has undergone numerous amendments since the Constitution of 1973 was first enacted. These amendments are crucial to understanding the trajectory of Pakistan's political, legal, and institutional development. However, each amendment, particularly the more significant ones, has often been accompanied by intense political debate and controversy. The reasons are multifaceted, rooted in concerns over the balance of power, federalism, civil-military relations, and the safeguarding of democracy.

Amendments to the constitution in Pakistan frequently invoke political concerns due to their potential to reshape the political landscape, disrupt institutional balance, and influence the rights of citizens. The political context in which amendments are proposed and passed plays a major role in the reactions they elicit, and often, these amendments reflect broader tensions in society. This essay delves into the major political concerns arising from constitutional amendments in Pakistan, analyzing the historical and contemporary context while focusing on power dynamics, judicial independence, civil liberties, military involvement, provincial autonomy, and political stability.

One of the most immediate concerns arising from constitutional amendments in Pakistan is the potential shift in the balance of power between key state institutions—the executive, legislature, and judiciary. Political actors are often

motivated to introduce amendments that enhance their authority or dilute the power of rival institutions. For instance, constitutional amendments have been used to strengthen executive authority during certain regimes, while in other cases, they have served to decentralize power to provinces.

The 18th Amendment (2010) is one of the most critical examples of an amendment that reshaped power dynamics. Passed during the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government, the 18th Amendment sought to decentralize power by devolving many responsibilities from the central government to the provinces. It abolished the concurrent list, giving provinces more control over areas such as education, health, and taxation. This amendment was widely seen as strengthening federalism and was a direct response to the excessive concentration of power during military regimes like that of General Pervez Musharraf, who had centralized control under the 17th Amendment (2003).

While the 18th Amendment was hailed for promoting provincial autonomy and democracy, it also raised concerns, particularly among political actors favoring a strong central government. Some argue that this devolution of power weakened national cohesion and created disparities between provinces, given the varying capacity of provin-

cial governments. Moreover, centralist parties have occasionally advocated for rolling back some aspects of the 18th Amendment, further intensifying the political divide.

Conversely, the 8th Amendment (1985) under General Zia-ul-Haq consolidated power in the hands of the president, giving him the authority to dissolve the National Assembly and dismiss the Prime Minister. This amendment fundamentally altered the balance of power between the executive and the legislature, contributing to political instability as presidents repeatedly exercised this power to dissolve elected governments. The amendment was viewed as undemocratic and led to concerns over authoritarianism, particularly because it was introduced by a military dictator who sought to legitimize his rule.

The judiciary's independence is a cornerstone of democratic governance, acting as a check on the excesses of both the executive and legislature. Constitutional amendments that affect the powers or structure of the judiciary have historically been contentious in Pakistan, where the judiciary has played a crucial role in mediating political disputes. When amendments are perceived as undermining the judiciary's independence, they generate significant political opposition.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Ejaz Khan

# Pakistan-Malaysia think-tank dialogue hosted by ISSI

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's bilateral visit to Pakistan, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted Pakistan-Malaysia think-tank dialogue with its Malaysian counterpart, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS). The IAIS delegation was led by H. E. Dr. Maszlee bin Malik, former Minister of Education and Chairman of IAIS. The dialogue focused on Pakistan-Malaysia relations and Pakistan's growing relations with ASEAN. The event culminated with the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ISSI and IAIS, marking steady progress

in their partnership aimed at reinforcing different aspects of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and fostering closer collaboration between the two think-tanks.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood extended a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation, noting that the dialogue marked a significant moment in the evolving relationship between ISSI and IAIS. He expressed appreciation for the first in-person visit, which coincided with the historic visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also emphasized the importance of ISSI-IAIS institutional collaboration in reinforcing different aspects of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and

broader policy objectives on both sides; deeper understanding of their respective regions' dynamics through regular mutual dialogue; efforts to combat Islamophobia; and closer people-to-people exchanges.

Prof. Dr. Maszlee bin Malik reflected on the deep-rooted historical ties between Malaysia and Pakistan, particularly the strong people-to-people connections that predate the establishment of both countries. He emphasized the significance of cultural diplomacy and highlighted the importance of collaboration between think-tanks in addressing regional and global challenges, enhancing mutual understanding.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)



at ISSI, highlighted the ISSI's efforts in strengthening Pakistan's ties with ASEAN, including through close collaboration with ACI (ASEAN Committee in Islamabad). He also noted the establishment of "ASEAN Corner" in ISSI Library last year to

raise awareness and support for partnership with ASEAN.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI highlighted the importance of strengthening Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations and advancing collaboration in key

areas such as trade, diplomacy and enhancing cooperation on multilateral forums.

The event concluded with the exchange of each other's publications and Dr. Maszlee's visit to the ASEAN Corner.

# PIDE Celebrates Five Years of Leadership and Achievements under Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) proudly marks five transformative years under the leadership of Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque as Vice Chancellor. Since his appointment in October 2019, Dr. Haque has spearheaded innovative reforms in economic policy research and public policy discourse, positioning PIDE as a leading public sector think tank in Pakistan and globally.

Over the past five years, Dr. Haque's leadership has revitalized PIDE, aligning its research with pressing macroeconomic and governance challenges. His dynamic approach reshaped the institute's research agenda, focusing on crucial areas such as economic growth, urban development, regulatory reform, energy policy, education, healthcare, and public sector management. His groundbreaking work on the cost of bureaucracy and regulatory



burdens has been widely recognized by policy circles and academics worldwide, fostering greater dialogue between policymakers, scholars, and international institutions. These contributions have played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's policy landscape.

Under Dr. Haque's stewardship, PIDE expanded its platforms for knowl-

edge dissemination, including books, the renowned Pakistan Development Review journal, policy briefs, and academic conferences. Initiatives such as the EconFest and PIDE's YouTube channel have extended the institute's outreach, engaging a diverse audience beyond academia, including policymakers and the general public. Dr.

Haque's tenure also saw the launch of the Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTIA), the largest public policy research grant program in Pakistan. This initiative, aimed at fostering local research and solutions, has connected over 65 universities and 3,200 researchers, creating a robust knowledge network. This program is pivotal in generating high-quality, evidence-based research that informs policy decisions across the country.

Dr. Durre Nayab, former Director of Research and Pro Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, presented a comprehensive research showcase, highlighting the institution's achievements over the past five years.

She said that since 2019, PIDE has significantly diversified its research output, introducing a variety of publications including monographs, policy viewpoints, knowledge briefs, PIDE Analytics, and webinar briefs. The institute's innovative approach has also led

to the launch of discourse magazines, animated videos, and documentaries, making research more accessible and impactful for a wider audience.

The Macroeconomy panel, moderated by Mahmood Khalid, focused on concurrent issues and reforms needed to stabilize Pakistan's economy. Speakers Hafsa Hina, Uzma Zia, and others, presented actionable insights on fiscal policy, inflation control, and economic growth.

The Regulatory Burden & Sludge panel, moderated by Ahmed Waqar Qasim, featured experts like Nasir Iqbal and Usman Qadir, who critically examined Pakistan's regulatory environment and called for streamlined processes to reduce inefficiencies in governance.

The session on Opportunities and Digital Rights, moderated by Shahid Mehmood, brought attention to the increasing importance of digital transformation in Pakistan, with panelists like Fizza Khalid Butt and Henna Ahsan

advocating for inclusive digital policies.

The final panel on Markets: Energy, Agriculture & Real Estate featured insightful discussions by experts like Afia Malik and Abdulla Anjum, who highlighted the critical challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's key markets.

A key highlight of the day was the Grand Conversation with Nobel Laureate Michael Spence, moderated by Nadeem Ul Haque. Spence offered valuable insights on Development Strategies in a More Complex and Difficult Global Economy, emphasizing the importance of strategic reforms in emerging markets like Pakistan. His discussion provided global context to Pakistan's challenges, offering a roadmap for navigating a complex global economic environment. Professor Spence greatly appreciated the work PIDE has produced during Dr. Nadeem's tenure and wished that the successor would keep this momentum going for larger impact on policy decisions.

## Illegal Occupation

RAWALPINDI: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurated Silo Grain storage facility. MNA Isphanyar M. Bhandara is also present on this occasion.



Photo: PID

# Envoys of Tajikistan, Maldives visit ICCI to congratulate new leadership

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Tajikistan, H. E. Yusuf Sharifzoda, and the High Commissioner of Maldives, Mohamed Thoha, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday to extend their congratulations to the newly elected President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, and the executive committee.

During his address, Ambassador Sharifzoda emphasized the deep-rooted ties between Tajikistan and Pakistan, underscoring the extensive potential for trade and investment that exists between the two brotherly nations. He highlighted the mutual benefits that could be harnessed through enhanced cooperation, stating that both countries stand to gain



significantly by leveraging these opportunities for the welfare of their people.

Ambassador Sharifzoda also provided an update on the ambitious CASA-1000 renewable energy infrastructure project, noting its expected completion in 2025, which will foster closer collaboration among the stakeholders. Additionally, he extended an invitation to the Pakistani business community, particularly ICCI members, to participate in the upcoming

exhibition in Dushanbe on October 24.

High Commissioner of Maldives Mohamed Thoha, while expressing the close brotherly ties between Pakistan and the Maldives, emphasized the wealth of investment opportunities in his country despite its smaller size. He encouraged Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore these opportunities and to enhance trade relations for mutual benefit. Highlighting the potential for importing high-quality

Maldivian tuna at competitive rates, he suggested Pakistani businesses could reciprocate by exporting vegetables and fruits to the Maldives, further enhancing trade between the two nations.

In his welcoming remarks, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished guests for their visit and their good wishes for the newly elected leadership. Introducing his team, President Qureshi assured the envoys of ICCI's commitment to further elevate trade relations with both nations to new heights, fostering economic growth on both sides. He also reaffirmed ICCI's dedication to building bridges with chambers of commerce in friendly countries, facilitating ease of business.

# Safeguarding Women's Health -Addressing Gaps in Abortion and Post-Abortion Care in Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: "The government is fully committed to enhancing healthcare access, especially for women in marginalized and underserved regions. We are working towards a system where every woman can receive the healthcare she needs, when she needs it, free from stigma or fear," stated Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services. He made these remarks while addressing the launch of the report titled "Safeguarding Women's Health: Trends, Inequities, and Opportunities in Pakistan's Abortion and Post-Abortion Care Services" in Islamabad.

The event unveiled findings from a comprehensive national study by the Population Council, in partnership with the Guttmacher Institute, highlighting the

urgent state of women's reproductive health in Pakistan, with a focus on abortion and post-abortion care. Dr. Malik emphasized that, with maternal mortality at 186 deaths per 100,000 live births, the research underscores the need for comprehensive reforms in reproductive healthcare. He also stressed the importance of balancing population and resources, reaffirming the government's commitment to achieving this through policies and improved access to family planning services. The government plans to implement the report's recommendations by investing in infrastructure, capacity building, and an enhanced referral system to improve emergency response capabilities, strengthening reproductive health services nationwide.

Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country-Director Population Council, emphasized the importance of

the report. "Pakistan has made strides in improving health care, but this report reminds us that there is still much work to be done, especially in ensuring women have access to family planning and safe reproductive health services".

Speaking at the event, Mr. Thomas Dahl, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, expressed Norway's support for the initiative, stating, "This is an issue that impacts not just the health of women, but the overall well-being and development of society. Norway is proud to support efforts that improve access to reproductive health services in Pakistan."

The event featured an expert panel discussion on "Safeguarding Women's Health in Pakistan" moderated by Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative of UNFPA. The panel-

ists included Prof. Dr. Azra Ahsan, President of Association for Mothers and Newborns (AMAN); Dr. Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi, CEO, QZ Catalyst; Prof. Naila Israr, former Executive Director FG Polyclinic Islamabad and Prof. Dr. Ghazala Mahmud, Patron in Chief, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP), Islamabad.

A special session on "Unintended Pregnancies and Abortion Care", included a presentation by Dr. Sushela Singh, Vice President for Global Science and Policy Integration, Guttmacher Institute. She provided valuable insights into the global context of unintended pregnancies and the need for comprehensive reproductive health services to reduce the incidence of unsafe abortions in Pakistan. This was followed by a panel representing provincial Departments of Health and Population Welfare



from KP, Punjab, AJK and GB, moderated by Director General Health, Ministry of Health, Islamabad.

During the panel discussion, Imad Ali Lohani, Secretary of Population Welfare in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, emphasized the role of women's empowerment and education in reducing abortions by promoting the uptake of family planning services, noting that abortion is often used as a method of family planning. Secretary Atta Ullah from Azad Jammu and Kashmir shared his depart-

ment's efforts to improve doorstep delivery of family planning services. Saman Rai, Director General of the Population Welfare Department Punjab, highlighted her department's initiatives in launching BCC campaigns and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to enhance access by integrating family planning services into healthcare delivery systems. Gojar Khan, Deputy Secretary of Social and Population Welfare, Gilgit-Baltistan, discussed the challenges of providing family planning and post-abortion

healthcare services in the region due to its difficult terrain, stating that the study's findings will help improve the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The event underscores a shared commitment to enhancing reproductive healthcare in Pakistan, emphasizing the crucial role of collaboration between the government, international partners, and health organizations in addressing the pressing health challenges faced by women, particularly in the area of reproductive health.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Current: 81,967.00, Prev. Close: 81,804.59. Day's High: 82,360.28, Day's Low: 81,529.45.

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Index Value: 8,290.86, Change: +14.21. Percentage: +0.17%, Time: 3 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1.

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Index Value: 42,114.70, Change: -42.27. Percentage: -0.10%, Time: 2 Oct, 1:02 pm GMT-4.

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Index Value: 37,808.76, Change: -843.21. Percentage: -2.18%, Time: 2 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9.

Open Market Forex Rates

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Buying, Selling. Includes Australian Dollar, Bahrain Dinar, Canadian Dollar, China Yuan, Danish Krone, Euro, Hong Kong Dollar, Indian Rupee, Japanese Yen, Kuwaiti Dinar, Malaysian Ringgit, New Zealand \$, Norwegian Kroner, Omani Riyal, Qatari Riyal, Saudi Riyal, Singapore Dollar, Swedish Korona, Swiss Franc, Thai Bhat, U.A.E Dirham, UK Pound Sterling, US Dollar.

Strong action needed to reduce size of black economy, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance...



Talking to the business community, the...

veteran business leader said that the stock market is growing rapidly, which is a positive sign.

The business leader stated that it is now necessary to address the FBR's revenue short-fall. Authorities should accept the challenge of reducing the size of the undocumented economy.

He pointed out that since increased tax collection will lessen the debt load, all stakeholders must join hands to shrink the undocumented economy.

of trust between the public and tax collection agencies is the primary cause of the documented economy's shrinkage and the undocumented economy's growth.

There should be no need for human contact between tax collector and taxpayer. A report by Lums reveals that taxpayers, tax collectors, and tax practitioners share Rs 38 out of every Rs 100 collected for the exchequer...

In order to restore public confidence in the tax collection agencies, he demanded a tighter accountability system.

Apart from this, the tax system should be simplified and government spending should be controlled because taxpayers believe their money is being spent on non-developmental projects without a return.

Group photo of new office bearers

Zafar Bakhtawari secretary General United Business Group (UBG) in the newly elected office bearers of Islamabad women chamber of commerce and industry at Annual General body Meeting.



Photo: Online

APP IN SNAP appoints Mr. Asher Yaqub Khan as New CEO

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: APP IN SNAP (PRIVATE) LIMITED, one of Pakistan's top IT companies with a global presence, is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Asher Yaqub Khan as its new CEO...



of the 5G network and was also instrumental in business and digital transformations. Before joining Mobily, Mr. Khan held the position of Chief Marketing Officer at MTN Ghana...

Alert for the Investing Public: Beware of Online Trading Frauds

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) alerts the investing public regarding the surge in fraudulent activities through different social media platforms.

The scammers misuse the name of the registered professionals or claim to be affiliated with a legitimate company to lure the investing public to participate in unauthorized investment schemes.

The fraudulent groups and forums...

promise guaranteed fixed returns with minimal or no risk and provide exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments.

To avoid becoming a victim of such types of scams, the investing public is warned to be wary and alert of unsolicited investment advices from illegal social media groups and forums.

Trading in shares of listed companies should only be conducted through SECP-licensed securities brokers.

https://www.psx.com.pk/psx/resources-and-tools/TREC-Holders

The investing public is advised to regularly visit the official websites/social media pages of SECP, PSX, CDC and NCCPL in order to keep themselves updated and make well-informed and prudent investment decisions.

FPCCI Demands Interest Rate Cut Down to Single Digits: President FPCCI

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has unequivocally demanded that the key policy rate should be cut down to 9 percent to reflect the ground realities and economic indicators of Pakistan as CPI has clocked at 6.9 percent in September 2024...



Pakistan Energy Exhibition & Conference to be held in Lahore today

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Energy Exhibition & Conference (PEEC) 2024 will take place from October 3 - 5, 2024 at the Expo Centre, Lahore.

PEEC 2024 will feature four main focus areas: Oil & Gas, Power Technology, Smart Energy, and Coal. The exhibition will showcase solutions for the energy industry, including petroleum, exploration and production, power generation, electrical equipment, and alterna-

tive energy solutions, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy through solar, wind, and biogas sectors.

The event will host over 200 international and local exhibitors and is expected to attract more than 8,000 visitors over its three-day duration. Exhibitors will present their solutions to government officials and business stakeholders, aiming to raise awareness about their products and secure valuable business opportunities.

The exhibition is supported by several key organizations, including the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan

(HDIP), National Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (NEECA), Pakistan Alternative Energy Association (PAEA), Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR), Solar Energy Trade Union Pakistan (SETUP), Renewable Energy Association Pakistan (REAP), Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), CNG Dealers Association (CNGDA), Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Pakistan Solar Association (PSA), and the Shanghai Steel Tube Industry Association.

The exhibition will highlight Smart Mobility solutions aimed at creating smart, sustainable,

connected, and integrated mobility to address the energy sector crisis.

The Opening Ceremony will commence at 11:00 AM. The Chief Guest will be Mr. Abuzar Shad, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The Guests of Honor will include H. E. Mr. Cao Ke, Acting Chinese Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Lahore, and Ms. Mariam Khawar, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Expo Centres Pvt. Ltd.

A one-day conference titled "Powering the Future: Sustainable Solutions for a Changing World" is scheduled for October 5, 2024. This conference will explore crit-

ical topics such as renewable energy innovations, energy efficiency, sustainable energy policies, smart grids and energy storage, climate change mitigation, green finance and investment, and community and stakeholder engagement. The conference aims to bring together experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to share insights, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities for a sustainable energy future.

The Global Energy Conference is supported by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and will be attended by numerous government representatives, private sector leaders, and academia.

PAAPAM convenes 26th AGM and announces newly elected executive committee

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) successfully held its 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) today at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

The newly elected Executive Committee members are as follows:

Mr. Usman Aslam Malik (Chairman, Kor Tech Auto Industries Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Shehryar Qadir (Senior Vice Chairman, Jinkwang Jaz Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Shuja-ul-Haq (Vice Chairman, Pak Orient Industries), Mr. Abdul Razaq Gauhar (MC Member, Infinity Engineering Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Javed Hafiz (MC Member, Unitech Auto Industries Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Muhammad Ashraf (MC Member, M. A Nawaz Brothers), Mr. Salmaan Saleem (MC Member, National Automotive Components Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Hafiz Jawad Anwar (MC Member, Royal Tech Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Usman Yousaf (MC Member, Zee Auto Industries Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Usama Usman (MC Member, Alpha Rubber & Plastic Works SMC Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Wajihuddin Siddiqui (MC Member, Razi Sons Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Akber Allana (MC Member, Alsons Auto Parts Pvt. Ltd), Syed Sarfaraz Ali (MC Member, Shah Rubber Products), Mr. Farhan Hanif (MC Member, Crown Fit Pakistan Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Sajjad Nawaz (MC Member, AB Engineering Pvt. Ltd) and Mr. Abdul Rehman (MC Member, Galaxy Polymers Engineering Pvt. Ltd).

The new leadership is expected to spearhead several key initiatives aimed at strengthening the local automotive manufacturing sector and fostering deeper collaboration across the industry.

# Pakistan Cricket Board confirms Babar Azam has stepped down as white-ball Captain: PCB

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that Babar Azam tendered his resignation as Pakistan men's white-ball captain on Tuesday evening, and it has been accepted. The national selection committee has been tasked with beginning the process of formulating future white-ball cricket strategies, including recommending a new captain.

Although the PCB had backed Babar Azam as the white-ball captain, his decision to step down reflects his desire to focus more on making a greater impact as a player.

This decision is a testament to his professionalism and commitment to Paki-

stan cricket. He believes that dedicating himself fully to his batting will enable him to play a more decisive role in the team's success in the shorter formats.

The PCB acknowledges Babar's contributions as white-ball captain, his ability to prioritise the team's needs and his unwavering dedication to Pakistan cricket. The PCB will continue to support Babar Azam, recognising he still has much to offer both as a world-class batter and a senior statesman of the team.

Babar Azam  
Playing for Pakistan has always been my greatest honour and I've always placed the team's success above everything else. Stepping down as captain will help me deliver even more for



the team as a player and I'm fully committed to that path. The team's success is what matters most.

I've had the privilege of leading Pakistan for five remarkable years, always trying to give my best as both captain and player. At this stage, I strongly believe I can make a bigger impact by concentrating on my batting. I am grateful for the constant support from my teammates, coaches and the PCB throughout my captaincy.

While it has been a great honour to lead Pakistan, now is the right time to shift my complete focus on batting, team's objectives during this transitional phase and back the new captain and emerging players as we prepare for a crucial season ahead, including the defense of the ICC Champions Trophy on home soil next year."

## Amir Jamal aims to help team win series against England

Sports Desk

MULTAN: Pakistan's all rounder Amir Jamal has expressed his determination to help his team win the upcoming series against England.

Talking to the media at the Multan cricket stadium on Wednesday, he said he had fully recovered from his recent injury. He shared his confidence about regaining the form he had during his successful stint in Australia.

"I am completely recovered from my injury, and I aim to pick up from where I left off in Australia. We will do everything possible to win the series against England," Jamal said.

The young fast bowler said in response to a question, "If there's no aggression in fast



bowling, then you are not a fast bowler. I always try to maintain that aggression on the field."

He also mentioned that he had missed the Bangladesh series due to injury but was now focused on contributing to his team's success in future matches. "I missed the Bangladesh series because of

my injury, but now my sole focus was to play a significant role in helping my team win," he added.

The series against England was crucial for Pakistan, and Amir Jamal's return adds a valuable boost to the team's fast-bowling attack. With his strong mentality and determination, the young bowler was

looking forward to making a strong impact on the international stage.

Earlier, the Pakistan team has commenced its practice session in preparation for the upcoming three-match Test series against England. Under the supervision of head coach Jason Gillespie, players focused on batting, bowling, and fielding drills. Babar Azam was also seen actively participating, practicing his batting and taking laps around the ground.

Both Pakistan and England teams have arrived in Multan for the first two matches. England will begin their practice after a two-day rest, starting on October 4. The first Test match was scheduled to begin on October 7 at Multan Cricket Stadium.

## Hafeez says Pakistan lost 'winning formula' after home ground transition



A Sports

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez commented on the national team's inability to benefit from the home conditions, specifically in Tests, stating that they have lost the 'winning formula'.

Pakistan last won a Test at home in February 2021 and has been devoid of a win since then. The national team's struggles at home, intensified when they succumbed to a 2-0 Test series defeat against Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, former Pakistan men's cricket team director Hafeez, in an interview with a local news channel, termed Bangladesh the deserved winner.

"At the international level, you can not consider anyone weak. Bangladesh deserved to win in Pakistan because of their mindset, body language, the way they played positive cricket and their management made good decisions," said Hafeez.

Mohammad Hafeez also highlighted Pakistan's inability to dominate at their home ground because they have lost the 'winning formula' after making a transition from their adopted home, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Unfortunately, Pakistan is missing the formula to win at home in Pakistan. We had acquired the winning formula at Pakistan's adopted home which was UAE," said Hafeez.

"We won the Test mace and became the top-ranked team because we had the formula to win at home.

"Since cricket returned to Pakistan, that formula is missing and nobody managed to attain it back."

Mohammad Hafeez further highlighted the infrastructural difference between Pakistan and their adopted home UAE, terming the deplorable conditions of the pitches as one of the main reasons behind Pakistan's inability to benefit from their home conditions like Australia, England and India.

## Former pacer believes Kirsten's report led to Babar's resignation

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan pacer Yasir Arafat claimed that white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten's report after the national team's dismal run at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 resulted in Babar Azam's resignation from captaincy.

Kirsten reportedly wrote a confidential report to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which got leaked in the media, in which he highlighted the issues that contributed to Pakistan's disastrous performance during the T20 World Cup 2024.

The former champions, under the captaincy of Babar Azam, were knocked out of the group stage of the tournament for the first time, mainly



due to their upset defeat against co-host United States of America (USA) in the campaign opener, followed by a gut-wrenching defeat against arch-rivals India.

Meanwhile, three months after the national team's early exit from the mega event, Pakistan's white-ball captain Babar Azam, shock-

ingly announced to step down from the role to focus more on his batting.

But, former Pakistan cricketer Yasir Arafat was of the view that Babar's resignation was linked with Gary Kirsten's report.

"If you remember, after the end of the T20 World Cup 2024 Gary Kirsten wrote a

report," said Arafat.

"So, I think, the recommendations he gave, especially regarding Babar's captaincy after analyzing his leadership in England and also in the World Cup, led to Babar's resignation.

"Also, he [Kirsten] had analyzed that Babar was not the perfect candidate for Pakistan captaincy."

Earlier today, it was reported that Gary Kirsten wanted Babar Azam to continue as the captain of the ODI team. However, he was keen on replacing Babar as captain in T20I format.

However, Babar decided to quit as captain from both formats and informed a top official in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) before announcing his resignation.

## Pakistan women begin ICC T20 World Cup 2024 campaign on Thursday

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Women's cricket team will start its campaign in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in a match against Sri Lanka Women at the Sharjah Cricket stadium on October 3 (Thursday).

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will begin tomorrow in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 10 teams featuring in the 18-day tournament. Pakistan women's team are slotted in Group 'A' alongside Australia, India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh, England, Scotland, South Africa and the West Indies are in Group 'B'.

Pakistan will feature against arch-rivals India on 6 October

(Sunday) at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS). Pakistan will then be in action against defending champions Australia on 11 October at the DICS, while their last group match will be against New Zealand on 14 October at the same venue.

As per the format of the tournament, top two sides from each group will qualify for the semi-finals set to take place on 17 and 18 October, while the winner of the tournament will be decided on 20 October. The first ball of the final, to take place at the DICS, is expected to be bowled at 6pm local time.

Pakistan have featured in two warm-up games against Scotland and Bangladesh prior to the start

of the tournament and also took part in various practice sessions to acclimatize to the conditions.

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana sounded confident about her team's preparations and expressed her belief to do well in the tournament. She said: "We have prepared well for the mega event. The series against South Africa at home before coming to the UAE helped us know our strengths and allowed our batters to show their form.

"The two practice games have also helped us in assessing the conditions here and now has provided us with clarity regarding the right combination of players in the tournament."

15-member squad for the tournament:

Fatima Sana (captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali (wicket-keeper), Nashra Sundhu, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab and Tuba Hassan. Najia Alvi (wicket-keeper) is the travelling reserve while Rameen Shamim and Umm-e-Hani are the non-travelling reserves.

Player support personnel:  
Hina Munawar (manager), Muhammad Wasim (head coach), Junaid Khan (assistant coach - bowling), Hanif Malik (assistant coach - fielding), Abdul Rehman (spin bowling coach), Imran Khalil (strength and conditioning coach), Muhammad Rafiullah (media and digital manager),



Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist) and Waleed Ahmed (analyst).  
Pakistan fixtures in ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024:  
3 October vs Sri Lanka (1900

## NMGC Martial Arts Festival "Karate Event" Lahore Prize Distribution Ceremony



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Point Karate Championship in connection with 4th NMGC Martial Arts Festival prize distribution ceremony and color belt award of members of Shinboku Shotokan Karate Institute Lahore was held at Ceremony e Library Auditorium Lahore in which belt test was held. Successful players from four different teams participated in the championship including the successful players. Shinboku Shotokan Karate Institute Chief Instructor Sensei Abdul Rahman was the chief organizer of the said award ceremony.

Divisional Sports Officer Lahore and Director Youth Affairs Punjab Rana Nadeem Anjum Khan was the chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony while Deputy Director Sports, Directorate General of Sports and Youth Affairs Madam Chand Parveen and Tehsil Sports Officer Cantt Lahore Muhammad Nasir Malik were also present with him. Various martial arts masters were also present as guests at the event. Among them the masters of Shotokan Shihan Bashir Butt, Shihan Babar Ismail Butt, Shihan Inayatullah, Shihan Farrukh Babar, Shihan Syed Hasan Raza of Kyokushan, Shihan Akhtar Ali Shirazi, MMA Coach Altaf Tafo, Sensei Mohammad Amir, Master of Grappling, Aqeel Ahmed Jameel, Mohammad Asif and others were included while NMGC Pakistan President Shihan Shahzad Ahmed, Shihan Syed Shakeel Ahmed and Sensei Noor Ul Amin were specially present from Karachi.

On this occasion, the girls and boys players of the institute also hashed out a wonderful karate demonstration in which they broke the boards with various kicks and punches, as well as presented demonstrations of basic techniques and kata. Later, the special guest Rana Nadeem Anjum awarded color belts and certificates to the successful players of the belt test and medals to the successful players of the championship. Special commemorative shields were also presented to the guest masters and officials present on the occasion. In the end, the chief organizer of the event, Sensei Abdul Rehman, presented a commemorative shield to the chief guest, Rana Nadeem Anjum, Madam Chand Parveen and Muhammad Nasir Malik and thanked them for their support to make the event a success.

## Three matches conclude in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three More Matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Cricket Grounds.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Batting by Arshad Ali 93 and deadly bowling by left arm leg spinner Amir Bhatti 5/25.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricants.

Scores in Brief:  
Karachi Eaglets beat Paramount Cricket Club by 319 runs at Student Ground. Karachi Eaglets 387/8 in 40 overs. Arshad Ali 93 17x4 1x6, Maqbool Shah 74 5x4, Jahanzaib Khan 71 7x4 6x6, Nayyar Abbas 63 7x4, Naveed Yaqoob 46 7x4 3x6. Shaheryar Alam 2/51.  
Paramount CC 68 all out in 19.1 overs. Fahad Khan 21. Amir Bhatti (sla) 5/25. Kaif Abbas 2/0, Zainul Abiden 2/19.  
In the 2nd Match at Young Fighter Ground Cavalier Cricket Club beat Al-Shehzad Cricket Club by 35 runs. Cavalier CC 105 all-out in 23.5 overs. Haider Ali 30. Aleem Khan 2/8, Qaid Ali 2/28. Al-Shehzad CC 70 all-out in 11.5 overs. Ali Jilani 18. Faizan Khan 4/24, Anas Baloch 2/32.  
In the third Match Modern Gymkhana beat Taj Sports by 208 runs at Afza Ground. Modern Gymkhana 310/9 in 40 overs. Rashid Khan 73 9x4 2x7, Mir Afzal 49 7x4 1x6, Farhan Khan 32, Arsalan Ali 23, Akhtar Ali 22. Asif Ahmed 2/42. Muhammad Akram 2/50, Gul Hassan Sherazi 2/58.  
Taj Sports 102 all-out in 19.2 overs. Shahbaz Niazi 16. Farhan Khan 4/37, Sohail Ahmed 2/13, Arsalan Ali 2/13, Akhtar Ali 2/39.

## ICC bans Sri Lankan spinner under anti-graft code

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Sri Lanka's left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama from all forms of cricket for a year under its Anti-Corruption Code.

The player will remain suspended for six months as per the verdict from the international cricketing body. The ban on Jayawickrama comes after the player had admitted to breaching Article 2.4.7 of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code which deals with: "Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ACU, including concealing, tampering with, or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence or may lead to the discovery of evidence of corrupt conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code," a statement released by the ICC reads.

The left-arm spinner last represented his national team in 2022 after he played five Test, ODIs and T20Is for the Lankans.

The bowler took 32 wickets in the 15 international matches he played representing the Sri Lankan cricket team.

## Call on

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## PM Shehbaz lauds Dr Zakir for global Islamic outreach efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded eminent scholar Dr Zakir Naik's exceptional efforts in spreading the true essence of Holy Quran and Hadith, besides promoting Islamic values worldwide.

The prime minister warmly welcomed Dr Zakir, expressing

his admiration for his scholarly work.

He said the entire Ummah was proud of him for projecting the real image of Islam across the world. It was heartening to note that a vast majority of youth listened to his lectures.

PM Shehbaz said that he had personally benefited from Dr Zakir's lectures, enriching himself from the valuable

teachings of Islam.

He said that the people of Pakistan fully admired the great personality of Dr Naik and were happy over his presence in the country.

The PM noted that Dr Zakir was in good health. He was happy to know that his (Dr Zakir's) son was also following his footsteps and serving Islam.

He also recalled his year

meeting with Dr Zakir Naik in 2006.

Dr Zakir Naik, in his remarks, said that Pakistan was the only country in the world which was founded on Islamic principles.

He said that Islam was the religion which offered comprehensive guidance to the entire humanity encompassing every aspect of their lives.

He reiterated his commitment for continuing efforts to spread the message of Islam globally, saying "the success lies in following the Islamic teachings".

Recalling that he had last visited Pakistan in 1991, he said he still had the fond memories of that tour.

Dr Naik said that he would also visit Karachi and Lahore.

## DPM/FM Dar, Malaysian counterpart discuss bilateral cooperation between two countries



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday welcomed Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad

Bin Haji Hasan on his arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"They discussed areas of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia and preparations for the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister to Pakistan," a post on X said.

## Russia, Pakistan sign trade, investment agreements at 3-day Business Forum



Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: A meeting was held in Moscow between Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexey Overchuk and the Minister of Privatization, Investment and Communications of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Abdul Aleem Khan, during which they discussed current issues of developing Russian-Pakistani trade and economic cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats.

Alexey Overchuk thanked Abdul Aleem Khan for his personal participation in the events of the Russian-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum, which is being held in Moscow on October 1-2, 2024.

During the meeting, both sides noted the dynamic development of interaction in the fields of transport

and logistics, industrial and investment cooperation.

"We welcome Pakistan's interest in the development of the North-South International Transport Corridor which is becoming one of the most important trade routes in Eurasia supporting better connectivity between countries of Northern Eurasia and the Global South," said Alexey Overchuk.

"Pakistan views enhancing connectivity with Russia as a vital step towards expansion of bilateral trade," said Abdul Aleem Khan.

Following the talks, the parties agreed to continue active contacts through the relevant departments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to discuss in detail further steps to implement the outlined plans.

## Pakistan joins CERN 70 celebrations, groundbreaking achievements

Spokesman Report

GENEVA/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan proudly joined the international scientific community in celebrating CERN 70 - the 70th anniversary of European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, marking seven decades of remarkable discoveries in the field of Particle Physics.

A special ceremony was held in Geneva, Switzerland, witnessed by the participation of 39 national delegations, including Pakistan's delegation led by the Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar.

In his engagement with various high-level representatives, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar highlighted Pakistan's long-standing collaboration with CERN and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to furthering scientific research



and technological innovation through international part-

nerships.

Pakistan, as the first Association Member State of CERN from Asia since 2015, has

played a significant role in several of CERN's leading research projects and to the cutting-edge scientific infrastructure. Leading Pakistani organizations and science and technology institutes including PAEC, HMC-3, PINSTECH, NCP, COMSATS and NUST are working in close collaboration with CERN and are taking active part in its different experiments.

It is pertinent to mention here Pakistan also hosted four events in 2024 to celebrate CERN's 70th anniversary and to showcase Pakistan's three decades of scientific collaboration with CERN.

As Pakistan continues to make contribution to CERN's groundbreaking scientific endeavors, it remains committed to further advances in Particle Physics and fostering international collaboration for the benefit of the humanity.

## Bilawal fears...

Continued from Page 1

age limit reforms.

Described as the "26th Constitutional Amendment", the intended legislation was set to propose a fixed three-year tenure for the chief justice of Pakistan.

Although the legislation was initially scheduled to be introduced in the National Assembly and Senate last month, the government was unable to present it over the weekend despite intensive efforts to secure the necessary support.

The details of the proposed amendments, which had largely been kept under wraps, were discussed during a special parliamentary committee meeting on September 15. It was aimed at bringing the opposition on board, much to the dismay of both opposition members and government allies.

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman rejected the proposed constitutional amendments on September 18 and laid out his party's stance on the issue. But he has supported the demand for constitutional courts without any person-specific legislation.

## CCP hearing on PTCL-Telenor merger continues

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is actively progressing with the Phase II Merger Review of PTCL's proposed acquisition of 100 percent shareholding in Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited (TP) and Orion Towers Private Limited (OT). The hearing was conducted by CCP Chairman, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, with the presence of members Mr. Salman Amin and Mr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh.

During the proceedings, Mian Sami-ud-Din, partner BNR counsel for Wateen Telecom Limited, presented his submissions, urging the Commission to assess competition dynamics within the sub-markets (Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU), Tower colocation and fiberization of towers) of the telecom sector. He emphasized the need to consider all aspects of competition that may be affected by the merger.

Jazz Telecom's counsel Khalid



Ibrahim argued that PTCL's acquisition of Telenor could give it a dominant position in the market. Therefore, the Commission should impose both pre-merger and post-merger conditions. These conditions could include requiring the merged entities to allow other mobile operators to roam on their network under mutually negotiated terms. Additionally, PTCL should be mandated to provide wholesale, non-discriminatory access to other operators, along with fair terms for active infrastructure, fibre, and spectrum sharing and trading.

On the other hand, PTCL's legal

representatives emphasized the merger's potential to bring efficiency, economies of scale and drive advancements towards a Digital Pakistan by transforming the IT ecosystem. PTCL was represented by Senior Counsel Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan and Mustafa Munir Ahmed, partner at Legal Oracles.

The bench raised pertinent questions to the representatives of PTCL, Wateen Telecom, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), seeking further clarity on the potential impact of the merger and to highlight relevant statutory regulations.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

## Minister reviews preparations for upcoming SCO Summit

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, on Wednesday visited the Capital Development Authority (CDA) headquarters to review preparations for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

He was received and briefed by Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, along with key officials, including the Inspector General of Islamabad, senior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CDA's Environment and Engineering Wings, DC Islamabad, MCI, DMA, representatives from the Baku team, and Serena Management.

A detailed briefing was given on various aspects of the SCO summit's preparations, including Islamabad's beautification plan, the revamping of the Jinnah Convention Center (JCC), repair and maintenance

of VIP routes, and security and lodging arrangements for international delegations and dignitaries.

Rana Mashhood stressed the importance of adding festivity, colour, and vibrancy to the reception for international delegations.

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa highlighted that preparations for the SCO Summit are in full swing.

He outlined a comprehensive beautification plan, including landscaping, and horticulture efforts along the VIP and alternative routes.

The various design elements including sculptures, and signage are being placed at key areas.

The major interchanges, underpasses, bridges, and other structures are being renovated and painted to enhance their aesthetics.

The beautification efforts are being carried out in coordination with the Baku team.