

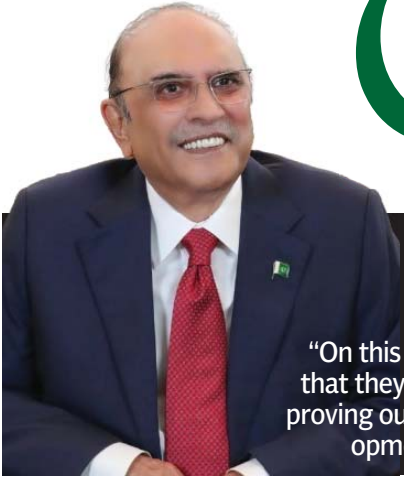
# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے سعید بن ابی مرجم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ابو خسان نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ابو حازم نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے کل رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا میں اور قیامت سے نزدیک ہوں جیسے گتے ہیں اور نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے اپنی دو انگلیوں کے اشارے سے (اس نزوحی کو) بتایا پھر ان دونوں کو پچھایا۔  
(بخاری ص 503)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## President Zardari emphasises teachers' empowerment, recognition

"On this day, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering our teachers and ensuring that they receive the respect, support, and recognition they deserve. Let's commit to improving our education system by investing in the capacity building and professional development of our teachers," the president said in his message to the nation on the Day.



## PM reaffirms commitment to create high performing educational system

"The Government of Pakistan remains committed to honour the promise that it has made with teachers. We recognize the importance of a motivated and well-supported teaching workforce, and we will continue to invest in modern infrastructure and educational resources," he said in a message on the World Teachers Day, being observed across the globe on Saturday (October 5).

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## Warm welcome

RAWALPINDI: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir.



Photo: ISPR

## Army chief, Malaysia PM discuss regional security, military ties

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Malaysian Prime Minister H. E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim met General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security, and defence cooperation.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised Pakistan Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism. He emphasized on the need for increasing bilateral

ties particularly military relations amongst the two brotherly countries and extended an invitation to the COAS to visit Malaysia in the same context.

COAS thanked the Prime Minister for the invitation and appreciated the successful visit to Pakistan, which will help further improve the enduring and historic ties between the two countries and the militaries.

COAS also attended the Investiture Ceremony and State Banquet held in the honour of Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Presidency.

## Malaysian PM Ibrahim concludes three-day visit with 'productive outcomes'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on Friday departed here after completing his three-day state visit to Pakistan, which he said, held a "great personal significance."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had received Anwar Ibrahim on his arrival on Wednesday, also saw him off at the airport, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal cabinet members and senior officials.

During the visit, Anwar Ibrahim, accompanied by a high-level delegation of ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials, held a one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, led the delegation-level talks and held "productive discussion" with President Asif Ali Zardari.

Following the visit, the Malaysian prime minister wrote on his X timeline that the "engagements with my counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, alongside discussions with industry representatives, resulted in productive outcomes encompassing a wide array of mutual interests."

He said that these interactions underscored the commitment of the highest leadership to enhance relations.



Both sides signed three MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation in varying sectors. It was also agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million and 100,000 tonnes of Basmati rice to Malaysia.

"Certainly, there will be increased cooperation in all areas of trade and agricultural technology including meat, rice and palm oil imports by Pakistan, and the two countries will also expand cooperation in the skilled worker sector through critical areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital and semiconductors," Ibrahim added.

Prime Minister Ibrahim was also conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award by President Zardari in a special investiture ceremony. He was also conferred an honorary PhD Degree by the National University of Science and Technology, where he also delivered a public lecture.

## PM to host All Parties Conference on Palestine issue on Oct 7

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue.

The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities.

The prime minister took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House.

It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to protest against the



ongoing Israeli aggression.

A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar,

Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed for organizing the All Parties Conference, and supervise

events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Confer-

ence. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his full support for observing the Day of Solidarity, condemning the ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine and Gaza.

The participants of the meeting resolved to raise their voice against the Israeli aggression and worst brutalities against the innocent people in Gaza and Palestine, and show solidarity with them.

They praised the Jamaat-e-Islami for taking an initiative to express solidarity with the innocent Palestinians and highlight Israeli aggression in Gaza and Palestine.

The JI Ameer also lauded the prime minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly for raising the issue of ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and commended the walkout by the Pakistani delegation, led by the prime minister, at the start of the Israeli prime minister's speech.

## Imran Khan's sisters arrested at D-Chowk as Islamabad braces for PTI protest

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police arrested Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, the sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, from D-Chowk on Friday. The two were taken into custody and transferred to the Secretariat police station.

Their arrest followed a PTI announcement of a planned protest at D-Chowk.

Supporters of the party began arriving in the area, with Aleema and Uzma also joining the demonstration before being detained by police.

## Pakistan making landmark strides on foreign policy front under PM Shehbaz Sharif: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive as many agreements and MoUs were inked to increase cooperation and trade between the two brotherly countries," he said while addressing a press conference here.

He said Pakistan enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations with Malaysia and during his visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim took forward matters regarding trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited the Prime Minister of Malaysia to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the World Economic



Forum in Riyadh.

Tarar informed that Halal meat and rice exports from Pakistan to Malaysia will be increased and initially one hundred thousand tons of rice will be exported.

He said it was worth appreciation that Malaysian PM stated that his country supported Pakistan's demand for implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir dispute.

About national economy, he said

it was improving and it will become more stable with the visits of world leaders to Pakistan. He said Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at UN General Assembly session, had acknowledged that Pakistan's economy was improving.

He said the government was now focusing on promoting trade with other countries which will boost the economy. "Pakistan will prove to be an excellent trade market for the world," he added.

He said it was an honour for Pakistan to host upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Islamabad which will be attended by 12 heads of governments from various countries.

He said that beautification process of the federal capital was going on ahead of the SCO summit.

He remarked that Islamabad had achieved many milestones on foreign policy front as many countries were giving positive views about Pakistan.

## Army called in to maintain order during SCO summit in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The interior ministry has called in the army to maintain law and order in the federal capital during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which will be held on October 15 and 16.

The army personnel would be in "aid of the civil power from October 5 to 17 in the Islamabad Capital Territory," the order said on Friday.

Pakistan is set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government this month, under its rotating chairmanship.

"The exact area of deployment along with an additional number of troops, if the requirement arises, will be worked out by the ICT administration in consultation with the stakeholders concerned," it said.

## At least 30 arrested as police fired tear gas to disperse PTI protesters



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fired tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan earlier again called on his supporters to gather for a "peaceful protest" as his party amped up preparations for

today's demonstration despite a ban on gatherings. Another one is also scheduled for Lahore's Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday.

The PTI has carried out multiple rallies across the country in recent weeks, protesting against the "illegal" imprisonment of its founder and the Election Commission of Pakistan's delay in implementing the reserved seats

Continued on Page 8

# CM Murad says 8 date varieties to be grown in Thar Desert, arid regions

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaking at the inaugural session of the First Pakistan International Date Palm Festival at the Expo Centre lauded the efforts of progressive farmers and traders who have gathered from across the country and abroad to showcase their expertise and products.

Mr Shah underlined the significance of date palms as one of the most valuable cash crops globally, emphasising their nutritional and economic importance. He pointed out that Pakistan, with over 252,000 acres dedicated to date palm cultivation, produced more than 730,000 tonnes of dates in 2022, solidifying its status as a leading player in the global date market.

Despite this, the CM acknowledged the challenges Pakistan faces in maximizing the value of its date production. While the country ranks fifth in production and third in export



quantity, its international trade value remains lower than expected. To address this, he stressed the importance of introducing improved rain-tolerant, high-yielding varieties and modern post-harvest technologies.

The CM also expressed pride in Sindh's leadership in date produc-

tion, contributing over 57 per cent of the country's total output followed by Balochistan with 33.5 per cent, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 2.5 per cent. Khairpur was singled out as a hub of biodiversity, with over 300 cultivars, including the prized Aseel variety, which commands about 70 per cent of

national production.

Mr. Shah stated that Begum Jhangi and Mozavati are esteemed varieties in Balochistan, while Dhakki is celebrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In closing, the CM expressed confidence that the three-day festival would provide a platform for knowledge exchange, paving the way for sustainable growth in the sector. He reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing international partnerships, particularly with the UAE and fostering innovations that will unlock Pakistan's potential as a key player in the global date market.

The CM distributed certificates and cash prizes among the top and best growers. He also performed the inauguration ceremony of the First Pakistan International Date Palm Festival at the Expo Center by cutting a ribbon accompanied by Governor Sindh Mohammad Kamran Tessori and UAE Ambassador Mr Hamad Obaid Al Zabi.

## Shia Ulema Council Multan Organized Protest against Killing of Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Shia Ulema Council Multan Organized by the, a protest held at Nawanshahr Chowk Multan in support of the leader of the Islamic resistance, Hezbollah Lebanon, Syed Hassan Nasrallah Shahdat, and the oppressed Palestinian people. It was led by Allama Syed Ali Raza Naqvi, Allama Iqtar Hussain Naqvi, Allama Ghulam Shabbir Hydari, Allama Syed Mujahid Abbas Gardizi, Kashif Zahoor Naqvi, Basharat Abbas Qureshi, Maulana Shahid Nazir, Sabir Khan, Maulana Hussain Bakhsh Sarwari, Allama Ejaz Hussain Behshiti, Engineer Sakhawat Ali Syal, Allama Muhammad Raza, Syed Anees Haider Naqvi, Mujahid Hussain Siddiqui, Mushtaq Hussain, Shahid Abbas, Brother Jawad Haider, Haji Iqbal participated in the protest demonstration by a large number of women and on this occasion the American and Israeli flags were lowered. Fire was fired and the road was blocked for two hours. On this occasion, the speakers said that the existence of Israel is not acceptable to the Muslim world under any circumstances. Do not tolerate Israel and its patron Hassan Nasrallah's martyrdom. If the movement is affected, then this is his illusion. Israel will not be able to continue its existence. Israel is a headache for the whole world. In such a situation, the Islamic countries of the whole world should unite and play their role against Israel. At this time, there is a great need for the unity of the Ummah, that the Muslim Ummah forgets all its differences and comes out against Israel with veils on their heads. He renews his full trust and commitment to the leadership and expresses full confidence in the inspiring leadership and guidance of Quaid Millat Jafariya Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi and Mujahid Hassan Nasrallah who brought the freedom movement of Qibla 1 Bait Al-Maqdis to a decisive stage.

Multan—Allama Syed Ali Raza Naqvi, Allama Iqtar Hussain Naqvi, Allama Ghulam Shabbir Haidari from the protest demonstration at Nawanshahr Chowk in support of the leader of the Islamic resistance, Hezbollah Lebanon, Syed Hassan Nasrallah and the oppressed Palestinian people. Allama Syed Mujahid Abbas Gardizi, Kashif Zahoor Naqvi, Basharat Abbas Qureshi, Maulana Shahid Nazir, Sabir Khan and others are speaking. On the other side, the American and Israeli flags are being hoisted.

## Civil Hospital Hyderabad's performance deals a major blow to the health department

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Civil Hospital Hyderabad, one of the major hospitals in the district, has come under severe criticism due to its poor performance and lack of basic facilities. Despite having an annual budget of over one billion rupees, the hospital fails to provide essential medical services to its patients. Poor and underprivileged patients, unable to afford private healthcare, are left in the hands of inexperienced doctors and staff, putting their lives at risk.

Negligence by Inexperienced Doctors and Staff: Many patients, particularly those who cannot access private healthcare, are subjected to treatment by inexperienced doctors and staff. A recent shocking incident has emerged in the Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) department, where a patient lost his ear due to the negligence of trainee doctors.

Criticism of the Hospital Administration: The hospital administration has been severely criticized by local communities, social activists, and the press. Despite the large budget, the lack of facilities and incompetent staff have raised serious questions about the management's effectiveness and responsibility.

Urgent Need for Reforms: There is an urgent need for the hospital administration and the health department to take responsibility and implement immediate reforms to prevent such incidents in the future. Ensuring proper medical care and facilities for the public must be the top priority.

## Cleft Hospital Gujarat delegation briefs Punjab minister about its services for cleft children



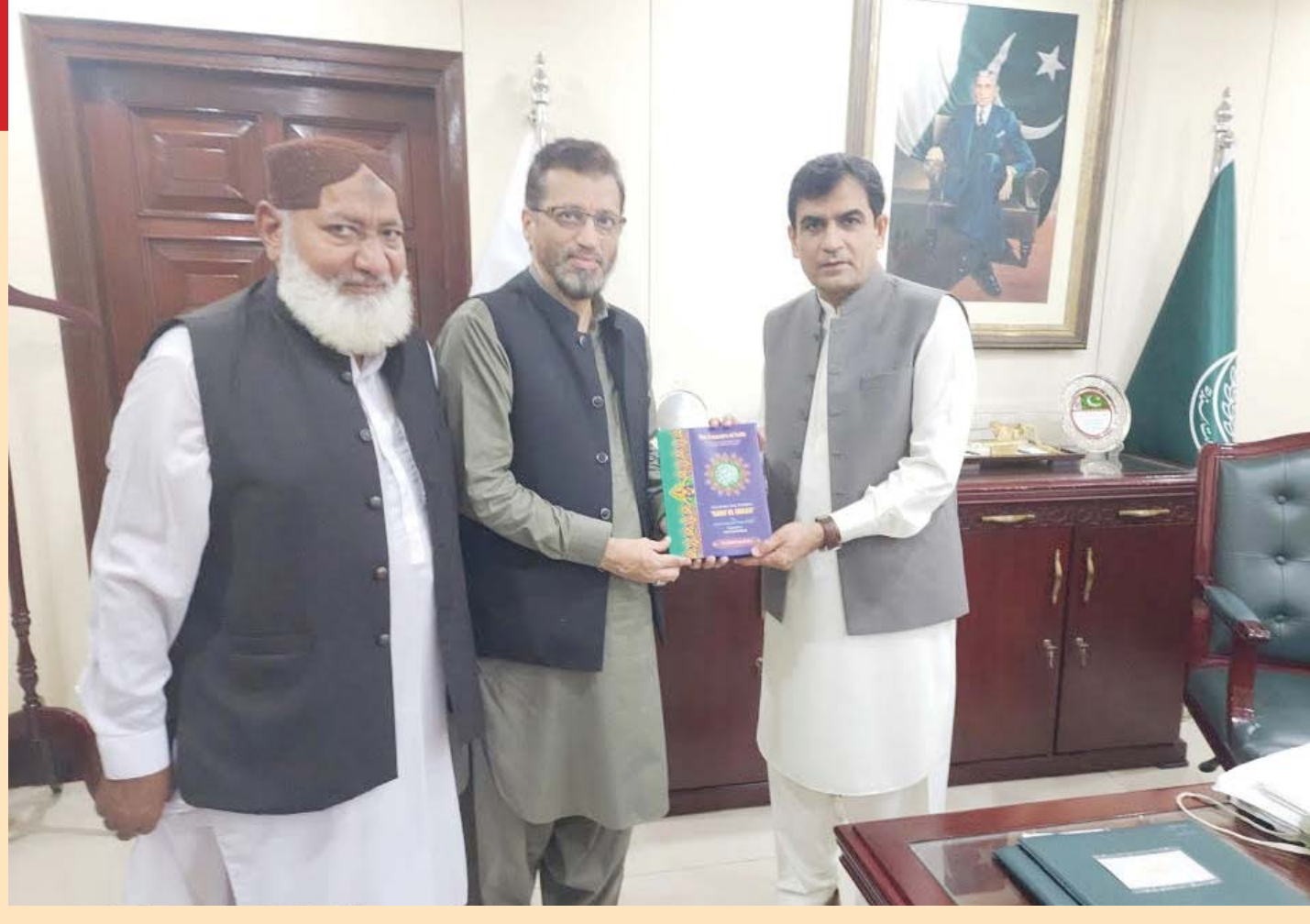
Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid

LAHORE: The delegation of Cleft Hospital Gujarat met with the provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafa Hussain at the office of the Punjab Investment Board. The delegation was led by Dr Ejaz Bashir, a well-known health expert, social activist and founder of the hospital in Gujarat. The head of the delegation briefed about the treatment and surgery facilities for children with cleft lip and palate in the hospital. Dr. Ejaz Bashir, the founder of the hospital, said that children with cleft lip and palate are treated free of cost at Cleft Hospital Gujarat.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafa Hussain said that the institutions engaged in the service of suffering humanity are doing a valuable work. The spirit of service and creativity of these institutions is commendable. Cleft Hospital Gujarat is playing an important role in treating sick children and making them useful citizens of the society. It is one of the best hospitals in Punjab in terms of providing treatment to cleft palate and cleft lip patients. Chaudhry Shafa Hussain said that the well-wishers and philanthropists should come forward and hold the hand of the suffering humanity. The provincial minister said that the Punjab government has launched excellent programs to provide relief to the deprived economic classes. Medical facilities in hospitals are being improved. Modern medical facilities are being provided to the people at the doorsteps of their homes. The Government stands with the welfare institutions engaged in the service of suffering humanity. The provincial industries and commerce minister said a new 200-bed Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Hospital has been planned in Gujarat. Chaudhry Shafa Hussain will inaugurate the training programme under the supervision of foreign surgeons at Cleft Hospital Gujarat on October 12. The delegation included Sheikh Gulreznabi, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Cleft and Palate Association, Vice President Mohammad Rafiq, Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid Media Cell and others.

## Ma Sha Allah

KARACHI: Muhammad Farhan Ashrafi, a prominent businessman and Joint Secretary of Al-Mustafa, along with Abdul Ghaffar Saeedi, President of the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society Sindh, presents an English translation of the Holy Quran to Iqbal Memon, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department Sindh.



## Jahangir Khan Tareen Highlights Commitment to Quality Education in Southern Punjab

Kiran Asim

LODHAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen, founder of the Tareen Education Foundation, emphasized that the foundation's primary goal is to provide quality education to students in Lodhran and across Southern Punjab. He stated that he was determined to improve the facilities in public schools and provide as many resources as possible to these institutions. "If schools are better, Pakistan's future will be better," Jahangir Khan



Tareen said in his speech. He further highlighted that the foundation has fully supported strengthening the public

school system.

Tareen expressed these views while addressing students participating in the South Punjab Mathematics Contest, organized by the Tareen Education Foundation. He shared that his motivation is purely driven by a sense of public service. "There is nothing behind this effort but the desire to serve the people. Though I have left politics, both my son and I will continue our welfare initiatives. The people of Lodhran are close to my heart, and I

want to give back the immense love they have shown me."

Akbar Khan, CEO of the Tareen Education Foundation, reiterated Tareen's vision of uplifting students from public schools. He briefed that over 550 students from 50+ government schools across South Punjab participated in today's mathematics competition. "Insha'Allah, our children will excel in the fields of science, information technology, and mathematics and bring pride to the region," he added.

## PBDN hosts 1st Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion

City Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Business and Disability Network (PBDN), a key platform advocating for disability inclusion in the workplace, successfully hosted the 1st Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion in Karachi.

The event brought together key stakeholders from government bodies, the private sector, international organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to discuss policy reforms that ensure greater inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan's national development agenda.

The dialogue focused on three critical policy areas: the SME Policy, the

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy, and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP). The primary aim of the event was to discuss the policies and programs to develop policy recommendations that make national policies more responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The event was chaired by Ghulam Mohiuddin Asim, Additional Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Government of Sindh, and began with a welcome note by Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General, Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP), highlighted the initiative and achievements of PBDN to promote employability and employment of persons with disabilities, he

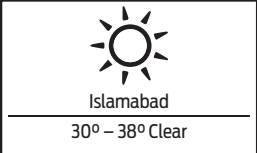
emphasized the need of developing skills competences of persons with disabilities for their employment in the industries as an equally productive worker.

Majid Aziz, a prominent industrialist and member of PBDN, while discussing the issues faced by persons with disability and the need for behavioural change stressed the need for measures to ensure the implementation of policies and programs to provide the benefit guaranteed to persons with disabilities in the program.

Technical presentations were delivered by representatives from key organizations, including GIZ, Sightsavers, TVET, PMYP, SMEDA, ILO, and OPDs, highlighting the current landscape of disability inclusion within these

programs. The participants were then divided into three working groups to discuss the presentations and propose policy reforms that address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing education, training, and employment opportunities.

Ghulam Mohiuddin Asim, Additional Secretary, DEPDA After hearing the presentations and recommendations at the 1st Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion, expressed strong support for the proposed reforms and reiterated the Government of Sindh's commitment to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind in Pakistan's journey toward sustainable development.



**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:42 am  
Zohr ..... 11:57 am  
Asr ..... 4:07 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:48 pm  
Isha ..... 7:11 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9276044  
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

**Customs  
Collectorate  
Enforcement  
Multan are  
Continuing to  
crackdown in  
South Punjab**



Quatul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The teams of Customs Collectorate Enforcement Multan are continuing to crackdown in South Punjab including Multan for smuggling. According to customs sources, customs teams under the guidance of Deputy Collector Maryam Jamila under the guidance of Collector Customs Enforcement Multan Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari and Additional Collector Shah Faisal have seized a large amount of various smuggled goods including custom paid vehicles and mobile phones, foreign cloth. During the financial year 2023/24, during operations against smugglers in different areas of Multan region, goods worth Rs. Among the items seized by the customs teams are 109 non-custom paid vehicles, mobile phones. Electronics, Auto Spare Parts, Foreign Cigarettes, Tires. A huge amount of food atoms, nut bolts and miscellaneous goods are involved, according to Collector Customs Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari, Multan Customs Enforcement is always active to prevent the scourge of smuggling despite limited resources so that the society can be freed from smuggling. During one year, the customs teams have taken into custody the smuggled and illegal goods worth Rs 170 Million Rupees. He reiterated that the actions against the smugglers will be accelerated.

# Govt's decision to shut down CPPs is highly laudable: Shahid Rasheed Butt

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Friday, lauded the government for deciding to suspend the supply of gas to captive power plants (CPPs) by January 2025.

The government's decision is commendable because these obsolete power plants are not only disturbing the allocation of energy on merit but also wasting gas worth billions of rupees, he said.

He added that the government should have made this decision decades ago, but

the powerful owners of CPPs prevented it from acting on merit.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the supply of gas to these power plants should be immediately cut off to save billions of rupees annually.

CPPs were allowed at a time when there was a mismatch between demand and supply of electricity, but despite the installation of new power plants and the surplus production of electricity, these inefficient plants were allowed to operate, which amounted to playing with the scarce resources of the country.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the closure of these power plants will reduce



gas companies' losses and cut IPP capacity charges, which will benefit the public and

business community.

He observed that shutting down the captive power plants during the installation of new power plants could have saved billions of dollars and resulted in cheaper electricity.

The business leader claimed that influential captive power plant owners have always received natural gas on political grounds, regardless of merit.

In the past, attempts were also made to convince the owners of captive power plants to use grid electricity, but due to their influence, the government backed off. However, it now seems impossible to do so due to the IMF's insistence.

It is worth mentioning here that inefficient captive power plants have been absorbing a significant portion of subsidies, contributing to the growing subsidy burden in the power sector.

Experts in the power sector have repeatedly pointed out that these CPPs are supplied with cheaper indigenous gas. At the same time, they continue to use more expensive Liquefied Natural Gas and other fuels, leading to higher subsidies.

Now there is no room for the government to continue the status quo. There must be a strict policy of using the energy resource for the most efficient purposes. Therefore, he asserted that there should be no reversal of the correct decision to shut down CPPs.

## Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: A beautiful model of flowers installed on Construction Avenue ahead of SCO Summit held in the Federal Capital on Friday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# AKU celebrates Teachers' Impact and Contribution

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) marked World Teachers' Day 2024 with a vibrant event at its Karachi campus. This year's theme, 'Valuing Teachers' Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education,' emphasised the crucial role teachers play in shaping the future of education and society.

Dr Farid Panjwani, Dean, AKU-IED, highlighted the profound impact teachers have on shaping the minds and imaginations of children. In his remarks, he stated, "Teachers are the architects of a child's intellectual and emotional development. Their ability to nurture curiosity, foster critical thinking, and inspire a love for learning is central to the development of an imaginative and thoughtful



society. The voices of teachers must be at the forefront of any educational reform."

The event also featured an inspiring Panel Discussion on 'Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social

Contract for Education,' featuring distinguished panelists Mr Ahmed Saya, recipient of the Cambridge University Dedicated Teacher Award 2019; Dr Sadia Bhutta, Associate Professor at AKU-IED

and winner of the HEC Best University Teacher Award 2015; and Ms Aniqia Bano, AKU-IED alumna and recipient of the Presidential Pride of Performance award for education in 2024.

## 38-day-long World Culture Festival Karachi 2024

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The ninth day of the 38-day-long World Culture Festival Karachi 2024, organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan, featured a captivating theatre play titled "Unfit Ball Hai Dunya Mere Aagay" performed by Grips Theatre Group at Auditorium II. The play, originally directed by the late Imran Aslam and co-directed by Yasmin Ismail. The stellar cast included Faiza Kazi, Ameer Riaz, Aysha Sheikh, Hena Riaz, Khaled Anam, Maria Hussain Shaikh, and K Sajeeeruddin. The performance delivered a thought-provoking message on safeguarding the environment, emphasizing the dangers of pollution infiltrating food and causing serious health concerns. The play illustrated practical solutions to mitigate these issues and resonated with both children and adults. Audience, including School Students, Thoroughly Enjoyed the Songs in "Unfit Ball Hai Dunya Mere Aagay" World Culture Festival Karachi 2024, being hosted at the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, will continue until November 2. Tickets are available at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and TicketWala.com, with Arts Council members receiving a 50% discount on direct purchases from the venue.

## Pilot project for traffic control based on an Artificial Intelligence

**Zain ul Abideen Abid**

MULTAN: On the directives of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, the Multan Development Authority (MDA) has developed a pilot project for traffic control based on an Artificial Intelligence (AI) radar system. On Thursday, MDA officials briefed the Additional Chief Secretary regarding this project through videos and images. The briefing was attended by Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Director General MDA Rana Saleem Ahmed Khan, and Director MDA Rao Zaka.



On this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary Fuad Hashim Rabbani said that Bahawalpur and Multan Development Authorities were tasked with preparing a project to control traffic using AI. The pilot project has now been completed and will be installed on a busy road in Multan within a week and a speed limit will be set for vehicles passing through that road, he added. He further mentioned that in the first phase, citizens will be educated on traffic safety and rules while in the second phase, the AI radar system will be handed over to the traffic police.

## Citizens Foundation Celebrates a Milestone

**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Citizens Foundation (TCF), a leading non-profit organisation dedicated to educating the less-privileged children in Pakistan, is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in its journey — reaching 2,033 school units and impacting 301,000 deserving students across Pakistan.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters who are the heartbeat of this movement," said Syed Asaad Ayub Ahmed, President and CEO of TCF. "Your unwavering support drives our mission forward, and together, we will continue to shine this light across Pakistan."

As TCF moves forward, it remains steadfast in its mission to educate and uplift, aiming to reach 1 million agents of positive change by the year 2030.

## Courts cannot relinquish their powers under the Constitution: Ijaz Bukhari



**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: PTI Member of Provincial Assembly, Syed Ijaz Bukhari, stated that judges showing integrity is a positive sign, but they should also show the same courage against every oppressor and tyrant. He called the idea that courts cannot relinquish their powers under the Constitution a childish thought. He expressed these views while speaking to the media. Syed Ijaz Bukhari said that the government should abandon its stubbornness, as Imran Khan has already won the hearts and minds of the nation. He further criticized the government, saying they are standing exposed, and questioned who would even come to see them. He added that the passion of the workers who love Imran Khan is so strong that they reached D-Chowk despite all obstacles. It is shameful for the government that they sealed all the routes leading to D-Chowk in such a way that removing them seemed impossible, yet the supporters of Imran Khan reached their destination. He accused the corrupt government of using the police, Rangers, and army against the public, claiming that their sole purpose is to create hatred between these institutions and the people. He said that in his 55 years of politics, he has never seen such vengeful actions.

# WTTC Walnut Travel Tours to promote adventure tourism, religious tourism in Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Senator & Former Minister for Information and technology, Chairman Pakistan China Institute Mr Mushahid Hussain was the chief guest and key note speaker. He shared his thoughts on China Pakistan tourism potential and the central Asian countries which will help Pakistan economy prosper. B2B people contact and cultural diplomacy plays an important role as well for International perception of Pakistan.

Amongst eminent speakers for the panel discussion on tourism for dialogue were Mr Kamran Lashari Chairman WCLA, MD PTDC Mr Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, Rai Aurangzeb Bhatti, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Leghari Global Emissary of GSLEPP, Ambassador Wildlife Pakistan, Nikon's Ambassador of Wildlife photography. CEO Ms. Sadaf Khalid & Director



Operations WTTC Mr. Mian M. Hashim Masood hosted this historic launch by inviting the 2 royal families of Pakistan Nawab of Kalabagh

Malik Amir Muhammad Khan's great grandson Malik Amir and the Meer of Hunza's son Mr. Sheryar Khan. CEO Ms Sadaf Khalid and Director

Operations Mian Hashim Masood emphasised for the promotion of adventure tourism, Buddhist tourism, religious tourism and make Pakistan the top class world tourist destination globally. Pakistan is the land of hospitality, rich culture and heritage.

We thank Kiran Afzal World Bank to be also part of our launch event. We also thank NIMA Chairman Vice Admiral Rtd Mr. Ahmed Saeed to be our Guest of Honour. Mr. Mian Imran Masood Former Punjab Education Minister and Chairman Gandhara Art & Culture Association Pakistan also actively participated. Mr. Bilal Khan Sherpao also was present.

Vote of thanks was presented by Ambassador IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem.

Ambassador of Egypt, Deputy Head Minister of Japan, Deputy Head of Mission of Jordan, Deputy Consul of Kazakhstan Embassy also attended the launch.

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# Supreme Court's 2022 Ruling vs. 2024 Ruling on Article 63-A

The controversial bench of the Pakistan Supreme Court recently overturned an earlier ruling announced in May 2022, which had declared the defection of a political party member to another party or voting against the declared policy of their party as unlawful. However, the formation of the review bench was questioned from the outset on legal, constitutional, and ethical grounds, casting doubt on the integrity of the proceedings. Critics argued that the inclusion of certain judges, particularly those who had previously dissented in the original decision, raised concerns about impartiality and fairness. This led to objections that the review process lacked a solid legal or ethical foundation, contributing to the perception that the case's proceedings were shaky and undermining confidence in the judiciary's handling of the matter.

The 2024 ruling was diametrically opposite to the original ruling of May 2022 ruling headed by the supreme court Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, CJ, Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Mr. Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal, Mr. Justice Munib Akhtar, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail. The ruling declared that any vote cast by a defecting member of a political party (in specific cases like elections of the prime minister, votes of confidence or no-confidence, budget votes, and constitutional amendments) would not be counted. The court also disqualified defecting members, forcing them to vacate their seats. This decision aimed to prevent defections, or "floor crossing," which was characterized as a form of horse trading that destabilizes political parties and weakens parliamentary

democracy. The ruling emphasized that such defections eroded party discipline, undermined democratic processes, and allowed undue influence over lawmakers. The 2022 judgment sought to protect the integrity of parliamentary democracy by penalizing defections harshly. Defection was seen as a betrayal of the voters' mandate, which was granted based on party affiliation and policies.

The 2024 ruling allowed defectors' votes to be counted, marking a significant shift towards protecting legislative autonomy, aligning it more closely with international practices in countries like the UK, USA, and Australia. In these democracies, the right of individual legislators to vote freely is respected without the immediate legal threat of disqualification. However, the ruling also aligns to some degree with India and Bangladesh, where votes are counted before lawmakers are disqualified, maintaining a balance between party discipline and individual rights.

In Pakistan, where the political landscape is marked by the influence of undemocratic forces, including coercion, threats, and manipulation of parliamentarians, interpreting Article 63-A to protect democracy is a nuanced issue. The environment in Pakistan, unlike established democracies such as the UK, US, or Australia, is more prone to "horse trading" (the buying and selling of votes) and manipulation by powerful establishments. In this context, both interpretations of Article 63-A—those

of 2022 and 2024—offer different paths for safeguarding democracy, but their effectiveness depends on the specific challenges of the political system.

In a political environment like Pakistan's, where lawmakers can be coerced or bribed to switch allegiances, this 2022 ruling aimed to prevent destabilization by ensuring that defectors' votes did not count in critical decisions, such as votes of no confidence or prime ministerial elections. This strict approach reflected an attempt to shield democracy from manipulation by undemocratic forces.

It sought to enforce party loyalty and avoid external actors' influence on parliamentarians, which has historically undermined governments that do not fully reflect the people's mandate.

However, this interpretation has drawbacks in terms of limiting individual legislators' autonomy. It centralizes power within party leadership, giving party heads significant control over their members and potentially stifling internal dissent or independent decision-making. While it tries to prevent external coercion, it could reinforce internal party coercion, as lawmakers are forced to toe the party line under threat of disqualification.

The 2024 interpretation in the Pakistani context, where coercion and horse trading are rampant, risks enabling the very destabilization it seeks to avoid. If votes by defectors are counted without strict penalties, powerful external actors could exploit weak party structures to manipulate outcomes,

especially in situations where the government does not reflect the genuine electoral mandate.

This interpretation might provide more legislative freedom, but in an environment where coercion is common, it could weaken democratic institutions by making them more susceptible to external manipulation. The decision leaves the control of defections to party leaders, which may not be sufficient to protect the system from widespread political engineering.

In a fragile democracy like Pakistan's, where undemocratic forces often play a decisive role in political outcomes, the 2022 interpretation might provide a stronger bulwark against destabilization by enforcing party discipline and minimizing external interference. Although it limits individual lawmakers' freedom, it better insulates the democratic process from coercive forces that undermine the people's mandate. Conversely, the 2024 interpretation, while more aligned with democratic principles in theory, risks exacerbating instability in the Pakistani context by allowing more room for horse trading and external interference.

Thus, the 2022 interpretation—despite its limitations on individual autonomy—may better protect Pakistan's democracy from manipulation in the current political climate, while the 2024 interpretation, although more democratic in principle, may expose the system to greater risk of coercion and undue influence.

*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

## Pakistan led the fight against terrorism in the last two decades

Pakistan, despite being a terrorism victim, has the will, determination and capability to defeat externally-sponsored scourge, "ironically" aided and financed by India, a senior Pakistani diplomat has told a UN panel on Thursday.

"We have led the fight against terrorism over the last two decades," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, acting permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a debate in the General Assembly's Legal (sixth) Committee on 'Measures to eliminate International Terrorism'.

Noting that this menace continues to mutate into various new forms, he underscored the need for UN's counter-terrorism architecture to incorporate the new types and cyber-tools of terrorism, including cryptocurrencies and online terrorism recruitment.

Ambassador Jadoon also called for addressing the unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of right to self-determination, especially in Kashmir and Palestine, in order to completely wipe out terrorism that has spread across the world.

Ambassador Jadoon's pointed words on Indian-sponsored terrorism and occupation of Kashmir drew a response from a delegate of India, asserting well-known claims on disputed territory that a Pakistani delegate rejected in his right to reply.

At the outset of his speech, Ambassador Jadoon strongly condemned Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon and its genocidal war in Gaza, saying it was also seeking to provoke a wider war across the Middle East region, and must be held accountable.

"Unless we act firmly against this terror regime, and uphold the UN Charter and international law, we will descend into a Hobbesian world of violence and chaos where life is 'ugly, brutish and short'."

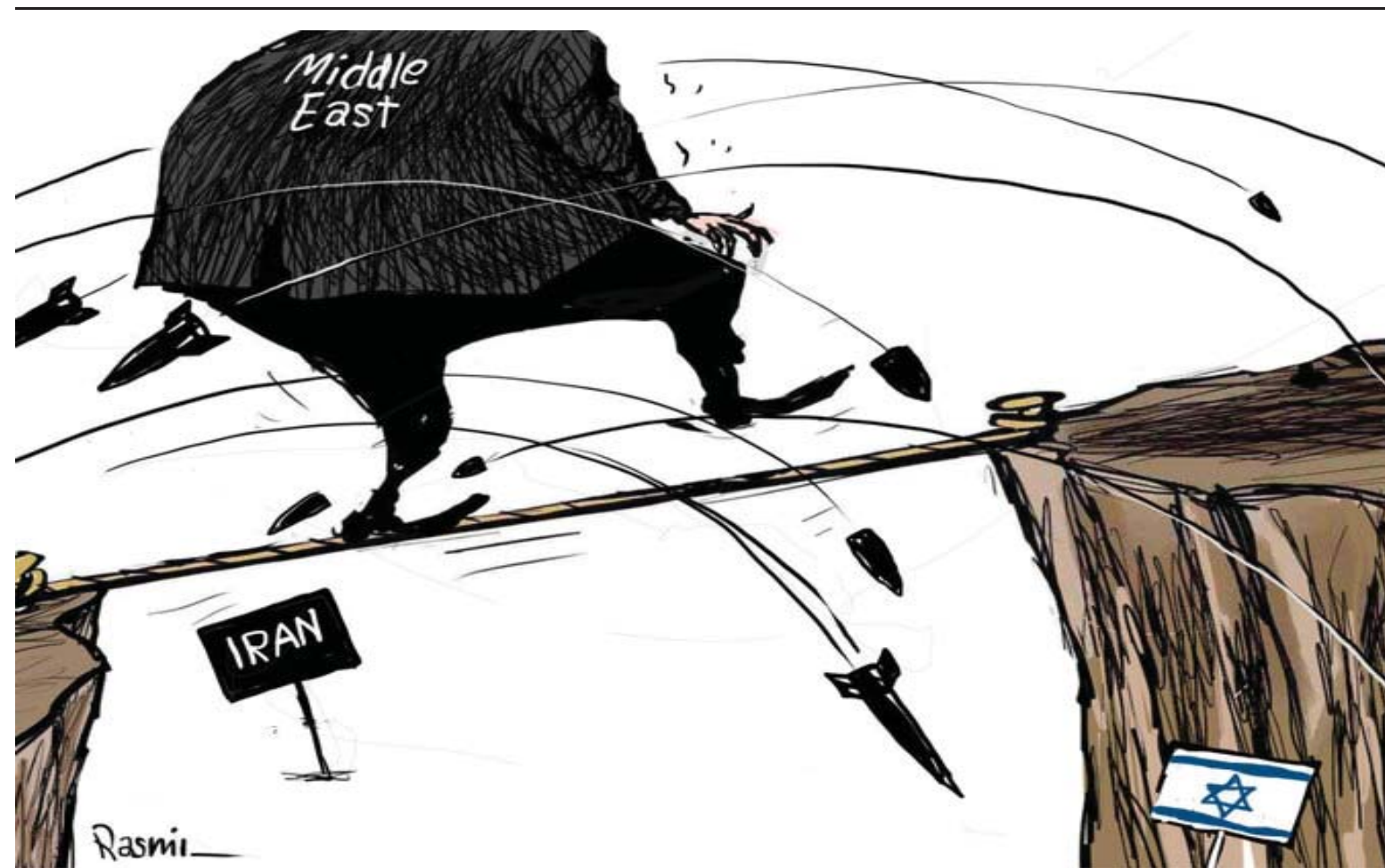
Highlighting that Pakistan had suffered 80,000 casualties in fighting terrorism, he said the country continues to suffer from state sponsored cross-border attacks by the TTP Fitna al Khawarij, Da'esh and insurgent groups such as the Majeed Brigade.

"Pakistan has the will, determination and capability to defeat this externally sponsored terrorism, which is actively aided, abetted and financed by our eastern neighbour, ironically a country that likes to play the victim, the Pakistani delegate added, pointing out that Al-Qaeda was decimated largely due to its efforts.

The international community, Ambassador Jadoon said, has a responsibility to ensure that counter-terrorism efforts were not misused to violate human rights and international humanitarian law, as is being done by Israel in occupied Palestine and by India in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan, he added, fully supports the OIC's position that a consensus-based Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) must clearly distinguish between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign and colonial occupation to self-determination and national liberation.

"Any definition of terrorism, including one in a comprehensive convention, must encompass the new and emerging forms of extremism and terrorism, including violent acts by white supremacists, far right extremists, violent nationalist, xenophobic, Islamophobic and anti-Muslim groups, such as Hindutva groups, and similar ideologies in various parts of the world," the Pakistani envoy said, underscoring the need for changes in the UN's counter-terrorism architecture and sanctions regime so that Islamophobic concepts such as "jihadists", "Islamists", "radical Islam" were excluded from the UN's Lexicon.



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

## Punjab: Making Governance More Responsive

Efficiency & Effectiveness (3Es) along with 'Better, Faster & Cheaper' (BFC) are cornerstones of a responsive governance in modern tech-savvy society, where netizens expect their government to deliver key amenities at their doorsteps. For this, welfare governments adopt lean structures and streamline systems by cutting out 'waste' and 'inefficiency' in delivery processes. Cumbersome and manual procedures marred with inordinate delays are replaced with IT-based automated and more responsive initiatives for better service delivery. These tech-driven systems not only eliminate a culture of 'Speed Money' and 'Palm Greasing' but

in every big city within a year, besides starting free home delivery of best quality goods including vegetables and fruits at rates lower than those fixed by the Government.

"Meri Awaz, Maryam Nawaz," is Pakistan's first virtual women police station dedicated to addressing problems faced by women, including harassment, where women can share their problems with a female police officer with complete confidentiality and trust through '15' call, the women safety app's live chat and video call features, Punjab Police App and the Punjab Safe Cities Authority web portal.

The installation of 100 modern emergency panic 15 buttons in universities, colleges, markets, intersections and bazaars across Lahore is another remarkable initiative of the Punjab Government to ensure security of its female folk. These panic buttons can be connected to the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) immediately by pressing them in case of any untoward situation.

Moreover, projects like 'Field Hospitals' and 'Clinics on Wheels'; renovation and upgradation of 2500 Basic Health Units (BHUs), 300 Rural Health Centres (RHCs) and major hospitals across Punjab; establishment of trauma centers and ambulance service on Motorways; Pakistan's first air ambulance service for the distressed across the province; the country's first public sector cancer hospital, Nawaz Sharif Cancer Care Hospital Lahore; Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology Sargodha; rehabilitation and construction of 600 arterial and connecting roads, 05 Highways and Motorways in the province; besides a Rs 25 billion Undergrad Scholarship Program for the outstanding but deserving students; a Rs 10 billion Laptop Scheme for the talented students of the province; skills training in high-end technologies like cloud computing, cyber security, data analytics, graphic designing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, e-merchandising and game development; construction of Nawaz Sharif

IT City Lahore; "CM Maryam Nawaz Free Wi-Fi" service across Punjab, and the use of drone technology for the success of "Zero Waste Mission" on Eid-ul-Adha, effective monitoring of Muharram processions on 'Ashura', and timely drainage of water from low-lying areas across Punjab during Monsoon are no doubt impactful interventions of the visionary Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif-led Punjab Government for the welfare of its people.

Inflation has, no doubt, become the most pressing problem of the common man recently because of multiple reasons both local and international, but the Government is fully mindful of the sufferings of people. It has taken many crucial steps to minimize shocks of the raging price hike. A crackdown against hoarding, smuggling and artificial shortage of goods in the market has significantly reduced prices of essential commodities including flour and its products. The price of bread has decreased from Rs 25 to Rs 13. A 10 kg flour bag, whose price was Rs 1380 in March, is now available for Rs 800. Establishment of a dedicated authority, Punjab Enforcement Regulatory Authority (PERA) for the purpose is also on the offing.

The cost of electricity has skyrocketed as a result of meeting unavoidable IMF terms, but the Government of Punjab is determined to minimize its impact on the power consumers. It is bringing Pakistan's largest-ever solar project in Punjab, "Chief Minister Solar Panel Financing Scheme," under which free solar plates will be provided to consumers using up to 200 units per month, whereas those consuming 200 to 500 units per month will get solar systems on easy monthly installments. It will reduce their electricity bills by up to 50%.

All above-mentioned initiatives speak volumes of the commitment of Punjab Government to mobilize its resources for the welfare of people by streamlining complicated approval procedures and plugging the pilferage.

Writer is senior information officer. He can be reached at arshakir.cmo@gmail.com

Analysis



Abdul Rashid Shakir

## Honeytrap, Kacha Bandits and Police - I

The Internet has provided the average person with a world of opportunity, but it has also made it simple for fraudsters to select their victims. Through the Internet, there are several frauds and other fraudulent activities that prey on innocent individuals. Honeytrapping is one of the most popular internet frauds. A honey trap is not just about deceiving a man or woman into sexual behaviour; the term is used in a broader sense. It refers to a scheme where one person entices another to reveal sensitive information or to do something foolish. Alternatively, a person may be lured with the promise of a good job or a great relationship. The target is then caught in a web of fraud, leading to a demand for a large sum of money. This entire process is called a honey trap. In Pakistan, there are several methods of honey trapping. These include the lure of marrying a rich and beautiful woman, offering educated young people jobs, promising the business class cheap grains, tractors, vehicles, or factories, and using girls to make phone calls to trap young men in love. The women in the gang would lure victims into a relationship over the phone, invite them over, spike their drinks, and then record compromising videos to extort money, ultimately swindling them out of their savings.

For a honey trap, a member of the gang contacts an individual who is financially stable, educated but unemployed, desirous of marriage, or attempting to go abroad. By building a relationship with this person, they provide the gang with complete information

about the target, including their residence, family members, business, and the names of relatives. This way, the gang can easily target their victim through phone or social media.

Incidents of honey traps continue to emerge daily in newspapers and on social media. Last month, in September, District Jhang police arrested three members of a honey trap gang, including two women, who extorted Rs 260,000 from a man. The gang had promised to marry one of their females to the complainant's relative.

A few days ago, a former employee of a sensitive agency, residing M. A Jinnah Road in the PS New Multan jurisdiction, became a victim of a honey trap and was abducted by Kacha bandits. This is the second citizen from Multan to be kidnapped by these bandits in a few months. The kidnapers have demanded a ransom of 20 million rupees, threatening that if the amount is not paid, the victim's body will be disposed of in the river. Previously, a victim from Multan had been released after a ransom of 2 million rupees was paid for their recovery.

A delegation of journalists recently met with Additional IG of South Punjab, Kamran Khan, in his office. Among the visitors was a female journalist who shared that the Additional IG is dedicated to eradicating crime and criminal elements. She reported chilling facts, stating that Kamran Khan informed the journalists that "the bandits in the Kacha region have recruited several of their associates into the police force, and some corrupt elements within the police are colluding with these bandits."

To be continued

Analysis



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

# NUST confers honorary PhD degree upon Malaysia's Prime Minister

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST-Is-lamabad) conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon the Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's Prime Minister during a Special Convocation held at the NUST main campus on Thursday, October 3, 2024. At the occasion, the honourable dignitary also delivered a keynote address on Allama Iqbal, demonstrating a deep understanding of Iqbal's thought, and its continuing relevance to balanced development, inclusive growth, and individual well-being.

The Prime Minister said, "I am sincerely thankful for the warmth and hospitality extended to me by the government and people of Pakistan, and I hope that our two nations will continue to grow even closer, forging stronger ties for the future." Expressing his heartfelt gratitude upon conferment of the doctorate degree honoris causa by NUST, he said, "With great humility, and in the spirit of Iqbal, I accept this honour on behalf of the people of Malaysia as a symbol of the



deep intellectual and cultural connection between our nations." He maintained that it was a profound honour to be at NUST, terming the university a beacon of excellence in education, research and innovation.

Addressing the students, he remarked that their presence at NUST is a testament to their intellect, dedication and

immense potential. He further said, "Just as Iqbal's philosophy calls for continual self-improvement, your journey here will shape not only your own future but also the destiny of this nation."

Earlier in his opening remarks, Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, HI (M), Rector NUST, warmly welcomed the Malaysian Prime Minister



and other foreign and Pakistani dignitaries to NUST. The Rector acknowledged the exemplary leadership and meritorious accomplishments of the Prime Minister. He also highlighted the strong potential for academic and research collaborations between leading Malaysian and Pakistani universities like

NUST. Notable attendees of the event were Federal Minister for Commerce Mr Jam Kamal Khan; Secretary MoST Mr Sajid Baloch; Foreign Secretary Ms Anna Baloch; and a few cabinet members of Malaysia. An overwhelming number of students, senior academics, thought

leaders, think tank experts, and media persons attended the Special Convocation. It was also highlighted during the event that Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's book "SCRIPT for a Better Malaysia," first published in Malaysia in 2022, is being translated into Urdu by a Pakistani university.

## UNODC and EU promote enhanced police, levies and prosecution collaboration in Balochistan

By Bureau Report

QUETTA: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with support from the European Union under its Deliver Justice Project, organized a concluding workshop on investigators-prosecutors coordination in Quetta on October 4. This initiative is part of wider efforts aimed at bolstering cooperation between the law enforcement and prosecution services in Balochistan.

The workshop, attended by a cross-section of participants from the Balochistan Police, Levies, and Prosecution Department, addressed key challenges that prevent effective collaboration during criminal investigations and trials. Building upon previous successful engagements, it aimed to solidify a joint platform for investigators from police and levies, and prosecutors to work together



seamlessly, ultimately leading to fairer and more efficient trials.

The highlight of the workshop was the endorsement of a newly developed Standard Operating Proce-

dures (SOPs), designed to formalize the coordination between police and levies investigators and prosecutors prior to the submission of a challan. The SOPs provide a crucial frame-

work to ensure that investigations are comprehensive and that cases are prepared with the highest standards of legal scrutiny, paving the way for smoother prosecution processes.

This workshop is the culmination of a series of training initiatives undertaken over the past two years across the province, including in Gwadar, Naseerabad, and Quetta. Each of these efforts has contributed to improving institutional cooperation, as the concluding workshop marking a milestone in formalizing a sustainable partnership between the police, levies and prosecution services in Balochistan.

With the continued support of the European Union, UNODC remains committed to fostering a more effective and responsive criminal justice system in Balochistan, ensuring that law enforcement and prosecution work hand in hand to uphold the rule of law.

## Feroze Power, Maysun sign MoU to set up solar panel production unit in Pakistan

By Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Feroze Power (Pvt) Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding with Maysun Solar to establish a solar panel production plant in Karachi. This initiative aims to boost local production of clean energy equipment in Pakistan, to increase renewable power generation while minimizing the impact on the country's foreign currency reserves.

"One of the main objectives is to ensure the necessary transfer of technology for indigenous production of renewable energy equipment as a

major step towards Pakistan achieving the stage of self-reliance in the power sector," said FPL Chief Executive Officer, Sohail Feroze after signing the MoU.

He expressed optimism that the government of Pakistan would provide them with all the necessary incentives for setting up and operating the solar panel production facility.

He said that they were also firmly optimistic about getting maximum support from the Alternative Energy Development Board for setting up an assembly plant for solar panel production at such a wide scale for the first

time in the country. The FPL chief said that setting up the production plant was a major step towards achieving targets set by the government to enhance clean energy production in Pakistan.

He said the FPL's new initiative would also help the government save its foreign currency reserves, otherwise massively spent on importing solar panels at a mass scale around the year.

He told the audience at the MoU signing ceremony that FPL stood firm to provide the best possible support to the government in its drive to reduce the carbon footprint of the power sector

and ensure maximum tapping of indigenous sources of electricity.

"Whether it is the case of serving the consumers in the domestic, commercial, or industrial sectors or setting up utility-scale clean energy projects, the FPL has been doing its best to take maximum advantage of abundantly available solar power sources in every part of the country," Feroze.

FPL Chief Operating Officer, Abdul Mateen Qureshi, said the solar manufacturing unit to be set up in any of the exclusive economic zones in or nearby Karachi would initially have an annual production capacity of 300 megawatts.

## Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy Announces Final Cohort For Neela Asmaan's 2024 Residency Program



By City Desk

KARACHI: Neela Asmaan announces the artists selected for its Fall 2024 Artist Residency cycle, a unique initiative founded by Academy Award and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Shigar Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, this residency offers emerging and established artists a unique opportunity to work in an immersive environment designed to spark creativity and artistic exploration.

Following a competitive selection process, Neela Asmaan is thrilled to welcome four talented artists to participate in two residency cycles this fall. The first cycle will take place from 3rd October to 15th October 2024, followed by a second cycle from 28th October to 9th November 2024, with each group embarking on an empowering journey to develop their projects during their stay at the residency.

Ramsha Bilal is a Lahore-based photographer and filmmaker whose debut short film, *Moona's Beauty Salon*, is on the festival circuit.

Faqeha Nadeem is a visual artist specialising in watercolour, ink, and gouache, inspired by nature and the human form. Her work explores the connection between humanity and nature through botanical illustrations and female figures. Amina Zoomkawala is a visual artist and art teacher from Karachi, who expresses her observations through various mediums, including painting, writing and video.

Iraj Fatima is a textile artist with a degree in textile design from the University of Karachi. Recently featured at VM Art Gallery, she uses felting techniques and wool to create tactile art that highlights the beauty of Pakistan's northern areas.

This year, for the first time, the Neela Asmaan residency will see its artists engage the local community through workshops with school students, sharing their expertise to inspire young audiences to explore various art forms. Looking ahead, Neela Asmaan will expand in 2025, welcoming international artists and thinkers to Pakistan for a more global exchange of ideas and creativity.

### Fact sheets

# Iran supports Palestinian resistance in Al-Aqsa Storm Operation to end Israeli occupation

By News Desk

ISLAMABAD: After 76 years of occupation and other crimes by the Zionist regime, Hamas and other Palestinian Resistance groups in Gaza launched the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation on October 7th, 2023 to terminate occupation and crimes against humanity.

This decision was made by the leaders of the resistance front and the people of Palestine and Gaza. However, based on the principled policies, Iran supported the Palestinian nation and resistance groups to help terminate the occupation.

The Zionist regime, enjoying the full support of the US and some Western countries, amid silence and inaction of the international community, has committed an unprecedented genocide in Palestine and massacred more than 42 thousand innocent people, including children and women.

The regime destroyed all the

infrastructures of Gaza, the West Bank of the Jordan River and recently Lebanon by attacking hospitals, schools, ambulances and journalists violating all recognized international rules and regulations and humanitarian rights.

The world is witnessing genocide, infanticide, crimes against humanity, violation of human rights, breach of sovereignty and territorial integrity, use of weapons of mass destruction, recourse to cyber and technological terrorism, assassination, violation of diplomatic rights and invasion of diplomatic places, destruction of the cultural sites and the common heritages of humanity. Still American and Western officials nod to these crimes as the implementation of justice by the regime.

On the day of the Oath-taking ceremony of the President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Zionist regime assassinated the former Prime Minister of Palestine and Hamas leader,

Ismail Haniyeh, in violation of all international regulations and in egregious violation of Iranian sovereignty. According to international law, Iran has the right to resort to countermeasures as an inherent, legal and enforceable right.

However, due to the on-going negotiations for a ceasefire and in response to the requests of many countries and in order to reduce part of the suffering of the defenceless people of Gaza, the Islamic Republic of Iran restrained to exercise its right to self-defence until the end of the negotiations.

Meanwhile, it was proved that these requests were a conspiracy to gain more time and to complete the operational plan of the regime in Gaza and to get prepared for the invasion of the West Bank and Lebanon.

After Gaza, the Zionist regime extended its aggression to Lebanon, and on September 27, 2024, in an inhumane act, the regime attacked Lebanon

with 85 one-ton American bunker buster bombs leading to the martyrdom of Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah. In this terrorist operation, in addition to Hezbollah members and civilians, General Abbas Nilforoushan, Iranian senior military adviser in Beirut, were also martyred.

Within the framework of the international rules and regulations, the provisions of the Article 51 of the UN Charter and after two months of restraint, in response to the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime, including the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran in the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, massacre of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and wounding Iranian ambassador in Lebanon during the Pagers explosion, the defensive missile operation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was launched on Tuesday, October 10th, 2024.

Unlike the Zionist regime,



targeting the civilians and civil infrastructures, according to the principles of morality and Islamic principles and in full compliance with the principle of distinction in international humanitarian law, Iran targeted military and security bases that are responsible for the genocide in Gaza and Lebanon. Based on the objectives of the operation, more than 90% of the designated targets were successfully hit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran never intends to invade another country and seeks for the regional and global peace and stability, still remains serious in implementing the inherent right of legitimate defence against any aggression.

Iran's operation is now ended, unless the Israeli regime continues its aggression in violation of Iran's sovereignty or any other dangerous adventurism.

In this case, Iran's response will prove even stronger.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will give a decisive and strong response to any breach of its territory and interests by any aggressor and from any point.

Instead of rhetoric, the US and western supporters of the Zionist regime should stop weaponizing and financially supporting the Israeli regime to prove their claim in preventing a large-scale regional war.

The Zionist regime considers the only way out of the current state of affairs in an all-out regional and international war with the participation of the US. Therefore, the supporters of the regime, especially the US, are now more responsible for preventing a war.

The international community, especially the Islamic countries, while expressly condemning the illegal acts of the Zionist regime, need to fulfil their much delayed duties to end the aggression and genocide by the Israeli regime.

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

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Current                       | Prev. Close            |
| 83,531.95                     | 82,721.76              |
| Day's High                    | Day's Low              |
| 83,605.72                     | 82,594.79              |
| Index Value                   | Change                 |
| 173,692,831                   | +810.19                |
| Percentage                    | Time                   |
| +0.98%                        | 4 Oct, 2024<br>5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value            | Change                  |
| 8,280.63               | -1.89                   |
| Percentage             | Time                    |
| -0.023%                | 4 Oct, 4:35 pm<br>GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                       | Change                  |
| 42,204.40                         | +192.81                 |
| Percentage                        | Time                    |
| +0.46%                            | 4 Oct, 1:16 pm<br>GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                         | Change                  |
| 38,635.62                           | +83.56                  |
| Percentage                          | Time                    |
| +0.22%                              | 4 Oct, 3:15 pm<br>GMT+9 |

**Open Market Forex Rates**

| Currency          | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 190.6  | 192.85  |
| Bahrain Dinar     | 733.18 | 741.18  |
| Canadian Dollar   | 205.5  | 207.9   |
| China Yuan        | 39.6   | 40.00   |
| Danish Krone      | 41.12  | 41.52   |
| Euro              | 305.07 | 307.82  |
| Hong Kong Dollar  | 35.65  | 36      |
| Indian Rupee      | 3.34   | 3.45    |
| Japanese Yen      | 1.92   | 1.98    |
| Kuwaiti Dinar     | 899.85 | 909.35  |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 63.6   | 64.2    |
| New Zealand \$    | 174.21 | 176.21  |
| Norwegians Krone  | 26.26  | 26.56   |
| Omani Riyal       | 717.63 | 726.13  |
| Qatari Riyal      | 76.24  | 76.94   |
| Saudi Riyal       | 73.75  | 74.3    |
| Singapore Dollar  | 215    | 217     |
| Swedish Korona    | 27.15  | 27.46   |
| Swiss Franc       | 327    | 328.9   |
| Thai Bhat         | 8.56   | 8.71    |
| U.A.E Dirham      | 75.45  | 76.10   |
| UK Pound Sterling | 365.3  | 368.8   |
| US Dollar         | 278.3  | 278.8   |

# World Investor Week 2024 marked at PSX with a gong ceremony

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), under the aegis of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), of which PSX is an Affiliate Exchange, in partnership with International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO), marked World Investor Week (WIW) 2024 through a gong ceremony held at PSX Trading Hall. The WIW with the theme of 'Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy' is being held from October 7 - 13, 2024. This is the fourth consecutive year that PSX is holding and organising the World Investor Week.

The participants of the gong ceremony included representatives from the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), SROs, securities brokers, asset management companies, and Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA) among others. The hosts included Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX; Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX; Board member(s) PSX and senior management of PSX. The week-long activities in World Investor Week will be focused on promoting financial literacy and to raise awareness about investor education and protection. This is an ongoing effort by the capital market to encourage financial inclusion and foster learning opportunities for investors.

The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, Mr.



Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, amidst the presence of the PSX Chairperson, Board member(s) and Acting CEO. Senior management of PSX, heads of leading brokerage houses and AMCs, were also present to officially mark the week-long World Investor Week and to open the trading day.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman

SECP, stated, "PSX's unwavering commitment to improving outreach and enhancing financial literacy in the country is laudable. Promoting awareness about the financial landscape is a continuous journey, because just like the evolution of financial markets, ongoing efforts are needed to equip investors to make well-informed decisions, and navigate the complex-

ities of today's financial markets".

Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX, in his welcome address, thanked the SECP Chairman for gracing the occasion with his presence. He gave an example of the 'Sahulat Account' facility and how easy it was now to open an investment trading account online in just a few minutes. After selecting a stockbroker and online transfer of funds, the prospective investor could start investing within a few hours.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX, stated, "Pakistan Stock Exchange marks the World Investor Week each year in recognition of the importance of financial literacy for the public in general and for investors and stakeholders of the capital market in particular.

More than 15,000 members of the general public including students, corporate employees and others from a broad spectrum of society were educated on basics of financial literacy in the last fiscal year through in-person sessions & workshops. In addition to our on-ground efforts, we also reach out through digital platforms whereby PSX regularly conducts webinars in collaboration with brokers, mutual fund companies and other key institutions to generate awareness about savings and investment. The objective is to raise the country's savings rate and deploy those savings into productive sectors".

## Inauguration

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah along with Foreign delegates inaugurates the Pakistan First 2 days International Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Awards (UAE) has been organized by Ministry of National Food Security at Expo Center on Friday.



## Malaysian PM visit will boost more economic ties: Azim Qureshi

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Convenor Global Tourism Hospitality Investment Forum & MD Legend Hotels and Resorts Mr Azeem Qureshi welcomed the first visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan and expressed the hope that on the occasion of his visit to Pakistan, new avenues of deep fraternal friendly relations will be opened between the two countries. He said that bilateral mutual relations will get a boost and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is trying his best to bring the country to economic development and under his leadership, work is going on innumerable projects of infrastructure and national development.



Azeem Qureshi said that the visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan will increase the economic ties between the two countries and in the form of economic development projects, new opportunities for business development will be opened for the people and commercial institutions of both countries.

## Visit of Malaysian PM to Pakistan will promote mutual trade: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister to Pakistan will promote mutual trade, bilateral economic cooperation, trade,

Agreement to enhance cooperation in key sectors and address trade imbalances is welcome. There is a lot of scope for investments and joint ventures in this sector to meet Pakistan's growing energy needs.

In addition, discussions are expected to increase investment and collaboration in transport links and digital infrastructure to boost trade and tourism.

Federation President Atif Ikram said that



there is a lot of potential to promote cooperation in the field of agriculture between

Malaysia and Pakistan. Both the countries can share their experience and skills in this sector which can boost exports. Through bilateral cooperation and common goals, both countries can benefit not only their economies but also the entire Muslim world.

Atif Ikram Sheikh added that the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim reflects the commitment to deepen the partnership between the two countries. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's proposal to increase the export of halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia to \$200 million annually is feasible as the halal industry is an important sector for both countries with vast opportunities for cooperation, especially certification. Cooperation can be promoted in the areas of standardization and access to new markets.

## Waqas Ahmad, CEO, PQFTL Elected as Member, Executive Committee of IAP

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), a leading provider of Family Takaful solutions and part of Pak-Qatar Group, is pleased to announce that their Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Waqas Ahmad, has been elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Insurance Association of Pakistan (IAP) for the year 2024-26.

This appointment marks a significant milestone for the Takaful industry in Pakistan, as it provides a platform for greater representation and growth opportunities within the insurance sector.

Mr. Ahmad's election to this prestigious position reflects his extensive experience and expertise in the Takaful and insurance industry, spanning over three decades.

Mr. Waqas Ahmad expressed his enthusiasm about the new role, stating, "I am honoured to represent Pak-Qatar Family Takaful and the wider Takaful industry on the IAP Executive Committee. This position will allow us to contribute meaningfully to the development and promotion of Shariah-compliant Takaful solutions in Pakistan that are technologically driven, innovative and are customer focused."

## LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad Prioritizes expertise for Standing Committee chairmen's slots

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Mian Abuzar Shad, has announced a significant shift in the appointment of chairmen for the chamber's standing committees. Going forward, these critical positions will be assigned to traders and industrialists who possess deep expertise in their respective fields. This move is aimed at ensuring that the Lahore business community can benefit from their knowledge and experience, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of these committees.

Talking to media, Mian Abuzar Shad highlighted the need for a more merit-based approach in appointing chairmen, a practice he said had been neglected in the past. "In previous years, the allocation of chairmanships was often driven by nepotism," Shad



remarked. "This unfortunate trend not only undermined the purpose of the standing committees but also deprived the business community of the benefits these committees could bring in solving industry-related issues."

The Lahore business community has welcomed this decision, hoping that the



The Director Marketing, Zaheer Ahmad is presenting Catalog to President of LCCI Mian Abuzar Shad during the inauguration of PEEC Exhibition and Conference at Expo Center, Lahore.

move will yield tangible benefits for the industry, helping businesses address their issues more efficiently and promote sustainable economic growth.

## SECP issues warning against fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In view of increasing number of complaints related to fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups operating under the guise of investment training courses, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued an alert, warning the public to be wary of any such investment-related schemes.

It has been observed that these groups are impersonating well-known local and international business personalities or reputable international financial companies to deceive the general public. The operators/

handlers of these groups are charging fees from individuals to grant them membership, promising exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments.

SECP urges the public to exercise extreme caution and verify the authenticity of any investment-related schemes before making any payments. In addition, SECP would like to advise the public not to share any personal or financial information with these unverified sources, as it could result in significant financial loss. Public is advised that if they encounter any such deceptive practices, they should immediately report it to SECP via the official contact channels.

## CDNS attains Rs 205 billion mark in annual savings target

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 205 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 11 percent of the annual target in the first quarter of current fiscal year, from July 1 to October 4.

The CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Friday.

Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth of the Islamic economy in the country.

Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30.

National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target."

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote a savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.

The official said that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds. Replying to a question; he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector.

# Pakistan stun Sri Lanka to kick off Women's T20 World Cup with a win

A Sports

SHARJAH: Fatima Sana's 30-run cameo, coupled with tight bowling propelled Pakistan to down Sri Lanka by 31 runs in the second match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Set to chase a modest 117, Sri Lanka's strong batting lineup faltered and only managed 85/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

The Asian champions had a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost their in-form skipper Chamari Athapaththu (6) in the third over with just nine runs on the board.

Opening batter Vishmi Gunaratne then joined forces with Harshitha Samarawickrama to launch a recovery but Omaira Sohail unsettled Sri Lanka with two wickets in her successive overs.

Gunaratne lamented support from the other end before finally perishing in the 13th over, leaving Sri Lanka in tatters at 52/5. She scored 20 off 34 deliveries, hitting one boundary in the process.

Nilakshika Silva then offered some fight with her gritty 22-run knock and remained the top-scorer for Sri Lanka.

Besides Gunaratne and Silva, none



of the Sri Lankan batters could make it into the double figures.

Sadia Iqbal was the standout bowler of Pakistan, picking up three wickets, followed by Fatima Sana, Nashra Sandhu and Omaira Sohail, who bagged two each.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan's batting unit struggled against a spin-laden Sri Lanka bowling attack and was unfolded on the final delivery of the innings.

The Green Shirts had a dismal start

to their innings as Kumari dismissed both their openers Gull Feroza (2) and Muneeba Ali (11) inside four overs with just 17 runs on the board.

Sri Lanka captain Athapaththu added further to the misery of Pakistan as she removed experienced Sidra Amin in the sixth over of the innings. The right-handed batter managed 12 off 10 deliveries with the help of one boundary.

Youngster Omaira Sohail was then joined by seasoned all-rounder Nida

Dar. The duo forged a cautious 25-run partnership for the fourth wicket until Omaira fell victim to Kavisha Dilhari in the 10th over.

Omaira scored a scratchy 18 off 19 deliveries, laced up with a four.

Dar then put on a brief partnership with Tuba Hassan (5) before both perished in quick succession. The former captain smashed a six on her way to a 22-ball 23.

Pakistan soon slipped further to 84/8 in 14.5 overs as Aliya Riaz (0) and Diana Baig (2) were dismissed cheaply.

When it seemed a difficult ask for the Green Shirts to breach the 100-run barrier, Fatima Sana stood up for her team and knitted a one-sided partnership with Nashra Sandu (6\*) to give a late push to her side's total.

The Pakistan captain top-scored with a 20-ball 30, laced up with three fours and a six, before walking back to the dugout in the final over.

For Sri Lanka, Athapaththu, Kumari and Udeshika Prabodhani claimed three wickets each, while Kavisha Dilhari made one scalp.

Earlier today, Bangladesh defended a low total to edge past Scotland in the opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

## 'Not a proactive leader like Imran Khan': Former England cricketer criticizes Shan Masood's captaincy

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Former England cricketer and commentator David Lloyd has raised questions over the leadership capabilities of Pakistan's Test captain Shan Masood, drawing parallels with legendary captains such as Imran Khan.

During an interview with a local sports platform, Lloyd opened up about Shan's captaincy and shared his doubts about the leadership potential of the Pakistan captain.

"Shan Masood is a really nice guy but he is a reactive captain, not a proactive captain," Lloyd stated.



"I think you've got to have a bit of an edge to you like [Pakistan's former captains] Imran Khan and Javed Miandad. And Inzamam-ul-Haq, Wasim Akram or Mishah-ul-Haq. "Now I'm not sure if Shan

Masood has got that because I have seen his captaincy for Yorkshire. And I think he is a little bit behind the pace."

Lloyd emphasized the challenge posed by the Ben Stokes-led England, which plays the aggressive style of

cricket. He suggested that it is important for Shan to be proactive in order to effectively deal with the threat posed by the Bazball style of play.

"Playing against Bazball you have to be proactive because Stokes would try to push them back and you should be proactive," he added.

It's worth noting that the upcoming three-match Test series against England will be Shan Masood's third assignment as Pakistan captain. In his last two series, Pakistan suffered heavy defeats, being white-washed by Australia and Bangladesh.

## Jinnah CC, Paposh Nagar Triumph in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century by Jilab Sheikh 104.

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

**Scores in Brief:**

Jinnah Cricket Club beat Silwat Gymkhana by 153 runs at Afza Ground. Jinnah CC 304/8 in 40 overs. Jilab Sheikh 104 with the help of 10 fours and 5 Sixes, Raees Khan 81 3x4 6x6, Sheharyar Jadoon 34, Ghalib Masood 21. Awais Ali 2/44, Daniyal Bilal 2/46, Kashif Rafiq 2/52.

Silwat Gymkhana 156 all out in 25.5 overs. Saifullah 49 6x4 1x6, Daniyal Bilal 47 1x4 6x6, Hanain Gulzar 26. Touseef Akbar (sla) 5/35, Ammar Saleem (ob) 3/23.

In the 2nd Match Paposh Nagar Cricket Club beat Khudadad Gymkhana by 84 runs at Asghar Ali Shah Stadium. Paposh Nagar CC 251/9 in 40 overs.

## 10th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament



Opening Day of 10th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament going on at DHA Raya Golf and Country Club Lahore from 4 Oct to 6 Oct 24, See in pictures

## England team started the regular net practice session for the Test series against Pakistan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The England team started the regular net practice session for the Test series against Pakistan after two consecutive days of rest in Multan. Strict security arrangements were made during the transportation of the English team from Romenza DHA to Multan Stadium.

After reaching the Multan Stadium at 10 am, the English cricketers relaxed themselves in the dressing room for some time before the net practice session. Batting and bowling as well as catching and fielding were also given special attention in the net session. The heat factor was also prominent during the net practice session which lasted for more or less three hours and ice cubes and water towels were used to combat it.

England cricket team's opener batsman Zak Crawley while addressing the press conference in Multan Cricket Stadium. He said that Multan Cricket Stadium is very beautiful while the weather of Multan is hot but all the England cricket team are enjoying the weather of Multan.

He said that Pakistan cricket team is the best team in the world. On October 7, the first Test cricket match is being played in Multan, in which the England team will perform well in bowling and batting as well as fielding. While England's batting and bowling are also strong.

I hope the cricket fans will get to see the best cricket in the three Test matches.

## German hockey team to visit Pakistan in Feb

Tahir Amin Makik

LAHORE: Making joint efforts for the revival of hockey in the country, Sports Board Punjab and Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy have announced to host German hockey team for a series of hockey matches in February next year.

In this regard, Head of Communication Cultural Affairs and Protocol German Embassy in Islamabad Jan Gerlad Krasusser visited the National Hockey Stadium to review the arrangements and facilities thoroughly on Friday.

DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal and Olympian Khawaja Junaid warmly received the distinguished guest and gave him a detailed briefing about the existing facilities at the National Hockey Stadium and arrangements for the above mentioned hockey matches. The German official expressed his satisfaction on the top class facilities.



Talking on this occasion, DG Sports Punjab said that the organization of hockey matches between Pakistan and German teams at the National Hockey

Stadium will be a major development and the prime objective of this series will be development and revival of game of hockey among the young generation.

He further said that the visit of German teams to Pakistan will help a lot in developing the hockey culture in the country. "Sports Board Punjab will provide all possible facilities for the successful holding of hockey matches between Pakistan and German teams at the National Hockey Stadium in February," he added.

Jan Gerlad Krasusser highly praised the National Hockey Stadium saying that he is delighted to visit the world's largest hockey stadium. "Pakistan has a very prominent and respectable position in international hockey. Germany and Pakistan have deep hockey ties," he acknowledged.

Olympian Khawaja Junaid on this occasion said that the visit of German teams to Pakistan is very important for the future of our hockey. "We are quite upbeat that there will be a great hockey series with Germany in February," he added. Later, Pervez Iqbal also presented a souvenir to Jan Gerlad Krasusser.

## New Zealand crush India to kick off Women's T20 World Cup with a win

A Sports

DUBAI: Sophie Devine played a quick-fire 57-run knock, while Rosemary Mair claimed four wickets to propel New Zealand to a thumping 58-run victory over India in the fourth match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 here on Friday.

Set to chase 161, India were bundled for a meagre 102 in 19 overs with captain Harmanpreet Kaur top-scoring with 15.

India failed to get a desired start to their chase as they slipped to 28-2 in 4.4 overs with both openers falling prey to Eden Carson.

Harmanpreet Kaur took 14 balls to

score 15 runs before she became Rosemary Mair's first wicket.

Lea Tahuhu then bowled a brilliant spell taking two wickets in consecutive overs to leave India reeling at 70-5 in 11 overs.

With 91 required from nine overs, Indian batters crumbled under the pressure of the required run-rate and bundled for 102 in 19 overs. The last five wickets fell for only 32 runs.

Rosemary Mair took the last two wickets in the same over to end the Indian innings and complete her four-wicket haul. Meanwhile, Lea Tahuhu bagged three wickets.

New Zealand opted to bat first after winning the toss and got off to a flying

start courtesy of a 67-run opening stand between Suzie Bates and Georgia Plimmer in 7.4 overs.

However, the White Ferns faced a double setback as both opening batters departed in a span of four balls.

Bates fell prey to Arundhati Reddy after scoring 27 off 24, while Plimmer scored a quick 34 from 23 balls, laced with three boundaries and one six before Asha Sobhana dismissed her.

Amelia Kerr then played a scratchy innings of 13 runs from 22 balls during a 33-run stand for the third wicket with captain Sophie Devine.

Brooke Halliday (16) joined Devine after Kerr's dismissal and together they added 46 runs from 26 balls for the



fourth wicket to lift the team's total to 145 before Renuka Singh removed the former.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, meets with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, today in Islamabad ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier Mr. Li Qiang on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Ahsan Iqbal, Chinese Ambassador discuss strategic initiatives

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Friday discussed key strategic initiatives between the two countries, with a focus on the upcoming visit of the Chinese premier.

The discussion was held during a call on meeting of the ambassador with the minister ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, marking a significant milestone in China-Pakistan

relations after 11 years.

Both the dignitaries emphasized that the visit presented a strategic opportunity to further deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve meaningful outcomes. To ensure the success of the visit, they agreed to establish a dedicated working group that would focus specifically on aligning and maximizing the outcomes of Premier Li's visit.

During the discussion, Minister Ahsan Iqbal praised China's unwavering support in Pakistan's development journey, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and industrialization. He highlighted the strategic

importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic revival and regional connectivity.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to providing all necessary facilitation to ensure the smooth execution of ongoing projects.

He also stressed that Pakistan remained focused on overcoming economic challenges through long-term partnerships that promote inclusive growth.

He assured the ambassador that any obstacles impeding the progress of critical projects would be addressed on a

priority basis to ensure their timely completion.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong expressed his satisfaction with Pakistan's economic growth, policy continuity, business environment, and security.

He praised the progress made under the current government. "Pakistan's GDP grew from 0.9% last fiscal year to 2.8% this year, and we foresee it reaching 3.2% in the upcoming fiscal year."

"The improvement in foreign exchange reserves is also a positive sign for Pakistan's economy. These are remarkable achievements under the leadership of

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his cabinet," the ambassador stated.

He also acknowledged Minister Ahsan Iqbal for his continuous support, hardship and dedication towards advancing CPEC.

Both the dignitaries recognized the significant progress made on the initiatives and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring their timely completion. They shared a common vision for the future, emphasizing the importance of long-term, sustainable cooperation that would benefit both nations.

## Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO summit

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar would visit Pakistan on October 15 for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, the Indian foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

"The external affairs minister will lead a delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO Summit which will be held on October 15 and 16," Randhir Jaiswal said at a weekly press briefing.

The SCO, which includes India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan,

is a significant economic and security bloc that has become one of the largest trans-regional international organizations.

Within this important regional framework, both Pakistan and India have the opportunity to participate in summit meetings.

It will be the first trip by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly a decade.

Earlier, the Foreign Office confirmed that Prime Minister Modi had been invited to the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, which Pakistan is hosting later this month, under its rotating chairmanship.



"The agenda of the visit is the SCO summit," government spokesman Randhir Jaiswal told a news conference, adding that there "should not be any thought" about any other takeaways related to the two

countries' ties.

The bloc claims to represent 40 percent of the world's population and about 30 percent of its GDP, but its members have diverse political systems and even open

disagreements with one another.

Former foreign minister Bhutto Zardari was in Goa last year—also a rare visit—for an SCO meeting where he and Jaishankar were involved in a verbal spat.

The two did not hold a one-on-one meeting.

India's decision to attend the summit is "undoubtedly motivated more by (its) commitment to the SCO than to a desire to move the needle forward on relations with Pakistan", Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Washington-based Wilson Center, told AFP.

## These roads are closed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi today

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The City Traffic Police of Rawalpindi has issued an advisory regarding road closures in various areas.

The closed roads include Faizabad, Murree Road, and Faiz-e-Islam with Stadium Road and Double Road.

Furthermore, Chandni Chowk, C Block, DAV College Chowk, Marir Chowk, Haider Road, Khanna Pul, Sahi Chowk, Naz Cinema, Kohati Bazaar Mor, Liaquat Bagh, T Chowk, Khayaban Sir Syed Road, Carriage Factory, 26 Number

Chungi and Chairing Cross with Dhaman Syedan are the key routes affected in Rawalpindi.

However, the Chak Beli Mor, Mandra, Missa Kaswal, and

GT Road are closed for traffic, according to the traffic police.

Additionally, the Daultala Mor is closed for traffic, as stated by the police.



## Lahore entry-exit points blocked due to Islamabad protests

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: In response to ongoing protests in Islamabad, authorities have implemented significant restrictions on external routes leading into Lahore.

Key access points, including the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway (M11) and Thokar Niaz Beg Interchange, have been blocked with containers, causing considerable difficulties for travelers.

As residents attempt to make their way to Islamabad, they are encountering severe disruptions. A heavy police presence, including water cannons and prisoner transport vans, has been deployed to maintain order in the affected areas.

Traffic congestion on GT Road has further exacerbated the situation, leaving many commuters frustrated and delayed.

At the Thokar Niaz Beg interchange, no vehicles are being permitted to enter the motorway, while similar restrictions are in place on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway. The Babu Sabu interchange has also seen the arrival of water cannons, containers, and additional police forces to manage the situation. Authorities are urging travelers to plan their routes accordingly and remain updated on the evolving circumstances.

## Russian deputy chief of general staff calls on CJCSC



## City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Col General Sergey Yuravich Istrakov, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation who is on an official visit to Pakistan, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, both sides

expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

## Russia to accept mandarins and rice in place of cash in trade with Pakistan

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid ongoing payment difficulties due to Western sanctions, Russia has initiated a barter trade agreement with Pakistan involving various agricultural goods.

This new system, established at the first Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum in Moscow, allows for the exchange of goods without monetary transactions.

According to The Moscow Times, the Russian company Astarta-Agro-trading will export 20,000 tons of chickpeas to Pakistan in exchange for an equivalent amount of rice, along with additional supplies of mandarins and potatoes. This barter arrangement is a response to "difficulties with mutual payments," according to Pakistan's Deputy Commerce Minister Nasir Hamid.



This arrangement comes in response to "difficulties with mutual payments," according to Pakistan's Deputy Commerce Minister Nasir Hamid.

As monetary transactions face heightened scrutiny due to sanctions imposed after the invasion of Ukraine, barter agreements provide a means to bypass these challenges. Previous attempts at barter trade, particularly with China, have been slow to develop.

## Internet, mobile services suspended ahead of PTI protest



## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The internet and mobile network services have been suspended across several cities of Pakistan including Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

As per details, the services have been suspended in several parts of the twin cities ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest call at the infamous D-chowk Islamabad.

Sources revealed that the internet service is disrupted in Karachi as well where netizens are facing issues in using social media apps.

Earlier today, the Punjab government deployed Rangers personnel in four cities of the province after invoking Section 144 to ban political gatherings, protests and rallies.

Section 144 has been slapped in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Attock, and

Sargodha. In addition, Rangers have been called in to assist in maintaining law and order.

In Lahore, the Punjab government has requested the services of three companies of Rangers specifically for the 5th of October.

Section 144 will remain in effect for three days in Rawalpindi, Attock, and Sargodha from Friday, October 4 (today), to Sunday, October 6.

The decision to impose the restrictions and deploy Rangers was made based on recommendations from the district administration.

Separately, in response to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI's) call for a protest, the Islamabad police have 'formed' seven teams to arrest protesters.

According to the sources, the special police team will consist of 15 to 17 policemen and officers each.

## At least 30 arrested as police fired tear gas to disperse PTI protesters

Continued from Page 1

verdict, as well as to "save the Constitution". Ahead of its rallies in Islamabad and Lahore earlier this month, the government had issued a set of strict guidelines, which the PTI failed to follow fully, sparking clashes between its workers and the authorities.

The PTI today shared updates of its caravans departing various cities, despite being warned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day ago not

to hold any rally in Islamabad due to several high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries.

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl Maulana Fazlur Rehman, with whom the PTI has been in frequent amicable contact recently, has also urged the party to postpone its planned gatherings till the foreigners have left.

The police have blocked all entry and points to the cities and tear gas shelling has also begun in an attempt to disperse protesters.