



**AI to make big difference in next 35 years: Khalid Maqbool**

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday underlined the need of Artificial Intelligence, stating that it is going to make a big difference in the next 35 years. While addressing the 'Space Week 2024' opening ceremony held at Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F/6-2, he said the fear is that a billion people will become irrelevant with arrival of artificial intelligence.



**Pakistan asks Afghanistan to fix own domestic issues instead of lecturing others**

Pakistan on Monday rejected a statement by the Afghan foreign ministry regarding the political situation in the country, asking the Afghan Interim Government to focus on fixing its own domestic problems instead of lecturing a democratic country. A spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said tension between the government and opposition party workers was brewing in Pakistan, which may have negative impact on the entire region.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Solidarity with Palestine**

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Conference (APC) on Palestine and Gaza held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.



Photo: PID

**APC on Palestine**

**Pakistan urges immediate ceasefire in Palestine, calls for end to Gaza bloodshed**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan once again denounced Israel's violation of international laws in Palestine and reiterated its demand for an immediate ceasefire and end to aggression in Gaza. An All-Parties Conference (APC) on Palestine convened by Pakistan government was held at the President's House and attended by President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and representatives of all major political parties except Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). According to a declaration issued after the meeting, the APC maintained that Israel is violating international laws and carrying

out war crimes against the innocent Palestinians. The declaration reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital. The APC also vowed to continue providing humanitarian aid to Palestine and Lebanon. **President Zardari** In his inaugural speech at the Conference, President Asif Ali Zardari said it has been one year since the start of brutal Israel's aggression on Palestine, which has resulted in the death of more than forty thousand eight hundred Palestinians. The president said Pakistan is deeply concerned over the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East and strongly condemns the

Israeli barbarism and aggression against Palestinians as well as the assassination of top leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah. He said we stand in the solidarity with the people of Lebanon and Palestine. **President Zardari** said it is regrettable that the international community has failed to stop Israel from committing its ongoing genocide in Palestine especially in Gaza. He said the prevailing culture of impunity and disregard of international law must be addressed urgently. **PM Shehbaz** Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif vowed to take decisive action to stop the bloodshed in Palestine, emphasising that it's Pakistan's foremost duty to end the violence

He condemned the Israeli aggression, highlighting the devastating impact on Palestinian civilians, including 42,000 martyrs and countless orphaned children. The prime minister said that a working group to coordinate efforts would be formed, adding that diplomatic experts to key countries would be sent other countries for raising awareness and mobilise support for Palestine. **PM Shehbaz** urged the international community to awaken its conscience and take notice of the Palestinian people's suffering, questioning whether the voices of Palestinian children are not reaching the global conscience. **Hafiz Naeem** Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz

Naeem-ur-Rehman said that Israel is carrying out genocide in Palestine. He said that occupied Israeli forces are committing worst atrocities against the humanity. **Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman** said we have to take a very clear stance on the Israeli brutalities against innocent Palestinians. He said it is also responsibility of the international community to play its role in stopping the Israeli brutalities in Palestine. He proposed to convene a meeting of the Islamic countries to adopt a common stance in this regard. He said Pakistan should play a proactive role to launch a diplomatic campaign to highlight this issue at the world fora. *Continued on Page 8*

**Karachi Attack**

**Identities of killed Chinese nationals revealed, investigation shows how attack happened**



**APP**

The three Chinese nationals who were killed in the blast near Karachi Airport on Sunday have been identified. At least 17 people were injured in the incident as well. The three Chinese nationals have been identified as Li Jun, Wu Chun Zhin and Li Zhiao. The blast, which occurred on the road leading from the airport to Model Colony, was so intense that its sound was heard in Defense, Karimabad, and Jamshed Road. According to the Chinese Embassy, the Chinese nationals were travelling in a convoy from Port Qasim. The initial blast ignited an oil tanker, which in turn set several nearby vehicles ablaze. Two police vehicles were also damaged. The fire spread to trees, engulfing the area in smoke. Authorities have confirmed that airport facilities remain intact. A bomb disposal squad has been deployed, and evidence is being collected. Shockwaves from the explosion were felt several kilometres away in Defence and

Gulshan-e-Hadeed. A great cloud of smoke billowed out of the oil tanker hovering next to the airport. According to police reports, four rickshaws, three cars, and a jeep were destroyed in the fire. All roads leading to the airport have been temporarily closed. CCTV footage of the incident has emerged, showing a massive explosion. Sindh Interior Minister Zia ul Hassan Lanjar has confirmed that the incident was a terrorist attack targeting a vehicle carrying foreign nationals. He stated that the blast occurred after the vehicle carrying the foreign nationals had passed. While initial reports suggest the use of an improvised explosive device (IED), investigations are ongoing. Sindh's Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has taken notice of the incident and has requested a report from the Interior Minister and the Inspector General of Police. He has instructed the police to maintain access to and from the airport and ordered a thorough investigation into all aspects of the incident.

**Interior Minister expresses solidarity with China following Karachi blast**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy on Monday to meet with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to express deep sorrow over the tragic death of two Chinese nationals in the Karachi explosion. During the meeting, Minister Naqvi conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and assured the Chinese ambassador of Pakistan's solidarity with the government and people of China. He briefed Ambassador Jiang on the details of the incident and the progress in the ongoing investigation. "We stand united with the Chinese government and the bereaved families in this difficult time," said Naqvi, empha-

sizing that the entire Pakistani nation shares in the grief of their Chinese brothers. He vowed that comprehensive investigations would be conducted that those responsible for the heinous attack are brought to justice. Naqvi termed the incident an intolerable attempt to damage the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship, calling it a cowardly conspiracy. He reiterated that such acts would not succeed and that Pakistan's top priority is the safety of Chinese citizens working for the country's development. "This was not just an attack on Chinese nationals but an attack on Pakistan itself," Naqvi declared, promising a strong response to the perpetrators.

**Pakistan says attackers will be brought to justice**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack near Karachi airport took place on Sunday night killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, and assured to bring the perpetrators to justice. "This deplorable act of terrorism is an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China...We remain resolute in bringing to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the Majeed Brigade," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that Pakistan's security and law enforcement agencies would spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators.

"This barbaric act will not go unpunished," she assured. The spokesperson extended deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani, and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. She said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese Embassy for coordination and facilitation. She said that Pakistan and China were close partners and iron-brothers, united by a bond of mutual respect and shared destiny. "Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in Pakistan, and will continue to work hand in hand with our Chinese brothers to defeat the forces of terror," the spokesperson reiterated.

**Life returns to normal in Islamabad after 4 days**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Life in Islamabad has returned to normal four days after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests at D-Chowk brought the city to a standstill. Containers that had blocked roads and bridges have been removed and placed on the roadside. Public transportation has resumed its regular routes, although the Islamabad Metro Bus service remains partially suspended, while the Rawalpindi service has been restored. Roads and thoroughfares in Islamabad, closed since October 3 due to the PTI protest, have reopened. Containers obstructing major arteries in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been cleared after four days. Government offices, private businesses, and schools have reopened. Traffic is flowing freely on major roads, including Jinnah Avenue, Express Highway,



Srinagar Highway, and Faizabad. However, the Red Zone remains closed at Serena Chowk, Nadra Chowk, and D-Chowk. Government employees and citizens are using Margalla Road as an alternative route. The Islamabad Metro Bus service is still partially suspended, although the service in Rawalpindi has been fully restored. Authorities report that the Rawalpindi Metro Bus service has resumed operations from the main station to Faizabad, but remains suspended from Faizabad to the Pakistan Secretariat. Sources indicate that the suspension was ordered by the district administration.

**Israel says it intercepts missile fired from Yemen**

**Reuters**

GAZA: A surface-to-surface missile fired from Yemen at central Israel on Monday was intercepted, the Israeli military said. The missile set off air raid sirens across large swaths of central Israel, sending residents running for shelter. "Following the sirens that sounded in a number of areas in central Israel, the surface-to-surface missile fired from Yemen was successfully intercepted" by the Israeli Air Force, the military said in a statement. The statement did not say who fired the missile. The Iran-backed Houthi movement which controls northern Yemen has frequently attacked Israel over the past year in what it says is solidarity with the Palestinians.

# Govt taking steps to mitigate the effects of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005: AJK Minister

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Dewan Ali Khan Chagatai and Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah have said that facilities like cheap electricity and cheap flour are available only in Azad Kashmir. The current government is taking steps to mitigate the effects of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005. Phased press conferences are being held to close the communication gap. The education policy has been approved. The Government of Azad Kashmir in collaboration with UNICEF is going to organize the launch of the education policy in Islamabad. Quota is being determined for the appointment of special persons. Steps will also be taken to eliminate missing facilities in girls'

schools with funds of 7.5 crores to eliminate problems in health and education. They want to solve the problems through negotiations. Government is taking steps for public welfare. Since the earthquake of October 8, 2005, the government has been raising issues at relevant forums in the federation to address the lack of funds related to the reconstruction of incomplete projects, the positive results of which will be seen soon. These views were expressed by Government Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai and Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah during a press conference at PID Complex Muzaffarabad. Information Secretary Ansar Yaqub Khan was also present on this occasion. Minister of Elementary and Secondary Education Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai said that it is a welcome thing that the educa-

tion policy has been approved. After the 18th amendment, Azad Kashmir is the only region where education policy has been formulated. Education policy of Azad Kashmir has been highly appreciated by UNICEF. Dead projects have been revived by this government. Adhering to the ideology of Akbarin. Ready to negotiate with the public action committee on all issues. Matters will be heard and settled within the constitution of Azad Kashmir. Unjustified chaos outside Azad Kashmir is not acceptable in any way. Soon IRA will complete the unfinished projects of Sierra, in this context, the Prime Minister is raising the issues of Azad Kashmir in the relevant forums. Awami Action Committee's major demands like cheap flour and cheap electricity have been accepted.



## Condolence

KARACHI Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah records his condolences for the two Chinese nationals killed in the blast near the airport in the condolence book at the Chinese Consulate. Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, and Chinese Consul General Mr. Yang Yundong are also present.



## Civil Hospital Hyderabad: Administrative incompetence continues, no action taken – human lives at risk

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The lives of poor and underprivileged patients remain at risk in Civil Hospital Hyderabad due to the negligence and incompetence of inexperienced doctors and untrained staff. Despite repeated reports about the hospital's poor performance, neither the administration nor the Sindh government has taken any concrete action so far. Lack of Facilities Despite Budget: Civil Hospital Hyderabad receives an annual budget of over one billion rupees, yet it lacks basic medical facilities. Serious cases of negligence have emerged, particularly in the ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) department. A recent case where a patient lost his ear due to improper treatment is a glaring example of the hospital's mismanagement, drawing strong public criticism. Urgent Need for Reforms: Experts and social activists warn that if immediate steps are not taken to improve the hospital's conditions, more lives could be at risk. The Sindh government is being urged to take this situation seriously and implement reforms in the healthcare system to ensure quality treatment for patients.



## Sardar Attique says 8th October quake a symbol of determination, sacrifice in Kashmir



MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the day of October 8 is a symbol of determination and illusion along with destruction in Kashmir. When the people of Azad Kashmir set an example of turning disaster into strength. In his message on the occasion of 8th October Earthquake Martyrs' Day, he said that 8th October was a calamity which deprived Azad Kashmir of many talented people. A large number of people were taken out of their homes and brought to the open sky, but on that day the people of Pakistan sacrificed themselves and established living examples of sacrifice. On this occasion, the people of Pakistan created a new history of solidarity, sacrifice and cooperation by helping the victims of the earthquake in every way. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir showed a strong nerve to cope with the fall and turn the destruction into construction. He said that the October 8 earthquake is a lesson for our future generations that human beings are always ready to face challenges.

## Follow Prophet's orders to achieve success in this world and hereafter

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Inner Wheel Club District 340, Rizwana Malik has said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) came as a mercy to both worlds, the Prophet (PBUH) and his teachings are a torch for the Muslim Ummah. is suffering from difficulties, that is why the teachings of Muhammad should be followed in the true sense so that they can achieve success in this world and the hereafter. And follow his orders and achieve success in this world and the hereafter. He expressed these views yesterday while addressing the annual Milad Mustafa celebration. And the whole family has to pay attention to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad SAW. Today we are attracted to the trap laid by the western civilization. As much as possible, we have to follow the path told by the Prophet. We have to make the five-fold prayer and the recitation our own poetry. A large number of officials from other inner-well clubs, all clubs and all groups participated in the ceremony, which threw full light on.

## 15,678 students have applied for Chief Minister Internship Programme: Sial

City Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over an important meeting regarding Punjab Chief Minister Internship Programme at the Punjab Stadium on Monday. The key meeting was attended by Director general Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, Bank of Punjab Chief Digital Officer Nofal Daud, Director Admin M Kaleem, PITB and Bank of Punjab officers. Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that 15,678 students have applied for Chief Minister Internship Programme out of which 12,129 applications have been verified. "Under this programme, Rs 25,000 per month will be given to six thousand grad-



uates for six months," he informed. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that our aim is to prepare the youth for playing an effective role in the development of the country. "58% women have applied for the Chief Minister Internship Program". He said that an MoU regarding the Chief Minister Internship Programme will also be signed between Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab and Bank of Punjab.

## Jamaat-e-Islami holds Palestine Solidarity Day rally in Faisalabad


Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Rally on the occasion of Nationwide Palestine Solidarity Day under the auspices of the Prime Union at Railway Station. Led by Central Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, District Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Prof. Mehboobul-Zaman Butt, Zaheeruddin Babar, Bautahir, Sajid Imran, Basit Shafiq, Babar Nawaz, Abdul Sami. Officials of the Prime Union and railway employees participated in Kirily and raised Palestinian flags and raised slogans in favor of the freedom of Palestine. Speaking on the occasion, Mahbub Az Zaman Butt and Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry said that today the entire



Ummah Muslimah has given a clear message to Israel and its patron America that today the whole world stands with the Palestinians, stop the oppression of the Palestinians. The rulers of Islamic countries act

on the signals of colonialism. In this situation, there are two major challenges in front of the Ummah, one is to fight falsehood and the other is to get rid of its agents. He said that Israel and the people of Palestine are cutting like a carrot, while the rulers of the Muslim Ummah remain silent spectators. The people of Gaza salute the courage and bravery of Gaza. Innocent children are burning in the fire of bombs made by Israel, America, France, Great Britain, Germany, Israeli planes are being bombed and dying, there is still time for the rulers of the Muslim Ummah to step forward and save Gaza. But prayers were made for raising the ranks of Palestinian martyrs.

  
Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:44 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	4:03 pm
Maghrib	5:44 pm
Isha	7:07 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cannt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79

**Shah Salman Relief Center to sign humanitarian aid agreements in Pakistan**

**Staff Report**

ISLAMABAD: Shah Salman Relief Center is set to sign various agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several organizations tomorrow, Tuesday, in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. The event will be attended by the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, alongside Pakistani officials and international and local humanitarian organizations.

The agreements will focus on providing aid and initiating development projects in Pakistan's underprivileged regions, aligning with the center's ongoing relief efforts.

Founded in May 2015 under the guidance of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the center is an international institution dedicated to humanitarian work. It aims to assist the needy and provide disaster relief worldwide through efficient monitoring and swift response mechanisms. The center collaborates with UN agencies and various local and international non-profit organizations to implement its projects.

The relief projects cover a wide range of areas, including food security, camp management, shelter, early recovery, protection, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, health, logistical support, and emergency communications. These programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of beneficiaries and the challenges they face.

**Honoring Teachers**

**NCHD and UNESCO in collaboration with AIOU, and BECS Celebrate World Teachers' Day 2024**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and UNESCO Office in Pakistan, in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), and Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), celebrated World Teachers' Day 2024 at AIOU's Main Auditorium in Islamabad. This year's theme, "Valuing Teachers' Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education," highlighted the essential role teachers play in shaping future generations and building a skilled, educated society. The event honored the dedication and contributions of teachers, particularly in the context of educational reforms and societal progress.

The UNESCO representative Mr. Zafar Hayat Malik delivered a keynote

address on the global importance of World Teachers' Day, emphasizing this year's theme. He emphasized the important role teachers play in promoting participatory democracy and creating a culture of dialogue and engagement in schools, which is vital for shaping the democratic citizens of the future.

AIOU's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood also honored teachers' dedication, applauding their ongoing efforts to educate and empower students and teachers.

The Teachers' Voice Panel Discussion provided a platform for educators to share their insights on the evolving education landscape. Panelists echoed the day's theme, stressing the importance of recognizing and amplifying teachers' voices in policy-making and educational reforms.



The event was graced by the Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani as a chief guest, who in his address praised the teaching community and reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting teachers' welfare and development.

In his closing remarks, the Chief Guest highlighted the profound impact teachers have on students' lives and the need for a robust social contract that upholds the dignity of the teaching profession in Pakistan.

World Teachers' Day, observed globally on October 5, honors teachers and the challenges they face. Through this celebration, Pakistan reiterates its commitment to education and the pivotal role of teachers in human and societal development.

**Protest**

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat Islami Women Wing hold a protest demonstration against Zionist regime on the occasion of the first anniversary of Operation Tufan Al-Aqsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**TMUC Higher Education Group Welcomes Ambassador Masood Khan as its President**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The TMUC Higher Education Group is pleased to announce the appointment of His Excellency Ambassador Masood Khan as its new President, a visionary leader who embodies the spirit of our institution and is committed to fostering educational excellence.

With decades of experience in diplomacy and advocacy, Ambassador Khan brings an unwavering passion for empowering the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and changemakers. His distinguished career culminated in a significant term as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening strategic bilateral ties. The U. S. State Department, in a rare farewell statement, praised him as a skilled diplomat and advocate, highlighting his dedication to fostering progress through persistent diplomacy. Moreover, He has also served as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador



sador to China and Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

Ambassador Khan's legacy in foreign service is marked by his contributions to enhancing Pakistan's standing in the global arena. His extensive experience includes serving as Spokes person for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador to China, among other significant roles. In Geneva and New York, he held leadership positions in the areas of arms control, internal governance, migration, international human-

itarian law, health biosciences, international peace and security, and sustainable development.

"We are pleased to welcome Masood Khan to the TMUC family," said Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Chairman and Founder, TMUC Higher Education Group. "His leadership and vision will be instrumental in guiding our mission to provide high-quality education and expand opportunities for our students. With his profound understanding of global dynamics and commitment to community development, we are confident that Ambassador Khan will elevate TMUC's standing as a premier higher educational institution."

This new chapter marks not only a significant milestone for TMUC but also a bold step towards transforming the educational landscape of Pakistan, ensuring that our youth are equipped with the skills and knowledge to excel on the world stage. We look forward to embarking on this exciting journey under the newly appointed President's guidance.

**SIEHS-1122 teams respond amid chaos, assisting the injured**

**City Desk**

KARACHI: A powerful explosion occurred just outside Jinnah International Airport, causing damage to at least eight vehicles and leaving several people injured. Initial reports suggest that an oil tanker may have exploded, though authorities are still investigating the exact cause of the incident. Sindh Integrated Emergency & Health Services (SIEHS-1122) has promptly mobilized its emergency response, deploying 13 ambulances and 3 mortuary vans to the scene. So far, five victims have been shifted to hospitals, while two others received first aid on-site, bringing the total number of victims assisted to seven.



The SIEHS-1122 teams continue to remain on-site, working with unwavering dedication to manage the situation and provide critical support to those affected. We extend our thoughts to the victims and their families during this challenging time and commend our teams for their swift and professional response.

**Gur Mela to continue at University of Agriculture Faisalabad**



**Correspondent**

FAISALABAD: A three-day Gur Mela has started in Agricultural University, Faisalabad, in which students dressed in cultural clothes set up stalls of various jaggery products, highlighting the colors of the villages, which became the center of attention for the local people. While inaugurating the Gur Mela under the auspices of the Directorate of Farm, Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan said that the nations that leave their culture behind will disappear from the world map. He said that we have to take practical steps to expose the young generation to the great traditions and culture. He said that the ongoing Kisan Mela at University of Agriculture Faisalabad will continue till October 9, in which various competitions are being organized in terms of Kisan Convention, Agricultural Exhibition, Cultural Games and Livestock to promote the atmosphere of competition. At the same time, integrated relationships between farmers and agricultural scientists can also be established. Traditional food including greens, butter, lassi, corn bread, jaggery rice, vegetables, dal, desi ghee products were enjoyed by the fans at the Gur Mela. Director Farm Dr. Shahid Ibn Zameer said that it has been the tradition of the university to continuously organize festivals to highlight the pleasant scenery and atmosphere of the villages. Vice Chancellor of Veterinary University Lahore Dr. Muhammad Younis, Mrs. Sarwat Malik, Principal Officer State Dr. Nadeem Akbar and others were also present on this occasion.

**DFP condemns blasphemous remarks by a Hindu fanatic Yati Narsinghanand**

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks against Prophet Mohammed (SAW) by a Hindu fanatic Yati Narsinghanand in Maharashtra state. Terming Narsinghanand's objectionable remarks as a wicked attempt to hurt the sentiments of the Muslims, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that the derogatory speech reflects Islamophobia and growing hatred against the Muslims in Indian society.

He said that the BJP-RSS nexus, which seeks to convert India into a formal Hindu state, has a history of stoking communal hatred to retain power.

While communal violence has gained traction in Indian society, he said that the hate crimes and hate speeches against the country's Muslim minority by members of the extremist Hindus occurred in greater frequency since Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), came to power in 2014.

These communal policies, he said, have brought Muslims to the brink of genocide in India and Kashmir.

The DFP spokesman, while urging Kashmiri Muslims to hold peaceful protest to express their resentment against this cowardly act, sought a stern action against the Narsinghanand and others who have been involved in this blasphemous act, which he said won't be tolerated by the Muslims who hold the prophet SAW dearer to their lives.

**A skewed tax system leads to significant economic issues: Shahid Rasheed Butt**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that global institutions are supporting Pakistan's economic policies and that the world's perception of Pakistan is changing.

Although Pakistan's economic indicators are improving, he stressed the urgent need to reduce reliance on aid and loans.

He added that different countries that used to avoid Pakistan due to economic and other considerations would soon start bilateral trade and investment in Pakistan.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today

that the economy is stabilising and pushing the country forward while the stock market is booming.

The business leader stated that the country's exports had increased by 14% and that digitizing the FBR is expensive, but it will benefit the economy greatly.

He demanded the completion of talks to privatize Pakistan International Airlines and other state-owned businesses, with the aim of selling these failing enterprises to save billions of rupees.

In Pakistan, the number of filers is increasing, and the time has come to bring untaxed and low-taxed sectors, as well as wealthy individuals, into the tax net.

However, he said, there is an urgent need to broaden the tax net, as the government is



currently spending seventy percent of revenue to pay interest on loans, which is not sustainable.

He emphasized that Pakistan's tax system is ineffective, unfair, fragmented, and leaves out entire sectors of the economy, which exacerbates structural economic imbalances and is a recipe for disaster.

He noted that Pakistan has been unable to expand taxation. Despite several local and donor-supported reform

attempts, the tax-to-GDP ratio continues to hover around 10% of the GDP. The inability to expand tax revenue contributes to significant public service delivery gaps.

In Pakistan, over 20 million people lack access to clean water, nearly one in three people lacks a decent toilet, approximately 40% of children under the age of five experience stunted growth, and more children are not attending school than in India and China, he lamented.

Borrowing cannot improve the situation; therefore, an expanded tax net is necessary. The elites are not prepared to pay taxes, but Pakistan has no other choice, he noted.

Currently, the government is providing power subsidies, lowering the cost of basic goods, and slashing the price

of fuel, offering some respite to the people. However, the scarcity of resources prevents further action.

By skewing the tax system towards import and consumption taxes, Pakistan worsens its structural economic imbalances. Pakistani firms, for example, are more incentivised to sell domestically to a protected market than to compete globally.

He said that the Chief Ministers of all provinces should focus on giving people better health care, schooling, and other services, and avoid useless protests that only harm common people.

Mr. Butt said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting must go as planned, and no one should be allowed to make things worse in the country.

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# Israel's search for a definitive military solution

**Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami**

The question of a possible endgame for Israel to declare victory and then think of a political process in the Middle East is a key one not only for regional states and citizens, but also for the international community. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu envisions a "Greater Israel" without a Palestinian state and he has no political solution for the endless military conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq or Yemen. Netanyahu's dream is based on a security-only approach without any consideration for peace, which remains the main hurdle to integrating Israel into the regional landscape.

The endless occupation of Palestine and perpetual war in the region cannot be a long-term political strategy for Israel. Overall, Israel's strategic considerations in Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen reflect its broader security concerns in the Middle East. The region's volatility, driven by non-state actors like Hezbollah, Iran's influence and the ongoing conflicts in Yemen and Iraq, poses challenges for Israel's national security. In such a complex landscape, Israel's military and political objectives are shaped by its goals of attempting to neutralize threats, secure its borders and maintain its military dominance. Hezbollah has been Israel's primary concern. Israel views Hezbollah's missile arsenal and military infrastructure as a major threat. A key objective is to neutralize Hezbollah's ability to fire rockets into Israel. Tel Aviv is using precision strikes on Hezbollah's weapons depots, rocket launch sites and military installa-

tions. And by targeting Iranian-backed infrastructure and logistics, Israel hopes to reduce Hezbollah's power and undermine Iran's influence in Lebanon.

By eliminating the threat of Hezbollah, Tel Aviv hopes to be in a position to militarily target Iranian territories without risking counterattacks by Hezbollah on its northern border. This is why Israel is keen on ensuring that Hezbollah cannot establish control over areas near the Israeli-Lebanese border. By creating buffer zones and enforcing demilitarized areas, Israel aims to reduce the threat of cross-border attacks. A significantly degraded Hezbollah — militarily and politically — would be a major victory for Israel.

Iraq is a major battleground for competing regional powers, particularly Iran, which exerts significant influence over the country's Shiite militias. These militias, especially those aligned with Iran's Revolutionary Guards, pose a direct threat to Israel. They could be used to facilitate the transfer of weapons or deployed as proxies in a conflict with Israel.

Tel Aviv has reportedly conducted airstrikes on weapons convoys and bases belonging to Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. The goal is to disrupt the flow of weapons, including advanced missile technology, to groups that might be deployed against Israel, particularly in Syria or Lebanon. The land corridor connecting Iran through Iraq to Syria and Lebanon is of strategic importance to Iran. Israel views preventing the consolidation of this corridor as essential to its broader strategy of curbing Iranian influence.

A victory for Israel would include severely limiting the operational capacity of Iraqi Shiite militias that pose a potential threat to its national security. From Isra-

el's perspective, this can only be achieved through a combination of airstrikes, intelligence operations and diplomatic pressure. If Iraq's central government were to shift away from Iranian influence, perhaps through internal political realignments or international pressure, this would represent a significant win for Israel's long-term regional security.

Also, Israel has strategic interests in ensuring that Iran does not gain a foothold in Yemen, as this would pose a threat to its maritime routes and regional allies. Israel's primary concern is that Iran is using Yemen as a base to launch attacks against its territories and that the Houthis are receiving weapons, including advanced missiles, from Iran. Another Israeli objective is to secure the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab Strait. Indeed, controlling this critical maritime chokepoint is vital for Israel's trade and military logistics. A Houthi-controlled Yemen, under Iranian influence, will disrupt shipping routes and pose a threat to Israel's naval operations.

For Israel, favorable outcomes include diminishing Iranian support for the Houthis, limiting their military capabilities and preventing them from destabilizing the region. Israel wants to see Yemen as part of a regional pro-Western alliance. For Israel, victory is likely defined in terms of achieving security and deterrence rather than territorial gains.

Some possible conditions under which Israel might declare victory and move toward a political process include the de-escalation of hostilities. Once the immediate military threats are neutralized, Israel could think about a ceasefire, either unilaterally or through international mediation.

Moreover, Israel could seek greater

international involvement to reinforce the new status quo, ensuring that Hezbollah, Iranian militias or the Houthis are constrained by international agreements. This would limit Tehran's capacity to threaten Israel directly. This is why Israeli military forces are trying to directly strike Iranian territories with US approval.

The end Israeli goal is to target the head of Tehran's regional network of influence. Nevertheless, Israel's mistake is to think that regional proxies and partners of the Islamic Republic are merely puppets of the Iranian supreme leader. In fact, some are local actors that are seeking to achieve their own domestic interests, which also fall within the framework of Tehran's broader objectives.

Israel's potential plans in Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen are interconnected with its broader goal of countering Iranian influence and securing its borders from militant groups. Victory, from an Israeli perspective, involves weakening hostile forces like Hezbollah and Iranian-backed militias, while maintaining control over key security zones. The political process can only begin once Israel achieves a deterrence-based security arrangement; one that curbs Iran's influence and minimizes the military threats from its proxies.

Nevertheless, this Israeli search for a definitive long-term military solution remains the main hurdle to any meaningful political solution to regional conflicts involving Israel, given the high-level regional polarization in the context of the Gaza war.

*Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami is the founder and president of the International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah). He can be reached @ mohalsulami*

## Al-Qaeda, Daesh 'missing' from Gaza as Israel war drags on

As Israel's war on the Gaza Strip rages on, notably absent from the conflict are the notorious extremist groups Al-Qaeda and Daesh. These organizations, historically vocal and active in conflicts involving Islamic nations such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, have remained unusually silent, particularly in terms of ground operations. This lack of involvement, both physically and through their propaganda outlets, raises questions about their current priorities and capabilities.

To comprehend why these groups are missing from the Gaza scene, one must look back at the ideological and strategic goals that guide them in their global operations. While Palestine has often been used as a rallying cry by such extremist movements, it has never truly occupied center stage in the agenda of either Al-Qaeda or Daesh.

One major reason for the current absence of these groups from the conflict is their weakened state. Both Al-Qaeda and Daesh have been severely undermined in recent years.

Al-Qaeda has always focused its efforts on the US and other Western powers, which it refers to as the "far enemy." In more recent times, its presence has mainly been within conflicts in regions like Yemen and West Africa, leaving little room to engage in Gaza.

The issue of liberating Jerusalem has been part of Al-Qaeda's rhetoric since its founding in the 1980s, despite the lack of attacks directed against Israel. Osama bin Laden justified this in 2009 by saying that the organization was unable to penetrate Israeli borders due to regional agreements. Its leadership argues that dismantling regimes seen as collaborators with the West is a prerequisite to any meaningful action in Palestine. Their strategy emphasizes broader global objectives, rendering Palestine more of a symbolic cause rather than a tactical priority.

Daesh, meanwhile, has shown little interest in the Palestinian struggle. Emerging from the shadow of Al-Qaeda, the group centered its efforts on establishing a caliphate in Iraq and Syria. However, after the loss of its so-called caliphate, its efforts have been primarily focused on surviving and regrouping in its remaining territories. Its leadership considers Palestinian factions like Hamas to be compromised by their participation in democratic processes and their focus on nationalistic rather than global objectives. This view has led Daesh to disregard the Palestinian question, sometimes even denouncing factions fighting Israel as apostates, thus rendering action in Palestine to be secondary to other fronts.

It is evident that this detachment is in large part strategic. With their resources stretched thin and leadership fragmented, both organizations have opted to focus on consolidating their existing operations rather than risk further losses by engaging in a high-stakes conflict like Gaza.



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

## Screen yourself for Breast Cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer worldwide and continues to have a large impact on global number of cancer deaths. Each year individuals, communities, and common people show their support for the people who are affected with breast cancer. According to WHO, in every 30 seconds, females are diagnosed with breast cancer somewhere in this world.

In our society, Breast Cancer seems to be a stigma in families in this modern era as well. In spite of all diagnostic and therapeutic facilities, this disease is still common in Pakistan. The females in our society are basically the NUCLEUS of their families around which whole family including husband and kids revolve and take their basic rights. But unluckily, females are ignorant regarding their health status. That is the reason we are facing this deleterious disease in high ratios. It is my request to the males to take care of their ladies and show their concern towards their health especially breast cancer screening so that we may diagnose it early, treat it early and give maximum benefit to the survival of females in our society.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is well known for providing health facilities to the people in Pakistan since 1960. PAEC has now 19 Medical Centers in all over Pakistan in cities Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Larkana, Jamshoro, Quetta, Peshawar, Banu, Dera-Ismael Khan, Abbottabad, Gilgit and Sawat. PAEC is catering almost 80% of the cancer patients from all over Pakistan. Since 1968, MINAR Cancer Hospital is providing health facilities including diagnostic as well as therapeutic for the people of South Punjab.

Although mortality rates due to breast cancer

have been decreasing in the last 50 years, it remains the leading cause of death in women in less developed countries including Pakistan (4% of total mortality) (GLOBOCAN 2020).

There are some notable risk factors related to breast cancers in females including hormonal factors like estrogen exposure, nulliparity, increased age at pregnancy, early menarche, late menopause, genetic risk factors, obesity, radiation exposure, active or passive smoking and night shift work to be a risk factor for breast cancer due to the suppression of nocturnal melatonin production. There are certain protective factors like breast feeding and physical activity. Breast cancer screening recommendations vary depending upon the risk factors and include clinical examination, ultrasound and mammography.

For women between 20 and 40 years old, breast self examination especially for high risk patients, clinical examination is recommended every one to three, or immediately if a patient identifies a suspicious nodule. According to new UK recommendations, screening with mammography seems to be more beneficial on mortality reduction for women between 50 and 69 years old and biannual screening is recommended. The effect in the 40 and 49 year old age group is controversial. Between 40 and 44 years, annual mammogram is an option. Between 45 to 54, annual mammogram is recommended.

From age 55 and older, there is transition to biennial screening or have the opportunity to continue screening annually.

The signs and symptoms of breast cancer include breast mass, axillary (armpit) lymph node mass, skin changes over nipple, areola or breast skin, nipple retraction, breast pain, asthenia, weight loss and if disease is progressed and metastasis occurs then symptoms related to that because this cancer can spread into other

body parts like lungs, liver, bones and brain.

Diagnosis is based on triple assessment like clinical examination, ultrasound breasts and axillae or mammography and FNAC/biopsy. The treatment in breast cancer includes surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy or biological therapy.

In AECH MINAR Multan, the basic facilities for diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer are available including Breast clinic for diagnosis and treatment like chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy under supervision of expert oncologists, experts nursing staff and paramedics, radiotherapy treatment machines including Cobalt and LINAC (the advanced Radiotherapy machine). Facility of Health card treatment, Zakat, MINAR Welfare Society and Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal is available in MINAR Cancer Hospital for the treatment of cancer patients including breast cancer patients.

If anyone of us is diagnosed with this cancer then please don't panic as this disease is treatable with good disease free survival if early detected. Breast Cancer is basically an opportunistic and it will weaken us. So listen to your body and soul and get checked by the concerned doctor.

By about 2040, the burden from breast cancer is predicted to increase to over 3 million new cases and 1 million deaths every year because of population growth and aging alone worldwide.

No doubt AECH MINAR is a blessing in South Punjab for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients including Breast cancer patients. It is the dilemma of our society that females are ignorant of their health. It is a need of time to promote awareness in females for their health. We must remember if we have Early diagnosis, then there will be early treatment and this will lead to better chance of survival.

*Writer is Consultant Clinical Oncologist, MINAR Cancer Hospital, Multan.*

## Improved transport facilities: A boon for Capital commuters

**Abdul Samad**

In recent years, Islamabad has witnessed a transformative upgrade to its public transportation system enhancing the commuting experience for its citizens, especially women.

Spearheaded by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), these changes have introduced a new era of inclusivity, safety and convenience, addressing long-standing mobility and accessibility challenges faced by female commuters.

In a city dominated by private cars, those reliant on public transport—mainly women, students and low-income groups—found themselves disproportionately affected.

Therefore, the introduction of modern bus services, including the Metro Bus and the Green and Blue Line networks, have proved to be game changers. "This also speaks loud of the government's commitment to facilitate women's mobility, with 10 routes designated specifically for female students, teachers and other female travelers from rural to urban areas," she stated.

With operations running from early morning to late afternoon, this service, she said enables women to have safe and accessible transport tailored to their needs. The Capital Development Authority is also adding electric buses to the city's fleet with 30 such buses are already operational on routes connecting major healthcare and educational institutions, with a flat fare of Rs50.

The arrival of an additional fleet of buses, along with ongoing discussions about technology transfer for electric vehicle manufacturing in Pakistan, signals a commitment to creating a sustainable and eco-friendly public transport system.

Huma Rafique, a working woman, expressed her satisfaction with the new electric transport options. "As a working lady, I find the public e-transport not only cheaper but also eco-friendly compared to other modes. I truly appreciate the government's

efforts in launching this mega project," she said.

The improvements in Islamabad's transport infrastructure reflect a broader commitment to inclusive urban planning as the ongoing modernization efforts are not just physical upgrades; but represent a cultural shift toward equal access to public services, empowering women to navigate the city on their own terms. According to Deputy Director General Islamabad Public Transport Wing of CDA, Belarusian Deputy Minister for Industries, Aleksei Kushnarenko in his recent visit to the authority offered full support regarding electric buses in Islamabad.

"It is in line with the CDA's vision for cleaner and more efficient transportation and the CDA has already launched electric buses in the city covering different areas of Islamabad," he said.

The introduction of electric buses is a step towards modernizing Islamabad's transport infrastructure and the recent improvements in its transport system are a continuation of a broader pattern seen during the tenures of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) governments.

The PML-N has consistently prioritized infrastructure development as a cornerstone of its governance, with a particular focus on modernizing transport systems across the country.

During the party's previous tenures, landmark projects such as the Lahore Metro Bus and the Orange Line Train were launched, setting new standards for public transport in Pakistan.

"These projects revolutionized urban commuting by providing affordable, reliable, and efficient transport solutions," said a female student Faryal Chaudhry. "Metro bus services in twin cities and the Capital are glaring examples of the PML-N's commitment to improving infrastructure and facilitating common people."

Being the infrastructure development and mass transit systems, the hallmarks of their development strategy, their initiatives to improving inter-city and intra-city mobility not only brings pleasant changes to masses lives but also boost economic activity.

Brand of the Year Awards 2023

# Brand business economy: A Catalyst for Economic Revolution in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 14th edition of Brand of the Year Awards ceremony in Islamabad took center stage yesterday. Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, has emphasized the transformative potential of a "Brand Business Economy" for Pakistan's economic growth.

The event, organized by the Brands Foundation, marked the organization's first foray into the northern region of Pakistan, with a focus on Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The awards ceremony saw the gathering of prominent business leaders, high government officials, and industry experts, united in their belief that a robust brand economy is the key to unlocking Pakistan's full economic potential.

Governor Punjab, serving as the event's Chief Guest, stated that a brand-driven economy is the pathway to a true economic revolution in Paki-

stan. He highlighted the importance of cultivating a culture of brand development, urging businesses to prioritize creating strong, unique, and recognizable brands to enhance the country's economic competitiveness. A robust brand economy will not only boost domestic growth but also raise Pakistan's stature on the global stage," stated Governor Punjab.

He further emphasized that the Brand of the Year Awards serves as a vital platform for recognizing the most trusted and popular brands in the country, praising the initiative's impact on national awareness and brand recognition.

The ceremony witnessed the recognition of 175 most acclaimed brands across various categories, including Nation's Pride, Icon Brands of Pakistan, Brand Scientist, Best CEO, innovative brand, Fastest Growing, and Emerging Brands of the Year. The awards serve as a testament to the dedication and innovation of Pakistani brands and

their vital contributions to the nation's economic landscape.

Leaders from the business community echoed the Governor's call for a brand-driven economy. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), stressed the importance of promoting a "Brands Empowerment Economy" to mirror successful models globally. Zaki Aijaz, Zonal Chairman of FPCCI, highlighted the potential of the Brand of the Year Awards to elevate Pakistani brands on the international stage, fostering increased visibility and recognition.

Shaikh Rashid Alam, founder and CEO of the Brands Foundation, shed light on the program's evolution over the past 17 years, noting its continued dedication to promoting brand development across all levels in Pakistan. The event showcased the Foundation's commitment to bolstering the country's economic growth through branding and intellectual property promotion.



## Prisoners

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani prisoners on their return to Pakistan from Sri Lanka at Islamabad Airport on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Capacity building session held on the future of diabetes management in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre conducted a one-day capacity-building session titled "Shaping the Future of Diabetes Management" designed for General Practitioners (GPs) and Medical Officers (MOs). The course aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills in managing diabetes and its complications, with a strong focus on improving patient outcomes and integrating the latest advancements into everyday practice.

The session was held at the TDC headquarters under the leadership of Dr.



Asjad Hameed, Chairman & Consultant Endocrinologist. Organized by Dr. Sonia Bakhtiar, Diabetologist and Dr. Ahsan Nisar, Cardiologist. The capacity building

session attracted a diverse group of healthcare professionals from various locations, contributing to a highly interactive and enriching learning experience.

The key highlights included insights into the latest advancements in diabetes care and treatment protocols & management of diabetes complications. The practical strategies for effective diabetes management in primary care settings were discussed and engaging case studies and interactive discussions provided deeper clinical understanding to the participants. At the conclusion of the course, all participants were awarded certificates, recognizing their commitment to continuing medical education and enhancing diabetes care in their practices.

## Mehwish Ali Shines at Nordic Junior Open Squash Championship, Bringing Home Gold for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Mehwish Ali, a 15-year-old rising star in the world of squash, has made the nation proud by winning a gold medal at the Nordic Junior Open Squash Championship in Sweden. In a remarkable final, Mehwish, an unseeded player, defeated France's second seed, Ciara Boulanger, in straight sets with a scoreline of 11-5, 11-7, 12-10.

The Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation has been an integral figure in Mehwish Ali's success, providing immense support throughout her journey. Whether it was financial assistance for training, travel, and equipment, or emotional encouragement during critical moments, the foundation ensured that Mehwish had everything she

needed to excel. Their backing allowed her to focus solely on her game, without the burden of logistical or monetary challenges.

Mehwish's path to the title was marked by a series of commanding performances, beginning with her dominance in the group stages. Competing in Group D, she first swept past Norway's Vilde Odeh with a convincing 3-0 victory, followed by another straight-set win (3-0) against Denmark's Camilla Thomsen.

In the quarter-finals, Mehwish faced a challenging match against Belgium's Alice Allard, where she emerged victorious in a tightly contested battle. With that win, she advanced to the semi-finals, where she overpowered Denmark's Camilla Thomsen, securing her place in the final showdown against

France's Ciara Boulanger.

Abdul Razak Dawood, the founder of the foundation says, "As a foundation, we believe in empowering young talent and providing them with the resources to reach their full potential. Mehwish's victory is a shining example of what can be achieved when passion is matched with the right support. We are incredibly proud to have been part of her journey to success."

Mehwish's recent accomplishments include a bronze medal at the Danish Junior Open, secured just last month. Her consistent success is elevating Pakistan's standing in junior squash, strengthening her position as one of the nation's brightest rising stars. With a remarkable tally of 22 gold medals till now and numerous championship titles, Mehwish exemplifies

determination and perseverance, continuously making her mark on the international stage.

Her sisters, Sehrish and Mahnoor, also put on impressive displays at the Nordic Junior Squash Open, securing fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

In addition to these admirable performances, Sehrish and Mahnoor faced off in the final of the U-13 category at the Nordic Junior Squash Open & PSA Championship 2024 in Malmö, Sweden. Sehrish emerged victorious, claiming the gold medal, while Mahnoor proudly secured the silver. Their achievements highlight the family's exceptional talent and dedication to the sport.

"Our goal is to help young athletes reach their full potential, and seeing their dreams come to life fills us with immense pride. Achievements like these,

coming one after another, are truly exciting. This generation is not only realizing but also advancing the very purpose of this foundation," says Mehreen Dawood.

The Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by the Foundation believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.



## Ismail Global and Legal Aid Society join hands to combat gender-based violence



City Desk

KARACHI: In a significant step towards enhancing access to justice for vulnerable communities, Ismail Global and the Legal Aid Society (LAS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide free legal assistance to survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). This collaboration aims to enhance access to justice for vulnerable communities, including women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities and will focus on cases involving domestic violence, harassment, child marriage, and other human rights violations.

The MoU was officially signed at the LAS office by Hamid Ismail, CEO of Ismail Global, and Barrister Haya Zahid, CEO of the Legal Aid Society, in a ceremony attended by key representatives from both organizations.

Hamid Ismail expressed his commitment to addressing the issue of gender-based violence, stating, "We are dedicated to making a meaningful difference by supporting survivors of gender-based violence through accessible legal recourse. This partnership with LAS represents our continued commitment to corporate social responsibility and the well-being of marginalized communities."

Barrister Haya Zahid, CEO of the Legal Aid Society, praised the partnership, calling it "monumental in closing the justice gap for survivors of gender-based violence." She further added, "With Ismail Global's support, we can ensure that survivors receive the legal support they need to rebuild their lives while also driving systemic change to protect the most vulnerable members of our society."

## 2,617 new companies registered in September 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,617 new companies during September 2024, witnessing an increase of 5.7% as compared to corresponding month of last year. The total number of registered companies now stands at 231,111.

About 55% companies incorporated during the month were registered as private limited companies, while 41% were registered as single member companies. The remaining 4% were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, trade organization (TO), and limited liability partnerships (LLP). Around 99.8 percent companies were registered online while 0.2% were incorporated offline.

The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation of 410 companies, trading with 377 companies, services with 306, real estate development & construction with 237, tourism and e-commerce with 125 each, food & beverages with 112, education with 101, mining & quarrying with 98, marketing & advertisement with 73, corporate agricultural farming with 60, engineering with 57, healthcare and textile with 49 each, cosmetics & toiletries with 46, chemical with 42, transport with 39, pharmaceutical with 35, power generation 31, fuel & energy with 27, auto & allied with 24, lodging with 21, cables & electric goods with 18, communications with 15, parlor and other related services, and sports allied with 13 each, steel & allied and arts & culture with 11 each, wood & wood products and paper & board with 10 each, and 82 companies were registered in other sectors.

Foreign investment has been reported in 61 new companies, having foreign investors mainly from Afghanistan, Australia, Cameroon, China, France, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UK and USA. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 43 companies, Turkey with 4, Afghanistan with 3, Malaysia with 02 and remaining countries with 01 company each.

## Pakistan Wins WTO Award

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan has been recognized with a prestigious award "International Prize on Gender Equity in Trade in 2024" by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Its state-owned agency, Pakistan Single Window (PSW) brought this global recognition to the country for its Khadija Program designed to promote women entrepreneurship. The prize has recently been introduced by the WTO and is given to governments for implementing result-oriented and impactful initiatives for Gender Equality in Trade.

The PSW "Khadijah" Program has been recognized for its innovative approach towards encouraging more women entrepreneurs to join international trade and is a significant acknowledgment of the Government of Pakistan's efforts towards promoting fair, and equitable trade through a combination of inclusive policies and practical measures with a special emphasis on gender equality in the cross-border trade sector.

PSW's submission for the prize stood out from amongst other entries and earned PSW the honor of the prize under the category of 'Female Entrepreneurs', according to its CEO Aftab Haider.

PSW has launched 'Khadijah - The Women Entrepreneurship Program' to enhance women's economic empowerment and promote gender equality. The program aims to establish a reliable and sustainable mechanism for training and enhancing the capabilities of women, enabling them to engage in cross-border trade actively. This program serves the purpose of transferring knowledge and information to women entrepreneurs and equipping them with the requisite know-how, skills, and expertise, which enables them to upscale their existing businesses for an export market and sustain and grow them over time.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
84,910.29	83,531.95
Day's High	Day's Low
85,047.81	83,303.54
Index Value	Change
25,926,041,447	+1378.34
Percentage	Time
+1.65%	7 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,303.62	+22.99
Percentage	Time
+0.28%	7 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,131.54	-221.21
Percentage	Time
-0.52%	7 Oct, 1:16 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,332.74	+697.12
Percentage	Time
+1.80%	7 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188.5	191.05
Bahrain Dinar	733.18	741.18
Canadian Dollar	206	207.75
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	302.75	305.50
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	74.25
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.15	27.46
Swiss Franc	327.20	329.00
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.1
UK Pound Sterling	362.5	365.9
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

# Consider subtracting agri-tax from province payments: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the possibility of a mini-budget is decreasing due to tax reforms.

He claimed that fully digitising the FBR would double revenue collection and free taxpayers from harassment.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the finance minister is not in favour of the mini budget, but it depends on the cooperation of the tax bureaucracy.

The veteran business leader told the business community that if the bureaucracy works hard, it can save the masses and businesses

from further burdens.

The business leader stated that the implementation of tax reforms will expedite the country's economic recovery, thereby offering relief to both the public and the business community.

He noted that some expenses should be transferred to the provinces, and those provinces that show laziness in collecting agricultural income tax should be considered for deduction from their payments.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, investors and the international community are once again confident in the Pakistani economy, but another five percent interest rate reduction is necessary to improve the situation.

Lauding the role of SIFC, he said that Pakistan's global ranking is also improving, and there is a need to attract foreign investment as well as pay attention to local investors so that



they can do their job. The inflation rate has dropped to less than

nine percent, the rupee remains stable, and exports, particularly those from the IT, textile, and agricultural sectors, are on the rise. Therefore, the central bank should avoid unnecessary precautions and immediately lower interest rates to stimulate business activities.

The five lakh increase in the number of filers is welcome, but if people's lifestyles are checked, zero-filing and under-filing will end, and the government's income will increase to an incredible extent, which will change the country's situation, he observed.

In this regard, the services of two thousand auditors are being obtained, and if they are allowed to work, the situation will change further.

In addition to enhancing the tax system, Mian Zahid Hussain suggested that the government should curb its escalating expenses, which the IMF closely oversees.

## Call on

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Albert P. Khorev, Ambassador of the Russian Federation called on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday.



Photo: Online

# PPL/ PPL ASIA and MdOC reach amicable settlement on Block-8 in Baghdad

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The settlement between Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) Asia E&P B. V., a subsidiary of PPL, and Midland Oil Company (MdOC) marks the conclusion of their Exploration, Development and Production Service Contract (EDPSC) for Block-8, Iraq, which expired in May 2022.

Efforts to resolve the lingering settlement from 2022 involved addressing longstanding disputes and claims between the parties. PPL Asia's commitment to finding a resolution demonstrates sustained negotiations and legal efforts, culminating in an agreement signed on October 6, 2024, by PPL's MD/CEO Mr. Imran Abbasy and MdOC's DG Mr. Muhammad Yaseen Hassan.

A significant milestone in these efforts was the net settlement of USD 6 million, with MdOC paying through a third party. This final resolution closed all matters related to the contract without either



side admitting fault or liability, reflecting the persistent and strategic endeavors to achieve a mutually favorable outcome after over two years of engagement. This

not only brings closure to PPL's operations in Block-8 but also delivers a valuable foreign exchange recovery for the company and Pakistan.

# Cheezius wins prestigious 'Fastest Growing Restaurant Network of the Year'

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Cheezius, a Proud Pakistani fast-food brand received the "Fastest Growing Restaurant Network of the Year" award at the Brand of the Year Awards 2023. This remarkable achievement for the third consecutive time shows brand's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

Head of Marketing Cheezius, Zohaib Hassan, said, "Winning this accolade three years in a row is a tremendous achievement for us. As one of the fastest-growing fast-food brands in Pakistan, we are truly honored to receive this prestigious award. This milestone is not just a recognition of our team's hard work but also a testament to the trust and loyalty of our customers, who have embraced Cheezius with open arms. We



remain committed to delivering innovative, high-quality food that our customers love, while also expanding our footprint to serve even more communities across the country. Our focus is to continue

raising the bar in the fast-food industry by enhancing our offerings, maintaining the highest standards, and ensuring that every meal we serve reflects our dedication to excellence."

# Standard Chartered's Market Outlook event offers key insights on local and global economic trends

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Standard Chartered held a Market Outlook event, "Navigating Market Trends & Investment Opportunities" in Karachi. This was the third session in a series of market outlook events that the Bank hosts for its clients throughout the year. The event brought together the Bank's Affluent clients, leading economists, and experts from its product partners to discuss the prevailing global and local economic landscape, and share insights on the future of financial markets.

Saadya Riaz, Head, Wealth & Retail Banking, Standard Chartered Pakistan gave the keynote address stating, "We are committed to providing

our Affluent clients with actionable insights into the current economic landscape, enabling them to identify and seize opportunities in today's markets in light of macro developments.

The panel comprised Manpreet Gill, Chief Investment Officer, AMEE, Farooq Pasha, Country Economist, and Kailash Kumar, Executive Director Wealth Solutions, Deposits & Secured, Asif Ali Qureshi, CEO, UBL Fund Managers, and Muhammad Asim, CFA, Chief Investment Officer, MCB Funds.

The discussion moderated by Murtaza Hasan, CFA, Head of Investment Advisory, Standard Chartered Pakistan, shed light on the macroeconomic outlook against the backdrop of global developments.

# PMPKL, EYDS Join Forces for 'Stride for Sustainability' Beach Cleanup and Awareness Walk

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited (PMPKL), in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Youth Development Society (EYDS), organized the "Stride for Sustainability" beach cleanup and awareness walk at Clifton Beach, Karachi.

The event, held in alignment with Philip Morris International's global anti-littering agenda, brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, united in their commitment to combating pollution and promoting recycling and waste manage-

ment.

On this occasion, Ali Takesh, Managing Director, Philip Morris Pakistan and Afghanistan said "We are pleased to have partnered with EYDS for this important event. At Philip Morris, sustainability is at the heart of our operations. This beach cleanup drive reflects our commitment to reducing pollution and fostering environmental awareness. Together with EYDS, we have taken an important step towards creating a cleaner and more sustainable future. Events like these inspire real change, showing how every small effort contributes to a larger impact."

# LCCI chief urges SBP to ensure adequate facilitation for businesses

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: LCCI Chief urges SBP to ensure facilitation for the businesses. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President has urged the government and State Bank of Pakistan to ensure adequate facilitation to the business community.

"Enabling the business sector to function smoothly is essential for driving the country's economic growth and prosperity", Mian Abuzar said during a meeting with Chief Manager of the State Bank of Pakistan Tariq Riaz at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The

meeting was also attended by the Executive Committee members.

Mian Abuzar Shad acknowledged the efforts of the Federal Shariah Court which has directed that the country's conventional banking system be transitioned to Shariah-compliant Islamic banking by 2027. He said that the State Bank of Pakistan is already taking various steps toward achieving this goal. Mian Abuzar Shad commended these initiatives and described them as both timely and crucial given the increasing demand for Islamic banking across the country.

## Merger of National and Pakistan Security Printing Companies Approved by CCP



Competition Commission of Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of 100 percent equity shares of M/s. National Security Printing Company (Private) Limited by M/s. Pakistan Security Printing Corporation (Private) Limited marking a pivotal step in the reorganization of Pakistan's security printing sector.

This strategic transaction is aimed at enhancing efficiency through economies of scale and eliminating redundancies within government-owned enterprises.

The Acquirer, Pakistan Security Printing Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), is entrusted with printing currency notes and prize bonds on behalf of the SBP. The Target, National Security Printing Company, specializes in printing essential security documents such as passports, degrees, cheques, and various government stamps.

The acquisition represents a consolidation of security printing operations under a unified framework, all within the control of the Federal Government and the SBP. This reorganization is expected to streamline operations, reduce duplication of efforts, and enhance resource allocation, ultimately contributing to the long-term stability of Pakistan's security printing infrastructure.

The Draft Share Purchase Agreement (DSPA) governing the transaction has been submitted to the Finance Division for approval, with the transaction value currently under negotiation. The merger is seen as a necessary step towards creating greater operational synergies while maintaining the Federal Government as the ultimate owner post-transaction.

# PCB Chairman 'confident' about India's participation in Champions Trophy

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reiterated his belief that India will visit Pakistan for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is scheduled to take place in Pakistan from February to March, however, India's participation in the tournament is uncertain as the BCCI seeks the government's approval to visit the country.

However, Mohsin Naqvi, in an interaction with the media in Lahore, expressed confidence that all the teams, including India, will visit Pakistan for the eight-team tournament.

"I have full confidence in the Indian team... So far, there is nothing that would cause them to postpone or cancel. Therefore, all teams will come."

"The Indian team should come. I don't see them cancel or postpone coming here and we are confident we



will host all the teams in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan," he said.

He also shared his satisfaction with the ongoing upgradation of the stadiums, that will be hosting the Champions Trophy.

"The stadiums will also be ready to host the matches on schedule and any remaining work would be completed after the tournament. In a way, you can say that we are going to have a brand new stadium," he added.

It's worth noting that Rajeev Shukla, the vice-president of the Board for Cricket Control in India (BCCI), has recently shared that the cricket board is awaiting the government's approval. As of now, no decision has been made regarding the tour of Pakistan.

"No decision has been taken (yet). However, our policy is that for international tours, we always seek permission from the government," Shukla clarified.

"It's up to the government to decide whether our team should go to any country or our team should not go to any country," the BCCI VP added. "In this case (also), whatever the government will decide, we will abide by that."

It is worth noting that India has not travelled to Pakistan since the Asia Cup in 2008 due to the long-standing political tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

In contrast, Pakistan has made four trips to India in the last 16 years. Their most recent visit was last year for the ICC Men's World Cup 2023.

# Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafiq Century against England in First Test Match Multan



**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Multan Test, Babar Azam Rothi again fails to celebrate form, Pakistan's name on the first day. The latest cricket news is that Babar Azam failed to celebrate the upset of form, once again failed to reach fifty. The ordeal of playing without a half-century and a century is getting longer. Captain Shaan Masood after 4 years and Abdullah Shafiq after 15 months managed to score centuries. In the First Cricket Multan Test, Pakistan scored 328 runs for the loss of 4 wickets at the end of the first day.

In the first match of the series at the Multan International Cricket Stadium, Persaud Shakeel was not out on 35 and night watchman Naseem Shah was not out on the first day. Before him, Abdullah

Shafiq scored 102, Shaan Masood scored 151, Saecem Ayub scored 4 runs, Babar Azam scored 30 runs, for which he played 71 balls.

Earlier, Pakistani captain Shan Masood won the toss and decided to bat first, while Saecem Ayub and Abdullah Shafiq started the Pakistani innings cautiously, adding to the scores in a nippy manner in the early overs.

Sime Ayub was caught out by Jamie Smith trying to open a quick short off Gus Atkinson. He scored 4 runs off 10 balls, the only four in his innings. Due to the slowness of the outfield, captain Shaan Masood along with Abdullah Shafiq saved the wicket and advanced the scorecard. Debutant Brian Kirski, who made an individual score of 16, avoided being dismissed lbw by Shaan Masood's



review on the ball, taking advantage of which he completed his fifth career century.

Pakistan reached the total score of 150 in 32 overs in 150 minutes of batting. Captain Shaan Masood completed his 5th career century, his century included 10 fours and 2 sixes, which he scored while facing 103 balls, his first century as a captain. Last time he scored more than 1500. A few days ago he scored a century against England in 2020, he scored 156 runs in Manchester Test 2020, this was his career high score, which he could not improve today.

At the other end Abdullah Shafiq also completed his century supporting the captain and played beautiful shorts all around the wicket, this was the fifth century for both the batsmen individually.

He scored a century after 15 months. A three-figure innings was played.

In the 60th over of Pakistan's innings, Olipop caught A Abdullah Kakich on Gus Atkinson's ball, his innings covered 182 balls, he took 10 fours and 2 sixes to score 102 runs, and he stayed for 276 minutes.

After Abdulla Shafiq, captain Shan Masood could not stay on the wicket for long and got out on an individual score of 151 off 177 balls. Jack Leach caught him off his own ball, his innings included 13 fours and 2 sixes.

In the fourth wicket partnership, Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel scored 61 runs, Babar Azam scored 30 runs off 71 balls with the help of 5 fours and got out lbw, his wicket fell to Chris Woakes.

Gus Atkinson took two, Chris Woakes, Jack Leach 1 each Wicket For England.

# PCB Chairman opens up about Babar Azam's replacement as captain

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has recently opened up about the replacement of Babar Azam as the national white-ball captain. Babar stepped down from the position last week, announcing his decision through social media. He attributed the decision to a heavy workload and his intention to focus more on batting.

"Dear Fans, I'm sharing some news

with you today. I have decided to resign as captain of the Pakistan men's cricket team, effective as of my notification to the PCB and Team Management last month," stated Babar Azam in a statement on his social media platforms.

"It's been an honour to lead this team, but it's time for me to step down and focus on my playing role," he added.

During a recent media interaction, the PCB chairman was asked about the potential candidate to replace Babar as captain.

He revealed that he has assigned the selection committee to assign a new captain after 'careful consideration'.

"I have told them to take a decision after careful consideration because the captain's position is important," Mohsin Naqvi said.

Remember, this was Babar Azam's second reign as Pakistan captain. His first tenure ended in November 2023 following Pakistan's dismal run at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India.

The star batter relinquished all-format

captaincy but was reinstated as white-ball captain in March this year. He led Pakistan in three bilateral T20I series against New Zealand, Ireland and England respectively before captaining the former champions in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Pakistan had a lacklustre outing in the mega event as the 2009 champions, in a first, crashed out of the tournament from the group stage, mainly due to their gut-wrenching defeats against the USA and arch-rivals India.

## MoU signing ceremony took place between SOP and OMI



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: According to the MoU, OMI will fully support SOP by providing health screening and follow-up care for special children. A multi-specialty medical institute will conduct regular screenings for children aged 2 to 7 in pediatrics, cardiology, and neurology to ensure the health and well-being of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The MoU was signed by Ronak Iqbal Lakhani, Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, and Kashif Mustafa, Managing Director and CEO of OMI Hospital. During the event, a pilot screening of 6 athletes and pediatric screening of 16 athletes were conducted to obtain a comprehensive health assessment.

Kashif Mustafa, Managing Director of OMI Hospital, expressed that the partnership between OMI and SOP will play a significant role in the health and development of special athletes, empowering them in both sports and life. He added that it is an honor for OMI to collaborate with Special Olympics Pakistan, and OMI will take all possible measures to ensure the well-being of children with intellectual disabilities.

Ronak Iqbal Lakhani emphasized that good health is essential for grooming the abilities of special children. The medical facilities provided by OMI will lead to significant improvements in the physical fitness and individual performance of athletes. Dr. Ayesha Awan, Pediatric Associate, will serve as Clinical Director under the supervision of Pediatric Surgeon Dr. Shabbir Hussain at OMI. Additionally, Dr. Syed Ali Raza, Consultant Dental Surgeon, and Dr. Maysam A. Shiraz, Consultant ENT Surgeon, will be responsible for dental and ENT assessments of special children.

Key partners in this MoU includes Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust (LRBT), which will offer free follow-up eye care for athletes. A team of psychologists from Transformation International Wellness Clinics, under the supervision of Dr. Ayesha Bashir Saqib, will ensure comprehensive developmental assessments and diagnoses. OMI will also provide follow-up care for dental services. Furthermore, Ronak Lakhani mentioned that the Altmarsh Institute of Dental Medicine will offer discounted rates for dental screenings, and SOP will raise funds to cover additional costs for families in need of financial assistance.

## Mohammad Haris to lead Shaheens in T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday named wicket-keeper batsman Mohammad Haris captain of the Pakistan Shaheens which is due to take part the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup from 18 October in Oman.

Prior to the departure for Oman on 16 October, the squad will undergo a camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi from 11 to 15 October.

Abdul Samad, Ahmed Daniyal, Yasir Khan and Zaman Khan will represent Pakistan Shaheens for the first time. Samad featured for UMT Markhors in the recently concluded Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup 2024-25 and scored at a strike-rate of 122.88. Ahmed Daniyal playing for Nurpur Lions bagged 10 wickets, while Yasir and Zaman featured for Allied Bank Stallions in four and two matches, respectively.

Eight teams will participate in the event with four teams divided into two groups. All matches will take place at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Muscat. Group A consists of Afghanistan 'A', Bangladesh 'A', Hong Kong and Sri Lanka 'A', while defending champions Pakistan Shaheens are slotted in Group B alongside India 'A', Oman and UAE.

Haris-led Shaheens will take on last year's finalists India 'A' in their opening match on 19 October. Shaheens' second outing in the tournament will be against hosts Oman on 21 October, followed by their final group match will be against the UAE on 23 October.

The top two sides from each group will qualify for the semi-finals scheduled to take place on 25 October. The final will take place on Sunday, 27 October.

**Pakistan Shaheens squad:**

Mohammad Haris (captain), Abdul Samad, Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Haider Ali, Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Omair Bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Sufiyan Moqim, Yasir Khan and Zaman Khan

**Team management:**

Umar Rasheed (head coach-cum-manager), Imran Farhat (batting coach), Riffatullah Mohmand (fielding coach), Usman Hashmi (analyst) and Syed Mohammad Asad (physiotherapist).

# Babar's dismissal lifts England after Shan, Abdullah run riot

**Sports Desk**

MULTAN: Chris Woakes uplifted England by getting rid of Babar Azam in the dying minutes of the opening day of the first Test after Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafique scored centuries for Pakistan.

At the Stumps on Day 1, Pakistan were 328/4 with vice-captain Saud Shakeel (35\*) and nightwatchman Naseem Shah (0\*) unbeaten in the middle.

The eventful final session marked the return of England as the touring side claimed three wickets including set batters Masood and Shafique and star batter Babar.

Gus Atkinson provided England with a much-needed breakthrough when he got Shafique caught in the eighth over after Tea.

The right-handed opener scored 102 off 184 deliveries, laced up with a dozen boundaries including two sixes.

Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Masood perished two overs later when he spooned Jack Leach for a regulation caught and bowled briefly after amassing the 150-run milestone.

Masood scored 151 off 177 deliveries with the help of 13 fours and two sixes.

Babar Azam then joined forces with Pakistan vice-captain Saud Shakeel and added 81 runs for the fourth wicket before eventually falling victim to Chris Woakes in the penultimate over of the opening day.

Babar scored 30 off 71 balls, hitting five boundaries in the process.

For England, Gus Atkinson bagged two wickets while Chris

Woakes and Jack Leach made one scalp each.

Earlier, Pakistan dominated England in the second session as they had reached 233-1 by thanks to Abdullah Shafique and skipper Shan Masood.

The two batters extended Pakistan's dominance in the second session and left England bowlers struggling to stop the flow of runs.

Shan, in particular, played aggressively and took 102 balls to reach his fifth hundred in Test cricket and his first as captain. His ton was the fastest by a Pakistan batter since 2015.

Meanwhile, Abdullah supported his captain with his quick running between the wickets and elegant strokeplay.

The hosts scored 122-1 at Lunch with Masood and Shafique standing strong at 61

and 53 respectively.

Shan opted to bat first after winning the toss and came out to bat in the fourth over after Saim Ayub (4) fell to Gus Atkinson.

Abdullah, who was struggling in the recent Bangladesh series, took his time to settle before displaying his strokeplay.

Meanwhile, Shan got his usual quick start and converted it into a dominant half-century, scoring at a strike-rate of more than 100.

Abdullah also switched gears at the stroke of Lunch and attacked Shoaib Bashir, hitting two fours and a six to bring up his first half-century in the last seven innings. He conceded 77 balls to reach the milestone.

**Playing XIs**

Pakistan: Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel (vc), Mohammad Rizwan (wk),



Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Abrar Ahmad.

England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (c), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk),

Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Jack Leach, and Shoaib Bashir.

## Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif records his remarks at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, on Monday.



Photo: PID

## PM visits Chinese embassy to condole over Karachi incident

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer his heartfelt condolences over the killings of two citizens in a terrorist attack in Karachi.

The prime minister expressed deep sorrow over the killings of Chinese citizens. "The government is fully committed to swiftly identify those responsible for this inci-

dent," PM Shehbaz assured the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan.

The prime minister said that after identifying those responsible, they will be brought to justice without delay. "The protection of the lives and property of our Chinese brothers in Pakistan is our top priority," he added.

The prime minister emphasized the government will not tolerate this heinous conspiracy aimed at damaging Pakistan-China relations. PM Shehbaz said he will personally

monitor the investigation of this incident assuring that security arrangements for foreign nationals would be further strengthened.

The Chinese Ambassador expressed gratitude to the prime minister for the swift response and the initiation of investigations following the terrorist incident in Karachi.

The Chinese ambassador expressed confidence in the Government of Pakistan for effective investigations, swift identification of the responsible

terrorists, and ensuring

that they are brought to justice promptly.

He hoped that those responsible for this incident will be punished as soon as possible. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, and senior officials from relevant departments were present at the meeting.

Earlier in the day, the bomb disposal squad (BDS) revealed that 70 to 80 kilograms of explosives were used in the

attack on Chinese nationals near Karachi Karachi that killed at least three persons

According to a report released by the bomb disposal unit, the blast was carried out using a device installed in a vehicle.

The report added that three people were killed and 17 injured in the blast while 15 other vehicles were also damaged in the explosion.

It added that all evidence collected from the site has been handed over to the relevant police station.

## 'Jam Kamal sets sights on expanding rice exports, tackles EU food safety standards'

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan called for measures aimed at enhancing Pakistan's rice exports and ensuring compliance with European food safety standards.

As Pakistan holds a 25% share of the European rice export market, significantly outpacing India's 16%, the minister highlighted the need for greater collaboration between the government and exporters to maintain this competitive edge.

Jam Kamal emphasized the critical role of rice exports in Pakistan's economy, noting that rice is second only to cotton in export value.

He remarked that rice exporters are a primary source of revenue and employment, with the government aiming to increase exports from \$4



billion to \$6-7 billion in the near future. "We are focusing on improving our standards to meet international food safety requirements, especially in Europe," he stated.

Jam Kamal concluded by urging REAP to propose

actionable suggestions on how the Ministry of Commerce can facilitate exporters in achieving the government's ambitious export targets within the next year.

He underscored the importance of establishing a robust

mechanism to address any food safety concerns, especially in the European Union, where Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and other standards are becoming increasingly stringent.

The meeting signals a proactive

approach by the government to capitalize on the global demand for high-quality rice, ensuring that Pakistan remains a top player in the international market while maintaining strict adherence to global safety and quality standards.

## Pakistan urges immediate ceasefire in Palestine, calls for end to Gaza bloodshed

Continued from Page 1

## Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said Israel is committing barbarism against innocent people of Palestine, including women and children. He questioned the strange silence adopted by the world community on this issue of humanity.

Nawaz Sharif also commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for forcefully raising the issue of Palestine and grave human rights violations by Israel in Gaza during his address to the United Nations General Assembly.

He said the United Nations should implement its resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir. He also urged the Muslim countries to get united and evolve a joint strategy to get the

ongoing bloodshed in the Palestine stopped.

## Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the entire Pakistani nation is standing behind the Palestinian brothers and sisters in their struggle against Israeli oppression.

He stressed the need for launching an intensive diplomatic campaign to fight the case of Palestinians on diplomatic and legal fronts. He said media should also be effectively engaged to expose the imperialist, colonial, and Zionist agenda of Israel.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari proposed to constitute a high-level committee, having representation from all the political forces of the country, to raise voice for the oppressed people of Palestine.

## Fazlur Rehman

Jamiat Ulema-s-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that around 50,000 innocent Palestinians, including children, women, and elderly have been martyred in Israeli attacks.

He called for taking practical steps to help the Palestinians instead of passing resolutions and issuing condemnations. He said Palestinian Muslims are fighting for their rights and we support them.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that a joint platform of leading Muslim countries should be formed to evolve a common strategy to face multiple challenges.

## Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Chairman and Education Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui said that Islamic countries should open its educational institutions to accommodate Palestinian students, besides sending assistance to the oppressed people of Gaza.

## Khalid Magsi

Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader Khalid Magsi called for getting united to utilise all resources and energy to protect lives of the Palestinian people.

Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Istehkam-e-Pakistan's (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan, Awami National Party's (ANP) Aimal Wali Khan, National Party leader Jan Muhammad Buledi, Raja Nasir Abbas of Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM), Pakistan Sunni Tehreek chief Sarwat Ijaz Qadri, and Religious Scholar Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi also spoke on the occasion.

## Government likely to collapse by December: Asad Qaiser



## Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: The former speaker of National Assembly (NA), Asad Qaiser, claimed that a whopping Rs 112 million have been offered to the members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for constitutional amendments, ARY News reported on Monday.

During an exclusive interview with ARY News, the former speaker of NA and PTI's senior leader - Asad Qaiser - claimed that there is an attempt to 'bribe' the parliamentarians of PTI for vote in favor of constitutional amendments and an offer of up to Rs 112 million has been made to them.

Asad Qaiser stated that no amendment will be allowed in hasty manner and warned that any illegal amendments will face strong resistance in the parliament.

He demanded to present the draft of the amendments to review and discussion otherwise the party will not allow any unilateral amendments.

Qaiser lauded the efforts of JUI-F chief for opposing the 'unconstitutional amendments' and hoped that

Maulana Fazlur Rehman will play crucial role for rule of the constitution.

"I also suggest Bilawal Bhutto not take any decision in rush," Qaiser said.

Asad Qaiser asserted that the protest will continue until clear instructions are received from the founder of PTI. He praised the workers for effectively running the movement, stating that PTI did not participate in the protest without its leader's directive.

The PTI leader condemned the attack on KP House, labeling it as an unlawful act and a violation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's assets. He called for the immediate announcement of the new Chief Justice's appointment.

He also highlighted internal tensions within the PML-N, and its strained relationship with the PPP, predicting that the current government could end by December.

Regarding KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Qaiser stated that he was unaware of his return and did not know whether any negotiations took place. He promised to speak with Gandapur to gather more details on the matter.

## PM's aide highlights climate action, youth's role in shaping eco-friendly cities



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change,

Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping environmentally sustainable cities, addressing rapid urbanization and climate change challenges.

"Cities must integrate climate adaptation strategies into urban planning to mitigate extreme weather risks," Alam emphasized addressing an event on World Habitat Day held at NUST. "By leveraging youth energy, creativity, and viewpoints, cities can strive for sustainable, equitable development and resilient smart cities," she added.

The Global World Habitat Day was marked on Monday under the theme "Engaging youth to create a better urban future focusing on engaging youth in shaping sustainable cities and communities."

## SC seeks details regarding housing society in Margalla Hills

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday sought details from Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner ICT regarding the North Range Housing Society in Margalla Hills National Park.

The court instructed the respondents to present ownership details and building approval on next date of hearing.

A top court's bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan, heard the case regarding the residential

activities in Margalla Hills.

During the course of proceeding, lawyer Umar Gillani contended that the CDA had stated in its report that this housing society was illegal. It is alleged that the owner of this society had terms with some former high officials.

Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan remarked that why the civic body was so helpless. Umar Gillani argued that influential people were involved in the matter.

The hearing of the case was then adjourned for a week.

## Ayaz expresses solidarity with bereaved families of martyrs of 8th October, 2005 earthquakes

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said that the earthquake of October 8, 2005 was a grave challenge in which the entire nation stood united and displayed exemplary brotherhood.

He further said that the entire nation shares the grief of those who lost their loved ones during the earthquake of October 8, he expressed these views, in his message on the eve of commemorating the martyrs of the October 8, 2005 earthquake.

The Speaker expressed the grief over irreparable loss of more than 80,000 people, belonging to Azad Kashmir & Northern Areas, due to the earthquake.

He further said that during the October 8 earthquake, the entire nation extended complete social and financial support to their distressed brothers & sisters.

While lauding the rescue & relief efforts made by the entire nation, he stated that the support extended to the victims gave them courage & strength to recover mentally & physically.