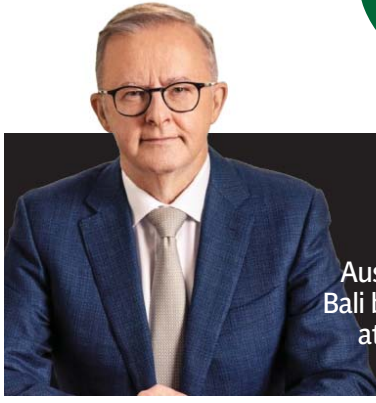


# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول  
مصلی اللہ علیہ وسلم  
اے نبی پاک! اللہ تعالیٰ نے تو کو بھیجا ہے  
کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا آپس  
میں بغض نہ رکھو اور ایک دوسرے سے حسد  
نہ کرو پیچھے پیچھے کسی کی برائی نہ کرو بلکہ اللہ  
کے بنوے اور آپس میں بھائی بھائی بن کر  
رہو اور کسی مسلمان کے لیے جائز نہیں کہ  
کسی بھائی سے تین دن سے زیادہ تک بات  
چیت بند کرے۔  
(بیگناری: ص 76 نمبر 6076)  
Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited



## Australian PM commemorates victims of 22nd anniversary of Bali Bombings

Australia's prime minister has paid tribute to those who were killed and injured in the Bali bombings on the 22nd anniversary of the attack. Anthony Albanese said the terror attack on the Indonesian island of Bali in which 202 people, including 88 Australians and 38 Indonesians, were killed struck at joy and friendship without mercy or pity.



## Petrol prices could see big jump soon

Pakistan State Oil (PSO) will submit a proposal to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on October 15, likely suggesting price hikes of Rs3.95 per liter for petrol, Rs7.85 for kerosene, and Rs8.33 for light diesel oil (LDO). This proposal includes a Rs2.75 per liter increase to boost oil company and petrol pump profits, raising their margins to Rs9.22 and Rs10.04 per liter respectively. After OGRA review and government approval, the Finance Ministry will announce the final prices.

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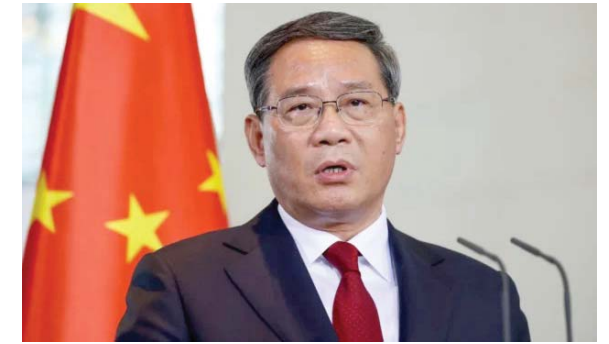
## Welcome to Chinese Premier

ISLAMABAD: A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Chinese Premier Li Qiang to visit Pakistan from Oct 14-17



### Spokesman Report

BELJING: At the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese Premier Li Qiang will visit Pakistan from October 14-17, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning announced here on Sunday.

During the visit, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council will attend the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held in Islamabad from October 14-17 and pay an official visit to Pakistan, she said in a statement.

## Info minister highlights economic progress, international ties ahead of SCO Summit



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaulah Tarar, stated on Sunday that Pakistan has made significant progress this year in both foreign policy and economic sectors, adopting an open approach towards trade and investment.

Speaking with foreign media correspondents about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit scheduled for October 15, Tarar emphasized that "Pakistan is emerging on the international stage, and the world is beginning to recognize its true potential." He highlighted the recent successful visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, during which key discussions on bilateral relations, investment, and cooperation took place.

During this visit, the Malaysian PM announced an increase in imports from Pakistan, including rice and Halal meat. Tarar remarked, "Exports of rice, Halal meat, and other commodities to Malaysia will further strengthen the relationship between our two countries."

Additionally, Tarar noted a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by the Saudi Minister of Investment, recently visited Pakistan and signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) valued at \$2.2 billion to enhance bilateral cooperation. He mentioned that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has shown interest in increasing trade with Pakistan.

Regarding the economy, Tarar reported that inflation has decreased to 6.9% from over 32% last year, and all economic indicators are showing positive trends. The trade deficit continues to shrink, while exports have increased by 14%. He expressed gratitude to overseas Pakistanis for contributing to record foreign remittances of

# All arrangements finalized for SCO meeting in Islamabad

### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is all set to host a two-day meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Islamabad from Tuesday.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the meeting.

The SCO member states will be represented by Prime Minister of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran and External Affairs Minister

of India.

Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang will represent his country.

The Prime Minister of Mongolia as Observer State, and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan as Special Guest, will also participate in the meeting.

The SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in fields of economy, trade, environment and socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organization.

The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting heads of delegations on the sidelines of the meeting.

On the other hand, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar says Pakistan is all set to host twenty-third meeting of Council of the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

He was talking to media along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar in Islamabad this evening. Ishaq Dar said all institu-

tions and departments have made excellent arrangements with mutual cooperation for SCO summit being held from Tuesday to Wednesday in Islamabad.

He said the Chinese delegation is arriving in Islamabad tomorrow to hold bilateral meetings with Pakistani officials.

He said no request has so far been received from the Indian External Affairs Minister for bilateral talks.

Ishaq Dar said a political party is making attempts to sabotage the SCO summit by giving a call for protest in

Federal Capital.

He said the call for the protest should be taken back in the larger interest of the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister said recent visits of Malaysian Prime Minister and Saudi delegation to Pakistan have remained fruitful.

Established on June 15, 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental international organization aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation, promoting peace and security, and new economic international order.

## SCO Summit: Delegations from India, Russia arrive in Pakistan

### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan prepares to host the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit on October 15-16, the arrival of foreign delegations continues, with official representatives from India and Russia reaching the country.

According to the details, a four-member delegation from India and a 76-member delegation from Russia have landed in Pakistan.

Apart from this, 15 members of China, four members of Kyrgyzstan, and two members of Iran have also reached Pakistan while seven representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have also landed in the country.



Pakistan has implemented stringent security measures for the summit, with the law enforcers taking responsibility for the safety of foreign delegations, supported by heavy police deployments across the capital.

The metro bus service in Islam-

abad and Rawalpindi will remain suspended during the summit, and the government has announced three-day holidays for public offices, educational institutions, and commercial centers in Islamabad.

All marriage halls will also remain closed to ensure smooth

proceedings during the event.

On the other hand, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced plans to stage a protest in Islamabad on October 15, adding a layer of complexity to the event's security and traffic arrangements.

He also highlighted the success of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Tajikistan and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a liberal trade and investment policy. Tarar anticipated that the upcoming visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to Pakistan would be a game changer for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), further enhancing cooperation across various sectors. He reported positive progress in the second phase of CPEC.

## Sub-committee meets to finalise constitutional amendment draft

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A closed-door subcommittee meeting was chaired by Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, to discuss draft constitutional amendments submitted by the government and other political parties.

The meeting included political leaders from multiple parties such as Naveed Qamar, Anusha Rahman, Barrister Gohar, and Kamran Murtaza.

The subcommittee aims to synthesize the various proposals into a unified draft, which will be presented to the Parliamentary Special Committee tomorrow afternoon.

The Parliamentary Special Committee meeting is being held at the law minister's House.

It follows a meeting yesterday where all parties except the PTI submitted proposals and drafts, leading to the formation of this subcommittee.

## Police make foolproof security arrangements for SCO 2024 Summit

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police devised a comprehensive security plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit being held in the federal capital, Islamabad in which a number of dignitaries, media persons and businessmen are participating from the

partener countries. In this regard, the Police have issued a comprehensive and integrated security plan to ensure foolproof security for the SCO Summit 2024, a public relations officer on Sunday said while talking to media.

IGP Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, said that security arrangements have been finalized at all

venues, airports, routes, funnel areas, hotels, and residences of delegations, including Noor Khan Air Base. Meanwhile, search operations and intelligence-based operations are ongoing in Islamabad.

He further said that foolproof security has been ensured for all foreign leaders, delegations, and guests. In addition to the police,

officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, District Administration, Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, provincial police, intelligence agencies, traffic police, and the Special Branch are performing their duties to ensure foolproof security.

More than 9,000 officers and officials of Islamabad Police are on duty to secure the SCO Summit 2024.



# FC South, Gomal Scouts arrange successful fair at Wana Gomal Zam Dam

Adam Khan Wazir

**SOUTH WAZIRISTAN:** A grand fair was organized by FC South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gomal Scouts Force at Wana Gomal Zam Dam in Lower South Waziristan District on Sunday. The event was attended by Commandant Gomal Scouts Force Moeen Uddin Ahmad, District Police Officer Farman Ullah, tribal elders, youths, students, local government chairmen, and officers from across the district.

The fair featured traditional dance performances and local singers, entertaining the participants.

Tribal elders emphasized the importance of promoting tourism in the region, acknowledging the sacrifices of security forces for establishing peace and order. They expressed their commitment to making sacrifices for the betterment of the region and country.

Tribal elders stated that Gomal Zam Dam, located in Wana Tehsil, is a significant spot for sightseeing, which has greatly increased tourism



promotion.

They emphasized their stance, saying, "We stand side by side with the security forces and FC South KP for the common goal of peace, development, prosperity, and good neighborliness." They added, "We are always ready to make all kinds of sacrifices for the betterment of the region and the country. The sacrifices of the security

forces for the establishment of peace and order are not a secret matter."

The event concluded with a dinner organized by Gomal Scouts Force, showcasing their dedication to promoting peace, development, and prosperity in the region.

In a press statement, the tribal elders said that they stand with the security forces and FC South KP for

the common goal of peace, development, prosperity, and good neighborliness. They also said that they are always ready to make sacrifices for the betterment of the region and the country. The event showcased the commitment of the tribal elders and the security forces to work together for the development and prosperity of the region.

# Assistant Commissioner makes surprise visits to various markets

Raza Naqvi

**ATTOCK:** Assistant Commissioner Attock, Shagufta Jabeen, conducted surprise visits to various markets on Sunday, despite it being a holiday. She took strict notice of illegal encroachments and unauthorized rickshaw stands and instructed fruit and vegetable vendors to display price lists prominently. According to details, during her visit, Chairman Attock Press Club, Sheikh Faisal Javed, drew her attention to one of the city's major public issues – illegal rickshaw stands at



Sarafa Bazaar and near Bilal Medical Store. In response, the Assistant Commissioner immediately instructed traffic police officers to resolve the issue promptly and maintain a constant presence on the road to ensure smooth traffic flow and prevent any inconvenience for shoppers and pedestrians. The public highly appreciated the Assistant Commissioner's dedication to inspecting various markets on a holiday, along with Encroachment Inspector Abid Shehzad and other municipal staff who were on duty with her.

## SCO, economic oxygen' of Pakistan: Dr. Rubina



Quratul Ain Asim

**MULTAN:** The existence of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the arrival of friendly countries is the economic oxygen of Pakistan. Dr. Rubina Akhtar, the leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said that the organization of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Pakistan is a happy future. In the situation, very important personalities are visiting Pakistan, peace and order should be the first priority in the country, but the presence of terrorism near Karachi Airport and other places is the failure of the government to stop peaceful protests and turn them into violent protests. Banning the meetings of the prisoners including founder PTI and threatening Khawaja Asif is the stupidity of the government. The government should take all parties into confidence on this important occasion to make this historic occasion beneficial and memorable. He expressed these views while addressing a gathering of women in Mubarak Circle NA 148 at 30 feet Basti Beach, on this occasion he listened to the women's problems and assured to solve them.

## Inauguration ceremony held to distribute courage cards to the disabled people in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

**FAISALABAD:** Inauguration ceremony was held in the social welfare office of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz in order to distribute courage cards to the disabled people. Mohammad Arshad Gujjar, Shams Parvez Khokhro distributed courage cards among other deserving people. Speaking at the ceremony, the speakers said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has won the hearts of disabled and deserving people by issuing Hamat Card. It is an example for them to introduce an economic scheme for the deserving and disabled people so that these people do not become a burden on the society.

## ICT police seize huge liquor haul, nab three dealers

**ISLAMABAD, OCT 13 (APP):** Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Kirpa police team on Sunday raided a distillery in the area of Jinnah Garden which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor.

According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

In this regard, the Kirpa police teams conducted a raid at the distillery and recovered huge cache of liquor.

Police team also nabbed three liquor dealers namely Zeeshan Ilyas, Muhammad Tariq and Khalid Masih during the raid while efforts are underway to arrest his other accomplices, he added.

# International Girl Child Day celebrated at Women University Multan

Kiran Asim

**MULTAN:** In honouring women on the International Girl Child Day the Women University Multan conducted an awareness seminar at Katchery Campus under the theme, "Girls' vision for the future," highlighting the urgent need, action, and persistent hope, driven by the power of girls' voices and vision for the future. The seminar was marked by insightful talks on women's health issues, an expert panel discussion, and the provision of free haemoglobin and other vital tests. The chief guest was VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha while the guest speakers for the event included Ms. Nighat Ehsan (Fatimid Foundation) and Dr.

Kanwal Rehman (Chairperson Department of Pharmacy). The focal person of the seminar was Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan. The primary goal of the seminar to discuss the issues concerning to girl child about their education, skills, and empowerment.

Speaker Ms. Nighat Ehsan gave a thought provoking address to the audience. She talked about Thalassemia awareness, prevention and screening. She highlighted the awareness related to Thalassemia tests before marriage. While a blood camp was also set up providing free cost facility for HB test, Hepatitis B & C screening for students and faculty. It also aims to encourage students



for thalassemia screening and volunteer for blood donation. Dr. Kanwal Rehman provided an informative discussion on women's physical health during the seminar. She emphasized on the different complexities of women's health, addressing topics such as Menstruation, infection, numerous repro-

ductive diseases, its diagnosis and treatment and methods of prevention. She underlined the critical significance of mental health in women's overall well-being. She said that students of Pharmacy Department had set up informative exhibition stall related to the field of pharmacy and for checking students mass

induction and blood pressure. On this occasion Department of Applied Psychology talked about protection against violence and harassment. Women are nation builders and can play a great role in eliminating the gender violence against women in any society. They highlighted the effects of violence on physical,

psychological and emotional health. They stressed that we need to make women powerful and that power lies within. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha said that considering the number of women in society, we have to give special importance to our health care and especially in the context of nurturing our future generations. She talked in length about the representation of girls in everyday discourses and also highlighted the importance of girls' rights in society. She said that education is the basic right of every child for which more steps should be taken. Addressing the seminar, Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan said girls education is the lifeline to empowerment and liberation.

We have to collaborate and focus on mutual benefits. She emphasized on the dire need of working on the protection of rights of the girl child. Prof Dr Mamoon Khan added that university has been initiating multiple steps to ensure the security for our female students and staff so that they can work in a peaceful and stress free atmosphere. The seminar was attended by Director Students Affairs Dr Adeela Saeed, chairpersons faculty members and students. The moderator of seminar was Ms. Sadia Talib. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha also visited themed based stalls set up by Departments focusing on working together to build a world where every girl can lead and thrive.

# Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey – A Journey of Life, Service, and Struggle

He started his early academic career when he even didn't have sandals or shoes. He didn't afford books to study so he borrowed from his classfellows.



Analysis

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

in high school he used to borrow books from feows and read in class and topped class. He stayed in free boarding kidji but after school he couldn't afford 200 fees for college. His father took it on interest from a relative. After intermediate again for university he didn't have admission fees. His father borrowed on interest from a relative. In the last week of sixth semester of BSC he couldn't afford exam fees, so left education and joined a private company. He did private job in pharma company when corruption started in the field he quit and attempted CSS and qualified twice.

Behind every remarkable individual lies a story of dedication, resilience, and ambition. Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey exemplifies such a journey, leaving an indelible mark on diplomacy, education, and intellec-

tual discourse. His life is a testament to tireless efforts and accomplishments, inspiring others through his leadership and pursuit of excellence.

### Early Life and Education

Born on March 1, 1971, Dr. Sirohey's formative years were rooted in a passion for knowledge and social awareness. He began his academic journey with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Shah Abdul Latif University. Continuing to broaden his horizons, he completed an Executive MBA in Human Resource Management from Preston University, Karachi. His thirst for learning remains unquenched, as he currently pursues a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law from Euclid University International.

### A Distinguished Career in Diplomacy

Dr. Sirohey's diplomatic career has been nothing short of extraordinary. His tenure in countries such as Iraq, Yemen, Jeddah, Nigeria, and Brunei showcases his ability to navigate complex international relations. Currently serving as the Ambassador of Pakistan to Niger, he has redefined

the art of diplomacy by fostering meaningful economic and political relationships.

His efforts have focused on strengthening trade partnerships and attracting investment opportunities for Pakistan, creating platforms for ongoing economic collaboration. Ambassador Sirohey's visionary leadership has expanded Pakistan's influence in global forums, building lasting bridges between nations.

### Economic Diplomacy and Public Engagement

Ambassador Sirohey has pioneered a results-driven approach to economic diplomacy, combining strategic negotiation skills with policy foresight. His ability to identify mutually beneficial trade opportunities has enabled him to establish vital agreements that promote sustainable economic growth.

His expertise extends beyond routine diplomatic duties, focusing on long-term economic partnerships. Through effective communication and collaboration, he has brought about tangible results, including higher trade volumes, foreign investments, and bilateral agreements. His book, "A Handbook on Public Diplomacy," serves as a comprehensive guide on modern diplomacy, media relations, and Islamic legal principles.

### A Passion for Education and Volunteering

In addition to his diplomatic work, Dr. Sirohey is a passionate educator. He serves as visiting faculty at NUML Islamabad and volunteers to teach at prestigious universities in Baghdad, Abuja, and Brunei. His academic contributions are not limited to the classroom; he has authored several books on topics ranging from public diplomacy and journalism to Islamic diplomacy and international security.

His knowledge-sharing efforts reflect his belief in education as a tool for empowerment, inspiring students and professionals to engage meaningfully with global challenges.

### Honors and Recognitions

Ambassador Sirohey's exceptional contributions to public diplomacy and international relations have earned him three honorary doctorate degrees. These honors stand as a tribute to his dedication, professionalism, and relentless pursuit of excellence. His journey is a shining example of how integrity, hard work, and persistence can lead to both personal success and national pride.

### Conclusion

Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey's life is a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating that true success lies not only



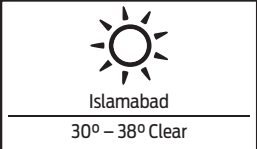
in achieving high ranks and accolades but also in uplifting others and opening doors for future generations. His diplomatic career is a blend of intellectual rigor and practical solutions, showing that real impact comes from fostering meaningful relationships and sustainable progress.

Dr. Sirohey's journey is a living example of how individuals with a passion for learning and service can

bring positive change to the world. His achievements in diplomacy, education, and economic development serve as a roadmap for those aspiring to make a difference.

Through his work, Dr. Sirohey teaches us that commitment, vision, and empathy are the cornerstones of success, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 4:48 am  
 Zohr ..... 11:54 am  
 Asr ..... 3:56 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 5:36 pm  
 Isha ..... 6:59 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
 Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

# PTDC and Discover Pakistan TV sign MoU to promote tourism in Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Discover Pakistan TV signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Friday for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan and abroad. Managing Director, PTDC, Aftab-ur Rehman Rana signed the MoU on behalf of PTDC while Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, CEO signed from Discover Pakistan TV.

Through the MoU, both the organizations agreed to join hands to organize

various promotional activities and initiatives to promote image of Pakistan as a tourist friendly destination at national and international level. The MoU also focuses on creation of high quality digital content on tourist destinations of Pakistan, promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism through awareness campaign via digital and electronic media and engagement of national and international travel villagers to promote Pakistan as tourist destination.

MD, PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana on this occasion said, "PTDC being a

national tourism organization is utilizing all its resources to promote tourism in the country and facilitate both the local and foreign tourists. He said, our vision is to bring economic prosperity in the country especially in the far-flung areas through the promotion of tourism". He expected that this MoU will further strengthen these efforts through the use of electronic media. He also appreciated the role of Discover Pakistan TV which has established its reputation as the only TV channel of Pakistan which is dedicatedly promoting the positive



image of the country as a high potential tourist destination.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, CEO of Discover Pakistan affirmed that this collaboration between Discover Pakistan and PTDC will be greatly beneficial for the promotion of

tourism in Pakistan. He said PTDC is a national body and playing a very active role for the tourism promotion in Pakistan and the collaboration between both the organizations under this MoU will greatly help to devise a unified strategy for the promotion.

## Bus Service Closed

ISLAMABAD: Electric bus service closed in the red zone of the Federal Capital, in connection with SCO Summit.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Seven criminals arrested; weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Sunday apprehended seven individuals involved in various criminal activities, including the possession of illegal weapons and ammunition.

According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police has intensified its crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city.

The Islamabad Police teams from Karachi Company, Sabzi Mandi, and Kirpa police stations took legal action against those involved in illegal weapons possession. As a result, seven individuals were arrested, and authorities recovered two rifles, five pistols, and ammunition from their possession.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad, Syed Ali Raza, reaffirmed the police's commitment to ensuring the safety of citizens' lives and property in the capital. He emphasized that no criminal element would be allowed to disturb the peace of the city.

Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, the emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or the "ICT 15" app, to support efforts in making the city crime-free through public and police cooperation.

## Apsma, Rooh Forum discuss Asswah e Husna

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: In collaboration with Rooh Forum and Apsma, a consultation meeting was held at The Emblem Higher Secondary School Hydari Chowk Satellite Town for the practical implementation of Asswah e Husna in educational institutions. Colonel R Murtaza Ali Shah presided over the meeting. Among the chief guests were Apsma Central Leader Abrar Shakir, Nepra DG Mazhar Ranjha, Kapus College Principal Muhammad Zeeshan and New Tech University Registrar Brigadier Muhammad Adnan. Other participants included Apsma North Punjab President Abrar Ahmad Khan, Vice President Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Member Boards of Governor Federal Education Board Mrs. Sakina Taj, Kamran Saif Qureshi, Prof. Mohiuddin, Shahid Iqbal, Muhammad



Huzaifa. Colonel R. Murtaza Ali Shah gave a detailed briefing regarding the formation of Rooh Forum and its aims and objectives. He said that as an educator, it is our first responsibility to inform the young generation about the good life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) so that they can prepare themselves to face

the temptations of the present time. The role of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association will be very important. Abrar Shakir, a well-known poet and writer who won the presidential award, the main leader of Apsma, said in his speech that he appreciates the religious spirit of Colonel R. Murtaza Ali Shah. In this

regard, it is necessary to make the thoughts of the poet of the East Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal a part of the educational curriculum. Brigadier Muhammad Adnan, Mazhar Ranjha, Mrs. Sakina Taj, Abrar Ahmad Khan, Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Kamran Saif Qureshi also presented practical suggestions in the consultation meeting.

## Pakistan Investors Forum to elect new officers for two years: Fida Hussain Khokhar

**News Desk**

JEDDAH: A grand dinner was organized in honor of the Pakistan Investors Forum by prominent businessman of Mandi Bahauddin, Fida Hussain Khokhar. During the event, all members unanimously elected Chaudhry Shafiqat Mehmood Dhul as President for two years, Sardar Waqas Inayat as General Secretary, and Chaudhry Azhar Warraich as Honorary Chairman.

A large number of members of the Investors Forum attended the dinner, and the event was hosted by Chaudhry Akram Gujjar. On this occasion, Fida Hussain Khokhar welcomed all the participants, expressing his gratitude for the large gathering of Pakistani businessmen in such a short time.

During his speech, Business Forum President Chaudhry Shafiqat Mehmood highlighted the goals and objectives of the forum. He emphasized the importance of unity among Pakistani busi-



nessmen abroad, saying that by sitting together, they can support each other's businesses and provide guidance on business opportunities and Saudi regulations.

Former Federal Minister Chaudhry Shehbaz Ahmed also shared his thoughts during the event, expressing

his happiness at seeing the unity and cooperation among Pakistani businessmen. He acknowledged their crucial role not only in Saudi Arabia's development but also in Pakistan's economy.

At the conclusion of the event, all members unanimously elected

Chaudhry Shafiqat Mehmood Dhul as President of the Pakistan Investors Forum for two years, Sardar Waqas Inayat as General Secretary, and Chaudhry Azhar Warraich as Honorary Chairman. Chaudhry Shafiqat Mehmood thanked all the members for their trust and support.

## AAOU 37th International Conference Kicks off at AIOU

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is holding 37th annual conference of Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). The three-day conference, starting from October 15, will bring together renowned education experts from over 20 countries, including Europe, Asia, the US, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and South Africa.

The 37th AAOU will kick off with a pre-workshop today, October 14, featuring participation from various international delegations.

The inaugural session is scheduled for tomorrow, October 15, at 9 AM, with the Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, serving as the chief guest. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of AIOU, emphasized that the conference aims to address future challenges in the education sector and to generate recommendations for enhancing social and economic development through effective educational strategies. Dr. Zahid Majid, the conference coordinator, noted that the event will attract approximately 80 international experts from 20 countries, alongside more than 200 Pakistani educators. Notable keynote speakers will include scholars from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Pakistan. This significant gathering aims to foster dialogue and collaboration in the field of distance education, aiming to improve educational practices and accessibility worldwide.

## Abacus honoured at "Commonwealth at 75" celebration in London

**City Desk**

LAHORE: Abacus, an internationally renowned professional services company, has been recognised in the prestigious publication; The Commonwealth at 75, launched by the History of Parliament Trust in collaboration with St James's House. This commemorative work, which celebrates the Commonwealth's 75-year journey, shines a light on the organisations and individuals that have shaped its history—and among them, Abacus stands proud.

Asad Ali Khan, Chairman of Abacus, said, "It was an honour to receive this recognition. At Abacus, we've consistently focussed on anticipating future challenges and opportunities, ensuring we stay ahead of the curve. Our dedication to excellence and innovation, has strengthened our position on the global stage, allowing us to represent Pakistan with pride at one of the Commonwealth's most historic moments". "Our growth is built on the strategic foresight of our board, the passion of our Executive Leaders, and the tireless efforts of our people — past and present — transforming us into the institution we are today. We are not just helping our clients grow; we're building legacies that will define the future of business," said Fatima Asad-Said, CEO of Abacus.

With a near 40-year legacy, Abacus has always been at the forefront of shaping the future of business. What began as a vision has evolved into a global powerhouse, now boasting over 4,000 professionals, across 11 business verticals, spanning critical domains such as artificial intelligence, fintech, and enterprise solutions.

## SCO summit to discuss regional peace and security

**Munaza Kazmi**

Tomorrow is new beginning for taking a step towards better future. 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024 with the strong agenda for developing Multilateral Cooperation for Regional Stability and Security is taking place in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15 - 16 October. This meeting will gather Council Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states to discuss major concerns regarding regional Peace and Economic Sustainability. As the current Chair of the CHG, Prime Minister of Pakistan will preside over the upcoming CHG meeting.

Further, SCO members States will be represented by the Prime Minister of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the First Vice President of Iran, and External Affairs Minister of India. Prime Minister of Mongolia (Observer State), and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister Turkmenistan (Special Guest) will also participate in the meeting.

Along, The Prime Minister will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting Heads of Delegation on the sidelines of this meeting. The CHG meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organization. Moreover, the leaders will adopt crucial organizational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organization.

With this initiative Asia look forward for a new Era of Peace with healthy cross-borders relations, preserving our History and Culture, Regulating Economic and Trade, bringing prosperity among nations, along with a Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure.

## Police make foolproof security arrangements for SCO 2024

ISLAMABAD, OCT 13 (APP): Islamabad Police devised a comprehensive security plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit being held in the federal capital, Islamabad in which a number of dignitaries, media persons and businessmen are participating from the partner countries.

In this regard, the Police have issued a comprehensive and integrated security plan to ensure foolproof security for the SCO Summit 2024, a public relations officer on Sunday said while talking to APP.



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

# In the USA the Slavery Still Exists..

I recently met with a former incarcerated U.S. citizen during a gathering near Detroit, Michigan, who made some startling revelations about the status of slavery in the U. S. He explained that while the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, it contains an exception for incarcerated individuals, who are treated as slaves and deprived of many rights enjoyed by free citizens. He argued that the government, Senate, Congress, and politicians are complicit in strengthening law enforcement agencies, creating stringer laws, and allocating disproportionate funds to increase incarceration. By expanding the prison population, corporations exploit incarcerated individuals as cheap labor, inflating their profits, which are then funneled into political campaigns and government officials, creating a perpetual cycle with no end in sight.

He also mentioned that U. S. prisons have become hotspots for forced labor, where inmates work for large corporations and receive meager wages. For example, while free workers may earn \$20 to \$30 per hour, prisoners performing similar tasks earn as little as \$20 per month. Companies like McDonald's and Walmart have been linked to the use of prison labor for tasks such as manufacturing and packaging, where inmates are paid minimal wages. These revelations prompted me to dive deeper into the 13th Amendment and its exception clause, as I found it difficult to believe that a country known for championing freedom and democracy could still harbor any form of slavery.

Further research revealed that private prison companies, such as CoreCivic

and GEO Group, have spent millions lobbying for policies that promote mass incarceration, such as mandatory minimum sentences and harsher laws. These companies, benefiting from a steady stream of low-cost labor, contribute to political campaigns, ensuring that the cycle of mass incarceration continues. The business model behind prisoner exploitation, enabled by the 13th Amendment's exception clause, has gradually gained more attention, particularly in recent years. Throughout the 20th century, both major political parties largely ignored this issue, focusing instead on "law and order" policies, especially during the War on Drugs in the 1980s and 1990s, which expanded the prison system.

In the 21st century, advocacy for criminal justice reform has risen, particularly during President Barack Obama's administration, though the focus remained more on sentencing reform and addressing racial disparities, with less emphasis on the 13th Amendment exception. Progressive Democrats like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have recently pushed to end prison labor exploitation, advocating for more comprehensive reform. On the other hand, Republicans, particularly under Donald Trump, passed the First Step Act in 2018, a bipartisan effort to reform sentencing laws, though it did not address the prison labor issue. Despite increasing awareness from civil rights groups and progressive voices, the topic

has yet to become a major focus of either party's platform in the 2024 Harris-Trump campaign.

The lack of attention to prisoner enslavement from both major political parties has left a void filled by advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), led by Bryan Stevenson. These groups, along with others like the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), and Critical Resistance, are working to end the exploitation of prison labor. They argue that the prison labor system, perpetuated by the 13th Amendment's exception clause, continues to fuel economic and racial inequalities.

This research led me to question how the ecosystem of prisoner exploitation could become such a significant monetary incentive that neither side of the political spectrum addresses it directly. I discovered that, as of 2023, approximately 800,000 of the 2.1 million incarcerated individuals in the U. S. are subjected to forced labor. The value of goods and services produced by this labor is estimated to be between \$11 and \$14 billion annually, with prisoners paid a fraction of what free workers earn. The relationship between corporations, lawmakers, and law enforcement agencies creates a cycle where higher incarceration rates benefit private companies. As these profits rise, they fund political campaigns and lobbying efforts, making the prison-industrial complex self-sus-

taining as long as corporate and political interests align.

In recent years, there have been efforts to abolish the 13th Amendment's exception clause, with some states like Colorado and Utah amending their constitutions to prohibit slavery or involuntary servitude, even for prisoners. However, the political and economic incentives tied to the prison system make it a deeply entrenched issue. Without significant reform, the cycle of exploitation will likely continue, sustained by the intersection of corporate interests, political influence, and the legal framework that enables prison labor.

The 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, while abolishing slavery in 1865, contains an exception that allows for involuntary servitude "as a punishment for crime." This exception has created a legal framework in which incarcerated individuals can be forced to work under exploitative conditions, often for extremely low wages. In 2023, the U. S. prison population stood at approximately 2.1 million people, with an estimated 800,000 engaged in some form of prison labor. These individuals are often paid far below minimum wage, sometimes as little as \$0.23 per hour. This practice contradicts the spirit of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause and the 8th Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, as it disproportionately affects minority groups, particularly African Americans, who are incarcerated at higher rates and are subjected to harsh labor conditions that would be considered unacceptable for non-incarcerated workers.

The exception also violates international human rights standards. The



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## UN chief: education helps protect children from disaster risk as climate change worsens

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has underscored the vital role of education in protecting children and empowering them to build a disaster-resilient future.

In a message marking Sunday's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN chief highlighted the severe impact of disasters on children.

"When disasters strike, they unleash enormous devastation on individuals, societies and economies. The ripple effects of death, destruction and displacement are unimaginable. Today, disasters are often supercharged by the climate crisis, increasing their frequency and intensity," he said.

"No one is safe, but children are particularly vulnerable," he added.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), approximately one billion children are at "extremely high risk" from the effects of climate change. Recent years have seen the highest levels of children affected by destructive flooding in over three decades.

In the aftermath of disasters, children face disruptions to education, nutrition, and healthcare. They often lose access to essential social services and protection, while girls and children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to dangerous conditions.

Children from impoverished families are disproportionately impacted, further deepening the challenges they face in recovering from both disasters and the consequences of climate change.

Despite their vulnerabilities, Guterres stressed that children are not just victims of disaster.

"They have a huge stake in the future, and their ideas and innovations can help to reduce risk and build resilience."

He reiterated the theme of this year's International Day: the role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.

"Education is key for not only protecting children but enabling them to take part in decision-making to reduce risks for all," he said.

The Secretary-General urged countries to take concrete steps to reduce risks for children, including by expanding multi-hazard early warning systems to reach all populations; constructing and retrofitting schools to withstand disasters; and empowering youth with the tools to become champions of resilience.

He also encouraged governments to adopt the Comprehensive School Safety Framework, a roadmap for advancing disaster risk reduction and resilience in the education sector. The framework offers practical tools and guidance for ministries of education, disaster management authorities, and other stakeholders to promote safer learning environments.

"On this International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, and every day, we owe it to future generations to shape a safer, more resilient tomorrow," Guterres said.



Rasmi



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

## State, People, Army & Anarchy - I

In the context of Pakistan, the relationship between the state, its people, and the Pakistan Army exemplifies the nation's resilience and unity. This dynamic partnership is evident through numerous instances of cooperation, support, and mutual respect, demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of this triadic alliance. One of the most striking examples of this bond is the response to natural disasters, with the 2005 Kashmir earthquake serving as a prime illustration. In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, the Pakistan Army was pivotal in rescue and relief operations, delivering immediate aid to the affected areas. The state mobilized resources effectively, while the public contributed through donations and volunteer work. This collective response demonstrated the effective coordination between the army, government, and citizens during a crisis. Similarly, during the 2010 and 2011 floods—some of the worst in Pakistan's history—the synergy between the army, state-organized relief efforts, and public contributions was crucial. The army's logistical support, combined with state initiatives and public donations, played a key role in providing aid, rebuilding infrastructure, and assisting displaced communities.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb, launched in 2014, was a major military campaign aimed at eradicating terrorism in North Waziristan. This operation highlighted the strong partnership between the Pakistani state and its military, with the state providing policy and resource support while the army executed the mission with precision and commitment. Despite facing challenges and making sacrifices, the people of Pakistan supported the army's efforts with patience and resilience. The success of the operation marked a significant advancement in counterterrorism efforts and underscored the collective determination of the state, military, and citizens.

Currently, the Pakistan Army continues its robust fight against terrorism, with Operation Azm-e-Istehkam also underway to eradicate terrorism from the country. The development of Pakistan's defense capabilities often reflects the collaborative spirit among the state, army, and people. Examples include the creation of the indigenously produced JF-17 Thunder fighter jets and successful nuclear tests—showcasing how the army's expertise, state backing, and public support converge. These advancements in military technology and defense strategies are bolstered by state policies and public confidence, contributing to national security and pride.

The Pakistan Army's engagement in various humanitarian and community development projects further illustrates this remarkable partnership. The army's involvement in constructing schools, hospitals, and infrastructure in underserved regions—such as the Thar Coalfield project and educational development in remote areas—is supported by the state and valued by the public. These initiatives not only enhance living standards but also reinforce the collaborative spirit among the army, government, and citizens.

Despite encountering various challenges, Pakistan's distinctive strengths and opportunities offer a path to a prosperous future. Its strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East provides significant advantages. Proximity to major global trade routes and emerging markets presents opportunities for economic expansion through enhanced trade and regional connectivity. Initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) demonstrate how Pakistan can capitalize on its strategic position to advance infrastructure development and economic integration. Additionally, with a young and growing population,

To be continued

## Strengthening Ties: Pakistan Hosts The SCO Summit in Islamabad

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a pivotal international conference where leaders and high-ranking officials from SCO member countries convene. The purpose of the summit is to foster collaboration among member states addressing security challenges exploring new opportunities for economic development. By facilitating dialogue and discussions the summit aims to enhance regional stability, promote collective growth, security cooperation. The Heads of State Council (HSC) serves as the paramount decision-making authority within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This council convenes annually to deliberate on critical matters and provide directives concerning the organization's activities. The SCO strives to collaborate engage across various sectors for example trade, economy, education, technology, environmental protection, tourism, science, energy, transportation and various other fields.

Pakistan's geographical location positions it as a vital bridge between South Asia and Central Asia which can be a significant advantage during the SCO summit it is hosting this year. This strategic position allows Pakistan to facilitate trade and connectivity between these two regions enhancing economic cooperation. Pakistan can promote initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which connects Gwadar Port to China and opens pathways for trade with Central Asian countries. This connectivity can lead to increased investment and trade opportunities, benefiting Pakistan's economy. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

is a flagship project as it is interlinked with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and is essential for both China and Pakistan. It comprises a network of roads, railways, and pipelines that connect Gwadar Port in Pakistan to China's Xinjiang region. CPEC is crucial for China as it provides a direct route to the Arabian Sea. For Pakistan, the development of Gwadar Port and surrounding infrastructure is expected to transform it into a major trade hub, benefiting both nations economically and strategically. Moreover hosting the SCO summit can indeed provide Pakistan with significant benefits regarding major gas pipeline projects like the Iran-Pakistan (IP) and Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline projects. Pakistan can engage directly with leaders from SCO member states, which can facilitate discussions and negotiations related to these gas pipeline projects emphasizing its role in regional energy security and economic development. Pakistan's geographical location can significantly contribute to efforts aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan. Pakistan shares a long border with Afghanistan making it a critical player in any discussions regarding Afghan stability. The summit can serve as a platform to propose and develop a comprehensive regional security framework that outlines cooperative measures, responsibilities, and protocols among member states to address security issues collectively. Pakistan can strengthen its alliances with other countries in the region and beyond. Hosting the summit allows Pakistan to raise awareness about its own environmental challenges and initiatives. By highlighting its commitment to environmental sustainability, Paki-

stan can attract investments in green technologies and renewable energy projects from other member countries, fostering sustainable development. It offers a vital chance to enhance collaboration on key issues like water management, disaster response, and sustainable development to tackle climate change effects in the region. Pakistan can benefit in terms of culture exchange programs by showcasing its rich cultural heritage as this exposure can help promote tourism and cultural ties, as foreign delegates and visitors may be more inclined towards it after experiencing their first-hand. The summit can serve as a platform for Pakistan to collaborate with other countries on educational and cultural initiatives, such as student exchange programs, joint research projects. Initiatives such as the Fulbright Program, Erasmus+, AIESEC and cultural ambassador programs could emerge from the SCO Summit that Pakistan is hosting in Islamabad. Given that Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world, with 64% of its population under the age of 30, these programs could offer immense benefits.

As the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) evolves to address emerging global challenges, Pakistan's active engagement and strategic initiatives within the framework of the organization will be vital in shaping its future direction. The successful hosting of such a high-profile event highlights Pakistan's enhanced role and status amplifying its geopolitical significance. Through this summit, Pakistan not only reinforces its position as a key player in international relations but also contributes in creating a collaborative environment where mutual interests can be addressed, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and stability in the region.

Writer can be reached at [rajamuhammadkhani@gmail.com](mailto:rajamuhammadkhani@gmail.com)



Analysis

Raja Muhammad Khan Abbasi



# Pakistani embassy in Oman organizes Trade Expo

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Pakistan, Muscat on Sunday organized a landmark first ever multi-sectoral Pakistan-Oman Trade Expo and Business Conference which kicked off in Muscat and will continue for two days.

The event was attended by Sayyid Juland Bin Jaifar Al Said Chairman Pakistan Oman Investment Company, Sayyida Hujaija Bint Jaifar Al Said, International Ambassador for Social Responsibility, Faisal Bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Imran Ali, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, Nouman Ali, CEO Oman Investment Authority, Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, VP FPCCI and prominent Pakistani and Omani businesspersons, a press release said.

The event is unprecedented as Pakistani business houses from 10 categories including textiles, clothing, fashion apparel, agricultural products, surgical instruments, sports goods, pharmaceuticals, handicrafts, hotel investment are showcasing their products for the first time in Oman under one roof. 172 business delegates from top Pakistani companies are participating in the event.

The expo is providing a platform for



Pakistani businesses to showcase their high-quality products to the Omani market as well as an opportunity for Pakistani investors to look for investment opportunities in the brotherly country of Oman.

The expo facilitates direct interaction between Omani and Pakistani businesses which would result in future partnerships and collaborations.

Separate sessions were held to apprise the Pakistani businesspersons about the legal mechanisms regarding

opening and operating a company in Oman.

Speakers from both sides were of the view that the cordial relations that the two sides enjoyed were not reflective of the true potential of the trade volume the two countries could have.

Oman seeks to diversify its economy and reduce reliance on oil, while Pakistan aims to increase its exports and access new markets.

The Chairman of OCCI in his speech welcomed the exhibitors and business delegates from Pakistan and said that



Pakistan and Oman can increase their trade manifold.

Ambassador Imran Ali Chaudhry expressed his gratitude to the Government of Oman in providing facilitation

in organizing the expo. He said this forum marks a new chapter in the economic partnership between Pakistan and Oman.

Making the business and trade

communities to meet each other frequently sparks new opportunities of trade and investment, he said.

He expressed his resolve to make this expo a yearly feature.

## Women's economic participation fostering productivity, development: PIAF

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has observed that the women's economic participation promotes agricultural productivity, enterprise development at the micro, small, and medium enterprise levels, as well as enhances business management and returns on investment.

He was talking to the dinner reception hosted by PIAF Women Wing's Nabeela Intisar and Firdous Nisar, which was also attended by Mian Anjum Nisar.

The PIAF chairman emphasized the need for separate representation and appropriate quotas for businesswomen in every sector. He stated that women should be given 30 to



40 percent representation in business institutions so that they can demonstrate their abilities in all fields of life.

Speaking at an event in Lahore celebrating the historic success of the PIAF Women Wing, the PIAF officials highlighted that the constitution guarantees the protection of women's rights, but these laws are not fully implemented.

Both the government and the private sector need to play their role in providing opportunities for the development of women.

Faheemur Rehman Saigol stressed the importance of skill development for women to succeed in practical life. He said that national progress is not possible without integrating women into the mainstream. One of the major

barriers to the development of women is the lack of access to loans from banks, which must be addressed.

Other PIAF officials who spoke at the event echoed the need for the private sector to join hands with the government in creating a conducive environment and providing equal opportunities for businesswomen.

## UAJK ranks top in AJK and 35th in Pakistan in the World Rankings 2025

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has been ranked as the top university in the state, 35th among Pakistani universities, and placed in the 1201-1500 bracket globally, according to the recently released Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025. A press release from the university's Public Relations Department shared that this ranking was determined based on various performance indicators including teaching quality, research environment, industry engagement, and international outlook.

UAJK's strong academic infrastructure, modern laboratories equipped with advanced technology, and dedication to high-quality research have played a key role in securing this prestigious position at the state, national, and global levels. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr.

Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi congratulated the faculty, students, staff, and alumni for this achievement and commended their dedication despite limited financial resources. He emphasized that this ranking is a testament to the tireless efforts of UAJK's faculty and researchers. The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the critical role played by PhD, MPhil, and MS scholars under the guidance of faculty members in advancing quality research at the university.

Prof. Dr. Abbasi further praised the university's Quality Enhancement Cell, administration, and staff for their active participation in UAJK's development. He expressed pride in the university's steady improvement in teaching and research standards, which has been recognized by national and international organizations.

Looking ahead, Prof. Dr. Abbasi stated that the university aims to be among the top 500 global universities and within the top 10 in Pakistan. To achieve this, the faculty, administration, and staff must continue their dedication to excellence. He also acknowledged the significant contribution of the Saudi Fund for Development in providing state-of-the-art infrastructure at the King Abdullah Campus, which has earned a distinct place among Pakistan's university campuses.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that achieving a high rank in the Times Higher Education World Rankings is not the university's ultimate goal but rather a starting point. With continued support from the government, UAJK has the potential to contribute substantially to the socio-economic development of the region and the nation.

SCO summit:

## These roads will be closed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi from Oct 14 to 16

Both Islamabad and Rawalpindi Traffic police have announced road closure and diversion plans

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: As the high-profile Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit gets underway in Islamabad with multiple heads of government and dozens of foreign delegations in attendance, the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are expected to see several road blockages.

Both Islamabad and Rawalpindi Traffic police have announced road closures and diversion plans for the summit. The road closures will be in

effect from October 14 to 16.

Islamabad  
Peshawar to Rawat: Use GT Road, Taxila, Motorway, Chak Beli Road, and Rawat.

Lahore (GT Road) to Peshawar: Use Rawat, Chak Beli Road, Chak Beli Interchange, Motorway, and Taxila.

Margalla Road to Rawalpindi: Use 9th Avenue.

Faisal Avenue to Zero Point: Traffic will be diverted towards 9th Avenue.

Bhara Kahu to Rawalpindi: Use Korang Road and Lehrtr Road via Bani Gala.

Rawalpindi to Islamabad: Use 9th Avenue from Murree Road (Sadar).

Faisal Avenue (Zero Point) to Coral Chowk: The expressway will be closed in both directions.

Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed Road to Faizabad: Use 9th Avenue signal and Stadium Road.

Heavy Traffic (Peshawar to Lahore): Use Taxila, Motorway, Tarnol Phatak, Fatch Jang Road Interchange, and Motorway.

Heavy Traffic (Lahore GT Road to Islamabad/Rawalpindi): Use Chak Beli Road,

Chak Beli Interchange, and Motorway.

Rawalpindi  
No traffic will be allowed from Chohan Chowk towards Airport Road during the movement.

Traffic going towards Coral Chowk will be diverted from Chohan Chowk via Rawal Road, Shaheen Chowk, and towards Murree Road.

Traffic from Jhanda Turn towards Amar Chowk will be diverted from Amar Chowk towards Scheme 3 or Kachehri Chowk.

Traffic from Amar Chowk



towards Chohan Chowk will be diverted from Agha Za Flyover, Rahim Abad towards Rahim Abad.

Traffic from Annexe Chowk towards Amar Chowk will be diverted via Jhanda Turn (Jhanda Turn) and Rashid Minhas Road.

Traffic from Mushtaq Beg Shaheed Road towards Airport Road will be diverted from Annexe Chowk towards Kachehri Chowk.

Traffic from Kachehri Chowk towards Airport Road will be diverted towards Rashid Minhas Road and Murree Chowk.

Traffic from Mall Road towards Kachehri Chowk will be diverted from Shalimar Chowk via Sarwar Road, Punjab Street, and towards Rashid Minhas Road.

Heavy traffic will not be allowed to exit the motorway during this time.

## Emerging Infectious Diseases and Preparedness in Pakistan 2024

Muiza Sabir Khan

The world has witnessed a fast-emerging and widespread infectious disease over the last few years, requiring appropriate preparedness planning. Pakistan is not an exception but rather stands in a class of its own concerning how it manages EIDs. As 2024 unfolds, it will be critical to understand emerging threats and preparedness planning to reduce increased public health impacts. Newly emerging or previously unrecognized infections whose incidence in humans has increased within an area and whose range has expanded are considered to be emerging infectious

diseases. The emergence of such diseases is determined by factors such as urbanization, climate change, global travel, and encroachment of wildlife habitats. This risks health security substantially in Pakistan.

**Key Emerging Infectious Diseases in Pakistan (2024)**

Emergence of Variants COVID-19: The pandemic is still not over, and the new and never forms of viruses SARS-CoV2 continue to evolve. In the year 2024, watchfulness is warranted as these variants will evade prevailing immunity generated by different vaccines and infections. Public health campaigns, vaccination programs, and booster doses shall be craved for.

Nipah Virus: Nipah virus is

found in South Asia through contact of bats and pigs with humans. Information campaigns on the routes of transmission and symptoms of this virus would prevent outbreaks in Pakistan, where zoonotic spillover is probable. The government and health agencies should increase their vigilance in areas of known outbreaks.

Dengue Fever: Despite being a perennial threat in Pakistan, the monsoon season is marked by an increase in the number of dengue fever cases; climate change possibly changing the rainfall pattern may be adding to the cases in cities. The public can use their education on control measures for mosquito prevention to reduce the rate of transmission.

Chikungunya: This viral disease is spread through Aedes mosquitoes and has cases reported scattered all over Pakistan. It causes extreme joint pain, fever, and rashes. Strengthen vector control and create public awareness about how the spread can be curbed.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF): CCHF is prevalent in different regions of Pakistan, primarily during livestock seasons. Providers should educate the local farmers and health workers about risk factors and measures to prevent animal-to-human transmission.

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome: In this day and age, with increased cases of rodent-borne diseases, there seems to

be an emergent risk of hantavirus. However, public awareness about rodent control and rural/urban sanitation can prevent an outbreak.

**Why preparedness is important?**

Preparedness is the backbone of dealing with emerging infectious diseases. Some of the key strategies that should be adopted to improve preparedness in Pakistan are:

Strength of Surveillance Systems It's the early detection of outbreaks by efficient surveillance systems that leads to early response and containment.

Public Health Education EIDs, mode of spread, and preventive measures must be created. Community engagement promotes behavior modification

towards healthy practices among the people themselves.

Other than this, investment into vaccine research for emerging pathogens and expansion of the coverage of vaccination for known infectious diseases also becomes important.

Health, agriculture, and environmental sectors can undertake the complexity of dealing with EIDs. One Health approach would become critical while managing zoonotic diseases by considering aspects of human, animal, and environmental health.

Emergency response plans can be drawn out and placed under constant review for preparing appropriate responses from health authorities to potential

outbreaks.

**Conclusion**

Emerging infectious diseases are one of the major threats to the public health of Pakistan. Looking into 2024, vigilance and preparedness in all senses must be made imperative. Consequences of EIDs in Pakistan could be avoided effectively with a better understanding of risks, good surveillance, awareness among the public, and collaboration across sectors. We can build a resilient healthcare system capable of handling the challenges emerging infectious diseases pose while safeguarding the health of our communities by working together.

Writer is biotechnology graduate from Capital University of Science & Technology Islamabad



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
85,483.40	85,453.22
Day's High	Day's Low
85,750.18	84,774.45
Index Value	Change
20,705,570,997	+30.18
Percentage	Time
+0.04%	11 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,253.65	+15.92
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	11 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,722.61	+268.49
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	11 Oct, 1:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,605.80	+224.91
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	11 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.75	188.86
Bahrain Dinar	731.71	739.71
Canadian Dollar	202.60	205.00
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	302.05	304.80
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.00	907.50
Malaysian Ringgit	63.55	64.15
New Zealand \$	174.21	176.21
Norwegians Krone	26.26	26.56
Omani Riyal	716.67	725.17
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.15	27.46
Swiss Franc	322.20	325.15
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.40	76.05
UK Pound Sterling	360.35	363.85
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

# Government successfully prevents an economic catastrophe, says Dr. Shahid Butt

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the government has saved the country from complete economic collapse.

The non-political finance minister has demonstrated his value as a national asset. He added that if allowed to serve for a few years, he has the potential to transform Pakistan's destiny.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the authorities should cooperate with the finance minister in every possible way, and no one should be allowed to stand in his way so that he can work with peace of mind.

The business leader stated that Pakistan has

never experienced a shortage of rice or corn due to the government's lack of involvement.

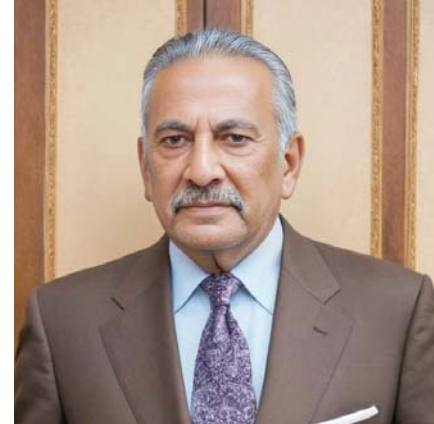
However, the government consistently intervenes in the wheat and sugarcane crops, leading to recurring crises that will persist until the government ceases its intervention.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that if trade with neighbouring country is allowed, then there will be no shortage of vegetables in Pakistan.

He said that the Rs 5,000 banknote is a big obstacle to increasing revenue and reducing corruption.

The high-denomination currency note does not provide benefits to the people; instead, it has fostered corruption and fortified the underground economy. It is also causing harm to the formal economy, weakening the banking and tax systems.

He stated that counterfeiters profit more from the production of large notes, which can



cost up to Rs 100 to print a 5000 banknote. Although the US economy and per capita income are significantly higher than those of

Pakistan, the largest banknote in America is the 100 dollar, which contributes to their economic stability.

Shahid Rasheed Butt added that at present, in Pakistan, the ratio of currency in circulation is one of the highest in the world. Currently, Rs 9.5 trillion is in circulation in Pakistan, which shows the spread of the underground economy and the influence of the people involved in it.

He stated that as long as illegal gold imports continue to exist in the country, many businessmen will continue to use it for transactions.

According to Mr. Butt, the economy is currently benefiting from the halving of the volume of Afghan transit trade, the reduction of dollar smuggling, the control of exchange companies, the correction of IPPs, the reduction of under- and over-invoicing, and the inclusion of agricultural income in the tax system.

## Bazaar Closed

ISLAMABAD: Weekly Margallah Bazaar H-9 closed on Sunday, in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Tariq Rashid elected unopposed Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hardware Merchants Association

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Prominent industrialist Syed Tariq Rashid has been elected unopposed as the Central Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Hardware Merchants Association (PHMA) for the 2024-2026 term. This achievement reflects Mr. Tariq's extensive experience in addressing trade and industry-related issues. In the past, he successfully served as the President of the North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI).

In a statement, Syed Tariq Rashid expressed his



commitment to meeting the trust of the members and pledged to utilize all his capabilities to resolve issues. He emphasized that he would raise their concerns vigorously with the relevant officials.

## Current exorbitant electricity MDI rates collapse industry collapse: Mian Akram Farid

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mian Akram Farid, the driving force behind the Founder Group, former president of the ICCL, and a prominent industrialist in the country, has described the highest industrial MDI rate set by IESCO as extremely dangerous for the industry. He expressed these views at a core committee meeting of the United Business Group, which was chaired by the group's patron-in-chief, SM Tanvir.

He said that the current MDI of 1250 kilowatts per month has drastically increased the costs of the industry, and many industrialists have already shut down their industries. This situation is extremely dangerous for the national economy. He demanded that the MDI rate be reduced to the previous level, which was less than half of the current tariff.

Discussing the issue of IPPs, he said that due to the efforts of the current government, IPPs have agreed to renegotiate their agreements, which is commendable.

On this occasion, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram Sheikh, Zafar Bakhtawar, Secretary General of the UBG, Mirza Akhtar Baig (MNA), Khalid Tuwab, Regional Chairman (UBG) Sindh



Region, Ghazanfar Bilour, Regional Chairman (UBG) KP Region, Engineer Daroo Khan, Regional Chairman (UBG) Balochistan Region, Abdul Rauf Alam, Regional Chairman (UBG) ICT Region, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawar, former President

ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder Group, Sheikh Abdul Wahid, former Vice President FPCCI, Ahmed Chinoy, Hanif Gohar, UBG Sindh Region, and other members of the UBG Core Committee from all regions were also present.

## SCO Summit will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity: RCCI



**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16 will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the states.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat in a statement said that SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between the member states. Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral relations and regional connectivity, he added. A

pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future, he said.

Usman Shaukat further added that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO. With direct access to the Arabian Sea and proximity to China and Central Asia, initiatives like CPEC are unlocking new trade routes and boosting regional cooperation.

The SCO member states represent 40% of the global population and 32% of the world's GDP—highlighting their powerful potential to influence the future of the global economy and international relations.

## FPCCI disregards Saudi investment delegation: Mirza Abdul Rehman

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Trade leader and founder President of Attock Chamber of Commerce Mirza Abdul Rehman on Sunday said that the top leadership of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) disregarded the Saudi investment delegation, which is shameful.

Saudi business delegates, led by their Minister for Investment, Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, met with top officials, ministers, and leading businessmen during their visit, and they signed numerous Memorandums of Understanding

(MoUs) that will result in an investment of over two billion dollars.

However, he said, not a single elected official of the Apex chamber had time to attend any meeting with the visiting delegation in Islamabad, as they were busy with activities beneficial to their businesses.

Mirza Abdul Rehman said in a statement issued here today that, at the insistence of some quarters, two unelected businessmen were sent by the FPCCI Capital Official to attend a meeting who lacked the mandate and skills to talk to any investor about anything.

This negative attitude speaks to the interest of the elected leaders of



the FPCCI in national development, promoting the image of Pakistan, and attracting foreign investment.

He demanded action against self-centred businessmen who focused on reaping personal benefits while ignoring national interests. He stated that FPCCI should serve

as a place where local and foreign investors receive support and have their issues resolved, not as a club to enjoy life.

He added that a chamber of commerce is a powerful force that can help shape the future of business for the better. It is a network of business owners who come together to network with each other and promote investments.

Chambers of Commerce are independent and do not create laws or regulations themselves, but they have great influence with legislators when it comes to lobbying and are therefore seen as an authoritative figure in the business landscape, he noted.

The Apex chamber should support legislation that will help businesses thrive through programs, campaigns, schemes, and discussions, but that is not the case in FPCCI.

FPCCI should provide businesses with the opportunity for extra exposure, a space to network with other business owners, and the ability to engage deeper with the community, but its leaders are only interested in promoting their personal relations and businesses, said Mirza Abdul Rehman.

He stated that the corruption, mismanagement, and incompetence of those in charge are causing the FPCCI's reputation to plummet.

## SCO Summit is a Golden Opportunity for Pakistan to Showcase its Positive Image, Ahsan Bakhtawari

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Member of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group (UBG) Ahsan Bakhtawari has termed the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad as a rare opportunity for Pakistan to promote trade ties with members countries and improve connectivity.

In a statement he said The SCO summit

is a significant diplomatic achievement for the government, and we must utilize this platform to boost trade, business-to-business relations, and connectivity.

He added that Pakistan is hosting a major global forum after a long time, providing an ideal opportunity to showcase its soft and positive image to the world. The large presence of SCO member countries in Pakistan will pave the way for investment and economic ties.

He emphasized that Pakistan has the potential to become an ideal destination for investment, trade, and tourism. He stressed the importance of highlighting Pakistan's positive aspects to foreign delegates.

He appealed to avoid protests and sit-ins during the summit, warning that any unpleasant incident during the foreign dignitaries' presence would bring shame to the nation.

He commended the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for preparing Islamabad for the conference. "The Chairman CDA and other administrative officers deserve appreciation for their efforts," he said.





# Pakistan Army secures gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Army's team has been awarded the gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024, which concluded today in Wales, United Kingdom.

According to a press release issued here, the event, held from the 4th to the 13th of this month, marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the exercise, which upholds demanding professional standards.

Pakistan Army secures gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024. Patrols from around the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of sixty kilometers within forty-eight hours while completing specialized tasks in a contested environment.

This year, one hundred and twenty-eight teams from forty-two countries participated in the exercise, and the Pakistan Army's team demonstrated exceptional performance and secured the gold medal.



# Pakistan name squad for 2nd and 3rd England Test Matches

Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Sarfaraz out of England Series

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan cricket selectors have announced their squad for the second and third Test matches against England, which will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi on 15 and 24 October, respectively.

Taking into consideration the current form and fitness of key players and looking ahead to Pakistan's future assignments in the 2024-25 international cricket season, the selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Abrar Ahmed (who is recovering from dengue fever) was unavailable for selection.

The four players have been replaced by Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, Kamran Ghulam (all uncapped), fast bowler Mohammad Ali and off-spinner Sajid Khan. Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original first Test squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad.

Squad (for 2nd and 3rd Tests):



Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wicket-keeper), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood.

Aqib Javed, member of the men's national selection committee:

"Selecting the squad for the upcoming Tests against England has been a challenging task for the selectors. We've had to carefully consider current player form, the urgency to bounce back in the series and Pakistan's demanding 2024-25

international schedule. With these factors in mind and in the best interest of Pakistan cricket as well as the players, we've made the decision to rest Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

"We are confident that this break from international cricket will help these players regain their fitness, confidence and composure, ensuring their return in top shape for future challenges. They remain some of our finest talents with much more to contribute to Pakistan cricket. We are fully committed to supporting them during this period so they can come back even stronger.

"At the same time, we are offering

opportunities to uncapped players like Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, and Kamran Ghulam, along with Mohammad Ali, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood. They now have the chance to showcase their skills against a formidable England side. We believe they will rise to the occasion and make the most of this opportunity in the remaining two Tests."

Meanwhile, Haseebullah and Mehran Mumtaz, who were part of the Pakistan Shaheens squad for the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, have been replaced by Maaaz Sadaqat and Rohail Nazir. The tournament will be held in Oman from 18 October.

## 7th National Men's Softball Championship will be played from October 23 to 25 in Karachi



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 7th National Men's Softball Championship will be played in Karachi from October 23 to 25. The event will be hosted by the Sindh Softball Association, while the 15th National Women's Softball Championship will also be held this year by the Softball Federation in Karachi. This decision was taken in the meeting of the Executive Committee of Softball Federation of Pakistan held in Karachi.

In the meeting held under the leadership of Federation President Asif Azeem, attended by Senior Vice President Professor Dr. Farhan Essa, Chairperson Yasmin Haider, Vice Presidents Farah Saeed, Tehmina Asif, Secretary General Naseem Khan, Finance Secretary Muhammad Zeeshan Merchant, Associate Secretary Murad Hussain and others, it was approved to give playing rights to Dr. Essa Laboratories and Combaxx Sports as new departments and to hold the post of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the Federation.

Federation's President Asif Azeem said that next year the first Inter-Departmental Softball league will be played in Lahore, the inter-provincial junior men's championship will be hosted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Softball Association, while the bilateral series between the men's teams of Sindh and Balochistan will be played in Quetta.

On the suggestion of Farhan Essa, it was approved to organize interschool softball championships regularly every year to further promote the game of softball from the grass root level.

Chairperson Yasmin Haider said that to improve the performance of the national team in international events, Steps should be taken to invite foreign coaches to Pakistan so that they can nurture new talent with their experience.

## Zakir Babu and Arshad Muneem Memorial Flood Light T20 League' rescheduled matches will start today,

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The new schedule of Zakir Babu and Arshad Muneem Memorial Flood Light T20 League Cricket Tournament 2024 Season 1 postponed matches held at Abbasi Gymkhana Cricket Ground New Karachi has been released. According to the decision of the tournament committee members Sadiq Khatri, Rizwan Wada, Waqar Ahmad Dawana, Shahid Tau and Mohammad Nizam,

the rescheduled matches will start on Monday, October 14. On the first day, the unfinished match between Tara Sports and Jinnah Sports will take place at 8 PM. However, in the second match on the same day, Al-Akhwan CC will compete against New Zam Zam CC at 10:00 PM. On Tuesday, October 15, Khatri CC and Eleven A Lions will meet at 9:30. In the last league match on October 16, Tara Sports will face Khatri CC at 9:30 PM.

The first semi-final of the tournament will be played on October 17 at 9:30 PM, between the No. 1 team of the league and the No. 4 team, while in the second semi-final, the No. 2 team will play against the No. 3 team at 9:30 PM on October 18. The final of the tournament will be played on Saturday, October 19 between the two semi-final winners at the Abbasi Gymkhana Cricket Ground, New Karachi at 9:30 PM.

## PSB issues NOC for Pakistan Women's Football team despite NC PFF's delays

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a move aimed at supporting the players, the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has issued the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Pakistan Women's National Football Team to participate in the SAFF Football Championship, scheduled from October 17 to 30 in Nepal.

This action follows significant delays caused by the Normalization Committee (NC) of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF).

Sources reveal that the PSB had repeatedly requested the NC PFF to submit the necessary documents for obtaining the NOC.

However, the committee failed to comply in a timely manner and did not follow the prescribed procedure, which is available on the PSB website.

Despite these delays, the PSB, committed to supporting athletes, reportedly took the decision to issue the NOC to ensure the team's participation in the SAFF Championship.

This development highlights the PSB's continued dedication to Pakistan's athletes, ensuring their presence in international competitions despite administrative hurdles.

# Women's T20 World Cup: Fatima Sana rejoins Pakistan squad ahead of New Zealand clash

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has arrived in Dubai to rejoin the national squad ahead of tomorrow's ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 clash against New Zealand at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Fatima had left the tournament midway to attend her father's funeral in Karachi on 10 October. She missed Pakistan's match against Australia, where the team suffered a humiliating nine-wicket loss under the captaincy of Muneeba Ali.

Pakistan are currently placed in fourth place in Group B with one victory and two losses after three games. They will play



their last match against New Zealand, which is a must-win game for them to keep their

hopes alive for the semi-final.

The Green Shirts have to beat New Zealand by a substantial margin and then hope for other results to go their way.

Fatima Sana's return will be a big boost for Pakistan considering their struggling performance against Australia in her absence.

It's worth noting that the ongoing tournament is Fatima's first as captain and she has been leading Pakistan from the front with four wickets in two games along with 43 runs at a strike-rate of 153.57.

Fatima Sana played a key role in Pakistan's victory over Sri Lanka in their tournament opener and earned the Player of the Match award for her performance.

# Sports in Pakistan and JPMC Forge Strategic Partnership to Drive Awareness, Education, and Hope

Sports Desk

KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Sports in Pakistan partnered with Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) to join the global Pinktober movement, promoting breast cancer awareness and support.

The partnership aimed to educate communities on early detection, screening, and treatment options, ultimately saving lives.

The event features three participation categories: 20k Ride, 10k Run, and 5k Walk. This inclusive approach encourages people from all walks of life to participate and show their support.

Sharmila Farooqui, Chief

Guest of the Pinktober event, stated: 'It is a matter of pride and joy for me to be a part of the Pinktober event, a powerful movement that unites us in the fight against breast cancer. Today, we stand together to promote awareness, support survivors, and inspire hope. I commend Sports in Pakistan and JPMC for their tireless efforts in making a difference. Let us continue to empower women and communities through education, early detection, and unwavering solidarity.'

"We are committed to promoting breast cancer awareness and supporting research initiatives in Pakistan. Our partnership with JPMC rein-

forces our dedication to this noble cause, and we invite everyone to join us in making a difference said Shoaib Nizami - CEO of Sports in Pakistan.

"Early detection and screening are crucial in fighting breast cancer. We aim to educate and empower communities through this event and our ongoing initiatives. JPMC is proud to partner with Sports in Pakistan for Pinktober," said Prof. Shaista Shoukat, Head of the Radiology Department JPMC.

As the riders, runners, and walkers completed their journey, they exuded pride, unity, and a shared commitment to combating breast cancer, encapsulating the



essence of Pinktober. Building forward to an even more vibrant and influential event next year, inspiring a Pakistan that stands together in support of breast cancer awareness, research, and survivor empowerment.



## Israeli Aggression

A person stands by damages at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese city of Nabatiyeh.



Photo: AFP

# Israel widens Lebanon strikes as troops fight Hezbollah along border

AFP

BEIRUT: Israel expanded its aerial bombardment of targets in Lebanon, hitting areas both in and outside traditional Hezbollah bastions, as its troops battled militants across the border on Sunday.

In areas where Hezbollah holds sway, Israeli warplanes hit a marketplace in the southern city of Nabatiyeh on Saturday, and then a 100-year-old mosque in a village near the border on Sunday, according to Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA).

There have also been

deadly strikes in other areas of Lebanon — one on a Shiite Muslim village in a mostly Christian mountain area, and another in north Lebanon, the health ministry said.

AFP footage shot from the northern Deir Billa area after the strike there showed rescuers and villagers digging with bare hands through rubble as smoke rose from the site.

The mayor of Kfar Tibnit, where the NNA said a strike destroyed a mosque, said he felt he had lost a beloved site that brought people together.

"It was a significant place because families used to gather

in the square right next to it on special occasions," Fuad Yassin told AFP, adding that the mosque was at least 100 years old.

Lebanon's health ministry said strikes on three villages on Saturday killed 15 people.

Israel has alleged that militants use civilian infrastructure in Lebanon and Gaza to conduct operations — a claim the groups have denied.

The Israeli military said its 36th division continued "targeted and limited operational activity" in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah.

In a statement, it said Israeli jets had hit "Hezbollah

launchers, anti-tank missile posts, weapons storage facilities, and additional terror targets."

On the ground, soldiers had "eliminated dozens of terrorists."

According to the NNA, Israeli forces have "escalated their attacks" on southern Lebanon, with "successive air strikes from midnight until morning" pounding several border villages.

Iran-backed Hezbollah said it clashed with Israeli troops who tried to "infiltrate" twice into a border village, sparking an hour-long battle.

It later said it shelled Israeli

soldiers gathered in Maroun Al-Ras village.

Early Sunday, Israel said it intercepted five more projectiles fired from Lebanon as air raid sirens sounded.

The military said Hezbollah launched about 320 projectiles into Israel over the weekend of Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

It also said roughly 280 "terror targets" were attacked in Lebanon and Gaza over the same period.

Israel on Saturday told residents of south Lebanon not to return home, and issued new evacuation warnings for several villages.

## Indian media speculates as four army officers, including Lt Gen Asif Ghafoor, near retirement

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Indian media outlets are already occupied with reporting on upcoming retirements and promotions within the Pakistan Army. Aij news reported.

Rediff News has claimed that four lieutenant generals, including National Defence University (NDU) President Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor, have retired.

The report further suggests that three or four officers are expected to be promoted to lieutenant general.

While the Inter-Services



Public Relations has not yet officially announced such retirements, Rediff names Federal Public Service Commission Chairman Lieu-

tenant General Akhtar Nawaz, former Corps Commander (Quetta) Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor, Chief of Logistics Staff Lieutenant General Saqib

Mehmood Malik, and Defence Secretary Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali as those who have retired.

The India-based media outlet claimed that the Pakistan Army has 24 three-star generals, with the report detailing their branch affiliations. "13 are from the infantry, two from the engineers, one from air defence, five from armoured corps, two from artillery, and one from the electrical and mechanical engineers. This suggests the likelihood of three to four generals being promoted."

It merits mentioning that

the number of lieutenant generals is never 24, it is around 29.

The report alleged that Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir may make further changes to his team in the coming days or weeks.

Last month, Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik took charge as the new director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence. According to the report, he is close to the army chief.

It merits mentioning that Rediff misreported several army officers' designations in its report.

## CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs to complete 'Apni Chhat... Apna Ghar' Programme

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 99th meeting of the Governing Body of Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA), in which a surplus budget of Rs 34 billion 73 crores for the current fiscal year was approved. Receipts are estimated at Rs 17 billion while expenditures are guessed at Rs 13-55 billion.

Madam Chief Minister approved 'Apni Chhat...Apna Ghar' programme, and was briefed by the relevant authorities,"544,000 people have registered on 'Apni Chhat...Apna Ghar' Programme portal.

280,000 applications were received to build houses under the program, where as there were more than 76,000 draft applications. She



sought a plan from PHATA authorities to complete the housing project

with private sector partnership, and permitted them to sign an agreement in this regard.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned to ensure Staff Hiring for PHATA PMU through job hiring portal, and directed them to decide for the approval of pending housing schemes on case-to-case basis.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari and MPA Sania Ashiq Jabeen attended the meeting.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, SMBR Nabil Javed, Secretary Housing, Principal Secretary to CM, Dr. Yasmin Hameed, Engineer Akbar Sheikh and other relevant officers were also present.

## President condoles death of former Chinese Vice Premier

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday condoled the death of former Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo and said that the late Chinese leader was a sincere friend of Pakistan.

"Wu Bangguo played a commendable role in strengthening Pak-China ties," President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

President Zardari further said that the sympathies and prayers of the people of Pakistan were with the Chinese people, their government, and the bereaved family.



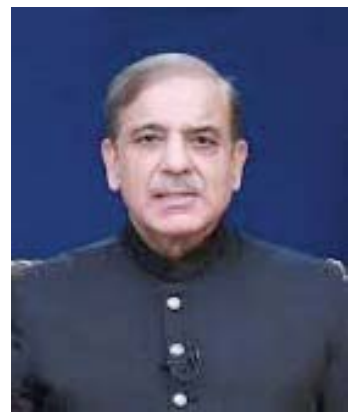
## PM condoles death of China's former Vice Premier Wu Bangguo

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his deep grief over the death of Wu Bangguo, former Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and former Vice Premier of China.

Remembering him as an "outstanding" leader of the CPC and a "true friend of Pakistan", he said the late Wu Bangguo made a profound contribution to strengthening bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China.

"His visit to Pakistan in 2006 remains a significant milestone. Our thoughts and prayers are with his



family and the people of China in this difficult moment," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote on his X timeline.

## Power sector-Glorious years in Pakistan report launched



Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories were launched here on Sunday.

The China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCCP) arranged the launching ceremony.

Vice General Manager of Three Gorges South Asia Investment Company in Pakistan Liu Yang-gang, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information Atta Tarar and others participated in the event.

The participants highlighted the performance and achievements of Chinese companies in the energy sector in Pakistan.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A work report of the "Glorious 11 Years - How Chinese

## CM Murad releases guidelines for 2025-26 ADP preparation



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has issued detailed guidelines to all government departments for the formulation of the Annual Development Program (ADP) 2025-26 in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year.

The directive, issued through the Planning & Development (P&D) department, emphasises the importance of aligning with the prevailing economic conditions, federal policies, and the development agenda of the Sindh government.

Mr. Shah stated that the ADP is designed to focus on sectoral priorities and socio-economic impact while adhering to both federal and provincial government guidelines.

He instructed each department to ensure that the proposed projects

align with the government's development strategy and contribute to measurable socio-economic outcomes.

Under the directives of the Chief Minister, departments are required to adhere to the comprehensive guidelines provided by the federal government's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), which is still pending. They should also follow the specific instructions issued by the CM.

The CM has instructed that the initial edition of the ADP should be prepared based on sectoral priorities and implementation capacity within a budget size to be outlined in the Budget Strategy Paper (BSP).

The final allocation will be determined based on the availability of funds from the Finance Department.