



## Indian External Affairs Minister thanks PM, DPM, GoP for hospitality

Indian Minister for External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to PM Shehbaz Sharif, DPM/FM Dar and the Government of Pakistan for the hospitality accorded to him during his participation in CHG-SCO meeting in Islamabad.



## Govt to pay Rs 72bn to five IPPs in final settlement

The government decided to pay a total of Rs 72n as a final settlement to five IPPs as it terminated the agreements with them. Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif announced to terminate the agreements with five IPPs in the first phase on October 10. The govt will pay Hubco Rs 36.5b and Rs 15.5b to the Rousch Power. Similarly, the Lalpur Power will be paid Rs 12.8b, Atlas Power Rs 15.5b and, Sapphire Power Rs 6b.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-us-Sani 13, Thursday, October 17, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 184 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Group photo of SCO heads of Government

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Heads of delegations of the 23rd SCO Heads of Government Meeting on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Attendees of SCO summit

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Notable attendees include Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, marking the first visit by an Indian foreign minister in nearly a decade. Jaishankar's presence has attracted considerable attention amid ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan.

The SCO comprises China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Iran, and India, with 16 additional countries participating as observers or "dialogue partners."

Mongolia is represented as an Observer

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## President for boosting economic cooperation with Turkmenistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the importance of increasing economic cooperation and business-to-business relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He also called for

greater linkages between the stock exchanges of the two brotherly countries to improve economic cooperation.

The President expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/ Minister of Foreign Affairs

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# PM stresses enhanced connectivity projects for stronger SCO

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif advocated for the expansion of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while chairing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad. In his address, he also called for an end of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

"Flagship projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the International, North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) should be expanded, focusing on developing road, rail, and digital infrastructure, that enhances integration and cooperation, across the region," he emphasised.

He emphasized that the SCO represents the collective voice of over 40% of the global population, rooted in the Shanghai spirit.

He emphasized the need to promote a shared vision of an economically integrated region and to invest in connectivity projects, urging that these should not be viewed through a political lens.

The Prime Minister referred to the summit as a testament to the strength of collaboration among diverse nations. He highlighted the potential to drive socio-economic progress, enhance regional peace and stability, and improve citizens' quality of life.

PM Shehbaz urged the leaders to use the SCO meeting as an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and develop concrete action plans that would benefit their economies and societies. He expressed hope for positive outcomes from their in-depth discussions.

"We are at a historic moment of transition where sweeping transfor-

mations are reshaping the global, social, political, economic and security landscape."

Highlighting the importance of a stable Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said it is not only desirable but also essential to fully realizing the great opportunities. He urged the international community to step forward with urgent humanitarian support for Afghanistan. He also called upon Afghan interim government to ensure that their soil is not misused for terrorism against its neighbors by any entity.

Calling the SCO platform a "beacon of multilateralism", he added: "I stand resolute in the belief that we possess not only the potential but the collective will to forge a future more prosperous, stable and secure for our people — a future inclusive and reflective of shared aspirations of all member states."

Highlighting climate change as an "existential crisis" that crosses borders, he referenced the devastating 2022 floods that caused around \$30 billion in economic losses and severely affected lives and property. He emphasized the need to prioritize environmental cooperation within the SCO to build resilience and ensure a sustainable future for future generations.

Addressing regional leaders, he pointed out that unilateral coercive measures and protectionist policies contradict international law principles. He stated that such measures hinder economic growth, stifle technological progress, and worsen inequality. He stressed the importance of reforming the global financial system and trade policies to promote equitable global development.

Continued on Page 7

## Hosting 23rd SCO summit a milestone for Pakistan: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday termed Pakistan's hosting of 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit as a milestone in the context of international relations.

Talking to media persons at Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said

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## SCO meeting adopts number of decisions to guide future of organization: Ishaq Dar

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (CHG-SCO) meetings have adopted a number of decisions and documents to guide the future of organization with enhanced role in regional connectivity, trade, investment and economic prosperity.

Addressing a presser at the conclusion of two-day CHG-SCO summit along with SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that it was an honour for Pakistan to organize and host the 23rd CHG-SCO meeting of the

member states. He said that they were grateful to the leaders of the member states for their constructive contributions and output.

Pakistan as a chair of CHG-SCO made every effort to identify the areas of further collaboration among the member countries which included enhanced connectivity, poverty elimination and climate change etc, he added.

He said Pakistan had already collaborated with the member countries of the region in this regard

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# 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting



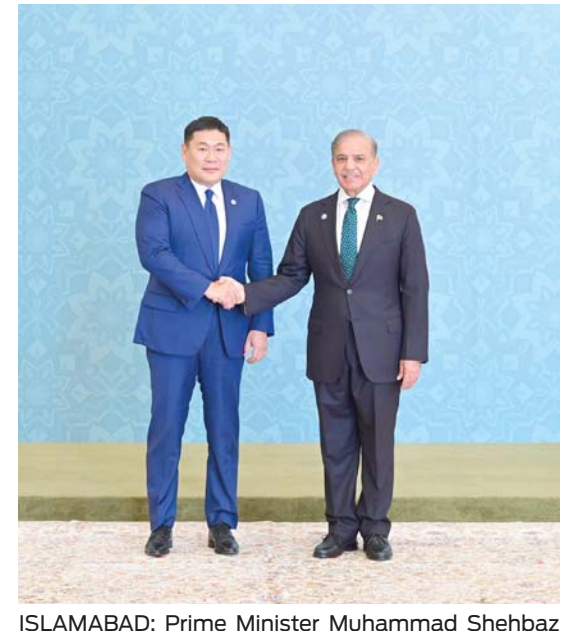
Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Chinese Premier H.E. Li Qiang.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Vice President of Turkmenistan H.E. Rasit Meredov.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Prime Minister of Tajikistan H.E. Qohir Rasulzoda.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Prime Minister of Mongolia H.E. Oyun-Erdene Luvasannamsrain



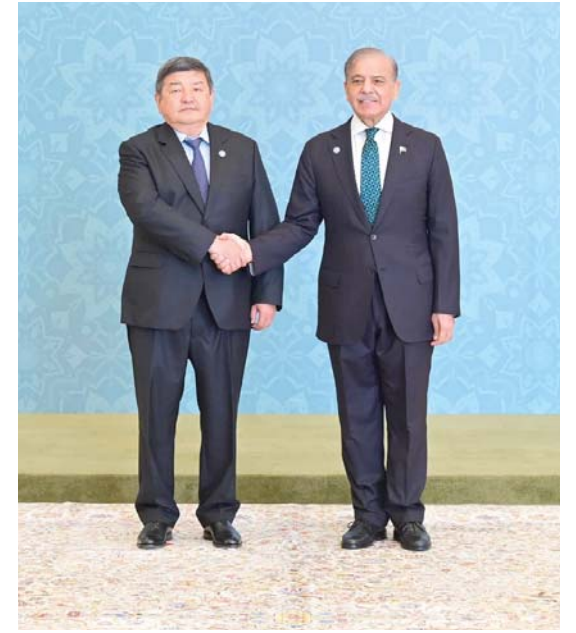
Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Prime Minister of Belarus H.E. Roman Golovchenko.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Vice President of Uzbekistan H.E. Abdullah Aripov.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan H.E. Oljas Bektenov.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan H.E. Akylbek Zhaparov.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade H.E. Mohammed Atabek.

## SCO-Declaration

## SCO-Declaration

# SCO states reaffirm commitment to peaceful cooperation, economic growth

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to peacefully resolving disputes through dialogue and consultations besides emphasizing the importance of strengthening cooperation across various sectors, including politics, security, trade, finance, and cultural ties, to build a prosperous, peaceful, safe, and ecologically sustainable planet.

In a joint declaration issued at the conclusion of the two-day SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held here, the heads of delegations called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth of member states by optimizing the region's potential in areas such as green development, digital economy, trade, e-commerce, finance and banking, investment, high technology, start-ups and innovation, poverty alleviation, health care, including traditional and folk medicine, agriculture, industry, transport, logistics connectivity, energy, including renewable energy, communications, science and technology, environment and climate change.

The heads of delegations, reaffirming their desire to ensure stable economic and social development in the SCO region, noted the importance of implementing the SCO Economic Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO member states.

They stressed the need for coordinated efforts through the mechanisms of relevant cooperation in order to implement the respective action plans.

The event was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and was attended by the leaders from the SCO member states including China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akylbek, Trade Minister of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabek, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Besides, Mongolia is participating in the summit as an Observer State being represented by Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvasannamsrain and Turkmenistan as a Special Guest represented by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Rashid Meredov.

Among other dignitaries attending the moot include SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, Director of Executive Committee SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of SCO Business Council Atif Ikram

Shaikh and Chairman of the Council of SCO Interbank Union Marat Yelibayev.

The heads of delegation noted significant shifts in the global economy due to advancements in technology and e-commerce, expressing concern over reduced investment and disrupted supply chains caused by protectionist measures and trade barriers.

Opposing unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions, the delegations emphasized the need for a multilateral trading system to support global sustainable development.

Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan reiterated their support for China's One Belt, One Road initiative, highlighting ongoing collaborative efforts to integrate this project with the Eurasian Economic Union.

The heads of delegation underscored the importance of leveraging regional potential and international cooperation to facilitate equitable interactions within the SCO. They called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, advocating for optimization in green development, digital economy, health care, agriculture, energy, and environmental initiatives.

Heads of delegation also praised Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the SCO for 2023-2024 and emphasized the importance of implementing decisions from the July 4, 2024, CHS meeting, while expressing support for China's chairmanship for 2024-2025.

They noted that the member states advocate respect for the right of peoples to independently and democratically choose their political, social and economic development, emphasizing that the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of states, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of use of force are the basis for the sustainable development of international relations.

They reaffirm the commitment to the peaceful settlement of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultations.

They emphasized the importance of leveraging regional potential and international cooperation to foster broad, equitable interactions in the SCO region based on international law and mutual respect.

They highlighted the need to enhance trade and economic ties through the "New Economic Dialogue" concept among SCO member states.

They also stressed the importance of leveraging the digital economy and technological innovations to boost regional competitiveness and ensure that technology benefits all.

The Heads of delegations stressed the importance of deepening cooperation in the field of information security, the relevance of the "digital divide" issue and advocated for exploring the creation of a mechanism for cross-border

data exchange.

They noted the role of standardization tools in trade facilitation and called for the promotion of mutually beneficial and equal interaction between the SCO member states, as well as the exchange of experience in these areas.

They acknowledged the significance of the SCO Industry Ministers' Meeting and proposed its next session in 2025, emphasizing that support for creative industries will enhance competitiveness, reduce unemployment, and foster sustainable growth in the region.

They supported establishing an exchange of experiences on national industrial policies and IT standardization. They emphasized the importance of developing micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to drive economic growth and job creation, advocating continued cooperation under the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding.

Heads of delegation emphasized the importance of a unified energy vision, calling for continued cooperation in energy infrastructure, security, and investment in renewable energy.

They reaffirmed the importance of implementing the road map for increasing the use of national currencies in mutual settlements and supported proposals for an independent settlement mechanism and converging payment systems.

They also recognized the SCO Business Council's role in fostering business cooperation and noted the Interbank Association's efforts in ESG financing and financial innovations, along with Iran's intention to join the IBA.

Heads of delegation emphasized enhancing railway transport cooperation and welcomed the upcoming meeting of Railway Administrations in Moscow. They advocated for innovative technologies in multi-modal transport and called for developing infrastructure, logistics, and safety measures, aligning with the SCO's Concept of Cooperation on ports and logistics centers.

They also advocated for enhanced cooperation in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and waste management. They reaffirmed commitment to addressing climate change through experience sharing and established a Special Working Group to accelerate related initiatives.

They supported deepening collaboration among emergency agencies to monitor natural disaster risks and improve response strategies.

Heads of delegation supported enhanced cooperation in preventing and treating diseases, improving healthcare digitalization, and developing medical tourism in the SCO region.

The heads of delegations noted the importance of developing further cooperation in overcoming poverty and increasing the well-being of the population within the framework of

Continued on Page 7

## SCO-Leaders-Remarks

# SCO leaders emphasise exploiting region's trade, connectivity potential

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The regional leaders participating in the 23rd meeting of the SCO's Council of Heads of Government on Wednesday emphasised the concerted efforts and enhanced collaboration to exploit the region's potential, particularly in trade and connectivity.

The annual meeting of the SCO heads of government was chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and addressed by China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akylbek, Trade Minister of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabek, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Besides, Mongolia's Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvasannamsrain and Turkmenistan Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Rashid Meredov also addressed the event.

In his address, Chinese Premier Li Qiang called for deepening and expanding cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He also urged the SCO member states to strengthen strategic alignment, actively respond to major risks, and expand personnel exchanges.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin called for the removal of obstacles to the implementation of plans to increase the share of national currencies in mutual settlements



between the SCO countries.

He said that his country was considering the possibility of holding a Startup Forum of the SCO next year to share best practices in the field of innovation and launch joint projects.

Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov said that his country was committed to make efforts to exploit the potential for cooperation among the member states.

Stressing the need for measures to promote trade, he called for the simplification of trade procedures, elimination of trade barriers and promotion of cooperation in digital technology and industrial sectors besides enhancing regional connectivity.

Tajikistan's Prime Minister Kokhir Rasoolzoda also emphasised joint efforts for peace and economic development through enhanced cooperation and competitiveness.

Citing immense potential, he also called for increasing investment in industrial sector.

Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredev said Turkmenistan was committed to expand cooperation with SCO member states in trade, energy and connectivity projects.

He said the prospects for such

projects were high, so the member states should make joint efforts to exploit the potential.

Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar pointed to challenges including the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Palestine war, the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, and disruptions such as extreme climate events, supply chain uncertainties, and the solutions provided in the SCO Charter.

He said that globalisation and rebalancing had created new opportunities in trade, investment, connectivity, energy flows, and other forms of collaboration that the SCO region can benefit from.

SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming said that being one of the largest regional organisations, the SCO member states should enhance collaboration for regional peace and prosperity.

Highlighting the SCO Secretariat's performance for facilitation of the member states, he told the participants that 2025 would be observed as "Year of Sustainable Development".

He said the SCO member states should take advantage of connectivity potential and overcome the difficulties and challenges in the trade and investment.

### Shaheed-e-Pakistan

# Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said

Rao Taufiq Ahmed

Hadhrat Rabia Basari is a big name in Sufism. There was no one equal to her in piousness and divine worship in her time. Notwithstanding, she once said to her contemporary Sufi Hadhrat Hasan Basari: "The secret of human life's perfection is not lain in mere worship and praising of God, this duty is performed by the billions of fishes and birds, having being stationed in water and air at every moment". Hadhrat Hasan Basari asked: "Then what is the secret of human life's perfection"? She replied: "The secret is that one ought to worship to God, but at the same time also selflessly serve the humanity and provide relief and comforts to the bondmen of Allah however greatly one takes pains over oneself in doing this job".

One day a well known Muslim philosopher, Ibn Tufail told the people in a rejoicing voice: "O people! I got the secret of life which can keep human society happy". People asked: "What is that secret? Ibn Tufail replied: "The secret is that everything in the Universe is meant for others. Tree does not eat its fruit, the river does not drink its water, all these springs, rains and songs of fountains are meant for others. Hence a life



spent for the betterment of others is a good and better life".

Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said was lucky enough that he had got the chance to know about this secret of life from the lap of his mother, Rabia Begum as she was a pious and extremely religious lady. Being impressed by her divine worship and devotion to religion, Khuwaja Hasan Nizami, a renowned writer and Sufi from Delhi, gave her the title of "Rabia Hindi". This courageous and pious lady after the death of her husband, Hakim Hafiz Abdul Majeed at the age of 40, not only up held the Institution

of Hamdard but also etched the very objective of Hamdard—the service to humanity on the minds of her two sons, Hakim Abdul Hameed and Hakim Mohammed Said, who when grown up, made it the very purpose of their life.

Islam strongly emphasizes social justice, and service to humanity after belief in oneness of God. Service to humanity and to work for the welfare of human beings is a great virtue and superior thing. It is quite evident from Islamic teachings and sayings of Holy Prophet (pbuh) that he, who wants to love God, should love His



bondmen. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) says: "All creatures (human beings) are the family of God and whoever does good for them will be beloved to God". Hakim Said chose the course of service to humanity as an integral part of his Islamic faith.

He once wrote about himself: "The man who chose a course (service to humanity) on the basis of his faith and belief no obstacles and difficulties can stop him from going ahead". Indeed, no hurdles and obstructions could stop Hakim Said in achieving his goals. His story is a success story. He migrated to Pakistan on 9th

January 1948 and founded Hamdard Matab on 28th June 1948 at Aram Bagh, Karachi and began his new journey on the road of service to humanity. He soon made Hamdard a lucrative enterprise of good repute. He did not receive this success being offered to him on a plate, but achieved it with hard work and honesty. Declaring Hamdard an Islamic Trust in 1953, he dedicated its income to the welfare of the nation. He made about 31 institutions of health, education and Eastern Medicine, including hospitals, research laboratories and a large city of education, science and



culture, "Madinat al-Hikmah" and spent his whole life in the development and progress of them. He wrote 189 books on different subjects in English and Urdu, including 49 travelogues for children, full of information and mind raising matter. He checked near about 50,00,000 patients in his life.

Born in 1920 in Delhi, Hakim Mohammed Said was a great Pakistani who loved Pakistan with the core of his heart. He gave the watch-word of "Love Pakistan — Build Pakistan" to the new generation and spent his whole life in service to humanity. He was martyred on 17th October 1998 at the age of 78 at the same place from where he started his journey of service to humanity. Allama Iqbal says: "The reward of a martyr is that he will shine forever. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, indeed, will live and shine forever in the memories of the people.

### Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said

## A visionary, Revolutionary, Physician a, Educationist and Philanthropist

Prof. Dr. Hakim Abdul Hannan

Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, a visionary and revolutionary physician, made remarkable contributions in the fields of science, education, social work and healthcare, where his expertise, innovation, and unique approach are evident. His impactful work in health, education, children's mental and character development, youth empowerment, and service to humanity has been so profound that numerous books have been written on these subjects, with many more expected in the future, Insha'Allah.

Hakim Said emerged as a modern practitioner of traditional medicine. Rather than blindly adhering to the centuries-old methods of Unani (Greek) medicine, he critically evaluated and reformed the practice by introducing a modern approach. As a reformer of Tibb-i-Unani, his legacy is marked by innovation, skill, and exceptional contributions.

One of his most revolutionary changes in Unani medicine was introduced through Hamdard Pakistan, where, for the first time, medicines



were manufactured and packaged using machines as per international standards. Previously, physicians operated from their pharmacies only, making their own medicines, which required significant capital, space, and staff. This contributed to the gradual decline of Unani medicine practice over time.

Understanding the need for modern research in Unani medicine, Hakim

Said established Ittehad-e-Salasa—a collaboration between doctors, Hakims (traditional physicians), and scientists—to combine their expertise and address gaps in the field. This initiative greatly aided and created standardized and scientific testing grounds for Unani medicines, allowing Hukma to adopt modern scientific research and practices.

Hakim Mohammed Said was a

rare blend of medical practitioner and scholar. While he gained worldwide recognition by treating millions of patients, he also authored and compiled thousands of pages, providing valuable resources for students, doctors, and researchers. Throughout history, most physicians either focused on medical practice or writing, but Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Mohammed Said excelled



in both, leaving a lasting legacy in medicinal literature.

Hakim Mohammed Said introduced innovation and distinctiveness in the practice of medicine. He treated ailments like angina pectoris using simple household items such as betel nut, green mint, and fresh ginger. He also recommended exceptional compound medicinal formulas,



preserved in his book "Tajurbat-e-Tabib".

As a result of Hakim Mohammed Said's visionary efforts, hundreds of pharmaceutical institutes and numerous educational centers have been established in Pakistan. His legacy continues to inspire future generations, leaving an enduring mark on the field of Unani medicine.

### Hakim Mohammed Said Shaheed

## A Legacy of Education and Compassion

Zain ul Abideen Abid

The late Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi beautifully wrote, "Hakim Sahib's audience is children, and wherever he gets the opportunity, he fulfills the duty of building their character. He performs this duty so skillfully that a sense of goodness and virtue seeps into the hearts of children, just as dew penetrates the petals of flowers."

Among the many contributions of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, besides being a distinguished physician, was his role as a scholar, moral reformer, exceptional administrator, philanthropist, and humanitarian. He didn't just create one institution—he was an institution builder.

In 1958, Hakim Mohammed Said established a prestigious Tibbiya (Unani medicine) college, ensuring the survival of traditional medicine in Pakistan at a time when it was in deep crisis. By appointing the few remaining expert tabibs as teachers, he preserved their knowledge for future generations, preventing it from being lost. His efforts established the foundations of this noble field. From Hamdard Public School to Hamdard University, he founded multiple institutions, becoming the driving force behind each one. However, I wish to high-



light here only his contributions toward the education, development, and well-being of children.

As Hakim Mohammed Said himself shared, he aspired to be a journalist in his youth, drawn towards writing and publishing. At a young age, he wrote a short story called Tasbeeh, which, though modest, was published. However, due to family circumstances, he pursued a degree in medicine. After graduation, his older brother, Hakim Abdul Hameed, engaged him with Hamdard Sehat, a health magazine, initiating him into journalism with proofreading—considered the first lesson in publishing—and eventually making him its editor. Hakim Mohammed Said wrote, "In

1940, I compiled the first issue of Hamdard Sehat. The guidance of my elder brother and interactions with other writers soon refined my editorial skills."

After migrating to Pakistan, he resumed Hamdard Sehat from Karachi, where it continues to be published to this day.

One of his most significant contributions for children was the launch of the magazine Hamdard Naunehal in 1953. By the time Hakim Mohammed Said passed away, the magazine had already completed 46 years, and today—71 years later—it continues to nurture young minds with vigor and consistency. According to Dr. Jamil Jalibi, Naunehal has shaped five generations. Hakim Mohammed

Said was not only the magazine's founder but remained actively involved in its production throughout his life. He regularly contributed a column titled Jago Jagao and never missed an entry, even when serving as a federal minister or provincial governor. At my request, he also began a medical advice column, promptly responding to readers' questions.

His passion for children's literature was evident. On the day the latest issue of Naunehal was printed, he would read it cover to cover the very same night, marking any errors with a red pen. He paid meticulous attention to spelling and pronunciation in children's books, insisting that children

learn correct language from the start, as a mistake in childhood could become a lifelong habit. Along with pointing out flaws, he generously appreciated and encouraged good writing.

Hakim Mohammed Said believed that developing a reading habit in children was essential for character building. He felt that magazines were more effective than books in cultivating this habit, as children eagerly await the next issue of their favorite magazine. In 1978, he initiated the publication of engaging and educational children's books, and in 1988, he established the Naunehal Adab department under the Hamdard Foundation, which has since published over 500 books. He instructed that the books should not only be enjoyable and written in simple language but also inspire children to develop an interest in knowledge, especially scientific knowledge.

At the suggestion of a journalist friend, Hakim Mohammed Said penned his autobiography for children, narrating his childhood experiences with joy. This effort resulted in the book Bachon ke Hakim Muhammad Mohammed Said (1962), where he candidly addressed young readers:

"Shall I tell you something interesting? It might be a lesson for you. I was mischievous as a child but also very shy. I would hesitate in front of new



people and didn't talk much. I was reserved and never thought I could deliver a speech. My tongue would falter. But with reading, writing, and practice, I realized I needed to learn public speaking. I had read that many famous speakers were once unable to utter a word on stage but mastered the art through perseverance. I followed the same path. At first, I only read my speeches aloud, but gradually, I began speaking extemporaneously. Now, by the grace of Allah, I speak fluently and deliver long speeches comfortably."

His humility was such that, as governor of Sindh, he neither took a salary nor availed any official protocol. Even during official travel to cities like Lahore, Islamabad, or Peshawar, he never stayed at government guest-houses, choosing instead to stay

at his usual accommodations. A true patriot, Hakim Mohammed Said had immense love for Pakistan and cherished Islamic traditions, reflected in his distinctive attire of achkan and pajamas. He mandated that official correspondence in his institution be conducted in Urdu, Pakistan's national language—a tradition that continues today.

In recognition of his services, he was awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

The saintly Hakim Muhammad Mohammed Said, who harbored no enmity toward anyone, was tragically martyred on October 17, 1998, while on his way to his clinic. At the time of his assassination, he was fasting. To this day, his murder remains one of Pakistan's unresolved tragedies, awaiting justice. May his soul rest in peace.

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# Trump's Immigrant Xenophobia and the U. S. Constitution

In his latest tirade against immigrants in the Denver suburb of Aurora, Colorado, on October 5, 2024, Trump vowed to "rescue America" from what he described as "rapists," "bloodthirsty criminals," and the "most violent people on earth," claiming they are destroying the fabric of the country and its culture. This rhetoric is yet another example of his xenophobic and racist attacks on migrants and minority groups, whom he portrayed as genetically predisposed to criminal behavior. He positioned himself as the only one capable of saving the country from these individuals, whom he labeled as "animals," "stone-cold killers," "the worst people," and "the enemy from within."

He is no longer just discussing keeping immigrants out of the country, building a wall, or banning Muslims from entering the United States. Now, he warns that migrants have already "invaded," destroying the country from within its borders. He uses this narrative to justify a second-term policy agenda that includes constructing massive detention camps and carrying out mass deportations.

Trump's rhetoric on immigration, particularly his demonization of migrants and minorities, represents a significant deviation from the core principles of the U. S. Constitution. The 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause guarantees that "no state shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." By broadly labeling immigrants as "rapists" or "animals," Trump undermines

this constitutional mandate, promoting discrimination based on nationality and ethnicity. His language, which paints entire groups of people as inherently criminal, conflicts with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause, which requires that laws and policies must not unfairly target specific groups without justification.

The 5th and 14th Amendments also enshrine the right to due process, stating that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Trump's proposals for mass deportations and the construction of detention camps raise serious concerns about violating due process. Historically, due process has been interpreted to mean that all individuals, including immigrants, must be given a fair hearing before being subjected to punitive measures such as deportation. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled in cases such as *Zadvydas v. Davis* (2001) that even non-citizens are entitled to procedural fairness under the Constitution.

Additionally, Trump's rhetoric around the Muslim travel ban and his discriminatory remarks about Mexican immigrants contradict the First Amendment, which protects religious freedom. The Establishment Clause prohibits the government from favoring or disfavoring a particular religion, as emphasized in *Church of*

*Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. Hialeah* (1993), where the Court ruled that laws targeting specific religious practices are unconstitutional. Trump's Muslim ban, justified through rhetoric that broadly frames Muslims as potential terrorists, flies in the face of this protection and has been widely criticized as unconstitutional.

Beyond constitutional violations, Trump's rhetoric sharply diverges from the broader societal and political norms of American democracy. The U. S. is historically a nation of immigrants, and the American civic identity has long embraced diversity and multiculturalism. Trump's statements that immigrants are "destroying the fabric" of the country contradict the American ethos of being a "melting pot," where people from diverse backgrounds contribute to society. The Pew Research Center has shown that immigrants—both legal and undocumented—are integral to the labor force, with over 17% of the U. S. workforce consisting of immigrants. Deporting large numbers of people, particularly without due process, risks destabilizing communities and entire industries that rely on immigrant labor.

Furthermore, Trump's inflammatory language undermines the norms of respect and civil discourse that have long been foundational to U. S. politics. His labeling of immigrants as "animals" and "stone-

killers" deviates from the accepted standards of political debate, where even contentious issues have typically been discussed within a framework of civility. This kind of rhetoric can have real consequences: studies by the FBI and Southern Poverty Law Center show that hate crimes surged following the 2016 election, fueled in part by inflammatory political language. Such outcomes illustrate how rhetoric that deviates from constitutional norms and societal expectations can foster a dangerous atmosphere of division, hatred, and violence.

Economically, mass deportations would severely disrupt industries that rely heavily on immigrant labor, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Immigrants contribute billions of dollars in taxes and are integral to the workforce, and their removal would lead to labor shortages and increased costs for businesses and consumers. Moreover, the financial burden of implementing such policies, including the establishment of detention camps, would fall on taxpayers. Politically, Trump's alienation of immigrant voters could mobilize them to vote against him in large numbers, particularly in swing states like Michigan, where immigrant communities play a key role. His divisive agenda not only threatens the economy and public order but also risks deepening polarization in an already fractured society.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## PPP, JUI-F reach consensus on draft of constitutional amendment

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, alongside PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, addresses a press conference in Karachi on October 15, 2024. Screenshot via X/PPP

The Pakistan Peoples Party and the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) reached a consensus on a shared draft of the much-discussed constitutional amendments on Tuesday.

"As a result of the consensus we have reached today, there is a need to have more consensus. Tomorrow [Wednesday], Maulana Fazlur Rehman Sb will meet Nawaz Sharif at Raiwand [in Lahore. We also have been invited to the dinner," PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, said while addressing a press conference in Karachi on Tuesday.

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

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

Many legal experts are concerned that such proposed changes could undermine the independence of the judiciary by limiting the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to only civil and criminal appeals or petitions.

A three-member Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa would hear a petition that challenges the government's proposed constitutional amendments on October 17.

"We will try that the PML-N will agree with us and Maulana Fazlur Rehman's wish is that this agreement is not limited to coalition partners but with the PTI and other political parties in the opposition. If this happens, it will support our legislation," Bilawal said and prayed that the religio-political leader succeed in such efforts.

The PPP claimed that their purpose was not "person-specific" or "bound by any time limit". He added that they were focused on resolving people's issues and doing it for the betterment of people.

While citing the agreement as "good news", he stated that all issues were resolved through consensus.

He expressed hope that both sides would continue working together in the future.

When asked about the points on which issues were resolved, Bilawal said that it would not be appropriate to share it with the media before meeting Nawaz.

In response to a question, Fazl said that the PPP also made a draft "quite similar" to the one made by the JUI-F. "Today, we found those ways where we had differences and we tried to resolve that."



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

## Defeat of Modi's Narrative in IIOJK Elections - I

In IIOJK, human rights concerns have also intensified, especially since the BJP, under Modi, came to power in 2014. The region, with its long history of conflict and tension, has seen an escalation of violence and repression, alarming human rights organizations and the international community. The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has roots in the 1947 partition of India. Following the princely state's forced accession to India, various political, social, and religious tensions emerged, resulting in several wars and ongoing insurgency. The situation worsened after the Indian government's unilateral abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which stripped the region of its special status and led to widespread unrest. Reports of violence in IIOJK have surged under the Modi government, with security forces accused of using excessive force to suppress protests arising from perceived injustices and human rights violations. Encounters with freedom fighters have often resulted in civilian casualties, and the use of pellet guns, a contentious crowd control measure, has caused severe injuries, especially among young people. Numerous organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have documented various human rights violations in IIOJK. Since 2014, there has been a significant increase in arbitrary detentions, with political leaders, activists,

and ordinary citizens being held without formal charges. The harsh Public Safety Act (PSA) has been frequently employed to imprison individuals for extended periods without trial. Reports of torture and mistreatment in detention facilities have surfaced, with former detainees sharing their harrowing experiences. Allegations include physical violence, psychological torture, and denial of medical care, creating an atmosphere of fear and oppression. The government has enacted strict measures to control the flow of information, with internet shutdowns becoming common, particularly during times of unrest. Journalists and media outlets face harassment and censorship, making it difficult to accurately report on the situation. Human rights defenders and activists in IIOJK have experienced increased scrutiny and harassment, often facing threats, intimidation, and legal action for speaking out against government policies and human rights abuses. The international community has voiced concerns about the situation in IIOJK, with various countries and human rights organizations calling for investigations into these abuses. However, India's diplomatic influence and strategic importance have often muted strong responses from global powers. Traditionally, the Governor of IIOJK acted as a representative of the President of India and held specific powers, including oversight of the state govern-

ment. In recent years, particularly following constitutional changes by the central government, these powers have expanded significantly. The Governor now has enhanced legislative authority, allowing for greater control over local laws and policies. This shift enables the Governor to influence critical areas such as land use, public safety, and law enforcement, often sidelining locally elected governments. Critics argue that this undermines the democratic process and erodes local autonomy.

The Governor's increased authority extends to key appointments within the state administration, including the selection of bureaucrats and heads of public institutions, which can lead to local governance being heavily influenced by the central government. This centralization of power can diminish the effectiveness of local leaders and institutions. In matters of security and law enforcement, the Governor now wields significant influence, raising concerns about the militarization of governance in IIOJK, as security forces often operate under the Governor's directives. The potential for heavy-handed tactics in managing civil unrest has heightened fears among residents.

The expanded powers of the Governor facilitate the rapid implementation of central government policies in IIOJK, often without adequate local consultation. This has resulted in tensions between local political leaders and the central government, as many policies may not align with the unique needs and aspirations of the IIOJK populace.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## 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 newer 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 is preparedness 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 effi-

cient 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 health-care 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*

# Chaudhary Zulfiqar inaugurated the renovation project of Pul Moj Darya Flyover

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Mohsin Multan, Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Chaudhary Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, inaugurated the renovation project of Pul Moj Darya Flyover alongside Additional Chief Secretary Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani. The renovation project, which cost millions of rupees, was funded by Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum to enhance the city's beauty. The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) will oversee the project's maintenance.

Present at the occasion were PHA Director General Asif Rauf Khan, Special Secretary for Housing South Punjab Rana Saleem Ahmed Khan, and GM Sales and Marketing SM Foods, Mian Salahuddin. Speaking to the media, the Chairman of SM Group said that beautifying and maintaining cleanliness in cities aligns with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. "We fully support the government in achieving this vision. This project is a step in that direction, completed under PHA's supervision," he stated. He further assured that whenever the administration needs assistance, his organization will be available to help.

The chairman also encouraged industrialists and factory owners



registered with the Multan Chamber of Commerce to actively contribute to the beautification of Multan, emphasizing, "Together, we can make our city cleaner and more beautiful."

Additional Chief Secretary South

Punjab, Fawad Hashim Rabbani, added in his media address that not a single penny of government funds was spent on the renovation. "The entire amount was generously provided by Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, a member of the

National Export Development Board, and we are deeply grateful to him."

The event saw a large gathering of journalists and citizens. In conclusion, prayers were offered for the country's security and development.

## Diet related non-communicable diseases on rise in Pakistan: experts



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Diet related non-communicable diseases are on rise in Pakistan. Pakistan is facing a health crisis, with 33 million diabetics and another 10 million on the brink of the disease, as reported by the International Diabetes Federation. Obesity is surging, hypertension is rampant, and these preventable conditions are becoming part of everyday life. Unhealthy diet is among the major risk factors of these diseases. We demand the government on this food safety day to take policy actions to reduce the consumption of unhealthy foods like Ultra-processed food and beverage products. This was said by health experts in a session organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA) at Hyderabad press club on World Food Safety Day. Those who participated in the session include Professor Abdul Hafeez Abro from Jamshoro University, Professor Dr. Arshad Hussain and Professor Dr. Ahmed Hussain Pathan from Liaquat University of Medical and Health sciences, and representatives of electronic and print media. Secretary General of PANAHA Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman hosted the event.

It was discussed that unhealthy foods specially Ultra-processed food and beverage products are among the major causes of these diseases. These are often very high in nutrients of concern i.e. sugar, sodium and / or trans-fats. A 250 ml glass of sugary drinks contains 7 to 8 teaspoons of sugar. Some evidence based policy actions to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy foods are increasing taxes on these products, enactment of mandatory front of package warning labels, marketing restrictions and ban on sale of these products near educational institutions. On this world food safety day, we demand the government to take these policy actions to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy products.

## eTurbo Motors Revolutionizes Pakistan's EV Market



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: eTurbo Motors has set a new benchmark in Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) industry with the launch of the country's fastest and most economical electric motorcycles. The launch event, held in Karachi, was graced by Sharjeel Inam Memon, Provincial Minister of Sindh, as the Chief Guest, and attended by consular generals from several countries, corporate CEOs, and other distinguished guests.

The launch highlights eTurbo Motors' commitment to offering affordable, eco-friendly transportation solutions tailored to Pakistan's growing mobility needs. The company has invested PKR 500 million to establish a state-of-the-art production facility in Karachi's SITE area, with an initial capacity to produce 10,000 motorcycles annually, and plans for future expansion based on market demand.

Sheikh Osama Nadeem, CEO of eTurbo Motors, emphasized the company's mission to drive the green revolution in Pakistan. "Our vision is to provide affordable, eco-friendly, and reliable transportation for every Pakistani," said Nadeem. "We have designed our range to meet the needs of different segments—whether it's young commuters, professionals, or seasoned riders. This is just the beginning as we aim to lead Pakistan toward a sustainable future."



Dr. Hassan Mohiuddin Qadri is inaugurating the office of Tehreek Minhaj-ul-Quran Islamabad Zone

## Meeting

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah met with Italian Ambassador Ms Marilia Armentin at CM House. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations, education, culture and other matters of mutual interest.



Photo: Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

## Pakistan Excellence Club organized a seminar on Save Indus River Save Sindh

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh United Party Chairman Syed Zain Shah said that an attempt is being made to make Punjab green and Sindh to be barren by building a canal on the Indus River. Asif Zardari has made a deal.

Pakistan Excellence Club organized a seminar on Save Indus River Save Sindh at Abdullah Mall, Hyderabad. Syed Zain Shah speaking as the chief guest said that the red line of Sindh is going to decide the fate of the Indus river and it is a matter of life and death for the whole of Sindh. Due to the non-availability of water, 92 percent of deltas have been destroyed; the Indus River is also fighting for its life.

He said that Under Green Pakistan Initiative

4.6 million acres of land are planned to be expropriated, minerals, land, rivers are public property but now they are being handed over to government companies.

# Deepak Perwani celebrates 30 years of style

City Desk

KARACHI: -The Pride of Pakistan and globally celebrated fashion designer, Deepak Perwani, opened the doors to his all-new atelier in DHA, Karachi in a glitzy affair celebrating his 30 Years of Style.

Speaking on the occasion of the grand launch of his new atelier in Karachi, which coincides with the mark of 30 Years of Style Celebration by the master-couturier, Deepak Perwani commented, "When you love what you do... and I think I'm blessed to have done what I wanted to do with my life, which is fashion designing; then you wouldn't change that for anything. It's been a fantastic roller coaster ride for 30 years now and there's another 30 years to come... I mean, what's better than making fabulous creations that inspire the world! And that is what you will see in our new atelier in Karachi too".

The star-studded launch honouring



the 30 years legacy of Deepak Perwani and glitterati from all across with an exciting affair for fashionista and exclusive preview of the highly sought

after fashion designer Deepak Perwani's signature new drops. The launch was attended by powerhouse celebrities Adnan Siddiqui, Amar Khan, Sarwat Gilani, Sanam Saeed, Mohib Mirza, Junaid Khan, Eshal Fayyaz, Adeel Hussain, Naeema Butt, Tazeen Hussain, Tuba Anwar, Momina Iqbal, and Tara Mahmood fellow designers like Maheen Khan, Umar Sayeed, Warrdha Saleem, Sadaf Malatterre, Aamna Aqeel, Rashmi Kumari, Nazia Ejaz, Tasneem Sadaf, Cheena Chhapra, and luminaries including Amin Gulgee, Ronak Lakhani, Atiya Khan, Nadia Hussain, Aamna Haider Isani, Asim Raza, Saqib Malik, Asad ul Haq and Farah ul Haq, Nighat Misbah, Nadir Toosy, Ayaz Anis, Arsalan Bilgrami, Javeriya Hanif, Fouzia Aman, Anisa Farooqui, Salma Zafar, Fifi Haroon, Madiha Iftikhar, Tabesh Khoja, and Zia Ispahani. An assemblage of notables from the fashion, entertainment, and media industry were also in attendance.

# Daily Spokesman's exceptional reporting appreciated by Qasimabad Boys Degree College

Bureau Report

Qasimabad Boys Degree College warmly welcomed The Spokesman newspaper for its excellent and positive reporting. In recognition of the efforts of the correspondent and the team, a reception was hosted by the college. The principal and staff expressed their gratitude for the paper's constructive coverage, acknowledging that it has greatly encouraged them.

Upon the arrival of The

Spokesman's correspondent, Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi, the college principal, Professor Munir Karim Burro, and his staff received him warmly and gave him a tour of the campus. On this occasion, the principal thanked Sarohi for accepting the invitation and visiting the college, emphasizing the need for identifying challenges and offering constructive criticism to facilitate the college's development.

Professor Burro highlighted that special efforts were being

made to increase student enrollment and improve the college environment. However, he acknowledged that further work is still required. He noted that staff attendance has been enhanced and that the college is focusing not only on academic excellence but also on promoting healthy activities among students.

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi expressed his gratitude to the college administration, principal, and staff for recognizing

The Spokesman's efforts and hosting the reception. He assured them that the newspaper would continue to provide thorough coverage of the college's legitimate efforts. Sarohi emphasized the importance of unbiased journalism, stating that every society has both positive and negative aspects. The role of impartial journalism is to highlight the good to encourage those doing excellent work.

He reiterated The Spokesman's policy of balancing criticism with

the recognition of constructive efforts, ensuring that any criticism serves as a tool for improvement rather than being done for its own sake.

Senior journalist Sattar Sarohi and young journalist Qayyum Sarohi accompanied Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi during the visit.

Note: Sattar Sarohi, a senior journalist and former senator, is currently a lecturer at the Degree College of Paretabad. Impressed by his insights during the meeting, Principal Munir



Karim Burro requested him to contribute his time to lectures, to which Sattar Sarohi agreed, promising his full support.

During the meeting, Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi expressed his

admiration for the positive and transparent environment at the government college, remarking that such legitimate initiatives deserve to be highlighted as part of his journalistic duty.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
86,205.66	85,840.34
Day's High	Day's Low
86,513.46	85,948.05
Index Value	Change
20,329,968,347	+365.32
Percentage	Time
+0.43%	16 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,329.07	+79.79
Percentage	Time
+0.97%	16 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,982.26	+241.84
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	16 Oct, 12:34 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,180.30	-730.25
Percentage	Time
-1.83%	16 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.75	188.00
Bahrain Dinar	731.30	739.30
Canadian Dollar	201.60	204.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	300.95	303.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.50	907.00
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	170.21	178.21
Norwegians Krone	25.65	25.95
Omani Riyal	715.80	724.30
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	210.75	212.75
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	320.70	323.50
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	361.30	364.8
US Dollar	277.90	279.40

# Six More Banks added to the Benazir Income Support Program

**Khurram Jaffrani**

KARACHI: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the Benazir Nashonuma Center at Sindh Government Hospital PIB Colony in Karachi on 16th October 2024. During her visit, she inspected the facilities, interacted with the women beneficiaries of the program, and expressed satisfaction with the availability of adequate services.

While speaking to media personnel at the hospital, Senator Rubina Khalid praised the Sindh Health Department for its support in providing necessary facilities and resources for the program. She highlighted that child stunting is a significant issue that BISP is addressing by providing both cash and nutritional support to mothers of children up to two years of age. She further added that 9.3 million families are currently registered with the program, and this number is expected to reach 10 million by 2025.



Addressing concerns that BISP promotes dependency, she firmly rejected this notion, stating that BISP is a visionary initiative of Shaheed Mohterma Benazir Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari, recognized globally for its impact. The programme aims to eradicate poverty, empower women, and reduce income disparity. To ensure its effectiveness, she mentioned that an independent third-party survey and monitoring are conducted annually.

Regarding the issue of the agent mafia and the limited number of banks handling cash transfers, Senator Rubina Khalid shared that BISP is in discussions with the State Bank of Pakistan to streamline cash transfers for beneficiaries. She hinted at upcoming positive developments in this area. Additionally, she announced that BISP has added six more banks to its network for cash transfers, which will reduce the reliance on a few banks and curb the influence of device agents.

## Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meeting with Iran's Minister for Industry, Mining, and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, during the SCO 2024 summit in Islamabad. The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, industrial cooperation, and regional economic ties.



Photo: PID

## Sarhad Business Alliance Announces Formation of Business Working Relations Committee



**Bureau Report**

of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

PESHAWAR: Former Governor and Patron-in-Chief of the Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA), Haji Ghulam Ali, announced that the promises made to Peshawar's business community are not dependent on titles or positions.

He affirmed that just as they resolved issues before, they will continue to do so now.

Alongside strengthening the organizational structure of the SBA, a Business Working Relations Committee is being formed, which will act as a bridge between the business sector and government institutions, taking practical steps toward resolving issues.

He expressed these views during a grand meeting held at the Mohmand Chamber

The meeting, chaired by Haji Ghulam Ali, was attended by SBA Chairman Syed Zahir Ali Shah, Co-Chairman Syed Sirajuddin, former Caretaker Provincial Ministers Adnan Jaleel and Malik Mehar Elahi, Ghulam Bilal Javid, President of Mohmand Chamber Amir Muhammad, former President Sajjad Ali, Abdul Qudoos, Zaheer Arif, Amjad Khan, Shahrukh, Malik Inaam, Salman Elahi, Shaikat Durani, Shehzad Arif, along with a large number of officials from Mohmand Chamber, Peshawar Small Chamber, and All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA), as well as executive members and the business community.

## Taxation Reforms: FPCCI & FBR to Join Forces: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that, in a milestone development, FPCCI and FBR have agreed to consult, collaborate and synergize on a comprehensive taxation reforms agenda. This is the only way forward for the economy of Pakistan as revenue generation provides the very basis of any country's fiscal policies and development plan – nonetheless, the same needs to be done in a consultative, inclusive and pragmatic manner, he added.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, presented the principled apprehensions and demands of FPCCI. He observed that FBR's revenue target is PKR. 12.97 trillion – representing a 40 percent YoY increase – while the economy is growing at only 2 percent. This is huge cause of concern for the business community; and, may result in new taxes, mini budgets and taxing the already taxed even further.

SVP FPCCI highlighted that Tajir Dost Scheme (TDS) was also implemented without consultation; and, as a matter of fact, it has been revealed that TDS has



missed its revenue collection target by 99 percent.

Mr. Khurram Ejaz, member of PM's committee on cross-cutting in ports and advisor to President FPCCI on FBR affairs, questioned that why Pakistani ports and terminals cannot operate 24 / 7 exami-

nation, delivery and handling like rest of the world.

Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman FBR, agreed that tax rates should be curtailed to reduce tax burden and enhance compliance; however, it is not possible in the current circumstances.

FBR Chairman also expressed optimism that interest rate may be further reduced by 1.5 – 2.0 percent soon; and, advocated for no more than 3 – 4 percent premium in policy rate as compared to inflation numbers. He opined that the country has no other breathing windows in sight and promoting tax culture is the only viable solution.

On demand of FPCCI, he advised FBR officials to minimize checking cargo within the limits of Karachi city as a pilot study; and, only inspect or stop on concrete intelligence-based information for large consignments.

He also advised to appoint a grade-19 FBR officer in his staff to be the focal person for day-to-day issues raised by trade bodies – who should be responsible to inform him of any pressing concerns or complains within 24 hours.

## Mafia hike ghee prices after flour, vegetables, and meat

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that action should be taken against the mafia that loots the people by artificially increasing the prices of ghee and vegetable oil.

In this regard, he said, all relevant government machinery, including price control committees, should be mobilized, and prices should be moderated by taking immediate action against profiteers.

Shahid Rashid Butt said in a statement issued here that after the increase in the prices of fruits and vegetables, the flour mills mafia made the flour expensive, and now the prices of vegetable oil and ghee are skyrocketing.

The majority in Pakistan



are forced to use substandard third-grade ghee, and the ruthless mafia has increased the price of this quality ghee the most, he observed.

The business leader said

that with winter's arrival, ghee consumption increases. The mafia is taking advantage of this, and if it is not stopped, other necessities of life will also start becoming expensive.

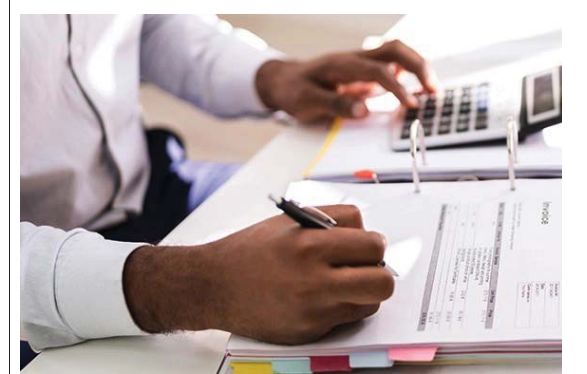
On the one hand, people are being told that inflation is coming down; on the other hand, prices of ghee, flour, meat, fruits, and vegetables are increasing because the profiteers are plundering the masses openly, which needs to be dealt with iron hands.

Shahid Rashid Butt further said that the oil prices have decreased in the global market, but the prices have been increased in Pakistan, which is surprising.

The oil prices have declined by three percent in the international market, and now British crude oil is selling at 75 dollars per barrel while US crude oil WTI is at 71 dollars per barrel, and the global gas price has decreased by 40 cents. Currently, gas is 2 dollars 47 cents per MMBtu.

The government should immediately withdraw the increase in oil prices, as it will result in inflation.

## Accountants face new era of ethical challenges



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Professional accountants, long trusted as custodians of financial integrity, are facing a new era of ethical challenges amid a rise in business scandals and evolving expectations. 64% of respondents said that ethical dilemmas have become more difficult to resolve in the past three years.

A report from the world's leading professional accountability body ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) published to mark Global Ethics Day, highlights the evolving nature of ethical challenges and

the increasing complexity of ethical dilemmas in accountancy. The new era of ethical challenges for professional accountants is based on over 1,100 responses from 135 countries.

The findings reveal that 55% of accountants have witnessed unethical behaviour in their career and almost one in four (24%) have been put under pressure to behave unethically in the last three years. In addition, the results revealed that more men have experienced ethical pressure than women: 27% of males have been put under pressure to act in an unethical way, compared with 19% of females.

## SCO Summit: Catalyst for Pakistan's Regional, Global Supremacy: Nasir Qureshi



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has termed the successful hosting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit a matter of immense pride for Pakistan which provided it a distinctive platform to strengthen its journey economic growth and regional integration. Similarly, it served as a platform for advancing cooperation in technology, especially in areas like digital transformation, cyber security, and e-commerce.

He also commended the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for highlighting the significance of peace and stability in Afghanistan for the growth of trade and development among all the stakeholders as well as exercising the collective wisdom for fostering progress and prosperity for the shared community.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday Qureshi congratulated the Prime Minister and his entire team for the hard work for the Summit which manifested the collective voice and wishes of over 40 percent of the world population. He said that SCO remained the beacon of stability and development for the mutual benefit of the people in the region.

# England Beater Ben Duckett beautiful century and Pakistan bowler Sajid Khan 4 Wickets in 2nd Day of 2nd Test Match

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In the second test match, the wonderful century of Ben Stokes from England cricket team and the wonderful bowling of the spin bowler Sajid Khan from Pakistan. 4 of England's top class batsmen out. On the 2nd day of the second test match played between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium, England made a score of 239 in response to Pakistan's 366 runs at the end of the match when 6 of their players returned to Pavilion. Earlier today, the Pakistan cricket team started the first innings on the previous day's score of 259, in which 6 players out.

And the Pakistan cricket team was bowled out for 366 30 minutes before the lunch break. Ben Stokes, who says not a problem, is in trouble for the first time. The England team was making records on records at the Multan International Cricket Stadium last Wednesday. But Wednesday proved to be a terrible day for them, when in the closing moments of the day they took 4 wickets for 14 runs in 24 balls and 3 wickets for just one run. Pakistan's spinners, especially Sajid Khan, wreaked havoc. Pakistan are in a



driving position by the end of the second day of the 3-Test series, leading by 127 runs and 6 out to England's 239. Avoiding a 5th straight defeat against England, they are hoping for their first win at home after 11 Test matches in 2 years.

On Wednesday at the Multan International Cricket Stadium, Pakistan started the innings with 259 runs and 6 wickets in the first day's game. Experienced

batsman Muhammad Rizwan added 4 runs and was caught out by wicket keeper Jamie Smith off the ball of Brayden Carrs for an individual score of 41. He completed his innings with the help of 7 fours while facing 97 balls. 38 runs were scored in the seventh wicket partnership, Salman Ali Agha scored 31 runs in 53 overs and became 'cut-behind'.

And Mathew Potts fell victim,

his innings included 5 fours. Newcomer Sajid Khan too could not resist for long and fell victim to Jack Leach for just 2 individual runs., he was caught by Joy Root. Pakistan lost 8 wickets for 308. Aamir Jamal and Nouman Ali came to a great rescue for Pakistan by going to the tail-ends and taking the score to 358 by the lunch break. Pakistan in the first session. Added 99 runs by losing 3 wickets.

After lunch, the partnership of Jamal and Nauman broke with 49 runs without any addition, when Amir Jamal was bowled by Brydon Kars on the first ball after the lunch break, he was dismissed for 37 runs, his innings included 4 fours. Nouman Ali put up some resistance and scored 32 runs with the help of 5 fours. He was the last batsman to be dismissed. Pakistan's innings in the second session of the second day. In 3.123 overs, Team Pakistan was bowled out for 366 runs. On behalf of England, Jack Leach got 4 wickets, Brayden Carrs 3, Matthew Potts 2, Shoaib Bashir got 1 wicket. Jack Leach took 38.3 overs for 4 wickets and gave 114 runs. England had a good start, until the tea break scored 88 runs for one wicket in 17 overs. The third session on the second day was initially good for England, with the score at one point reaching 211 for just 2 in 41.2 overs. Zac Crawley made 27 and Ollie Pope 29, but Joe Root and opener Ben Duckett were on the wicket. After that, Pakistan trapped England in the trap of spinners, Sajid Khan had 4 victims.

Ben Duckett scored 114, Zack Crawley 27, Ollie Popp 29, Joe Root scored 34 runs and captain



Ben Stokes scored 1 run.

Pakistan got their first win after a partnership of 73 runs, Zach Crawley scored 27 runs off Nauman Ali and caught Muhammad Rizwan behind the wickets, his innings included 3 fours. The second success came in the form of Oli Pope when spin bowler Sajid Khan bowled Oli Pope out, he made 29. Ben Duckett completed the fourth century of his Test career and the second against Pakistan, playing excellent shots around the wicket to create havoc among the Pakistani bowlers, his century included 15 fours.

Having scored 86 runs in the third wicket partnership, with a

double century in the first Test in Multan. Having scored 86 runs in the third wicket partnership, with a double century in the first Test in Multan, becoming a record Test run scorer for his country, Joey Root, who broke many records, failed to play a big innings this time and after scoring 34 runs, he was bowled by Sajid Khan. 'In Side Edge' became bold. After adding 13 runs, the fourth wicket also went to Sajid Khan. When Ben Dickett was caught by Salman Ali Agha on an individual score of 114, his innings included 16 fours. Harry Brooke, who scored a record triple century in the previous Test, was also bowled by Sajid Khan.

## Boys, Girls turn out to be the stand-out performers at State Swimming Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: 28th Boys and 23rd Girls National Age Group Swimming Championship, 2024 concluded at Sports Board Punjab Pool here at near to Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. In Boys Punjab while in Girls Category Sindh dominated in the last final day. There were multiple national records fell across various age groups. In the boys under-16 category, Syed Muhammad Daniyal Hatim of Army stole the show, breaking three national records in a single day. Daniyal Hatim clocked 58.04 seconds in 100 meter butterfly, and 25.60 seconds in 50 meter butterfly while in 24.40 seconds in 50 meter freestyle. His outstanding performance earned him the Best Swimmer title with five gold medals. In girls events saw equally impressive perfor-



mances Hareem Malik of Sindh set new national benchmarks in the 16 and under category, with record-breaking swims in 200 meter Individual Medley

(2:43.73) and 100 meter Breaststroke (1:21.50) Malik's dominant performance secured her the Best Swimmer award with five gold medals all won by Daniyal

Hatim. In the Girl's competition Sindh took top honours with 13 gold, 1 Silver, and 5 bronze medals. Punjab secured second place with 11 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals. Individual brilliance was on display across all age groups. In the Boys under 14 category Mikail Afzal Mir of Sindh claimed the Best Swimmer title with 5 gold medals, including new national records in 50 meter Freestyle and 100 Meter Breaststroke. For the girls in the same age group, Shahzana Shahid of Punjab dominated with 5 gold medals. Mustafa Maqbool of Sindh was named best Swimmer in the Boys 10 and under category, he got 4 gold medals with established 4 new national records. In the girls 12 category Zoya Omair Hafiz of Sindh also showed outstanding performance and she secured 5 gold medals and she also established new national

## SCO meeting adopts number of decisions ...

Continued from Page 1

and it was due to its efforts that several areas of cooperation were now approved including the concepts of economy, trade organization, development of creative economy and creation of new economy dialogue among the SCO members.

The two-day CHG-SCO concluded in serene and idyllic Capital of Pakistan that nestled

at the Margalla foothills. Pakistan hosted the global event which was attended by leaders of SCO member states who brainstormed in the backdrop of recent global challenges to economy, peace and stability.

SCO is the world's largest conglomerate of the Eurasian countries on the basis of world's population, geographic location and economy with more than 23 percent global GDP.

## Hosting 23rd SCO summit a milestone for Pakistan: Tarar

Continued from Page 1

some inimical elements were claiming that Pakistan has been isolated at international level but now the world can see that the heads of major countries had visited our country.

"Russian and Chinese Prime Ministers' arrival in Pakistan is good omen for us Pakistan reputation has been restored with this summit", he added.

He said that Pakistan had made excellent arrangements for the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation

Organization summit being held in Islamabad today.

He said after 27 years an event of this magnitude was being hosted by Pakistan. "It is definitely an honour for Pakistan to host the 23rd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif", he remarked.

He said that Islamabad, one of the most beautiful cities of the world, has been specially decorated for this summit and the foreign delegates have given good remarks about the city.

## Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

### Brilliant Century by Sardar Wali, deadly bowling by Shuja Haider, Nasrallah and Zafar Khan

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various cricket Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play Brilliant Century 121 by Sardar Wali, Deadly Bowling by Shuja Haider 6/30, Nasarullah 5/17 and Zafar Khan 5/35.

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

Scores in Brief: Qamar Abbas Cricket Club beat Hansabad Gymkhana by 130 runs at Pak Star Ground. Qamar Abbas CC 194 all out in 34 overs. Ibad Hassan 50 5x4 2x6, Ausajia Zaidi 37 not out, Shabih Haider 28, Wakhee Haider 24. Hasnain 4/40, Obaid Ahmed

3/28. Hansabad Gymkhana 64 all out in 12.2 overs. Raheem 32 not out. Shuja Haider 6/30, Ibad Hassan 4/22.

In the second match at KCCA Stadium Dacca Sports beat Orangi Muslim Cricket Club by 207 runs. Dacca Sports 329/9 in 40 overs. Sardar Wali 121 9x4, Abdullah 37, Asal Khan 36, Ibrahim 30. Faisal Wahab 4/88, Syed Kamran Ali 2/38. Orangi Muslim CC 122 all out in 23.2 overs. Syed Kamran Ali 26, Faisal Wahab 25. Zafar Khan 5/35, Musa 2/21.

In the 3rd Match Muhammad Hussain Cricket Club beat Nazeer Hussain Gymkhana by 3 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Nazeer Hussain Gymkhana 149 all out

in 37.1 overs. Bilal Khan 52 6x4, Shaban Ali 35. Fazal Malik 3/16, Adeel Malik 3/22, Mehdi Hassan 2/20.

Muhammad Hussain CC Junior 154/7 in 28.5 overs. Sameer Arshad 67 11x4, Fazal Raheem 31. Hussain Haider 4/31, Nafay Ibrahim 2/21.

In the fourth Match Premier Sports beat LERP Taiser Town Cricket Club by 171 runs at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. Premier Sports 228/8 in 40 overs. Ahmed Ali 67 8x4 2x6, Azam Khan 55 7x5, Dawood 33. Shafiqat Jawed 2/21. Muhammad Nazeem 2/36, Saqib Khan 2/51.

LERP Taiser Town CC 57 all out in 8 overs. Nasarullah 5/17. Muhammad Saqib 2/1. Adnan 2/8.

## PM stresses enhanced...

Continued from Page 1

Prime Minister Shehbaz urged participating leaders to encourage their private sectors to create a business-friendly environment for investment within the SCO region. He also praised the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry for its collaborative efforts with SCO External Ministers in Islamabad, fostering productive dialogues to strengthen economic ties. He asserted that such initiatives should be supported to enhance economic cooperation and promote regional prosperity.

He commended the SCO Interbank Union and the SCO Consortium of Economic Analytic Think Tanks for their roles in addressing banking challenges and researching economic and trade dynamics, respectively.

The spotlight is on Islamabad as it hosts the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the SCO. Regional leaders begun arriving for this significant summit on Monday.

The leaders convened at the Jinnah Convention Centre to discuss collaboration in economy, trade, environment, and socio-cultural ties and assess the organisation's performance.

Pakistan, having assumed the rotating chair for 2023-24 during the previous meeting in Bishkek, is welcoming top officials from member countries. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif greeted the leaders upon their arrival, followed by a group photo.

## SCO states reaffirm commitment to peaceful cooperation, economic growth

Continued from Page 2

the activities of the Special Working Group (SWG) of the SCO Member States on poverty reduction issues.

They called for further strengthening cooperation in order to increase mutual trade in agricultural products and expand the areas of interaction between the Member States on the basis of previously adopted documents and solutions in the field of agriculture and food security.

The heads of delegation reaffirmed the need for action to strengthen global food security and improve nutrition and encourage efforts to develop cooperation in research on climate-resilient and nutritious cereal crops, including millet, rice, wheat, maize and other traditional crops.

They said they attached great importance to holding sports events and competitions with the participation of SCO Member States, SCO Observer States and SCO Dialogue Partners in

order to strengthen sports ties between the countries, as well as the development of Olympic, non-Olympic, and Paralympic and national sports.

They welcomed the adoption of a roadmap for the implementation of the Cooperation Programme of the SCO Member States for the Development of Artificial Intelligence.

The heads of delegations emphasized that people-to-people diplomacy contributes to strengthening mutual understanding and cultural

and humanitarian ties within the SCO.

The SCO CHG also approved the Report of the SCO Secretariat on the Events and Meetings held within the framework of the Implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States and the SCO budget for 2025.

During the meeting, decisions were made on a number of issues related to the financial and organizational activities of the SCO permanent bodies,

taking into account the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The heads of delegation expressed their gratitude to Pakistan for the successful organization of the 23rd meeting of the SCO CHG, which was held in a constructive and friendly atmosphere. The next meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States will be held in 2025 in the Russian Federation.

## President for boosting economic cooperation ...

Continued from Page 1

of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who along with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov, called on him, at Aiwane-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the delegation, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with Turkmenistan, which were based on common values, religion and culture. He called for working together for the shared prosperity and stability in the region and the betterment of the people of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

The President also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to the early completion of the TAPI Gas pipeline project, adding that the project would greatly help in the economic development of the two countries.

Rashid Meredov thanked the President for participation in the

International Forum on the 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Magtymguli Faragi in Ashgabat, saying that it was a great gesture of respect for the Turkmen people. He also conveyed the special greetings of the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, and the National Leader of the Turkmen People and Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, to President Asif Ali Zardari.

The President thanked the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, for his participation in the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad.

The President also thanked the Turkmenistan government for its warm hospitality extended to him during his visit to Ashgabat.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Russian Prime Minister H.E. Mikhail Mishustin along with a delegation meets Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.

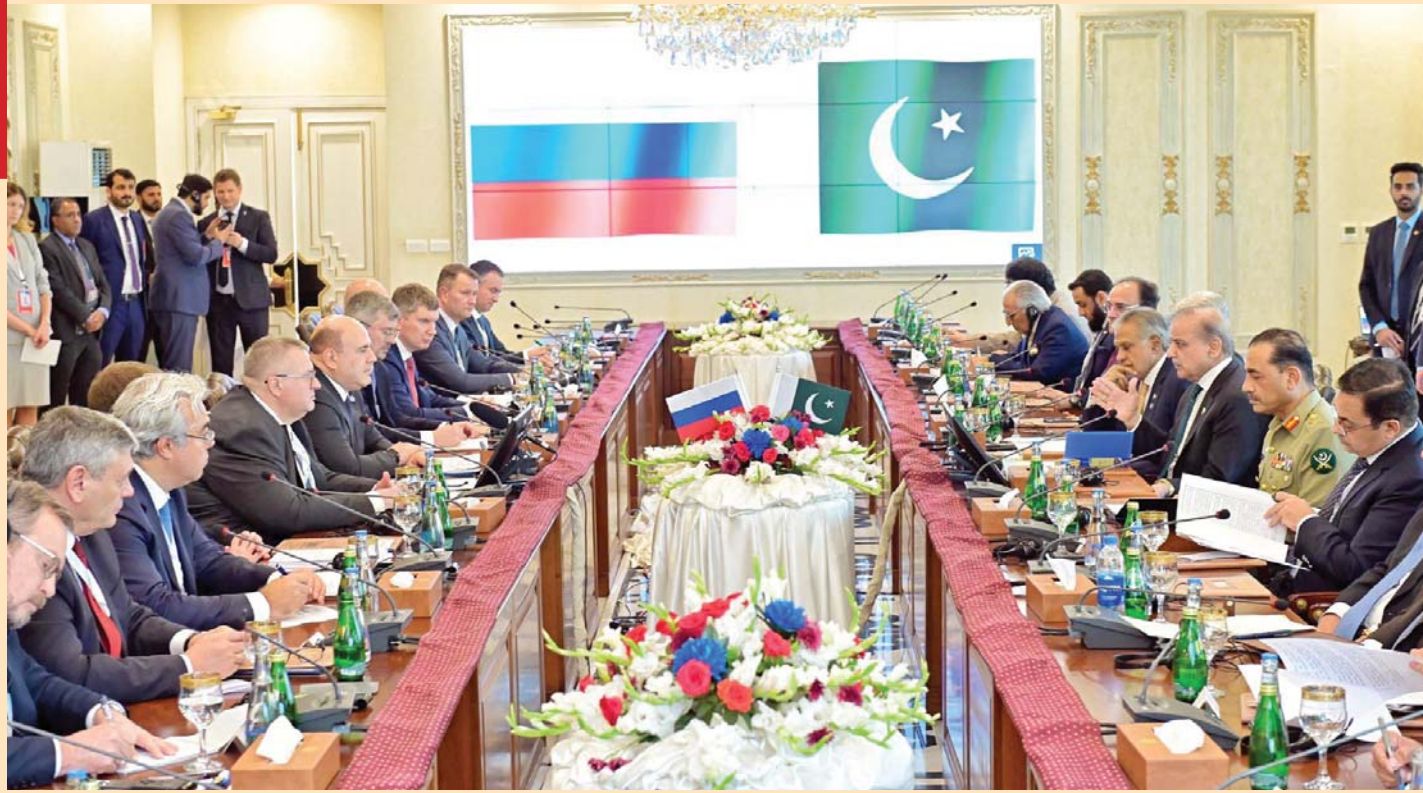


Photo: Online

## Ayaz lauds Pakistan's pivotal role in fostering regional cooperation via SCO platform



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and all other stakeholders for the successful organization of the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. The prestigious event, attended

by heads of governments and senior officials from member states, showcases Pakistan's growing stature on the international stage.

In a statement, Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the significance of the SCO in strengthening cooperation and collective action across key areas, including sustainable development, regional connectivity, economic integration, climate action, and poverty alleviation.

"The outcomes of this summit will undoubtedly contribute to a safer, more prosperous future for the region and the world," he noted.

The Speaker also expressed his appreciation for the tireless efforts of all those involved in making the event a resounding success. "Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence have brought immense pride to Pakistan. Alhamdulillah, their efforts have paid off, and it is truly a proud moment for the nation."

## PM Sharif, PM Mishustin agree to pursue robust dialogue, cooperation between Pakistan, Russian Federation

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin on Wednesday agreed to pursue robust dialogue and cooperation in the areas of trade, industry, energy, connectivity, science, technology and education.

During a cordial and substantive meeting at the Prime Minister's House on the margins of the 23rd SCO-CHG meeting, both prime ministers discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations over the last two decades, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif fondly recalled his first foreign visit to Moscow, expressing a desire to transform these warm memories into a

lasting friendship with Russia.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening political, economic, and defense ties with the Russian Federation.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation at multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

He also thanked Russia for supporting Pakistan's BRICS membership bid, marking a step toward deeper collaboration on the global stage.

The prime minister recalled his productive meeting with President Vladimir Putin in July this year in Astana during the course of which they had agreed to meaningful enhancement of relations between the two countries.

He also emphasized on the need of direct flights between Russia and Pakistan for enhanced connectivity between the two countries.

The Russian prime minister appreciated the remarkable arrangements done by Pakistan for the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting.

Furthermore, he thanked the Government and the people of Pakistan for warm welcome and exemplary hospitality extended to him and the Russian delegation.

He expressed his desire to further bolster the existing cooperation between Russia and Pakistan to next level.

The two prime ministers agreed to maintain close cooperation on all areas of mutual interest.

Both leaders also agreed on lingual exchanges between the two countries to enhance people to people relations and an increased cooperation among the banking sectors of the two countries to facilitate trade and investment.

*Tarar warns of strict action against those inciting violence, threatening lawmakers*

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday warned that the state would respond firmly to those responsible for inciting violence and threatening the lawmakers.

## Kazakhstan PMs leave for their homelands after attending SCO

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: After attending the 23rd Session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Prime Ministers of Kazakhstan H. E. Oljas Bektenov and Prime Minister of Belarus H. E. Roman Golovchenko left for their homelands. PMs of both countries were seen off at Islamabad Airport by Federal Minister Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan. Talking to then Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that he is looking forward for such bilateral ties and visits in the future as well which will prove to be very beneficial for the region. Prime Minister of Kazakhstan H. E. Oljas Bektenov and H. E. Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko expressed their



gratitude to Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's meeting was held at Islamabad in a wonderful and high-level manner and their stay in Pakistan was very pleasant. They added that they are carrying lots of positive hopes and happy memories from Pakistan through this visit.

## 23rd SCO CHG summit concludes, Russia to lead next term

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) concluded on Wednesday, marking a significant milestone in fostering closer collaboration among member states.

In his closing remarks, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif announced the transfer of the CHG chairmanship to the Russian Federation and expressed his gratitude to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin for assuming the role.

He noted that the next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government would be held in 2025 in Russia.

"The council congratulates Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and expresses its full support for the Russian chairmanship," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the shared goals and objectives of the SCO, emphasizing the importance of



prioritizing collaboration over political differences.

"Let us focus on cooperation rather than political divisions, build on our successes, address common challenges, and work together to ensure that the

SCO remains a beacon of stability, development, and mutual benefit for all our peoples," he said.

Condemning Israeli aggression in Gaza, the prime minister stated, "We cannot overlook the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The international community bears the responsibility to demand an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, leading to the establishment of the state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds as its capital."

The heads of government of SCO member states signed a series of documents, including the joint communique and decisions aimed at advancing economic and trade cooperation, as well as ensuring the effective functioning of the SCO's permanent bodies.

The prime minister also extended his heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all national coordinators, experts, and staff of the SCO Secretariat for their tireless efforts in finalizing the meeting's documents.

## Pakistan, Russia discuss ways to boost communication ties

## Commerce Desk

LAHORE: An important meeting was held between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan and Russia's Deputy Minister for Transport, Dimitri Zverev, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Coop-

eration Organization meeting. In this meeting, mutual cooperation in the field of Communications between Russia and Pakistan was discussed in detail while new projects were considered.

Talking in the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the road network through China

and Afghanistan to Central Asian countries will be important for Pakistan while Russian Deputy Transport Minister Dimitri Zverev expressed keen interest in investing in Pakistan's Communication sector.

In the meeting, the Ministers of the two countries said that the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation

Organization was very positive and useful while this initiative will play an important role in the development of the region.

Federal Secretary Communications and Secretary Railways also attended the meeting and gave a briefing on important issues in the field of Communications.

### Hakim Mohammed Said

9 January 1920 — 17 October 1998

Did you have life easy?  
No. But you made it your mission  
To make it a little easier for others.

Orphaned at two,  
You opened your heart to all children,  
Giving them respect, education, care,  
Making sure their little voices didn't go unheard.

As an adult, you had to start life twice:  
Once in your birthplace, once in your land of choice.  
You wore holes in your shoes.  
But your spirit of service stayed intact.

Two rented rooms, pieces of rented furniture:  
You started small, but your heart was big.  
Your God-given gifts, you used in God's name,  
And He blessed you hundredfold.

Many men's pride is swelled with success;  
Yours increased your humility.  
So you turned your institution over to Allah -  
Its profits to profit the poor.

All men have dreams - a thing apart from life.  
You said Why not? and worked to make them real.  
Free clinics and dispensaries on wheels,  
Hospitals, schools, colleges, even a university!

You married modern science to ancient medicine,  
And bred respect for hikmat in doubting hearts.  
Journals, books, societies, and conferences,  
Assemblies, think-tank - all bear witness to your drive.

You spoke the truth, unwavering, unafraid.  
One morning a gun spoke, to silence you forever.  
O, vain attempt! Your words, your works live on.  
The gun but gave you a martyr's immortality!

Physician  
Educationist  
Visionary  
Philanthropist

- A tribute from Khaula Yasmin Qureshi.

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