

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایسا نے بیان کیا کہ ہم  
سے شہیر نے بیان کیا ان سے قادیان سے  
انہوں نے عقیق بن صہبان ازدی سے سنا وہ  
عبداللہ بن مغفل مرنے سے نقل کرتے تھے  
کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے نکلنے سے منع  
کیا تھا اور فرمایا تھا کہ وہ شکار مار سکتے ہیں اور نہ  
درخت کو کوئی نقصان پہنچا سکتے ہیں، البتہ آگ  
چھوڑ سکتے ہیں اور دانت ٹوڑ سکتے ہیں۔  
(بخاری ص 20)

Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited



## Financial loss of Israel's aggression in Gaza estimated at \$23b: Ambassador Moghaddam

Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Friday said that the financial loss of Israel's aggression and barbaric attacks in Gaza (Palestine) is estimated at \$23 billion, in addition to the crimes such as the loss of human lives.



## Pakistan Stock Exchange shatters records, surpasses 93,000 points for first time

The Pakistan Stock Exchange achieved a historic milestone, with the benchmark index climbing past the 93,000-point mark for the first time ever. According to the PSX website, the KSE-100 index closed at 93,291.68 levels after gaining 771.20 points, appreciating by 0.83 per cent, on Friday. Analysts attributed such a significant growth to rising expectations surrounding Pakistan's improved economic rating and positive developments in economic reforms.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Allama Iqbal Day

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif waving the Pakistani Flag at a ceremony to celebrate Allama Muhammad Iqbal's Birthday on Friday.



Photo: PID

## IAPTC Conference participants laud Pakistan's peace efforts



**City Desk**  
RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) concluded today at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad.  
The closing ceremony was chaired by Secretary Defence Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, HI(M), (Retired) in which he expressed gratitude to the IAPTC Secretariat, panelists, participants and CIPS for conducting a productive and successful week-long conference on Adaptive Training Strategies for Peace Operations.  
In the concluding session, the delegates were briefed on the outcomes of fruitful discussions, innovative ideas and proposed initiatives that emerged during the conference. Focus remained on innovative training methodologies, enhancing technology integration, empowering women's participation in peacekeeping and the importance of information integrity.  
The conference also highlighted the importance of international collaboration in addressing evolving challenges to peacekeeping.  
Former President of IAPTC, Brigadier General Joyce (Kenya) formally handed over the presidency to Principal NIPCONS (NUST Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies) Mr. Raja Aftab Khan.  
At the end, all participants expressed their sincere appreciation for the collaborative spirit that defined the event and showed deepest gratitude to the commitment of Pakistan in continuing efforts for the global peace.  
The 28th IAPTC Annual Conference has set a strong foundation for future initiatives, reinforcing Pakistan's resolve to promote peace, security and stability worldwide.

## PM unveils three-month electricity relief package for winter season

**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday unveiled a three-month Electricity Relief Package for the winter season providing a relief of up to Rs26.7 per unit for domestic, Rs15.5 for industrial and Rs22.71 for commercial consumers.  
The prime minister, addressing an event to commemorate the birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal being celebrated on November 9 here, told the gathering of ministers, students, and artists that the relief package would remain in

force from December 2024 to February 2025.  
"Under the package, the domestic consumers will get a relief of up to Rs 26.7 per unit for their power consumption surpassing 200 units of the protected category. It will help them save Rs11.42 to Rs26 per unit in the three months of winter," the prime minister said.  
Similarly, the industrial sector will save 18-37% or Rs 5.27 to Rs 15.5 per unit under the package to help boost industrial production, growth and livelihoods. The commercial consumers will be given a 34-47% saving or Rs

13.46 to Rs 22.71 per unit subsidy in the package.  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the package would stimulate a quantum jump in the country's economic progress by boosting agriculture, industrial productivity, business activity and exports.  
He said that the commitments and vision of the current government were being translated into actions through the relief package that would become the harbinger of improved economic resilience.  
Besides thanking the IMF for permitting the government to announce the package, he

also commended the cabinet members and relevant senior officers for their efforts and teamwork in working out the relief package.  
Coming to the Iqbal Day celebration, he motivated the youth and children to remain resolute in their ambition to achieve a glorious future for the nation.  
A short documentary produced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting played featuring the life and philosophy of Allama Iqbal. Renowned singer Shehzad Roy and Dr Masooma Awan sang the famous poems of Iqbal while the

young singers Mahnoor Altaf and Ashir Sultan recited "Lab Pe Aati he Dua Ban Ke Tamanna Meri" – a famous hymn written by Allama Iqbal.  
Prime Minister Shehbaz duly acknowledged the performance of the young kids and appreciated them warmly for their commendable show.  
Federal cabinet members Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Musadik Malik, Jam Kamal Khan, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and other senior government officers also attended the event.

## Fact checks: Will Punjab police crackdown on journalists?

**Bureau Report**  
LAHORE: A claim that the Punjab Police has announced a crackdown on journalists and reporters who are not registered with a press club or media organization has been circulating on the internet. However, the claim is False.  
The misinformation originated from a Facebook post on October 24, where a user shared a graphic featuring Punjab's Inspector General of Police, Dr. Usman Anwar, accompanied by

the Urdu text: "Long live Punjab Police. Crackdown on fake journalists."  
The post suggested that the police would start routinely checking journalists' press cards and would file complaints against those not registered with a TV channel, newspaper, or press club. However, police officials and the Lahore Press Club have confirmed that no such announcement has been made.  
The secretary of the Lahore Press Club, Zahid Abid, stated in a phone conversation

with Geo Fact Check that they have not received any official information regarding this matter. "We do not believe there is any such policy in place either," he added.  
Waqas Nazir, the deputy inspector general of Punjab police, also told Geo Fact Check, "We have not issued any such advice."  
Additionally, the director of public relations at Punjab Police, Mubashir Hussain, labeled the online posts as "fake" news in a message to Geo Fact Check.

## Punjab shuts public spaces in smog-hit cities

**Bureau Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab ordered public spaces closed in smog-hit main cities, authorities said Friday, as the country battles record air pollution.  
Access to parks, zoos, playgrounds, historic monuments, museums and recreational areas will be banned until November 17 due to poor air quality, according to a local government directive seen by AFP.  
The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in Lahore's air was more than 20 times higher than the level deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO). In Multan, it was up to 48 times higher on Friday.  
Punjab residents have been trapped in thick smog for over a week ever since the air quality index (AQI), which measures a range of pollut-



ants, spiked above 1,000 – well above the level of 300 considered 'dangerous' – according to data from IQAir.  
Schools in some of Punjab's major cities were ordered shut on Tuesday until November 17. The province extended that order on Wednesday to several more cities enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by

low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling.  
The decision follows restrictions imposed last month on four "hot spots" in Lahore that banned tuk-tuks with polluting two-stroke engines, along with restaurants that operate barbecues without filters.  
Seasonal crop burn-off by farmers on the outskirts of Lahore also contributes to toxic air, which the WHO says can cause strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases.  
Excess pollution shortens the life expectancy of Lahore residents by an average of 7.5 years, according to the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute.  
According to UNICEF, nearly 600 million children in South Asia are exposed to high levels of air pollution, which is also linked to half of childhood pneumonia deaths.

## JIT finds major PTI leaders to be guilty in May 9 case

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) have completed their investigations into the May 9 arson and violence cases, concluding that all accused, including prominent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Fawad Chaudhry, Aleema Khan, and Uzma Khan, are guilty, according to reports.  
The reports, submitted to the court, detail the findings of the investigations into the widespread violence and property damage that followed the arrest of Imran Khan on May 9th. The court has summoned all accused to present their final arguments.  
Meanwhile, the court extended the interim bail for all accused until December 7. Additionally, the court granted a one-day exemption from appearance to Alima Khan and Uzma Khan. The hearing was presided over by ATC Judge Arshad Javed. The judge indicated that this one-day exemption is the final such concession.

## 4 martyred personnel of security forces laid to rest with full military honors

**City Desk**  
RAWALPINDI: Four brave personnel of armed forces who embraced martyrdom in exchange of fire between Security Force and Khwarij terrorists in general areas Karama, South Waziristan District were laid to rest on Friday in their native areas with full military honors.



Those who were laid to rest with full military honors in their native areas include Naib Subedar Taib Shah (age: 38 years, resident of District Tank), Lance Naik Gulab Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik Habibullah (age: 28 years, resident of District Orakzai), said an Inter Service Public

Relations news release.  
A large gathering of military and civil officials, personnel of armed forces, relatives of the martyrs, and local community members attended the funeral prayers and burials of the martyrs.  
Pakistan's security forces remain steadfast in their commitment to eradicating the scourge of terrorism, and the sacrifices of these brave soldiers only strengthen nation's resolve.

## India's Modi rejects calls to restore occupied Kashmir's partial autonomy

**Reuters**  
SRINAGAR: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "strongly backed" his government's contentious 2019 decision to revoke the partial autonomy of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, days after the territory's newly elected lawmakers sought its restoration.  
"Only the constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar will

operate in Kashmir... No power in the world can restore Article 370 (partial autonomy) in Kashmir," Modi said, referring to one of the founding fathers of the Indian constitution.  
Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government revoked partial autonomy in 2019 and split the state into the two federally administered territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh—a move that was opposed by many political groups in the Himalayan region.



**Hamdard Skill Development Program**

# HFP launches new 4-month skills-building program at Berlitz Institute

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) has introduced a new four-month skills-building and training program called Hamdard Skill Development Program (HSDP) to assist needy and deserving students in their pursuit of modern learning and skill-building at Berlitz Institute Karachi. Under this program, students will receive skill training, along with assistance in securing suitable employment opportunities through industry partners of this initiative.

The program commenced in an auspicious ceremony yesterday at the Berlitz Karachi Office. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of HFP attended the event as chief guest. Syed Muhammad Arsalan - Director, HFP, Berlitz Country Manager Mr. Nadeem Huq



and the 70 enrolled students of the first badge were also in attendance.

In her address, Ms. Sadia Rashid highlighted the importance of skill-building and advanced technical knowledge for national progress in modern times. She said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said's mission was to accelerate the socio-economic advancement

of Pakistani youth, a vision HFP was dedicated to realizing by empowering young people and shaping a generation of skilled professionals. Ms. Sadia Rashid advised students to stay focused on their studies, avoid distractions like mobile phones, guard their health, and value time as an essential resource. Syed Muhammad Arsalan explained

that, under this initiative, HFP would cover the program fees for enrolled students, while Berlitz would provide expert trainers and essential training sessions. He said "This is a Qarz-e-Hasna model, allowing students to repay their program costs in small installments after securing employment, enabling other students to benefit. With this strategic move, HFP has ensured that skill-building programs are available for all deserving students. This initiative aims not only to equip participants with essential skills but also to connect them to employment opportunities, supporting the ultimate objective of job placement for each candidate upon program completion."

He also encouraged students to share their experiences and feedback to help enhance the



MULTAN: Peoples Celebrating the President Donald Trump winning on Friday.

## Protest for Indus River will be set up

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) has finalized preparations for a protest sit-in on November 9 at Hyderabad's Hattri Bypass, opposing the project to build a canal from the Indus River. During a meeting held to discuss the protest arrangements, STP Chairman Dr. Qadir Magsi addressed the attendees, stating that the water of the Indus River is the legal, eternal, and universal right of the people of Sindh. He emphasized that the people of Sindh will not allow the river, their lifeline, to dry up under any circumstances.

Dr. Magsi noted that due to the federal government's failure to release the required water downstream at Kotri, seawater is encroaching upon the coastal regions of Sindh. He called on the federal government to act responsibly and criticized the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for allegedly being complicit in this anti-Sindh project, influencing both the federal government and the presidential offices.

Dr. Magsi appealed to the people of Sindh to participate wholeheartedly in the November 9 sit-in, sending a strong message to the federal government that the people of Sindh will not accept any decisions against their interests. The meeting was attended by STP General Secretary Hot Khan Gadhvi, Dr. Abdul Hamid Memon, Qadir Channa, Dr. Ahmed Nunari, Imtiaz Samoon, Dr. Somar Mangrio, and others.

## Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs paid an official visit to CISS



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level delegation of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs, National Assembly of Pakistan, led by Member National Assembly Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, paid an official visit to the Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (CISS-AJK). The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director, CISS-AJK, who gave a comprehensive briefing on the Kashmir issue, covering its historical background and contemporary geopolitical context. Dr. Asma Khawaja highlighted the impact of Indian strategic culture on the Kashmir dispute and shed light on the ideological foundations on which India's policies in the region are shaped. She explained how India keeps changing its objectives to consolidate its military occupation.

The visit concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs and CISS-AJK. This agreement is an important step towards greater cooperation between the two institutions in highlighting the Kashmir issue on national and international platforms. Member National Assembly and Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon and other members appreciated the academic and strategic insights of CISS-AJK on the Jammu and Kashmir issue. Chairman of Kashmir Committee Rana Qasim Noon and Members of Delegation acknowledged the importance of connectivity between academic institutions and policymakers and added that it is necessary to give centrality to the Kashmir issue in national policy and international support.

## Success is Only in Getting Education with Hard Work



**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Member Provincial Assembly Salman Naeem has said that no nation can develop without education, success is only in getting education with hard work and heart. I was also sitting in the audience like the students. Today I am proud to be here as a guest. Today is a memorable day in my life. He expressed these views while addressing the welcome party in honor of all the boys campus students of Punjab Group of Colleges as a special guest. And it is a sign of the completion of the objectives. Secretary Education Board Khurram Shehzad has said that Punjab Group of Colleges is the only educational institution that has taken the most positions in all the education boards of Pakistan.

It makes it possible for students to achieve success by following the paths given by highly qualified teachers. From the ceremony, Director of Punjab Group of Colleges Prof. Osama Bashir Qureshi said that students of Punjab College do not need tuition, only focus on studying in classes. Give and don't use mobile phones for at least two years. Inshallah, success will kiss your feet.

Millions of students who graduated from here are serving in Pakistan and developed countries of the world. SP City Hasan Raza Khaki, SP Gulgasht Saifullah, Rana Khalid, DSP Intelligence Bureau are playing their best role in the event. Multan's famous singer Sajid Multani also participated in the event as a special guest. The students performed their art and presented tableaux, skits, plays and cultural dances. Prof. Zafar Iqbal, Prof. Shafiq Ahmed and Prof. Nazia performed the functions of the association.

**Visit**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting Cascade Facilitation Center in Diplomatic Enclave on Friday.



Photo: PID

# All Parties Alliance hails PM's Leepa Valley visit as landmark for public welfare

**Bureau Report**

LEEPA VALLEY: All Parties Alliance termed Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq's visit to Leepa as a reflection of public aspirations and termed the implementation of thirteen out of the sixteen-point charter of demands presented in the vision to resolve long-standing demands as a huge breakthrough for public prosperity. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq thanked the Pakistan Armed Forces and national security institutions and paid tribute to the people of Leepa Valley for their unrelenting struggle.

He said that the mega project of Leepa Tunnel and additional constituency in the assembly are also indispensable for the bright future of the coming generations. These views were expressed by All Parties Alliance Chairman PPP candidate for Assembly Constituency 7 Shaukat Javed Mir while talking to the media



in his reaction to the approval of the unanimous vision presented during the grand public meeting on the occasion of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq's visit to Leepa Valley.

He said that such far-sighted decisions and By creating an atmosphere of trust among the people through development projects for the welfare of the people, fostering ideological ties is a proven recipe for winning hearts. The people of the Line of Control, including

the Lipa Valley and Pandu sectors, sacrificed their lives for the defense of the homeland and the Kashmir freedom movement, but they neither complained about the lack of migration nor the availability of resources. Rather, they not only made the slogan "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours" an integral part of their faith, but also equipped their generations with this intellectual strength. Shaukat Javed Mir appreciated the joint strategy of

President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir on the approval of the bailout package of Rs 23 billion to provide subsidy on electricity and flour to the people of Kashmir at the cost of production. In response to a question, Shaukat Javed Mir said that the countless outstanding achievements of the Pakistani armed forces are a bright chapter in history. Commanding Officer 10 Corps Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz Mirza General Commanding Officer 12th DAB Irfan Qadir Sector Commander and Construction and Development The humane Islamic character of Brigadier Wasif Mahmood, Commanding Officer Leepa Guards, Brigadier Aamir Farid and his team, who laid the foundation of tolerance, is a source of inspiration for enlightened policies and measures to restore trust in all four provinces of Pakistan and the entire Azad Kashmir.

# Iqbal is creator of Pakistan's ideology: Zafar Bakhtawari

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (FPCCI) Secretary-General and former ICCI President, Zafar Bakhtawari, said that Iqbal is the creator of the ideology of Pakistan. It is essential to convey his message of self-awareness to today's youth, encouraging them to recognize their potential and work towards making Pakistan an exemplary state. Iqbal was not just a poet but a philosopher and leader who guided us towards our goals through his thoughts and

actions. The Pakistan Armed Forces are among the world's great forces, and their success is also influenced by Iqbal's philosophy and vision.

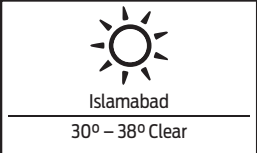
He expressed these views while addressing as the chief guest at an Iqbal Day event held at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-8/1. College Principal Professor Asia Rafiq Malik and other staff members were also present. In his speech, Bakhtawari elaborated on Iqbal's philosophy, emphasizing that the poet of the East always advocated for education, especially women's



education. Iqbal understood that the key to any nation's development lies in educating its women because women play a vital role in social progress and reform. Educated women can not only improve their families but also contribute significantly to society's advancement.

Bakhtawari said that Iqbal Day reminds us that if we wish to progress in social, economic, and academic fields,

we must integrate Iqbal's thought into our lives. Pakistan's development and stability lie hidden in Iqbal's ideas. He concluded by saying that we can only become a strong and stable nation if we embrace his message. On this Iqbal Day, let us pledge to build Pakistan as envisioned by Iqbal, a developed, independent, and dignified nation, and provide a bright future for our upcoming generations.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:08 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:31 pm
Maghrib	5:09 pm
Isha	6:35 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

# Supreme Judicial Council meets, discusses rulemaking of Judges -in-Session

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council was held on 08.11.2024 at 11am under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman Supreme Judicial Council. The meeting was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Mumib Akhtar, Justice Aamir Farooq, Chief Justice Islamabad High Court and Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar, Chief Justice High Court of Balochistan.

The council took up for consideration various agenda items. The council discussed in detail the issue of rule making of the Council and establishment of its Secretariat. The Council agreed to the proposal of the Registrar and decided that the rule making process of the Council should be undertaken and a draft should be placed before the council in the next meeting. The Council authorised the Chairman to hire the services of a competent individual with proven ability to work as Secretary of the Council for a period of 3 months who would be tasked to assist the Council in conducting its meetings,

oversee rule making exercise, and firm up infrastructure and human resource requirements of the Council's secretariat.

The Council also discussed the agenda items regarding amendments in the code of conduct of Judges under Article 209(8) of the Constitution and letters of six judges of Islamabad High Court. The Council considered different options and modalities in this regard and decided to widen the consultation on the subject as the code applies to the heads of different institutions in addition to judges and decided to take up the matter in the next meeting once again.

The Council examined ten complaints against the Judges under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different people and held that no substantial evidence has been adduced by the complainants, therefore the Council has filed those complaints.

The Council has decided to hold regular meetings on a monthly basis in future to clear the backlog on fast track. In case of frivolous complaints, action will be taken against the complainants in accordance with law.



## Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD: Visitors looking Indonesian traditional items on a stall prepares in connection with Lok Mela title "Focusing on the Youth of Pakistan" at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Arts Council announces new play of Anwar Maqsood's 'House Arrest'

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi hosted a press conference for the theater production "House Arrest", collaborated with KopyKats Productions at Hasena Moin Hall. Renowned intellectual and satirist Anwar Maqsood, President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, and director Dawar Mehmood gave a briefing to the press. The play is written by Anwar Maqsood and directed by Dawar Mehmood. On this occasion, President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah shared the exciting news that Anwar Maqsood's new play, "House Arrest", will commence at the Arts Council starting from January 15, 2025. He expressed appreciation for the media's continuous support in covering the Arts Council's events. He mentioned that the Awami Theater Festival will also inaugurate today, and an Aalmi Urdu Conference is set to take place in December. He shared that Anwar Maqsood had been working on the ideas for this play for the past two years. Jokingly, he said that perhaps Anwar Maqsood must have done something in his childhood that might have warranted handcuffs. Reflecting on the Arts Council's history, Ahmed Shah noted that when the theaters were gathering dust, Maqsood's play "Ponay 14 August" revived them. He fondly remembered the late Fatima Surayya Bajia, who was a governing body member of the Arts Council until her last days. She used to say that you could judge a person's civility by their kitchen and bathroom cleanliness. Shah shared that he would remember her at the upcoming Aalmi Urdu Conference.



## Seven suspects arrested in Attock over drug dealers' - district police

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Attock Police's Effective Actions Against Drug Dealers Continue: Seven Suspects Arrested in the Last 24 Hours, Nearly 8 Kg of Hashish, 60 Grams of Ice, and 10 Liters of Alcohol Seized. According to details, on the instructions of District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan, Attock Police's effective operations against drug dealers are ongoing. In this regard, Police Station City Hassanabdal arrested Muhammad Adil, son of Shafiq Akhtar, resident of Rehmpura Hassanabdal, and recovered 1670 grams of hashish and 60 grams of ice. Dalawar Khan, son of Sher Afzal, resident of Dhoke Miskeen Hassanabdal, was also arrested, and 1420 grams of hashish were recovered from him. Separately, Police Station Rangu, during a checkpoint, recovered 1500 grams of hashish from Sheraz Khan, son of Meeros Khan, resident of Kamalpur Musa. Similarly, Police Station Hazro, during a patrol, recovered 1400 grams of hashish from Shakeel Khan, son of Rehman Gul, resident of Swabi, currently living in Ghorghushti. Police Station Pindi Gheb arrested notorious drug dealer Muhammad Hussain, son of Ghulam Hussain, resident of Naka Kalan, Pindi Gheb, and recovered 1400 grams of hashish from him. Moreover, Police Station New Airport seized 540 grams of hashish from Aamir Siddique, son of Muhammad Siddique, resident of Qutbal. In another operation, Police Station Fateh Jang recovered 10 liters of alcohol from Nawazish Khan, son of Rungzeb, resident of Fateh Jang. Attock Police have registered separate cases in different police stations and have detained the suspects.

## NUML hosts seminar on "Paigham-e-Pakistan" emphasizing unity and national values

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages held a seminar today titled "Paigham-e-Pakistan," jointly organized by the Department of Islamic Thought and Culture and the Department of Pakistan Studies. The seminar highlighted the significance of unity, spiritual values, and dedication to Pakistan's progress.

Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali and Dr. Musharraf Hussein, an author, translator of "The Majestic Quran," and Director of the Al-Karimia Institute, Retford, UK, were the chief guests. Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir also graced the occasion.



The seminar began with a soulful recitation of Quranic verses and a Naat by Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali, captivating the

narrative, underscoring Pakistan as a land of purity and goodness.

He highlighted the importance of adhering to moral, spiritual, and social values, and shared that the teachings of the Quran offer guidance and solutions for humanity's challenges. He urged the audience to recognize the timeless wisdom of the Quran as a source of strength and direction.

Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir, further underlined the importance of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" message, stressing the need to fulfill the purpose of our creation by utilizing our potential for the betterment of the country.

## 10th Islamabad Literature Festival Celebrates 'Sustainability: Words change Mindsets'

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The 10th edition of the Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), organized by Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan, in Collaboration with Getz Pharma, and NEO Paints (Gold Sponsor) opened to an enthusiastic crowd today. The theme 'Sustainability: Words Change Mindsets', was well received and enabled persuasive discourses throughout the day.

ILF has become a vital platform for intellectual growth and literary exploration in the beautiful capital of Pakistan. The Inaugural session comprised a hearty welcome address by Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan; keynotes by H. E. Jane

Marriot, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Maleeha Lodhi, Former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations; and Zehra Nigah, Poet and scriptwriter. Remarks were shared by Natalie Baker, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, Islamabad. The inaugural session concluded with an enthralling performance, titled 'Jaag', by Samiya Mumtaz and Adnan Jahangir. Three enriched sessions, exploring the journey to economic growth, and Urdu and Pashto literature followed.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue; In a conversation with Vaqar Ahmed, titled 'Economic Stabilization and the Journey to Growth', discussed Pakistan's investment

climate, stating that the figures are visible to all. "Philanthropy is a valuable resource, but the country needs taxes to sustain long-term growth."

H. E. Jane Marriot CMG OBE, British High Commissioner to Pakistan said, "UK is focused on both Climate and Educational emergency in Pakistan and hope to bring a substantial change for the future generations."

Natalie Baker, sharing her excitement said, "I have been here only three months, but I would encourage everyone to learn more about the absolutely wonderful culture, language and history of Pakistan."

Arshad Husain, "In this age of constant innovation, understanding the minds shaped by the digital era becomes para-



mount. Zehra Nigah, known for her poetry highlighting social issues, appreciated the equitable stance of the OUP, by always ensuring perfect exposure to Urdu literature

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# The Shaheen Spirit: Iqbal's Vision & the Valour of the Pakistan Air Force

Izmi Herlani

It is fascinating to discover that the figure who has most significantly shaped the spirit of Pakistan Air Force is not a military strategist or an aviation expert, but the revered Dr. Muhammad Iqbal. His poetry serves as a wellspring of inspiration for PAF personnel, transcending borders and ideologies alike. Regarded as Pakistan's national poet, Allama Iqbal's influence stretches far and wide. Sarojini Naidu, a prominent figure in the Indian freedom movement, hailed him as the "Poet Laureate of Asia." In Iran, known as 'Iqbal-e-Lahuri', his verses fuelled the revolutionary spirit among both the elite and the masses. The universality of Allama Iqbal's philosophy resonates with conservatives, modernists and socialists alike, but it is his enduring impact on PAF that stands out. As we commemorate Iqbal's 147th birth anniversary, it is fitting to revisit his profound messages in relation to PAF.

Allama Iqbal, as noted by scholar Ahmed Javed, is a unique intellectual in Islamic history who grasped the essence of Islam and preserved it through his poetry. This makes his work an invaluable resource for future generations. His poetry is distinguished not only by its rich content but also by its striking style, imagery and allegory. This rare combination elevates Allama Iqbal to the ranks of the greatest Urdu and Persian poets. The deep connection between Allama Iqbal and PAF is rooted in the fact that the motto of Pakistan Air Force is adopted from Iqbal's poetry aptly depicting the attributes of Air Power.

حصدا است کہ دریاست ست بال و پر است  
 "May it be the deserts or the oceans,  
 Everything is beneath my wings"  
 The mottos of all squadrons / units

of Pakistan Air Force are inspired from Iqbal's poetry, a testament to the spiritual linkage that PAF as a fighting arm attaches with Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. For every Shaheen of Pakistan Air Force, Iqbal's words resonate powerfully:

تند نوبی پرواز ہے زندگی  
 "Life is only a taste of Flight"

PAF's bond with Iqbal is also illustrated through the symbols and language prevalent in his poetry, which resonate deeply with PAF's identity. The emblematic 'Shaheen' (Eagle) is a prime example. This majestic bird, frequently depicted in Iqbal's verses, embodies attributes of valour, grace, speed and endurance, inspiring a daring spirit in youth while challenging the status quo of passivity and complacency.

شاہین نوبی پرواز سے چلب کر نہیں گرتا  
 پر دم ہے اگر تو نہیں خطرہ افتاد  
 "The falcon never falls tired from flight  
 But if it has breath, then there is no danger of falling"

The Shaheen symbolises the very qualities that PAF seeks to instil in its young combatants. Unlike other birds, the Shaheen stands out for its fearlessness and mastery of the skies, a spirit mirrored by PAF's warriors:

پرواز ہے دونوں کی ہی ایک فضا سبیں  
 "Though both glide in the same blue sky"

The lofty Hunting Eagle & the Vulture are in reality, world apart."

The warriors of the 1965 and 1971 conflicts stand as monumental embodiments of the Shaheen's spirit of resilience within Pakistan Air Force, exemplifying unmatched bravery and sacrifice in the face of daunting challenges. In the 1965 aerial combat, pilots like MM Alam and Sarfaraz Rafiqi etched their names in history with remarkable aerial feats, showcasing exceptional skill and courage that turned the tide of the battle. This legacy of heroism persisted into the 1971 war, where heroes such as Rashid Minhas made the

ultimate sacrifice, epitomising the highest ideals of duty and patriotism. Their extraordinary acts, often at great personal cost, reflect a steadfast devotion to the homeland, instilling a profound sense of pride in the nation. Today, the echoes of these brave souls resonate throughout PAF like a clarion call, igniting an intense sense of responsibility in every individual in Blues. Their remarkable legacies remind all of the unwavering commitment to defend the nation, infusing the ranks with an indomitable spirit within the hearts of those who serve. Time and again, PAF warriors, inspired by Iqbal's spirited poetry, have showcased their exceptional skills against numerically superior foes, as evidenced in the remarkable events of February 27, 2019. Iqbal encapsulates the essence of such asymmetrical battles in this couplet:

حیرت منی سے جب فتنہ کی سان سب تک نوبی  
 ایک سہیلی ہی نرب کرتی ہے چار سپاہ  
 "The flashing sword of the 'Self', honed with the whetstone of spirituality"

Makes the swift strike by a soldier, tantamount to the exploits of a whole Army"

Allama Iqbal emphasized the importance of leadership rooted in self-awareness and empowerment. He believed that true leadership arises from a strong inner self and a commitment to the collective good of the community. Iqbal's messages of dynamism, relentless struggle, self-actualization (Khudi) and the pursuit of excellence form the intellectual and spiritual foundation of PAF's doctrines.

گد بلند سخن دل نواز حسں پر سوز  
 بکی ہے رخت سحر میر کجاہل کے لیے  
 "High vision, heart-pleasing speech, and soul-stirring passion"

This is the luggage for the journey of the leader of the caravan"

The current leadership of PAF has embraced a culture of innovation and excellence, empowering personnel to confront challenges with steadfast courage.

As the Shaheen ascends to new heights, today's PAF exemplifies a commitment to operational readiness, indigenisation and technological advancement. This evolution has been driven by the dynamic leadership highlighting a legacy of bravery and determination while ensuring that PAF remains a formidable force, ready to defend the skies with unparalleled valour.

Numerous phrases from Iqbal's poetry resonate with PAF community, such as Zouq-e-Parvaz (passion for flying) and Uqabi-Ruh (indomitable spirit). While these expressions are accessible to all, they gain profound meaning within the professional context of PAF, transforming Allama Iqbal's poetry from mere literature into a lived experience. Another critical aspect of Allama Iqbal's philosophy is his emphasis on the spirit of self-sacrifice for the greater good. For every member of PAF, this concept reinforces their sacred commitment to "Live for, Fight for and Die for" their faith, country and PAF.

As we reflect on Iqbal's enduring legacy, it is clear that his poetry continues to inspire PAF, urging its warriors to embody the fearless spirit of the Shaheen and to pursue excellence in every endeavour. Iqbal not only sought personal enlightenment but also envisioned a collective awakening, where the light of knowledge and courage spread like wildfire, empowering each officer to rise above challenges and embrace their true potential. In this interplay of inspiration and aspiration lies the essence of what it means to be a part of a greater cause, igniting a relentless pursuit of greatness that transcends the individual and uplifts the whole. This call to action resonates deeply, echoing the profound yearning encapsulated in his words:

سرا نور ہیست عام کر کے  
 "Illuminate my insight and make it widespread."



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

## UN count of Israeli attacks in Gaza finds 70pc of victims are women, children

The UN human rights chief has called for "due reckoning" for horrific violations and possible atrocity crimes in Gaza, following the release of a new report outlining actions taken by Israeli forces during its genocidal war against Palestinian people.

The report details the horrific reality faced by both the people of Israel and Gaza since 7 October 2023, with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk stressing the imperative for Israel to fully and immediately comply with its obligations under international law and the rules of war.

"It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies and that, in the meantime, all relevant information and evidence are collected and preserved," he said.

The UN High Commissioner said this is even more critical and urgent, given the totality of conduct set out in the report and taking into account most recent events, including Israel's ongoing operations in northern Gaza and its adoption of legislation affecting the activities of the UN agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA.

The detailed analysis of violations covers the six-month period from November 2023 to April 2024, and broadly examines the killing of civilians and breaches of international law that in many instances could amount to war crimes.

If committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, further to a State or organizational policy, these violations may constitute crimes against humanity, according to the report.

The report warned that if those violations were committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, they may also constitute genocide.

"The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its series of orders on provisional measures, underscored the international obligations of Israel to prevent, protect against and punish acts of genocide and associated prohibited conduct," according to the report.

Palestinian armed groups have also conducted hostilities, according to the report.

Turk recalled States's obligations to act to prevent atrocity crimes, urging them to support the work of accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) in relation to the current conflict.

The report also pointed to repeated statements from Israeli officials positing the end of the conflict as contingent upon Gaza's entire destruction and the exodus of the Palestinian people.

In addition, it documented efforts to rationalize discrimination, hostility and violence towards, and even the elimination of, Palestinians.

The report showed how civilians have borne the brunt of the attacks, including through the initial "complete siege" of Gaza by Israeli forces, as well as the Israel Government's continuing unlawful failures to allow, facilitate and ensure the entry of humanitarian aid, destruction of civilian infrastructure and repeated mass displacement.

## Empowering Pakistan's Youth Bulge

In today's rapidly changing world, the youth of a country represents a dynamic force that can either propel a nation towards progress or hinder its development. With a large segment of the population being young, the opportunities for innovation, creativity, and development are vast. Pakistan is at a crucial juncture where a significant youth bulge, this young generation could either become an asset or a liability for the country. The outcome largely depends on the opportunities provided and the environment created for them to thrive.

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) National Human Development survey shows that Pakistan has a large segment of young people with 64% of the total population under the age of 30, and 29% specifically falling within the 15 to 29 age range. Before questioning the youth, it is crucial to evaluate what the government, society and other institutions have done in Pakistan to foster and enhance the young talent. Education serves as the cornerstone for the development of both the current and future generations. However, the lack of adequate budget allocation for the education sector compared to how government budgets are divided among various sectors shows a significant gap between government's priorities and the genuine needs of the education sector.

This demographic advantage creates a vast market that presents significant opportunities as we have witnessed the rise of several successful start-ups. However the critical challenge is that there is lack of government support for promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating industrialization. Pakistan benefits from having a youth bulge while many other countries are struggling with the consequences of demographic transition such as Italy, Japan, and Germany. The shrinking working age population poses serious

challenges to economic productivity as it leads to labour shortages, increased healthcare costs, and a higher dependency ratio.

According to the National Human Development Report (NHDR) from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pakistan faces a pressing challenge in job creation. Pakistan is at a critical juncture where it needs to create around 1.3 million additional jobs every year. Entrepreneurship can bridge the gap between the excessive demand of employment opportunities and a shrinking job market. Pakistan's government should prioritize the support and promotion of entrepreneurship, especially through intermediaries like IGNITE. IGNITE can play a vital role in creating

a collaborative ecosystem which will help in nurturing start-ups and promote innovation and technological advancement.

AlphaBeta's report emphasizes that Pakistan's digital transformation could potentially unlock up to \$60 billion in economic value by 2030, highlighting a significant opportunity for the country's growth and development. However, to capitalize on this immense growth potential it is essential to create an environment where individuals can develop the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy. The responsibility lies with both the Federal and Provincial Ministries focused on youth and economic development. The subject of youth development has shifted to the provincial level after the Eighteenth Amendment of the Constitution therefore each province now has its own ministry or division focused on youth affairs, which helps in creating targeted policies. They must prioritize investing in youth affairs by implementing effective schemes and frameworks aimed at youth development. For promoting entrepreneurship in Pakistan it is crucial to refine and digitize registration processes. The government should

actively engage with the start-up community to understand their needs and create a supportive and responsive policy and regulatory framework. NAVTTC and TEVTA can play a crucial role in providing technical and vocational training in Pakistan. They should focus on reaching out to people living in rural areas as there is lack of awareness about available training opportunities. By organizing training programs and workshops in these regions, they can help individuals acquire new skills and enhance their employment prospects. There should be more emphasis and focus on SMEDA's one-window operation for youth enterprises to facilitate the registration of businesses and simplify compliance requirements. It can significantly reduce the bureaucratic hurdles that often deter young individuals from starting their own businesses. Furthermore, in Pakistan where cultural and societal barriers often hinder women's participation in entrepreneurship, the government can play a vital role by supporting programs that offer training, funding, and mentorship specifically designed to assist start-ups led by women. Networking events, workshops, and industry focused meet-ups should be arranged to link youth enterprises with potential collaborators. The government should create specialized incubation centers dedicated to nurturing tech start-ups, equipping them with the vital resources and support they need. These centers would serve as a supportive ecosystem, providing access to mentorship, funding opportunities, and essential infrastructure, enabling tech entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and succeed in a competitive landscape. Bureaucratic delays and inconsistent policies continue to impede the development of the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem. There is a comprehensive, cohesive, and long-term national policy for youth entrepreneurship required which will contribute significantly to economic growth and innovation in Pakistan, ultimately leading to job creation and sustainable development.

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Analysis

Raja Muhammad Khan Abbasi

## My Algerian Experience, a dream come true! - I

Algeria opens into the sky like a mouth or a wound. What one can fall in love with Algeria is what everybody lives with: the sea, visible from every corner, a certain heaviness of the sunlight, the beauty of the people "Albert Camus"

What a beautiful way to describe a city, the pearl of the Mediterranean!

Preparation for travel, getting the visa  
 Assalam Alaikum, this is the Embassy of Algeria, how can I help you? A soft warm female voice greeted me when I called the Embassy to make enquiries about getting a visa for my upcoming travel to Algeria. This was my first encounter with Amina Sersar, Assistant Economy & Communication at the Embassy, how welcoming I thought!

As a haematologist (blood diseases specialist) with special interest in Bleeding Disorders, I was honoured to be invited to Haemophilia Eastern Mediterranean Network (HEMNET), Forum in Algiers which collaborates with World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH), to advance treatment & care of people with bleeding disorders in the region.

My visit to the Embassy was another fascinating experience, not only did I have my visa processed in record time, I also met H. E. Dr Brahim Romani, the Algerian Ambassador to Pakistan who told me about his efforts in promoting & strengthening ties between Algeria & Pakistan. Thoroughly impressed by the Embassy staff I was looking forward to an exciting visit, Algiers, here I come!

Arrival  
 I arrived in Algiers on 31st October, unaware that 1st November was the anniversary of the

Algerian revolution (1st November 1954 - 19th March 1962). There were lots of people around with Algerian flags flying high, a lively & festive atmosphere.

Dr Mohamed Kabrine picked me up and took me round the city, showing Martyrs memorial, La Grande Post, great mosque, Ketchaoua Mosque, Martyr's square and the Corniche before dropping me at Hotel Aurassi, my meeting venue. I was thoroughly impressed

by the splendid architecture, the details of history of Algiers, very well narrated by Mohamed. His spirit and loyalty for his country was admirable and so was spirit to work hard to build his nation, bravo Mohamed!

The morning sun, up over the Mediterranean, brightened the white buildings along the Corniche and brought to life the hills around. The view of the sea was breath taking, how amazing, beyond my wildest expectations!

**Hemophilia Eastern Mediterranean Network (HEMNET) FORUM**

HEMNET is an initiative focussed on improving care & treatment of individuals with hemophilia & other bleeding disorders. It is a collaborative effort by Health Care Providers (HCP's), patient organizations & governmental & non-governmental organizations to enhance the quality of life for people with hemophilia & other bleeding disorders through improved diagnosis, treatment & care. Arranged by Professor Mohamed Salim Nekkai, Head of Department of Haematology at Issad Hassani Hospital Algiers & his team. A very educative & well-arranged meeting addressing the issues of bleeding disorders in the region and thinking about the best practices for their management.

To be continued



Analysis

Dr. Tahira Zafar

# Three-Day celebrations in Multan commemorate Allama Iqbal's birth anniversary

Special correspondent

MULTAN: Allama Iqbal is a universal poet, and a poet of his caliber is born once in centuries—one who has the power to change the destiny of nations through his poetry. Iqbal was not just a poet but also a philosopher, intellectual, politician, and mystic. These views were expressed by distinguished guests at the opening day of a three-day event organized by the Young Pakistanis Organization and the Department of Human Nutrition, Faculty of Food Sciences and Nutrition, BZU Multan. The event, held in collaboration with Multan Unity Lions Club and Umer Siddique Cotton Yarn, marked the birth anniversary of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA) and included a speech competition. The session was presided over by Professor Dr. Muhammad Tauseef Sultan, Chairman of the Department of Human Nutrition, BZU Multan.

The distinguished guests included Naeem Iqbal Naeem, President of Young Pakistanis Organization; Chaudhry Abrar Hussain, Chairman of Human Rights South Punjab; Sheikh Adil Farooq, CEO of International Institute of Consultancy Services; Umer Siddique Ansari, CEO of Umer Siddique Cotton Yarn; Professor Zain Raza Ansari, CFO of Umer Siddique Cotton Yarn; Associate Professor Dr. Khurram Afzal; renowned religious scholar Professor Abdul Majeed



Wattoo; educationist Professor Dr. Riaz Hussain; columnist Shagufta Bhatti; and YPO Executive Member Rashid Abbas Khan.

During his speech, Naeem Iqbal Naeem emphasized that Allama Iqbal envisioned the establishment of a state aligned with modern needs and Islamic principles.

Other speakers, including Professor

Dr. Tauseef Sultan, Chaudhry Abrar Hussain, Umer Siddique Ansari, Zain Raza Ansari, Shagufta Bhatti, and Professor Riaz Hussain, remarked that Iqbal's message serves as a guiding light for us. His love for the Muslim Ummah was deeply embedded in his soul, and seeing Muslims chained by slavery caused him deep distress. His foresight regarding the Muslim Ummah's plight

has proven to be prophetic today.

The ceremony also featured speeches by Sheikh Adil Farooq, Professor Abdul Majeed Wattoo, Dr. Khurram Afzal, Professor Mahmood Hussain Dogar, Qari Muhammad Abdullah, Dr. Adnan, Dr. Tariq Ismail, Rashid Abbas Khan, Rana Hakim Ali, Humayun Wajid, Muhammad Faisal Qureshi, Naeem Chauhan, and others. At the end,

academic and literary awards named after Allama Iqbal were presented to the guests. The event was hosted by social media activist Mah Noor Fayyaz. The recitation of the Holy Quran was performed by renowned scholar Qari Hamid Rasool Saifi, while the Na'at was recited by Choveria.

In the school category of the speech competition, the results announced by

the chief judge Professor Abdul Majeed Wattoo were as follows: Ali Jawad from Unique Science School, Multan secured first place; Misbah Maqbool from Abdul Rahman Bin Auf Public School, Multan, secured second; and Hareem Fatima from Beaconhouse School, Multan secured third. Certificates of participation and books by Allama Iqbal were presented to other participants, including Aleem Ahmed, Imama Haider, Junaid Imran, Zubair Ahmed, Mubeen Yasin, Shah Noor Jelani, Muhammad Hassan Rauf, Hafiz Muhammad, Muhammad Ayan Amir, and Abdul Haseeb.

In the college and university category, Hafiz Hikmat Yar from Legend College, Multan secured first place, Fizza Yahya from the Department of Human Nutrition secured second, and Hafiz Muhammad Kashif from Government College Civil Lines, Multan, secured third. Other participants, including Jaweria Wajeed, Arsalan Sultan, Muzammil Awan, Aisht Fatima, and Saadia Rubab, were presented with certificates and books.

As part of the three-day celebrations, a special conference on Allama Iqbal is scheduled for today, where Allama Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi, former Federal Minister of Religious Affairs, will deliver a keynote address on the topic of "Iqbal and the Love of the Prophet (PBUH)."

## Message from Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum on Iqbal Day

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board of Investment, shared his message on the occasion of Iqbal Day:

"Today, November 9th, marks the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Poets like Iqbal are born once in centuries; they have the power to change the destiny of nations with their thoughts and imagination.

It is essential for us to convey to our younger generation that Allama Iqbal was not just a poet but also a philosopher, intellectual, politician, and visionary. His poetry awakened the spirit of self-awareness and self-reliance among Muslims. He encouraged



the youth to dream and to take control of their own destiny. Iqbal's concept of 'Khudi' (selfhood) taught Muslims self-confidence and dignity, which continues to be a guiding light for us today. His visionary ideas not only

helped the Muslims of the subcontinent realize their true identity but also inspired the dream of an independent state, leading to the creation of Pakistan.

It is our duty to embrace Allama Iqbal's ideas and philosophy in our lives and strive to make Pakistan a true embodiment of his vision. His poetry and philosophy serve as a beacon of hope for the youth, guiding us towards progress and national development. Iqbal's vision for the youth is beautifully reflected in his verse:

محبت مجھے ان جوانوں سے کہے ستاروں سے ازلے ہیں جو کہتے

This line illustrates Iqbal's desire for young people to be ambitious and strive for greatness. His poetry is not merely a collection of words but a powerful message that inspires the youth to dream, work hard, and persevere in achieving their goals."

## Pakistan-Netherlands Cultural Exchange Culminates in Spectacular Musical Event

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: The Embassy of the Netherlands in Pakistan, together with Rung School of Music and Arts, hosted a grand musical event, marking the successful conclusion of a vibrant series of cultural exchange activities between Pakistan and the Netherlands. The concert featured renowned Dutch artists Eva Aukes and Manuel Visser, alongside talented Pakistani musicians Mr. Wajih Nizami and Irfan Khan.

Ambassador of the Netherlands expressed her delight at the success of the program, stating, "Music knows no boundaries; it brings us together in ways that words sometimes can't. We are proud to support this initiative, recognizing the power of music to surpass borders and unite people."

Wajih Nizami from RUNG School of Arts hailed the event as "a very important step" towards harmony between



the two nations. He emphasized the significance of providing Pakistani youth with opportunities to interact with and learn from Dutch musicians, fostering a deeper understanding of different cultures. Dutch violinist Manuel Visser shared his experience, saying, "It has been a wonderful experience to be in Pakistan. We learned in the Netherlands that music is a universal

language, but here, we have been able to practically realize that power of music while connecting with young talents."

Guitarist Eva Aukes expressed her gratitude for being part of the project, stating, "It has been a great pleasure and honor to be part of this initiative aimed at creating a friendly environment between Dutch and Pakistani nations through music."

## Mushahid presents 5-point action plan for Palestine-Mid East peace

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Friday outlined a five-point action plan for Palestine and Middle East's peace and calls for Arab-OIC Emergency Summit on November 11 to take concrete steps to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

In his keynote address at IPI Conference on Middle East here, the senator said the first step should be for Arab-OIC Emergency Summit on November 11 to take concrete steps to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people and take the lead by forming an International Leaders Delegation, also comprising leaders from the Global South and Europe,

including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkiye, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria and Brazil, plus PMs of Norway and Ireland (as they have recognized the State of Palestine) who should visit Washington immediately to meet President-elect Donald Trump.

They should urge the new US President to reverse the one-sided American policy of blatantly supporting Israel, have ceasefire immediately, provide humanitarian assistance and to take steps for lasting peace through establishment of an independent Palestine State.

Second, he said that given their strong Navies, Turkiye, Pakistan and Indonesia should form a Joint Naval Humanitarian Flotilla for Peace to help

break the Israeli blockade of Gaza after getting authorization from the UN General Assembly.

"This will send a powerful and positive message to the oppressed Palestinian people that the Muslim Ummah is not an impotent entity, rather it has the vision and political will to undertake concrete initiatives."

He said journalists, scholars, intellectuals, academics, and think tanks could be powerful instruments in the 'Battle of Ideas' crafting and presenting narratives based on truth and facts, while representing the popular aspirations of the Global South in general and Muslim World in particular on such issues as Palestine, Kashmir, Islamophobia and Rohingya, helping to prepare



the ground for an alternative emerging equitable global order.

Fourth, he said that OIC immediately establish a Palestine Reconstruction Fund

for reconstruction of devastated areas of Gaza as well as Lebanon.

Fifth, the senator added that establish a Nuremberg-style International War Crimes Tribunal for 2 purposes: a) establish War Reparations Fund for victims of Genocide in Palestine and Lebanon; b) form a global group of eminent jurists, lawyers and jurists to try Israeli political and military leaders for crimes against humanity and all other war crimes committed after October, 07, 2023, including acts of aggression against Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Mushahid said, "OIC has lost credibility with Muslim masses as an organization that is suffering from paralysis, unable to act during crises", adding 'Muslim states have affluence without influence'.

## (CIIE) China Focus: U. S. businesses reaffirm commitment to Chinese market

Xinhua

SHANGHAI: At the ongoing seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE), exhibitors at the American food and agriculture pavilion saw a robust start, securing deals worth about 600 million U. S. dollars within an hour after the launch of the pavilion.

"We've only been here for two hours and we've had a good amount of interest," said Manuel Garibay, manager of industrial sales at Royal Ridge Fruits, adding that the company looks to foster partnerships with Chinese importers to tap the increasingly dynamic market.

Despite a challenging global environment and lackluster economic recovery, the CIIE, held once a year since 2018, has been a testament to China's determination to open its door wider. Notably, U. S. firms have since

the first edition been at the forefront in terms of exhibition area and exhibitor numbers.

This year, a large number of U. S. enterprises, including Fortune 500 companies such as General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, and Honeywell, have once again emerged as focal points of the expo. They have showcased a diverse array of products, such as food items, automobiles, advanced smart technology, high-end equipment, medical devices and healthcare products, reflecting a strong interest in exploring the Chinese market.

"Trade can help solve the biggest challenges facing the world," said Jason Hafemeister, acting deputy under secretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. "An event like this, which promotes trade, is a real opportunity."

IRRESISTIBLE MARKET

Covering over 240 square meters, the American Food & Agriculture Pavilion features 14 exhibitors, including state representatives, national trade associations, food manufacturers and export packaging companies. It showcases the diversity of the American agriculture and food industry, displaying a range of products such as beef, wine, potatoes and pet food.

Steve Reinhard, chairman of the United Soybean Board (USB), told Xinhua that China has been a major destination for American soybean exports, accounting for 54 percent of all exported U. S. soybeans, while adding that U. S. soybeans are among the top three sources of China's soybean imports.

Reinhard said the USB supports free trade and is ready to align more closely with China's opening-up drive. Christopher Beros, California

Wine Institute director of Greater China and Southeast Asia, said China has been an important and growing overseas market for California wineries. He noted that the increasing sophistication of Chinese consumers is creating more opportunities for Californian wine products.

American food giant General Mills, meanwhile, is using its presence at the 2024 CIIE to showcase a wide array of new products of its three major brands, namely Haagen-Dazs, Wanchai Ferry and Blue Buffalo.

"China is the irreplaceable growth engine and one of the most important overseas markets of General Mills," said Su Qiang, president and managing director of General Mills China, noting that the Chinese market is of great potential for consumer companies considering its "growing middle class, thriving digital economy, industrial

upgrading and green initiatives."

Widely known to Chinese consumers for its baby formula products, American healthcare company Abbott is participating in the CIIE for the fifth time. It has exhibited some of its latest technologies and innovations in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritional products and pharmaceuticals.

"China is a vital market for us," said Fanny Chen, vice president of Abbott Core Diagnostics.

EXPECTING A BETTER FUTURE At the opening of the 7th CIIE, Premier Li Qiang said China is capable of promoting sound and steady economic growth, adding that the country will open up its enormous market even further. Many participants from the United States at this year's CIIE have expressed appreciation for China's dedication to opening up, while conveying their aspirations

for mutually beneficial cooperation in the context of globalization.

U. S. carmaker Ford is attending the expo for a seventh consecutive year. At its booth, a diverse range of car models, highlighting innovative designs and high-quality craftsmanship, has drawn the attention of many visitors.

Sam Wu, vice president of Ford Motor Company and president and CEO of Ford China, said the company's appearance at the expo is based on its belief that "collaboration in the global economy will make everybody stronger."

"China is not only a key market and manufacturing base, but also a globally significant source of green innovation and sustainable development. We are full of confidence in China's economy," said Anu Rathninde, Johnson Controls Asia Pacific president.

The upgrading of China's manufacturing industry and its emphasis on green development align with the company's goals, he said. "Johnson Controls will continue to fulfill its long-term commitment to the Chinese market."

"Our companies are in China for China," said Eric Zheng, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. "China has a critical role to play in leading the globalization process in the new decades to come," Zheng added.

Zheng emphasized the importance of communication between the United States and China, saying, "It's important for the U. S. and Chinese governments to coordinate and work together, so that their policies will be beneficial, not only to these two countries, but also to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the world."

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
93,291.68	92,520.48
Day's High	Day's Low
93,514.55	92,566.49
Index Value	Change
21,537,800,610	+771.20
Percentage	Time
+0.83%	8 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,072.39	-68.35
Percentage	Time
-0.84%	8 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,970.02	+240.68
Percentage	Time
+0.55%	8 Nov, 12:06 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,500.37	+118.96
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	8 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.35	186.60
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.05	202.45
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	297.25	300.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.85	905.35
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.27	208.27
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	316.79	319.59
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	357.45	360.95
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

# Digitization of economy a requisite for driving economic growth, says FM Aurangzeb

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has described the digitization of economy as a key requisite for driving the economic growth and mobilizing ample resources for growing development needs and ending Pakistan's reliance on persistent financing.

He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation of Veon Group at the Finance Division today. The delegation was led by Mr. Augie K. Fabela, founder and chairman of the Board Veon Group, while Mr. Kaan Terzioglu, Group CEO VEON, Ms. Marine Babayan, Group Director of Corporate Affairs VEON and Mr. Amir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz, were also present.

During the meeting, the Minister reiterated the government's resolve for tax reforms with a focus on people-processes technology and end-to-end digitalisation to enhance transparency, plug leakages and improve services. He described the use of



data analytics as vital to have a fact-based discussion rather than harassment around FBR's efforts for revenue generation and resource mobilisation.

He noted that for the current fiscal year, the federal tax revenues have increased by 29 per cent and 600,000 new filers have also been added to FBR's system thus far, but we

have a long way to go in our efforts to scale up the tax-to-GDP ratio, currently languishing at 8 to 9 per cent, to a decent 13.5 per cent by the time the IMF programme is completed.

## Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of business community with Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan on the Dinner Reception at Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad. President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh also present on the occasion.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

# Meezan Bank Partners with Trifit Gym to Offer Premium Cardholders Unmatched Fitness Discounts

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, has recently entered into an exclusive partnership with Trifit Gym, a world-class fitness club in Karachi and Islamabad, to offer its premium cardholders a significant discount on fitness packages. Through this collaboration, Meezan Bank's Premium Cardholders will be able to enjoy up to 50 percent discount on Trifit packages at any Trifit Gym location, giving them access to top-tier fitness facilities at a fraction of the usual cost—representing savings of over PKR 80,000 annually.

Mr. Zia ul Hasan, Group Executive-Retail Banking & Operations expressed his gratitude for the successful partnership, stating, "At Meezan Bank, our customers' well-being is our top priority, extending beyond just financial services. Through our partnership with Trifit Gym, we are able to offer our Premium Cardholders valuable savings and a healthier lifestyle, reflecting our commitment to enriching their lives holistically."

Mr. Ifthikhar Ul Haq, Group Head-Consumer Finance conveyed his appreciation for the collaboration, saying, "We understand that our customers seek value and quality in every partnership we offer. This exclusive discount in annual savings, is one of



the many ways Meezan Bank distinguishes itself by delivering exceptional benefits to our Premium Cardholders."

Mr. Ahmer Azam, CEO Trifit expressed his gratitude for the alliance, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with Meezan Bank to extend our state-of-the-art facilities and services to its Premium Cardholders at an unprecedented discount. Together, we aim to make a healthy lifestyle more accessible

to everyone."

Mr. Naveen Naidoo, COO Trifit highlighted his appreciation, commenting, "This partnership reflects Trifit's dedication to providing high-quality fitness experiences and aligns perfectly with Meezan Bank's vision for customer wellness. We look forward to welcoming their cardholders and supporting them in achieving their fitness goals."

# Clarification-Sui Development and Production Lease

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) seeks to clarify the status of Sui Development and Production Lease. The Company wishes to address recent news reports regarding Sui Development and Production Lease (D&PL), based on approvals from the Federal Cabinet and the Economic Coordination Committee. The Company emphasizes that discus-

sions with the relevant authorities and stakeholders remain positive and ongoing. The execution of D&PL is contingent upon the signing of Sui Petroleum Concession Agreement and fulfilment of terms specified in the Lease.

PPL wishes to clear any misperception that may have arisen due to the recent publication, and reaffirms its dedication to a positive, collaborative partnership with the Government of Balochistan (GoB). PPL

remains steadfast in its commitment to actively engage with GoB and to continue supporting the development and welfare of communities in Dera Bugti, Sui, and across Balochistan.

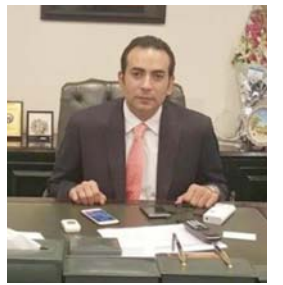
Notwithstanding above, the execution of lease beside Royalty shall attract Lease Extension and Production Bonus, approximately Rs 58.5 Billion over the duration of the lease period.

# FPCCI provide all possible support to Supreme Court in tax cases: Atif Ikram Shaikh

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that we are thankful to the Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi for taking the business community on board regarding tax cases. Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries is ready to provide all possible support in tax cases, they will cooperate with the committee formed under the direction of the Chief Justice.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that FBR imposes a heavy burden of taxes on the taxpayers, it is necessary to increase



the number of taxpayers to increase the tax net, tax collection can be increased through FBR reforms. President FPCCI added

President FPCCI further said that there is a lot of room for improvement in FBR's tax system, FBR digitization can increase tax collection and get rid of tax cases.

# Kaspersky uncovers global malicious campaign targeting fintech users through Telegram

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky Global Research and Analysis team (GREAT) has uncovered a malicious global campaign in which attackers used Telegram to deliver Trojan spyware, potentially targeting individuals and businesses in the fintech and trading industries in multiple countries across Europe, Asia including Pakistan, Latin America, and the Middle East. The malware is designed to steal sensitive data, such as passwords, and take control of users' devices for espionage purposes.

"Instead of using traditional phishing methods, threat actors relied on Telegram channels to deliver the malware. In earlier campaigns, we also observed

this operation using other messaging platforms, such as Skype, as a vector for initial infection. This method may make potential victims more inclined to trust the sender and open the malicious file than in the case with a phishing website. Additionally, downloading files through messaging apps may trigger fewer security warnings compared to standard internet downloads, which is favourable for the threat actors," explains Maher Yamout, Lead Security Researcher from GREAT. "While we typically advise vigilance against suspicious emails and links, this campaign highlights the need for caution when dealing even with instant messaging apps like Skype and Telegram."

# CCP issues report on state of competition in Power Sector

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has officially released its detailed research report titled "State of Competition in the Key Markets in Pakistan: Power Sector." The report highlights the significant presence and impact of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) on competition within the power sector, offering strategic insights for fostering a more competitive market environment.

Chairman of CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, in his message emphasized the critical role of a competitive power sector in driving economic growth and ensuring affordable energy for

consumers. "This report is a testament to CCP's commitment to promoting fair competition and addressing market inefficiencies in every sector of the economy," he stated.

The report outlines the structural, regulatory, and strategic challenges faced by Pakistan's power sector, which has long been dominated by SOEs. The report includes CCP's comprehensive recommendations to address multiple challenges facing the power sector. These recommendations aim to remove barriers to entry, reduce inefficiencies, and create a fair marketplace that encourages private sector participation alongside SOEs.

## InfraZamin Pakistan seminar advocates Green Bonds for Sustainable Finance

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: InfraZamin Pakistan, Pakistan's premier credit enhancement guarantor, in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA), and the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) hosted a seminar titled Enabling Green Financing and Green Bonds via Credit Enhancement Solutions today at a local hotel. The high-profile event brought together top officials from the State Bank of Pakistan and Ministry of Finance, CEOs, and investment heads from leading commercial banks in Pakistan, to discuss the potential of green financing, particularly green bonds, to accelerate sustainable economic growth in the country through support from the private sector.

The seminar featured notable speakers including Jameel Ahmed, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Muneer Kamal, CEO of Pakistan Banks' Association, Maheen Rahman, CEO of InfraZamin Pakistan, and Philip Skinner, Head of the Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan at GuarantCo, and Origination Lead for Nature at PIDG.

Expressing his views at the occasion, Jameel Ahmed, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan stated: "The SBP is leading from the front to provide a conducive environment to the financial industry and businesses to achieve the common objective of achieving climate resilience."

Adding her thoughts, Maheen Rahman, CEO, InfraZamin Pakistan noted: "For Pakistan to unlock the full potential of green financing, it is vital that we bring the private sector on board alongside government and regulatory bodies."

In his talk, Philip Skinner, Head of MENA and Pakistan, GuarantCo further highlighted: "With the right support the private sector can lead the way in the development of the market for certified green, social and sustainability bonds and loans."

This seminar marks a significant milestone for InfraZamin Pakistan and its partners as they continue to champion initiatives aimed at fostering green financing and environmental sustainability in Pakistan's financial sector via credit enhancement solutions.



## JCP meeting

Islamabad: Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman of the Judicial Commission presided over the JCP meeting. It was attended by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via video link); Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice; Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney-General for Pakistan; Senator Farooq Hamid Naek; Senator Syed Shibli Faraz; Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Member of the National Assembly; Mr. Umar Ayub Khan, Member of the National Assembly; Ms. Roshan Khurshid Barucha, Mr. Zia ul Hassan Lanjar, Minister of law Government of Sindh and Qurban Ali Malano, member Sindh Bar Council.



Photo: PID

## Judicial Commission of Pakistan to consider Sindh Constitutional Bench: second meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Second meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan constituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment was held in the Supreme Court on 08.11.2024 at 1400hrs. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman of the Judicial Commission to consider a single point agenda of formation of a Constitutional Bench within the High Court of Sindh. It was attended by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via video link); Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice; Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney-General for Pakistan; Senator Farooq Hamid Naek; Senator Syed Shibli Faraz; Sheikh Aftab Ahmad,

Member of the National Assembly; Mr. Umar Ayub Khan, Member of the National Assembly; Ms. Roshan Khurshid Barucha, Mr. Zia ul Hassan Lanjar, Minister of law Government of Sindh and Qurban Ali Malano, member Sindh Bar Council. The Registrar of the Supreme Court also attended as Secretary to the Commission.

Following an extensive and thoughtful exchange of views, the Commission unanimously endorsed the proposal put forth by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh, Mr. Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui that all the existing Hon'ble Judges of the High Court are nominated to be the Judges of Constitutional Benches for expeditious disposal of the existing huge backlog of cases. This arrangement will remain effective until 24th November 2024. The matter will again be taken by the Judicial Commission on 25th November 2024.

## Visit of delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports Company to Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of UAE investors led by H. H. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif today.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude and thanks to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, President of the UAE, as well as His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister of the UAE for their steadfast support to Pakistan. He underlined that the fraternal Pakistan and UAE ties are rooted in shared history and culture. The Prime Minister highlighted the comprehensive economic partnership



between the two nations across sectors such as trade, energy, and investment, which has contributed to growth and prosperity in both countries.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the visit demonstrates the commitment of the Government of UAE to further enhance its investment footprint in Pakistan.

He underscored investments by the brotherly country UAE would play a crucial role in boosting Pakistan's economy.

H. H. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome and hospitality. Showing his satisfaction at the existing investments of AD Ports in Pakistan, the UAE

dignitary showed keen desire to further expand investment in Pakistan in shipping, ports efficiency enhancement, logistics and digitization of customs.

The Prime Minister witnessed the exchange of four MoUs relating to Ministries of Maritime Affairs, Aviation, Railways and Federal Board of Revenue with Abu Dhabi (AD) Ports Group. As per these MoUs, Pakistan and AD Ports Group would explore potential collaboration in customs, rail, airport infrastructure and maritime shipping and logistics sectors.

These MoUs are aimed at improving digital customs controls, developing dedicated freight rail corridors, upgrading Pakistan's maritime fleet and marine services, as well as Pakistan's international

airports.

The UAE delegation also included. H. H. Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, Chairman of Kaheel Group, Capt. Mohamed Al Shamisi, Managing Director & Group Chief Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi Ports Group, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad H. E. Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi and senior officials of the AD Ports.

The Pakistan delegation included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and senior government officials.

## Palestine condemns Anti-Arab chants and attack on Palestinian flag in Amsterdam



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine strongly condemns the anti-Arab slogans and hostile actions carried out by supporters of an Israeli football club in Amsterdam. These acts included the desecration and removal of the Palestinian flag from symbolic sites that signify solidarity with Palestinian rights and resistance against the ongoing occupation and systematic violence in Gaza.

The Ministry calls on the Dutch

government to conduct an immediate investigation into the instigators of these disturbances and to protect Palestinians and Arabs residing in the Netherlands. These actions, fueled by Israeli settlers and soldiers who have traveled to European capitals, aim to spread a racist and divisive ideology targeting Palestinian identity. The Ministry warns that tolerating such provocations not only threatens Palestinians but also undermines core principles of human rights and social cohesion, urging authorities to confront and counter these dangerous forms of anti-Palestinian sentiment.

## BISP praised for its role in global social protection as 'beacon of success': Senator Rubina

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, expressed pride in BISP's recognition by international development organizations as a model for social protection. In a press conference at BISP headquarters, she noted that the program's scientific database has enabled timely identification and assistance of vulnerable populations during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 floods in Pakistan. This capability has inspired other nations to consider adopting similar social protection models.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that it is a matter of pride for Pakistan that BISP serves as a beacon for many countries worldwide. Speaking to media representatives, she shared that numerous foreign delegations regularly visit BISP for research and learning purposes. From November 11 to 14, 2024, delegations from West African countries will be on a study tour at BISP to learn from its experiences in social protection. Recently, a high-level 21-member Ugandan delegation, in partnership with the World Bank and the World Food Program, also visited BISP. The delegation commended BISP's initiatives, emphasizing its effectiveness

as a model for social protection. Senator Rubina Khalid further appealed to media representatives to publicize these visits and BISP's achievements to elevate the program's global reputation.

Senator Khalid emphasized that BISP embodies the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, brought to life by President Asif Ali Zardari. A new banking model, implemented under his directive, ensures the transparent and dignified distribution of funds to deserving women. Consultations are ongoing with the Governor of the State Bank to further refine this model, aiming to reduce human intervention.



## Mushaal sounds alarm over Yasin's health, urges world to intervene to save his life

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, sounds the alarm on her husband's critically deteriorating health due to his ongoing hunger strike, Urging world leaders and human rights organizations to intervene to save his life.

As Yasin's hunger strike enters its eighth day, protesting brutal treatment by Indian authorities, Mushaal strongly condemned India's attempts to silence the prominent Kashmiri freedom movement leader despite the fact that he had been the strong proponent of



non-violence and peaceful resistance. Mushaal, former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, appealed to the international community and human rights organisation to shed double standards and address the grave

human rights violations Yasin faced in Tihar Jail, who was a chronic heart and kidney patient.

She urged that the world must act now to save Yasin Malik, the voice of Kashmir's just struggle because his safety and well-being were a source of grave concern for Kashmiris globally, fearing that the hunger strike could prove fatal for his health because his health condition had already been deteriorated extremely due to denial of the much-needed life-saving medicines.

EX-SAPM revealed that a petition was filed on 8th day of his hunger strike in Delhi High Court by his counsel Advocate Asad Baig seeking

permission for his proper medical treatment. She quoted his counsel as saying that Yasin Malik was in such a serious condition in Tihar Jail that he even cannot stand up on his legs due to hunger strike.

The hurriyat leader demanded that the court fix the petition for hearing sans any delay so as to ensure swift provision of best medical facilities to him in order to save the life of the senior hurriyat leader before it was too late.

Mushaal cautioned the RSS-inspired government that any harm to Yasin would have severe consequences, potentially plunging the entire region into unending conflict.

## Chairman PRCS meets British High Commissioner



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a pivotal meeting with Her Excellency Ms. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, at the United Kingdom Embassy in Islamabad today. The high-level discussion focused on enhancing humanitarian cooperation, with a special emphasis on addressing health and climate challenges impacting Pakistan. PRCS Secretary General and other senior officers were also present.

During the meeting, Chairman Laghari highlighted Pakistan's critical climate vulnerability and outlined PRCS's ongoing initiatives aimed at mitigating disaster impacts and building climate resilience. Acknowledging the vital support from the United Kingdom in times of national

crises, he emphasized the shared commitment to long-term rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, and sustainable development for disaster-affected communities across Pakistan.

High Commissioner Ms. Jane Marriott praised the significant strides PRCS has made under Laghari's leadership, particularly in modernizing the organization and expanding its impact. She noted Pakistan's troubling position as the seventh most vulnerable country on the climate risk index and commended PRCS's forward-thinking initiatives, including the establishment of a Climate Change Unit and the promotion of green office practices.

Ms. Marriott encouraged further proactive measures, underscoring the urgency of collective action to address climate change.