

# HORIZON

NOVEMBER 2024

**APNI CHHAT  
APNA GHAR**

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT  
PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE - NAWAZ

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

The past few weeks have been marked by significant developments both at home and abroad. On the international stage, the United States presidential election saw the return of former President Donald Trump to the White House. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) extends its congratulations to the president-elect, expressing hope that this new term will provide an opportunity to strengthen US-Pakistan relations and further mutual interests.

Domestically, Pakistan's economic recovery has reached an unprecedented milestone. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark 100 index crossed the 99,000-point mark in November, signaling a remarkable turnaround in macroeconomic stability. This progress seemed unattainable just a few months ago when the country faced severe economic challenges, including a balance of payments crisis, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, and a looming risk of default. The PML-N government, sworn into office in March, has been relentless in its efforts to steer the nation towards prosperity.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government's focus on attracting foreign investment has yielded encouraging results. A series of high-profile visits by important capitals has underscored Pakistan's growing regional importance. Most recently, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Islamabad to bolster bilateral ties. Unfortunately, this landmark occasion was marred by political chaos, as protesters breached Islamabad's red zone in an attempt to destabilise the government.

The timing of such unrest is particularly disheartening. At a moment when the government is finally in a position to rebuild the nation's economy after years of mismanagement under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, these actions threaten to derail progress. The PTI's refusal to engage with political rivals has further deepened the country's challenges. The party's leadership has consistently shown disdain for dialogue, ignored calls for collaboration, and deepened polarisation that obstruct solutions to Pakistan's challenges. This hostile approach is unsustainable and detrimental to national stability, especially at a time when unity is paramount.

It is especially troubling to see PTI officials lobbying against Pakistan in foreign capitals and tarnishing the country's image on the global stage. Ironically, the same party that once propagated baseless conspiracy theories about foreign interference in its ouster now appears to be soliciting external intervention for its incarcerated leader, who faces serious corruption charges.

The PTI's disruptive tactics are not new. In 2014, the party held Islamabad hostage for over four months in an attempt to topple the democratically elected government of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. However, the PTI no longer enjoys the patronage it once relied upon to execute such manoeuvres. Its current strategy of misleading its young, impressionable supporters and destabilising the nation is not only futile but also dangerous.

The PML-N government is fully prepared to address any attempt to derail the country's progress. At this critical juncture, when the foundations of a stronger, more prosperous Pakistan are being laid, it is imperative for all political stakeholders to act responsibly. The nation's economic recovery and international reputation must not be sacrificed at the altar of personal and political agendas.

Sincerely,  
Saira Bano  
Editor-in-Chief

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Saira Bano, Attaullah Tarar, Badar Shahbaz



Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa met with CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif to discuss setting up an assembly plant for tractor production in Punjab. 24 October 2024

# PUNJAB PERFORMANCE ROUNDUP

MUHAMMAD MUGHEES ARIF

Punjab is witnessing a transformation unlike any seen before. With Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at the helm, the province has embarked on an era of unprecedented progress. From making developments in infrastructure and health to agriculture, education, and social welfare, the government has launched several initiatives. Each project speaks volumes about PML-N's dedication to a prosperous Punjab, one that meets every community's needs and sets new standards for public service.

## KISSAN CARD

Farmers in Punjab now have a strong advocate in CM Maryam, who launched the Kissan Card within six months of her assuming charge of the government. The Kissan Card, deemed a game-changer by the agriculture ministry, allows farmers to buy seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides. Initially, the government announced that 500,000 cards would be issued, but later increased the number to 750,000, with 487,000 applications approved and over 361,000 cards already distributed, enabling purchases worth Rs18 billion.

Additionally, 2,600 registered dealers across Punjab offer interest-free loans for wheat crop inputs, extending eligibility to farmers who are not registered in the government database.

## GREEN TRACTOR SCHEME

This programme will offer subsidies of up to Rs1 million on tractors, making it possible for farmers to acquire machinery at affordable rates, for which over 1.5 million applications have already been received. The government also announced a Rs10-15 billion initiative to establish machinery hubs in each tehsil, creating access to essential tools and equipment. Furthermore, the government has revealed plans to solarise 7,000 tube wells, reducing energy costs for farmers currently relying on diesel and petrol-powered wells.

## HIMMAT CARD

Understanding the need for inclusivity, CM Maryam introduced the Himmat Card, a special initiative



for sons with disabilities. This card offers financial support and additional resources to a group often overlooked.

### CM LIVESTOCK CARD

The Punjab government also launched the CM Livestock Card, which started registering participants on November 5 and will be fully operational by December 15. This programme allows livestock farmers access to interest-free loans for four months, backed by an impressive budget of Rs11 billion, estimated to benefit around 80,000 farmers. It is a meaningful investment in one of the province's core industries.

### DASTAK SERVICES

One of CM Maryam's standout initiatives is Dastak Services. Residents of Punjab now have access to over 60 essential public services at their doorstep, including crucial documents such as domicile certificates, and life-saving medications. It is an innovative approach to governance, ensuring accessibility and convenience for the people.

### FIRST PUBLIC CANCER HOSPITAL

In October, CM Maryam laid the cornerstone of Pakistan's first-ever public cancer hospital, the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research

Centre. This facility promises comprehensive and cost-free treatment for Level-3 and Level-4 cancer patients, including radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and endoscopy services. The initial phase is set to be completed within 12 months, and it is just the beginning. The CM has already announced plans for a bone marrow transplant institute, alongside specialised hospitals for blood diseases, paediatric care, organ transplants, and more. Her commitment also extends to bringing specialist doctors from abroad to provide top-tier care.

### EXPANSION OF PUNJAB INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY

CM Maryam Nawaz inspected the construction of the second phase of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC-II) in Lahore in November. This expansion will ease the patient load on the current facility and provide a full range of cardiology services in every district. Her vision for paediatric heart surgery using a card system has already made surgeries accessible for hundreds of children, and the ongoing revamping of Lahore's Services Hospital is progressing swiftly.

### APNI CHHAT, APNA GHAR SCHEME

The Government of Punjab has initiated the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar Scheme', which offers small loans for the construction of homes to low-income families who already own a plot of land. Recently,



CM Maryam Nawaz visited a loan recipient who had begun construction on her house, a powerful testament to the scheme's impact.

## HONHAAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Education remains a cornerstone of the Punjab Government's public service agenda. Punjab's Honhaar Scholarship Programme provides full tuition fees to eligible students in public sector universities and colleges. The government has expanded the programme to cover more than 30,000 students annually, with an investment of over PKR 7 billion this year alone. This initiative will support 120,000 students in the upcoming four years, with a total commitment of over PKR 130 billion over the next eight years. For the first time, this scholarship will also cover private sector universities such as LUMS and the University of Lahore.

## FIRST PUBLIC AUTISM SCHOOL

In October, CM Maryam Nawaz laid the foundation of Pakistan's first government-run autism school in Lahore, while instructing relevant departments to initiate the hiring of autism experts. The school will feature a ground and first floor, with 11 classrooms for the junior section and 10 for the senior section. In addition to classrooms, the school will include a cubical speech session room, therapy room, pre-vocational training room, a daily living activity room, and a computer lab. This school will be completed in one year.

To fulfil her promise to establish 300 special education schools as Centres of Excellence across Punjab, Maryam Nawaz has appointed Ms Sania Ashiq as special assistant to the CM for special education. CM Punjab opened a new school in NA-119 to provide specialised learning for children with special needs.



CM Maryam Nawaz meets women who completed pilot training at Garment City. Each graduate will start working at Farooq Textile, Sheikhupura, 24 October 2024



## LAHORE GARMENT CITY

The Punjab cabinet, led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, approved the establishment of a “Plug-and-Play Garment City” and its inclusion in the annual development programme. Aimed at fuelling garment exports, the initiative prioritises women’s participation in the garment-making industry. CM Maryam attended the graduation ceremony of the first cohort of women trained in garment making and sewing in Sheikhupura’s Garments City to encourage women in this field, where they received certificates and job offers. During her October visit to Lahore’s Garment City, she announced plans to establish garment training centres for girls in every tehsil of Punjab.

## CLIMATE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The CM Punjab Climate Leadership Development Internship Programme, initiated by the chief minister herself, aims to empower young individuals to become future leaders in environmental protection. The programme offers hands-on experience in climate change policy, sustainable development, and environmental management, allowing participants to engage directly in governmental efforts to address environmental challenges. Interns will gain practical knowledge from seasoned professionals, participate in tutorials, and work on leadership-oriented environmental projects, combining academic learning with real-world application to drive positive change. Each intern would get a Rs60,000 monthly stipend for the duration of the six-month internship ■

*The writer is a political activist and works in youth development.*



A plane seeding clouds to induce rain - File photo

# TACKLING SMOG CRISIS IN PUNJAB

**DR RANA KHALID MEHMOOD**

The smog crisis in Punjab, especially in urban centres like Lahore, has become an annual environmental and public health challenge. The phenomenon, caused by a combination of local and transboundary factors, leads to hazardous air quality, disrupts daily life, and imposes severe health risks. This year, smog began earlier than usual due to haze appearing at the end of October, exacerbated by stagnant weather patterns that trapped pollutants closer to the ground. In addition, the issue has been compounded by transboundary pollution, particularly from stubble burning in India. In response, the Punjab government and judiciary have launched immediate and long-term measures to mitigate the crisis while emphasising sustainable solutions.

Smog results from the accumulation of pollutants such as particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>), nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds in the atmosphere. Weather conditions, such as low wind speeds, high humidity, and temperature inversion, exacerbate the problem by trapping ground-level pollutants. While local emissions from agriculture, transport, industry, and energy sectors contribute significantly, satellite data and environmental

authorities highlight the critical role of transboundary pollution in aggravating Punjab's air quality crisis.

This year, NASA estimates that fires from stubble burning in Pakistan and India will reach between 15,500 and 18,500 — a higher figure than most years. Stubble burning remains a significant contributor to smog, with emissions from both Pakistani and Indian fields playing a pivotal role. Farmers in Punjab, Pakistan, and across the border in India rely on this quick yet environmentally damaging practice to prepare fields for the next crop cycle. The burning releases massive amounts of particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants, creating a regional haze that affects air quality in both countries.

According to Pakistan's Environment Protection Agency, 30 per cent of Lahore's smog originates from across the border in India, where farmers burn post-harvest stubble to clear fields for the next planting season. While India has doubled fines for stubble burning on 7 November, NASA's findings suggest that enforcement remains limited, as evidenced by the high number of fires this year. Similarly, despite government initiatives, farmers face logistical and

“ ACCORDING TO PAKISTAN'S ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY, 30 PER CENT OF LAHORE'S SMOG ORIGINATES FROM ACROSS THE BORDER IN INDIA, WHERE FARMERS BURN POST-HARVEST STUBBLE TO CLEAR FIELDS FOR THE NEXT PLANTING SEASON. ”



financial constraints when adopting sustainable alternatives in Pakistan.

The Punjab government has introduced measures such as subsidised “super seeders” and rice straw shredders, offering a 60 per cent cost reduction to encourage adoption. Volunteers and drone-equipped monitoring squads identify stubble-burning hotspots, and awareness campaigns educate farmers on the environmental and health impacts. However, cross-border collaboration remains crucial to mitigate the transboundary nature of this issue effectively.

Another major contributor of smog is vehicular emissions, which are responsible for 39 per cent of Punjab's air pollution according to The Urban Unit report titled “Air Pollution Emission Inventory of Punjab, Pakistan (1990-2020)”, making them the largest local contributor. Lahore, home to over 30 per cent of the province's vehicles, faces significant challenges with vehicular emissions, including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. The lack of stringent emissions regulations and the use of substandard fuel further exacerbate the problem.

In response, the Punjab government has launched the Green Masstransit Programme, introducing electric buses and promoting electric vehicles to reduce fossil fuel dependence. The expansion of the Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS) and deployment of gas analysers at traffic intersections are further efforts to monitor and regulate emissions. These initiatives aim to reduce localised pollution hotspots and alleviate pressure on urban air quality.

According to The Urban Unit report, industries account for 24 per cent of Punjab's air pollution,

with brick kilns, tyre pyrolysis plants, and other industrial units as major sources of particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. Many industrial operations are unregulated, operating outside designated zones and using substandard fuels.

The government has taken strict action to address industrial pollution, mandating the conversion of brick kilns to zig-zag technology, which reduces emissions by up to 60 per cent. Real-time monitoring via CCTV and drones ensures compliance, while the ban on pyrolysis plants and heavy fines for violations signal the government's commitment to improving air quality.

The Urban Unit report concludes that the energy sector contributes 16 per cent to air pollution, primarily from coal and biomass combustion. Fugitive dust and methane emissions from poor waste management practices in the municipal sector add another 9 per cent. Construction activities and open waste burning further exacerbate urban pollution.

To address these challenges, the Punjab government has launched the Roshan Gharana Programme, targeting the solarisation of government buildings and low-energy households. Sprinkling water at construction sites and enhanced waste management systems aim to curb fugitive emissions in the municipal sector.

In response to worsening air quality in Punjab, the Lahore High Court has mandated urgent measures to combat the smog crisis. Key directives include implementing a work-from-home policy for certain sectors to curb vehicular emissions and enforcing an 8 pm closure for markets to conserve energy and reduce



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**THROUGH A COMBINATION OF ADVANCED MONITORING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT, PUNJAB IS ON THE PATH TO ACHIEVING ITS VISION OF A “SMOG-LESS PUNJAB,” ENSURING A HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ITS CITIZENS.**

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nighttime traffic. Smoke-emitting heavy vehicles, such as trucks and buses, have been banned from key urban roads, while enhanced traffic management with police deployment aims to minimise congestion. A strict penalty of Rs50,000 has also been introduced for exceeding emission standards. These measures complement the government’s initiatives and provide an enforcement framework to tackle the crisis.

The Punjab government has announced some immediate alleviation measures. Schools were closed in affected districts across Punjab to protect children from smog, alongside imposing local lockdowns. A Smog Monitoring Unit (SMU) has been established to centralise oversight and coordinate efforts across sectors. Anti-smog squads equipped with drones and mobile monitoring units actively identify and penalise violations. The use of satellite imagery and geospatial tools enhances enforcement capabilities, ensuring timely interventions.

Awareness campaigns via the Green Punjab App, social media platforms, and grassroots activities educate citizens on reducing pollution. The government has issued several public health advisories through these platforms to minimise outdoor exposure during high AQI periods. Dedicated smog counters in hospitals provide immediate assistance to patients suffering from respiratory illnesses. Free medical camps and health advisories aim to protect vulnerable populations during peak smog periods.

The Punjab government has outlined long-term strategies to combat pollution and improve environmental sustainability. These include enhancing the Punjab Environmental Quality Standards to match global benchmarks and collaborating with India on transboundary pollution control. Infrastructure initiatives focus on expanding public transport with electric buses, setting up EV charging stations, and



implementing solid waste management systems across districts. Renewable energy is prioritised by solarising government buildings, biogas incentives, and promoting cleaner industrial technologies. Additionally, urban reforestation projects will increase tree cover, while green building codes encourage energy-efficient construction practices.

Punjab’s smog crisis is a complex challenge driven by local and transboundary factors, particularly stubble burning in India and Pakistan. While judicial interventions provide immediate relief, the Punjab government must achieve its long-term targets for sustainable environmental management. Through a combination of advanced monitoring, community engagement, and strict enforcement, Punjab is on the path to achieving its vision of a “smog-less Punjab,” ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for its citizens ■



# SAADIA TEMUR: BLENDING CREATIVITY, LEADERSHIP, AND PURPOSE

## RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT

Member of the Punjab Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Development and Focal Person to the CM for Garment City, Saadia Temur wears many hats. Her journey into politics is as inspiring as it is transformative. Her flair for event planning caught the eye of Maryam Nawaz when she began organising party events with creativity and elegance, turning dull, conventional meetings into vibrant, tastefully decorated gatherings.

With a wealth of connections spanning diverse sectors, Saadia has become a dynamic force within PML-N. In this candid conversation with Horizon, she reflects on her remarkable journey, the challenges she overcame, and her commitment to creating meaningful change for women and society.

**HORIZON:** Thank you for taking the time to give us this interview for our magazine.

**SAADIA TEMUR (ST):** I'm grateful to the Horizon team for selecting me and showing interest in my work.

Horizon: Where were you born, and where did you study?

**ST:** I was born in Lahore, where my maternal and paternal families lived in the Mugha. I received my education in Lahore. A child's first ideal figures are their parents. My grandfather, Chaudhry Hassan, was a prominent contractor of his time and very active in social welfare. When I was little, people would come to him at night with various issues, and I observed how they all said, "Mian Ji, you have to decide." This ingrained in me the idea that serving others earns you respect.

When I was 10, my father passed away suddenly, leaving my mother widowed at just 26 years old,

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**GARMENT CITY IS A GROUNDBREAKING INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. LOCATED IN THE LAHORE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NEAR KALA SHAH KAKU, IT'S DESIGNED AS AN INDUSTRIAL HUB WITH AN INTEGRATED VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE.**

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with my younger brother only a year old. Despite her young age, my mother decided to take action. She started a school in a building she inherited from her father. Over time, this grew into a system educating 5,000 children. All of us siblings have learned from her strength and perseverance. She always said, “Let your work speak for you.” I pass this same principle on to my children today.

I completed my master's in journalism, which led me to work in media with reputed organisations before transitioning to the field of event management. I've also worked extensively in skill development through centres affiliated with our school system.

**HORIZON:** How did you enter politics?

**ST:** My husband's work as a national manager in a pharmaceutical company allowed me to travel across Balochistan and Sindh. I've always enjoyed meeting people from diverse backgrounds, learning from them, and building connections. This became a foundation for my political career. During a welfare

event, I met Khawaja Imran Nazir, the general secretary of PML-N Lahore, who invited me to join the party, citing the need for women in political roles. This marked the start of my political journey. In 2014, Hamza Shahbaz recognised my work and appointed me as the general secretary of PML-N's professional wing in Lahore. Along with Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, we connected business and professional communities with the party. This initiative brought various sectors into political dialogue and advocacy. I also served as a convener for the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce across three terms and worked on Shehbaz Sharif's Hepatitis-Free Punjab project, focusing on raising awareness and facilitating access to treatment in underserved areas.

**HORIZON:** You've been a member of the Punjab Assembly since 2018. Can you share your experience?

**ST:** I became an MPA for the first time in 2018 when PML-N was in opposition. I worked closely with Hamza Shahbaz, ensuring I attended every court hearing and fulfilled every party assignment.

## INTERVIEW

I was present at every by-election across Punjab, supporting our candidates and interacting with the public. I maintained perfect attendance in the Punjab Assembly. My dedication earned me immense respect within the party.

**HORIZON:** You've done a lot for women within the party. Can you elaborate?

**ST:** When Maryam Nawaz was appointed Chief Organiser of the party, she made me president of the Women's Wing Lahore. Under her leadership, the wing became more organised, and we worked tirelessly to engage more women with the party, especially in preparation for the 2024 general elections. I was re-elected as an MPA and made the Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Development and Focal Person to the CM for Garment City. These roles have allowed me to economically and politically address women's empowerment.



“ MARYAM NAWAZ BRINGS UNPARALLELED ENERGY AND DEDICATION TO PML-N. PEOPLE RIGHTLY CALL HER THE POLITICAL HEIR OF MIAN NAWAZ SHARIF. SHE WORKS TIRELESSLY, ADDRESSING CONCERNS AT ANY HOUR. ”

**HORIZON:** Can you share your views on Maryam Nawaz's leadership?

**ST:** Maryam Nawaz brings unparalleled energy and dedication to PML-N. People rightly call her the political heir of Mian Nawaz Sharif. She works tirelessly, addressing concerns at any hour. She has initiated over 100 successful projects in Punjab, making her a role model. My entire political career revolves around her mentorship, which has made my political dreams a reality.

**HORIZON:** What projects are currently underway for women's welfare?

**ST:** Several initiatives are in progress. One of our significant projects focuses on improving the condition of women's hostels. Punjab currently has 16 such hostels, which are in a dilapidated state. We have begun renovating these facilities and are actively working to establish more hostels across the province, to provide safe and secure accommodations for women, who work far from their homes.

Another important project is the expansion of daycare centres at workplaces. Recognising that childcare often hinders women from working, the chief minister has taken a significant step to ensure that daycare centres are established at workplaces across Punjab. Soon, you'll see these centres becoming a common feature.

We are establishing skill development centres in 18 universities across Punjab. These centres will function as women's incubators and accelerators, where female students can bring their plans and receive comprehensive guidance. The goal is to equip women with practical skills and career counselling upon graduation.

The chief minister has prioritised mental health as a key area for women's well-being. We are launching free mental health counselling services in universities and through private channels. Additionally, we will conduct awareness campaigns and seminars to address issues like stress, anxiety, and depression. These initiatives aim to give women the tools and support they need to lead healthier, more balanced lives.



A significant step towards women's safety is the introduction of the "Safety Button." Women travelling alone or feeling unsafe in any situation can press this button, immediately notify relevant authorities and receive rapid assistance. Furthermore, the Women Protection Authority, led by Chairperson Hina Butt, is actively working on issues like harassment and domestic violence, ensuring strict action and support mechanisms for affected women.

**HORIZON:** Tell us about the Garment City project.

**ST:** Garment City is a groundbreaking initiative for women's economic empowerment. Located in the Lahore Industrial Estate near Kala Shah Kaku, it's designed as an industrial hub with an integrated vocational training centre. We collaborated with TEVTA to launch a pilot project training 30 women in textile operations. These women were provided stipends, transportation, and promised job placements after the training. It's heartening to see these women, many from rural areas, without a matric certificate, now earning Rs. 60,000 monthly in a prominent textile mill.

The success of this pilot has led us to scale the project. From January, we'll train 1,000 women in two shifts daily, aiming to prepare 5,000 women annually for industry roles. Additionally, we're establishing labour colonies and facilitating microloans for those who wish to start home-based businesses. This model is expected to revolutionise women's economic participation in Punjab.

**HORIZON:** You've worked both in opposition and government. What has your experience been as a woman in politics?

**ST:** PML-N is the only party that has consistently empowered women and given them respect. For instance, the Women Development Department was established during Shehbaz Sharif's tenure. I've always felt safe and supported by my male colleagues, who have stood by us like a wall. However, during PTI's government, women's empowerment was absent. They didn't appoint a single woman as a parliamentary secretary or member of a standing committee in Punjab. In contrast, Maryam Nawaz has empowered countless women, making them a visible force in politics.

**HORIZON:** How do you manage family and work?

**ST:** My husband and late mother always supported me. Despite my husband's feudal background, he encouraged me to pursue my ambitions. My children have also grown up to appreciate and participate in my work, which makes balancing responsibilities easier.

**HORIZON:** Any hobbies?

**ST:** I love travelling and exploring. Though political commitments have limited my leisure travel recently, my work has allowed me to visit various places and meet amazing people.

**HORIZON:** What can we expect from your department in the coming months?

**ST:** We aim to revitalise the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and integrate all women-focused initiatives under one roof in a new office building. A dedicated convention centre is also being established for seminars and events. These initiatives will empower women across Punjab and set new milestones for their development.

**HORIZON:** Thank you for your time.

**ST:** It was a pleasure talking to you ■



# KOREA-PAKISTAN CULTURAL GALA ENTHRALS AUDIENCE

SABA ALI

The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Pakistan and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, organised the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Gala at Liaquat Gymnasium, as part of the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week. Pakistani and Korean artists showcased mesmerising music, dance, and art performances on the occasion.

Pakistani artists Bilal Saeed, Natasha Baig, Uzair Jaswal and music band Khumariyaan performed, while the Kukkiwon Taekwondo Demonstration Team from Korea enthralled the spectators and received thunderous applause.

Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar, Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Prime Minister's Media Coordinator Badar Shahbaz, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Park Kijun attended the event.

Other events during the week included the Korea-Pakistan Movie Day, which screened four critically

acclaimed films from 24 to 27 October at PNCA, Islamabad, highlighting the diversity and creativity of both countries' cinema. Korean movies "Ode to My Father" and "The Himalayas" were shown alongside Pakistani hits "Nayab" and "Superstar."

The Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024 was observed to strengthen the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.





## AUSTRALIA TO OFFER NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO PAKISTANI STUDENTS

Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins has announced plans to introduce new scholarships for Pakistani students, in a meeting with Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairperson Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan at PMYP's office in Islamabad. The Australian High Commissioner expressed his admiration for the talent and potential of Pakistani youth, stating, "The youth of Pakistan are an asset to the nation."

In conversation with Ambassador Hawkins, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan emphasised his long-standing commitment to youth affairs, having served in the domain since 2002. He highlighted the significant strides made by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as the first political party to introduce a comprehensive youth policy.

Rana Mashhood elaborated on the achievements of the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme, noting that approximately 186 billion rupees have been distributed among young entrepreneurs to foster economic development and self-sufficiency.

The discussions also focused on the potential for cultural exchange programmes between Australia and Pakistan, particularly in the areas of sports and education. Rana Mashhood proposed initiatives for mutual training

in sports, aimed at enhancing skills and building partnerships.

Key officials including PMYP's Focal Person for Sports Khawaja Junaid, and Focal Person for International Relations Syeda Aamna Batool attended this meeting.



## CHAIRMAN PMYP MEETS BOSNIAN ENVOY

Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan met with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan Emin Cohodarevic to explore potential collaborations aimed at empowering youth in both countries.

During the meeting, Ambassador Cohodarevic expressed his heartfelt gratitude for Pakistan's continued support over the years. He commended initiatives implemented under the PMYP, which have significantly contributed to the development and empowerment of young people in Pakistan.



Ambassador Cohodarevic highlighted the positive impact of these initiatives and expressed a keen interest in replicating this successful model in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He noted that collaboration in youth programmes could enhance skills, provide opportunities, and strengthen the bonds between the youth of both nations.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan welcomed the ambassador's enthusiasm. "This meeting marks a significant step towards establishing a collaborative framework for youth initiatives that can benefit both Pakistan and Bosnia," Khan said ■



# OVERSEAS COMMISSION TO BE ACTIVATED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

**DR RANA KHALID MEHMOOD**

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) continues to work towards resolving issues facing overseas Pakistanis.

Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission Vice Chairman Barrister Amjad Malik has announced that the Overseas Commission will soon be activated at the district level, empowering it to address the concerns of overseas Pakistanis more effectively. He announced this at an event organised by the PML-N France chapter in Lahore.

Under this new structure, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and District Police Officer (DPO) in each district will serve as members of the district commission. At the same time, an overseas Pakistani will be appointed as the chairman.

This initiative aims to streamline the resolution of property disputes and other grievances of overseas Pakistanis at the district level, ensuring swift justice and improved governance.

The event was attended by the Commissioner of the Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission, senior government officials, and prominent journalists Salman Ghani and Sohail Warraich. Guests from France, the United States, and the Middle East also participated, reflecting PML-N's global engagement.

Barrister Amjad Malik emphasised that expanding the Overseas Commission to the district level aligns with PML-N's commitment to address issues facing Pakistanis living abroad.





## PML-N SAUDI ARABIA HOSTS IQBAL DAY DINNER



On November 9, the PML-N Saudi Arabia chapter organised a grand dinner in Lahore to celebrate Iqbal Day. Barrister Amjad Malik, vice chairman of the Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission, graced the occasion.

Addressing the attendees, Barrister Malik reiterated his commitment to resolving the issues faced by overseas Pakistanis, aligning his efforts with the PML-N's 2024 election manifesto. He announced plans to organise open courts in Pakistan and abroad to expedite solutions to expatriates' concerns. The event was attended by prominent journalists Iftikhar Ahmed and Nasrullah Malik, alongside representatives from PML-N overseas chapters worldwide, who expressed full confidence in Barrister Malik's leadership.

## PML-N BAHRAIN WELCOMES RANA MASHHOOD



The PML-N Bahrain chapter celebrated the arrival of Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, during his four-day visit to Bahrain starting November 3, 2024. The tour included a special dinner and a visit to a Pakistani school, where PML-N office bearers and the local Pakistani community warmly received Rana Mashhood.

In his address, Rana Mashhood underscored the importance of overseas Pakistanis in elevating Pakistan's global stature, praising their role as ambassadors of the country. He highlighted Pakistan's resurgence under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and emphasised the government's focus on building a robust economic foundation. "Today, I am representing Pakistan in front of delegations from 26 countries on the invitation of the Bahraini Ministry of Youth Affairs. We aim to build Pakistan's economy on a strong foundation," he said. Khan urged expatriates to contribute actively to Pakistan's progress and thanked the PML-N Bahrain chapter for their hospitality.

## PML-N HONG KONG CHAPTER'S HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

The PML-N overseas chapter in Hong Kong organised a free medical camp and food distribution drive on November 10, 2024. The initiative benefited over 250 local individuals, providing basic health services and distributing food to the homeless and needy.



Led by President Imran Khan and young leader Zain, the event showcased the chapter's dedication to humanitarian causes and its determination to enhance Pakistan's reputation globally. The local community praised this compassionate effort, recognising it as a meaningful contribution to both the residents of Hong Kong and Pakistan's image abroad ■

*The writer is a digital media executive at the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.*

# PICTURE GALLERY



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH PALESTINIAN STUDENTS WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN PAKISTAN TO COMPLETE THEIR MEDICAL EDUCATION. ISLAMABAD. 23 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF PRESENTS SOUVENIRS TO FRONT LINE POLIO WORKERS AND THE RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. ISLAMABAD. 24 OCTOBER 2024**



**LEADERS OF PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY, PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE-NAWAZ AND JAMIAT ULEMA-I-ISLAM-FAZL (JUI-F) MET AT JATI UMRAH RESIDENCE OF PML-N PRESIDENT NAWAZ SHARIF TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 26TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. LAHORE. 17 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF MEETS AMIR OF QATAR SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI. DOHA. 31 OCTOBER 2024**



**PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER NAWAZ SHARIF AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THAT PASSED THE 26TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. ISLAMABAD. 21 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF, AMIR OF QATAR SHIEKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI AND CHAIRPERSON OF QATAR MUSEUMS, SHEIKHA AL-MAYASSA BINT HAMAD AL-THANI, VISIT AN EXHIBITION OF PAKISTANI ARTWORKS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR. DOHA. 31 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF MET THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN ON THE SIDELINES OF FUTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE FORUM, RIYADH. 29 OCTOBER 2024**



**CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ SHARIF INAUGURATES SAFE CITY PROJECT IN SHEIKHPURA. 24 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF DELIVERING A KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE 8TH MEETING OF FUTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE. RIYADH. 29 OCTOBER 2024**



**CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ SHARIF MEETS WITH POLIO WORKERS IN LAHORE. 28 OCTOBER 2024**



**PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ SHARIF ADDRESSING THE DIWALI CEREMONY. LAHORE. 30 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF, MINISTER FOR INVESTMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND ADVISOR AT THE SAUDI ROYAL COURT IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 8TH FUTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE CONFERENCE. RIYADH. 30 OCTOBER 2024**



**PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF PLANTS A SAPLING ALONG WITH THE PREMIER OF MONGOLIA LUVSANNAMSRRAIN OYUN-ERDENE IN ISLAMABAD. 17 OCTOBER 2024**



# HORIZON

Research and Policy Planning Unit  
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz