

September 2024

HORIZON

**CM PUNJAB LAUNCHES
SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME**

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT
PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE - NAWAZ

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

September has witnessed crucial political and economic developments in Pakistan. One of the most significant political moves has been the government's attempt to pass a constitutional amendment to reform the judicial system. The proposed amendment addresses concerns about delays in the resolution of cases, aligning with the vision of PML-N President Mian Nawaz Sharif and late Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto. In 2006, the two leaders signed the historic Charter of Democracy, which called for the establishment of a constitutional court as a key reform measure. Now, nearly two decades later, PML-N is actively reaching out to its parliamentary partners to gather wider consultations on the amendment.

Recent judgments that have introduced new constitutional interpretations, seemingly benefitting a specific political party, call for urgent judicial reform. Furthermore, the superior judiciary has, at times, overstepped its role by assuming responsibilities of other constitutional institutions, a clear deviation from the principles of the trichotomy of powers, which dictate the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial functions. This amendment seeks to restore balance and ensure that the judiciary adheres to its defined role within the constitutional framework.

Finally, the need for constitutional reform has also been a longstanding demand of the legal fraternity. Many constitutional matters, entangled with political objectives, have clogged the judicial system, making it difficult for common litigants to access timely justice. A striking imbalance exists, where only 15 per cent of constitutional cases dominate the system, affecting the progress of 85 per cent of other cases. Former Chief Justice Jawad S Khawaja noted in his retirement address that cases can take 25-30 years to reach a final verdict. The PML-N has pledged to establish a strong and effective judicial system that delivers timely justice to the people. The proposed constitutional amendment is a step towards fulfilling the promises outlined in the party's election manifesto.

Economically, there has been a steady build-up of positive momentum. Falling inflation and a decrease in petroleum prices have led to a reduction in interest rates by the State Bank of Pakistan, providing much-needed relief for the economy. Furthermore, the government's positive engagements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) signal the possibility of a new loan agreement that could stabilise Pakistan's financial landscape further. Amid these developments, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has achieved a remarkable feat, being named the world's best-performing stock market in 2024 by Bloomberg. The benchmark KSE-100 Index surged to an all-time high of 81,459 points, thanks to an influx of foreign investment — amounting to \$87 million, the highest since 2014. The PSX's 30 per cent growth this year demonstrates improving economic fundamentals, increased foreign participation, and the resilience of Pakistani markets.

In the realm of sports, Pakistan's hockey team gave the nation another reason to celebrate by securing a bronze medal in the Asian Champions Trophy. This was their first podium finish since 2018 reinvigorating pride in the national sport.

Last but not the least, we extend warm wishes to Muslims around the world on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. It is a time for us to reflect on the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, strengthen our faith, and promote unity and brotherhood.

Sincerely,
Saira Bano
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL BOARD

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



PUNJAB MAINSTREAMS MINORITIES

SAIRA BANO

Pakistan celebrates National Minorities Day on 11 August. This year, the Punjab Assembly held its first-ever Special Session to mark the occasion, sending a strong message of solidarity to minority communities. The assembly praised their contributions in various sectors, including the armed forces, medicine, politics, philanthropy, law, social justice, sports, business, and education.

According to the 2023 census, 2,870,408 people belonging to religious minorities reside in Punjab. Before the 2024 general election, the indefatigable Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) worker and lawmaker Raheela Khadim Hussain reorganised the party's minority wing in the short span of six months and registered more than 32,000 members in Punjab alone. She toured the country listening to the minorities' concerns and made solid recommendations for the party's election manifesto.

Since assuming office in February 2024, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has prioritised the welfare of minorities in Punjab. In March she announced a Holi aid package for the Hindu community. Under this initiative, 700 Hindu families across Punjab received Rs10,000 to celebrate this occasion. In its 131 years, Maryam Nawaz made history as the first Punjab chief minister to visit the Mariamabad Church, where she participated in Easter festivities. She attended the Easter service and distributed an Easter grant to deserving families during her visit. In April, she participated in the Baisakhi Festival held at the resting place of Sikh founder Guru Nanak in Kartarpur and engaged with the Sikh diaspora from around the world.

Beyond symbolic gestures, substantial progress has been made in advancing the rights of minorities in Punjab. Under the leadership of Minority Affairs

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS PLACES FROM RS200 MILLION TO RS300 MILLION, IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS TOURISM.

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Minister Ramesh Singh Arora, the government has introduced a series of initiatives and reforms aimed at supporting and uplifting minority communities.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND POLICY PLANNING

One of the standout achievements is the introduction of a five-year strategic plan by the Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department. The department is conducting extensive surveys and focus group discussions in rural areas to gather insights from various minority communities. The plan is expected to streamline departmental efforts and establish a strong government-public relationship.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

Within a short span of five months, the government has made swift progress on projects initiated by the PML-N government (2013-2018) but left in limbo by the subsequent PTI government. One of them is related to Sikh marriages. The Punjab Sikh Anand Karaj Marriage Act 2018, which was passed unanimously in the Punjab Assembly, could not be implemented for five years because the PTI government failed to notify its rule. The Punjab government approved Punjab Sikh Anand Karaj Marriage (Registrar) Rules 2024 and Punjab Sikh Anand Karaj Marriage (Arbitration Council) Rules 2024 in June and is now working on Hindu and Christian marriage rules, to ensure legal recognition and protection of minority marriages.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

A central focus of the PML-N government has

been the financial and educational empowerment of minority communities. The government has significantly increased the minority scholarship fund from Rs55 million to Rs110 million, while Rs30 million was successfully disbursed among 1,100 students. Moreover, the overall grant allocations for minorities saw a substantial boost, growing from Rs60 million to Rs366 million — a 610 per cent increase. This financial support has been paired with efforts to improve the living conditions of minorities, with Rs350 million allocated for the development of modern localities.

In addition, the minorities already enjoy a 5 per cent job quota and a 2 per cent admission quota in public sector educational institutions of higher education in Punjab.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The government has increased funds for the renovation and development of religious places from Rs200 million to Rs300 million, in an effort to promote religious tourism. An additional Rs200 million has been earmarked to create a community centre for minorities. These initiatives, paired with the Kartarpur Corridor, will integrate minority rights with tourism and soft diplomacy, enhancing Punjab's image globally.

These achievements are in line with the party's vision outlined in PML-N's election manifesto. By investing in legislative reforms, financial empowerment, and community engagement, the government has laid a robust foundation for inclusivity, development, and harmony ■



GLOBAL NUTRITION CRISIS: PUNJAB'S RESPONSE

MUHAMMAD MUGHEES ARIF

Punjab's Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz, launched the province's first school nutrition programme on 5 September at a Government Primary School in Dera Ghazi Khan. The Chief Minister's School Nutrition Programme is a pilot project designed to combat malnutrition in three districts of southern Punjab — Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh. Under this initiative, more than 400,000 malnourished students across 3,527 schools will receive daily milk packs.

Nutrition is a subject of paramount importance globally. Its significance is underscored by its inclusion in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically focusing on eradicating malnutrition by 2030. Originally framed as the 'Global Nutrition Targets 2025,' this initiative was extended to 2030, reflecting nutrition's critical role in health and development.

Across the world, governments and organisations are working tirelessly to address nutrition-related

issues such as malnutrition, anaemia, stunting, and wasting — problems that have been identified as the root causes of numerous health complications, both before birth and throughout life. However, Pakistan is still catching up on its nutrition targets. Malnutrition stands as one of the most formidable barriers to the equitable development of all Pakistani children. With a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 17.7 per cent, Pakistan is grappling with a crisis that far exceeds emergency thresholds.

According to UNICEF, nearly 30 per cent of children are underweight, 44 per cent are stunted, 17.7 per cent suffer from wasting, and 49 per cent of women experience moderate anaemia. With a population exceeding 235 million, Pakistan ranks fifth globally in population size but 99th out of 126 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI 2023). Approximately 8.6 million people, or 24 per cent, face acute food insecurity, with staggering rates of stunting, particularly in Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Year	PML-N Nutrition Initiatives
2013	Pakistan became a member of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)
2015	Punjab Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy
2016	Provincial SUN secretariats established in P&D departments
2017	Punjab Khadim-e-Punjab Child Nutrition and Stunting Reduction Programme
2017	Punjab Health and Nutrition Conditional Cash Transfers
2018	National Nutrition Survey
2018	Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition
2024	Punjab Nutrition Board
2024	Punjab School Nutrition Programme

“**ACCORDING TO THE 2015 GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT, EVERY US \$1 SPENT ON NUTRITION GIVES A US \$16 RETURN.**”



PUNJAB HEALTH MINISTERS LEADING A MEETING OF THE PUNJAB NUTRITION BOARD.

This malnutrition epidemic begins in the womb with anaemic mothers, intensifies during lactation, and manifests critically in the first thousand days of life — an essential period for neural and sensory development. The cycle of malnutrition is both pervasive and deeply entrenched, with long-term consequences for the nation’s future.

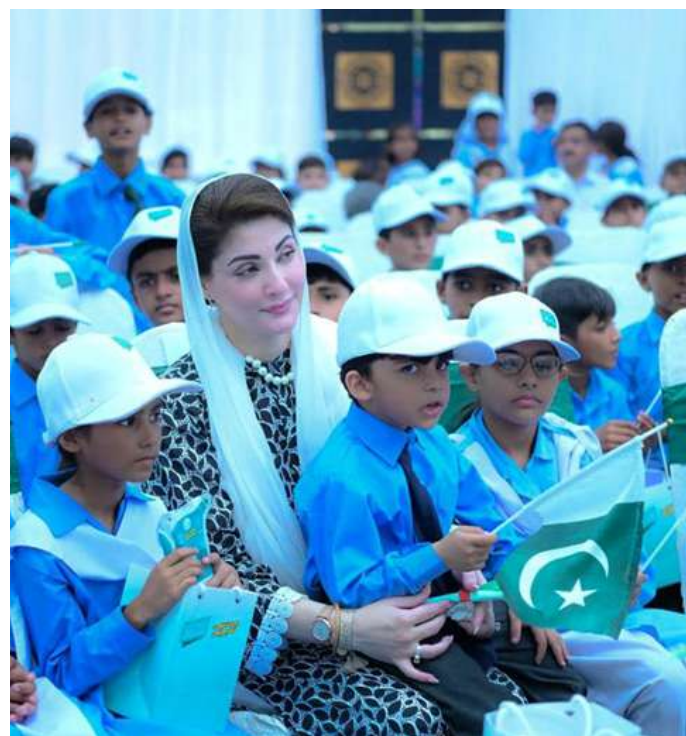
A 2006 World Bank report titled ‘Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development’ warned that malnutrition is costing poor countries up to 3 per cent of their yearly GDP, while malnourished children are at risk of losing more than 10 per cent of their lifetime earnings potential.

Nutrition is a critical aspect of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly under SDG 2: Zero Hunger, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. It also intersects with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. Nutrition plays a significant role in reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating diseases linked to malnutrition.

Additionally, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production emphasises the importance of sustainable food systems that provide healthy diets for all.

According to the 2015 Global Nutrition Report, every US \$1 spent on nutrition gives a US \$16 return. PML-N has stood out for addressing this global concern in successive tenures. Pakistan became a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2013, which was launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2010. Saira Iftikhar, then a PML-N member of the Punjab Assembly, raised the issue of child health and nutrition on the assembly floor, which resulted in the establishment of the SUN secretariat at the Planning and Development Department.

PML-N governments at the Centre and Punjab took several initiatives to provide children with adequate nutrition. The Punjab government approved the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy in 2015. In 2017, the then-chief minister of Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif, initiated the Khadim-e-Punjab Child Nutrition and Stunting Reduction Programme to address mother and child health. The same year, the Government of Punjab launched a Health and Nutrition Conditional Cash



Transfers pilot project in two districts – Muzaffargarh and Bahawalnagar – using data from the Benazir Income Support Programme to reach pregnant and lactating women from disadvantaged groups. This was followed by a National Nutrition Survey by the Federal Government and Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 2018. As a result of these initiatives, Punjab’s nutrition indicators started improving compared to other provinces. PML-N legislator Saira Iftikhar was given the SUN Nutrition Champion Award in 2017 in recognition of her tireless advocacy for better nutrition.

Shehbaz Sharif’s government also initiated a phased ban on loose milk sales, which spreads pathogens. However, these projects were either stopped or rebranded when the PTI government took the reins of power in 2018 in Punjab and Centre. For example, Health and Nutrition Conditional Cash Transfers was rebranded as Ehsaas Nashonuma.

The PML-N prominently addressed the issue of child nutrition in its 2024 election manifesto. Soon after the party came into power in Pakistan’s largest province, the government notified the Punjab Nutrition Board – a pivotal move to address nutrition-related challenges and develop effective policies based on real-time data and the needs of the local population, with rightful authority for proper implementation. This was

closely followed by the School Nutrition Programme inaugurated by the chief minister earlier this month.

The Punjab Nutrition Board operates under the Ministry of Primary & Secondary Health, with Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir, showing keen interest in advancing this vital agenda under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The board comprises both health ministers, health secretaries, the director general of Health Services, the director general of the Punjab Food Authority, and the programme director of Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health & Nutrition Programme, among other esteemed heads of departments, principals, academics, and experts who share the board’s vision, including Dr Adnan, a renowned cardiologist, and former MPA and SUN Nutrition Champion Saira Iftikhar. The board holds the authority to welcome new members as needed, further enhancing its ability to address evolving challenges in nutrition policy implementation.

The Punjab Nutrition Board has outlined several key objectives and terms of reference. These include the review, modification, and provincial implementation of the National Nutrition Policy (2018-2025). The board aims to manage severe acute malnutrition and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM & MAM) by enhancing the production and availability of ready-



THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT IS PRIORITISING CHILD NUTRITION.

to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) and developing local alternatives through research and development. It also seeks to recommend legislation for the fortification of essential staple foods and ensure food safety in collaboration with the Punjab Food Authority.

The board focuses on improving nutrition indicators across all age groups, scaling up the Chief Minister's Stunting Reduction Programme, and integrating multi-sectoral and innovative approaches like the SUN initiative. Additionally, the board emphasises strengthening partnerships with federal bodies, international organisations, and other stakeholders, while ensuring effective resource mobilisation, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts. Regular reviews, nutritional screening, and disease prevention strategies are also key priorities, alongside targeted interventions to combat anaemia and other malnutrition-related issues.

In the inaugural meeting of the Punjab Nutrition Board, held on 30 July 2024 at the Project Management Unit, Primary & Secondary Health Department in Lahore, several critical decisions were made to set a clear path for the effective implementation of nutrition policies. The meeting, attended by board members, saw active participation from key stakeholders in nutrition, including representatives from WHO, UNICEF, WFP, NI, FAO, GAIN, and WaterAid Punjab. These stakeholders shared their concerns and identified key areas requiring urgent intervention. Recognising the complexity of the nutrition landscape, the board resolved to broaden its scope by forming additional

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THE PML-N PROMINENTLY ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF CHILD NUTRITION IN ITS 2024 ELECTION MANIFESTO. SOON AFTER THE PARTY CAME INTO POWER IN PAKISTAN'S LARGEST PROVINCE, THE GOVERNMENT NOTIFIED THE PUNJAB NUTRITION BOARD. THIS WAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME.

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committees under its umbrella, each focused on specific aspects of nutrition policy implementation. This strategic move aims to enhance the board's capacity to address the diverse challenges linked to malnutrition across the province.

Furthermore, the health ministers emphasised the necessity of establishing a dedicated working directorate within the board, tasked specifically with driving its agenda forward and ensuring that the policies are implemented effectively and efficiently across Punjab.

As an honorary member of this prestigious board, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the unwavering commitment of Punjab's health ministers, working in alignment with CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision to transform Punjab into a well-nourished province. Saira Iftikhar has championed this cause relentlessly, advocating for it at every level, from parliament and policy-making platforms to international forums and the corporate sector. Her tireless efforts in advocating for the formation of the Punjab Nutrition Board have already shown tangible progress.

With such a dedicated platform in place, I am optimistic that by 2030, Pakistan will be among the nations that have met their nutrition targets, and the Punjab Nutrition Board will have played a crucial role in this achievement■

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



STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENTS IN PAKISTAN'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT

The Government of Pakistan has renewed its emphasis on enhancing the productivity and global competitiveness of its agricultural sector. This strategic pivot is part of a broader economic agenda to boost export revenues, create international partnerships, and solidify Pakistan's presence in key global markets. A major step in this initiative was the recent Food and Agriculture Expo (FAE) 2024, or FoodAg 2024, which proved to be a major milestone in showcasing Pakistan's agricultural potential.

FOODAG 2024: A GATEWAY TO GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Prime Minister Shehbaz inaugurated the 2nd International Food and Agriculture Exhibition at the Karachi Expo Centre, organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). This three-day event attracted over 800 international buyers from 75 countries and brought together 330

exporters, presenting 500 high-quality agricultural products. Pakistan's agricultural diversity, from seafood and spices to rice and processed foods, took centre stage, marking the country as a rising player in global trade.

In his speech, the prime minister said the agricultural export target should be \$7 billion for the upcoming year. It is worth noting that Pakistan plans to send 1,000 graduates annually to China for agricultural training.

The outcome of FoodAg 2024 was a success. The event generated a remarkable \$1.2 billion in deals and contracts between Pakistani sellers and foreign buyers. China, Pakistan's largest trading partner, led the participation with over 150 buyers. Significant agreements included a \$35 million deal between Pakistani and Chinese companies for seafood exports, highlighting Pakistan's potential to tap into China's growing demand for premium food products.

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BY FORGING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, ADDRESSING REGULATORY CHALLENGES, AND PROMOTING ITS DIVERSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, PAKISTAN IS WELL-POSITIONED TO INCREASE ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, STRENGTHEN ITS ECONOMY, AND ELEVATE ITS STANDING IN GLOBAL MARKETS.

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STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS

The Expo was not just about commercial deals but also a platform for dialogue and collaboration. The Pak-China and Pak-Africa Agri Investment Conferences held during FoodAg 2024 focused on expanding bilateral trade, improving agricultural exports, and upgrading trade infrastructure. This platform created opportunities to address key regulatory issues, such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and quarantine protocols. Representatives from 13 regulatory authorities were present, emphasising the importance of streamlining trade operations and ensuring Pakistan’s agricultural exports meet international standards.

Cultural diplomacy also played a role in strengthening ties with global stakeholders. TDAP organised a Cuisine Show that featured renowned chefs preparing dishes using Pakistani ingredients, adding a unique cultural element to the event. This boosted the visibility of Pakistan’s diverse food offerings and enhanced the overall experience for international delegates, opening doors for further trade discussions.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA’S SESAME MARKET

The FoodAg 2024 was closely followed by the TDAP-led initiative focused on Pakistan’s sesame seed exports. A delegation of 23 Pakistani sesame exporters visited Beijing and Handan in Hebei province from 19 to 20 August 2024, marking a crucial step in expanding Pakistan’s presence in China’s sesame market.

The Pakistan-China B2B Sesame Conference held at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing attracted 19 major Chinese enterprises. Over 100 B2B meetings highlighted the growing interest in sourcing sesame seeds from Pakistan, presenting new export opportunities. This effort was further bolstered by the delegation’s visit to Daming County in Handan, a significant sesame consumption hub, where the Pakistani exporters engaged with China’s top 10 sesame companies in a B2B seminar. Discussions on pricing, quality, and preferences for Pakistani sesame led to a preliminary agreement to establish a warehousing facility in Daming County’s industrial zone—an essential step for facilitating future exports.



While China currently imports sesame seeds from countries like Ethiopia, Mozambique, and India, the growing awareness of Pakistan's sesame products presents an opportunity to increase its market share. TDAP's efforts to educate Pakistani farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for sesame seeds through webinars in Sahiwal, Khanewal, Layyah, and Bhakkar are critical for meeting international quality standards and enhancing the export potential of this commodity.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The momentum generated by FoodAg 2024 and subsequent initiatives is set to continue with Pakistan's participation in international events such as the Sial InterFOOD in Jakarta, Indonesia, scheduled for 13 to 16 November 2024. This event will provide another platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their products and engage with international buyers. This

is the first time that such a considerable effort has been undertaken to promote Pakistan's food and agricultural products on this scale to ensure that the agriculture sector becomes an important part of the country's export-driven growth strategy.

Through the efforts of TDAP and other stakeholders, the Pakistani government is taking a proactive approach to transforming the agricultural sector into a globally competitive industry. By forging international partnerships, addressing regulatory challenges, and promoting its diverse agricultural products, Pakistan is well-positioned to increase its agricultural exports, strengthen its economy, and elevate its standing in global markets. The success of FoodAg 2024 is a clear indicator that Pakistan's agricultural sector is on a promising trajectory, poised to contribute significantly to the country's economic future ■



PAKISTAN DEFENCE DAY: A TRIBUTE TO COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

MALIK M TAYYAB

Every year, Pakistan celebrates Defence Day and Air Force Day to honour the sacrifices of its soldiers and martyrs who bravely defended the nation. This day marks the anniversary of the 1965 Indo-Pak war when Pakistan successfully thwarted Indian forces' attempts to infiltrate and capture strategic locations, including Lahore and Sialkot.

The Indo-Pak War of 1965 is a reminder that a nation's strength lies not just in its military capabilities but also in the resolve of its people. Despite facing a numerically superior opponent, Pakistan's forces displayed extraordinary heroism. The Pakistan Army, supported by the Air Force and Navy, repelled major offensives, securing Pakistan's territorial integrity.



THREE MORE I. A. F. PLANES DOWNED

Fierce fighting in Chhamb area

500 INDIAN TROOPS, 13 GUNS CAPTURED

Azad Kashmir forces consolidating position

From KHUSHROO-UL-HASAN

RAWALPINDI, Sept 2: THREE MORE INDIAN FIGHTER PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN BY PAKISTAN AIR FORCE THIS MORNING IN THE JHAMBUR SECTOR. ONE OF THEM WAS Gnat AND THE OTHER TWO BRITISH HUNTERS. SO FAR PAKISTAN HAS SHOT DOWN SEVEN IAF PLANES.

According to latest figures the number of Indian troops taken prisoner has risen to over 500.

There was not much activity on the ground as the Azad Kashmir forces are engaged in consolidating their



One Muhammad Wiza, Pakistan Army C.M.C. consulting a wounded Indian soldier of a Gnat who was shot during the clash in the Jhambur—IAF Plane

CITY MEETING SLATES INDIAN BRUTALITIES

Full support pledged to Ayub

By Sherif Khalid Correspondent

President Ayub Khan and his cabinet members of Karachi expressed their full support to President Field Marshal Ayub Khan and his Government in this hour of crisis. They reiterated and again was stated at a public meeting held last night after the capture of the Karachi Divisional Headquarters of Ayub Khan's army. The meeting deliberated on the national and international situation of the country.

Addressing the meeting, the President said that he will do his utmost to see that the President's office will be able to carry on its work. He will also see to it that the Government will be able to carry on its work.

'PAKISTAN KE BAHADUR'
RAWALPINDI, Sept 2:

IT'S UNDECLARED WAR, SAYS BHUTTO

India warned against consequences

KASHMIRIS' FREEDOM STRUGGLE LAUDED

RAWALPINDI, Sept 2: The Foreign Minister, Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, said here tonight that India had launched an undeclared war across the cease-fire line in Kashmir.

The Foreign Minister stated that he was sorry to hear that India had launched an undeclared war across the cease-fire line in Kashmir. He said that he was sure that the people of Kashmir would support the struggle for freedom.

PEARSON READY TO MEDIATE IN KASHMIR
Canada informs UN



PAF FIGHTER PILOT MM ALAM WHO BECAME FAMOUS FOR DOWNING FIVE INDIAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IN UNDER A MINUTE IN 1965 WAR.



tributes to the soldiers and martyrs. Ceremonies across the nation celebrated the courage of the armed forces and commemorated the veterans' services.

Pakistan's internal and external security threats persist in the form of terrorism, extremism, political instability, and economic difficulties. Pakistan has seen a fresh wave of terrorism gripping Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan in recent months. This is coupled with a rise in extremist violence throughout the country. The hostile neighbourhood, particularly ongoing tensions with India and Afghanistan, adds to these challenges. However, the 1965 war reminds us that no matter the adversity, unity of purpose and determination can overcome even the greatest odds.

Heroes like Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, posthumously awarded the Nishan-e-Haider, Pakistan's highest military honour, symbolise the immense courage and sacrifices of soldiers who laid down their lives for the country's defence.

The Defence Day serves not only as a commemoration of the bravery of the past but as a reaffirmation of Pakistan's resolve to stand united against all threats, internal or external. The country's military and civil institutions remain committed to securing the nation's future, drawing strength from the past while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Public figures, and civil and military institutions, including Punjab and Sindh assemblies, paid rich



CHAIRMAN PMYP PRAISES PARALYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST HAIDER ALI

SABA ALI

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, hailed Paralympic bronze medallist Haider Ali as a national hero during a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office. After winning a bronze medal for Pakistan at the Paralympic Games, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme team warmly welcomed Haider Ali.

While praising Haider Ali's hard work and determination, Rana Mashhood stated, "Haider Ali has made the nation proud by achieving remarkable success on the international stage."

Rana Mashhood also highlighted the government's efforts, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to ensure greater youth participation in sports. He mentioned that the talent hunt initiative under the PMYP is actively encouraging youth talent from across the country, to identify and nurture the next generation of athletes.

Haider Ali expressed his gratitude to Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan for the recognition, saying, "I am honoured to have represented Pakistan at the international level and to have brought pride to my country."

HUAWEI AND NAVTTC JOIN FORCES TO EMPOWER PAKISTANI YOUTH

In line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision to enhance youth empowerment through technology, Huawei and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) have initiated a groundbreaking collaboration. A meeting held on 6 September 2024, at Huawei's Islamabad office solidified this partnership, which aims to revolutionise technical education in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, officials from NAVTTC, and representatives from Huawei. They engaged in detailed discussions to finalise the terms of cooperation, building on a series of technical meetings held on the 4th and 5th of September that laid the foundation for integrating Huawei's advanced training and resources into Pakistan's vocational education framework.

The initiative is expected to enhance the standards of technical education across Pakistan significantly, equipping the youth with the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

PMYP HONOUR PAKISTAN'S STREET CHILD FOOTBALL TEAM



Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan praised Pakistan's Street Child Football Team, calling them the nation's pride. Speaking at a ceremony held to honour the team's outstanding performance at the Norway Cup 2024, where they reached the semi-finals and secured fourth place, he emphasised the importance of supporting youth in sports.

Addressing the event, Rana Mashhood highlighted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commitment to promoting sporting activities across the country. He assured that PMYP would continue to provide more opportunities to the Street Child Football Team. "A vast reservoir of talent exists in every part of Pakistan, and sports have emerged as an industry in modern societies," he said.

Rana Mashhood also mentioned PMYP's ongoing initiatives, to highlight the potential of Pakistani youth and create more employment opportunities.

The chairman also lauded the efforts of the Muslim Hands organisation for its progressive work in education, sports, and other fields, urging all stakeholders to play their part in the betterment of society. Muslim Hands facilitated the team's participation in the Norway Cup 2024.

AZERBAIJAN'S AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH CHAIRMAN PMYP

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme



(PMYP), in Islamabad. The discussions revolved around enhancing collaboration in youth initiatives, particularly education, culture, and sports.

Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan highlighted the government's vision for empowering youth, focusing on technical education to equip the younger generation with skills essential for personal and national growth. "Our goal is to prepare them to compete internationally," he said.

Ambassador Farhadov emphasised the critical role of youth in shaping the future, stressing the importance of sustained cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

The potential collaboration between Pakistan's National Volunteer Corps (NVC) and Azerbaijan's Volunteer Network was also a key focus. Chairman Rana Mashhood proposed a collaborative framework for volunteer engagement, allowing youth from both nations to work on cross-border projects that promote peace, cultural exchange, and social development.

Additionally, discussions were held on launching dual diploma courses that would offer students academic qualifications recognised in both countries, enhancing their educational and career prospects.

Chairman Rana Mashhood extended an invitation to Azerbaijan's Ministers of Youth, Sports, and Culture to visit Pakistan, aiming to foster direct dialogue and develop concrete partnerships in youth development and sports diplomacy ■

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

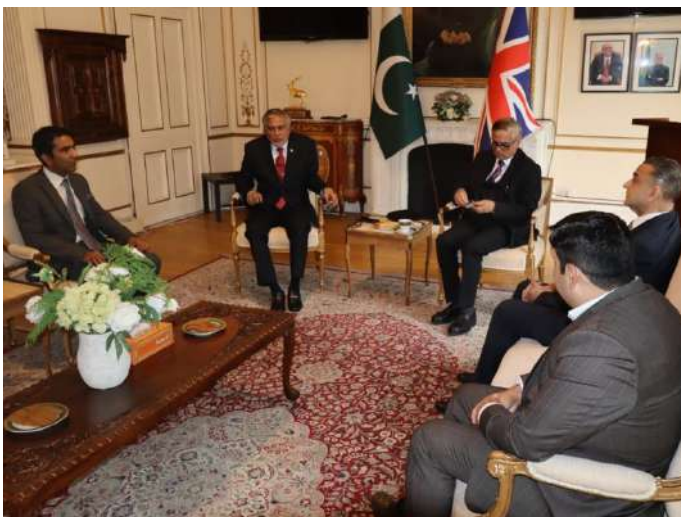


PML-N'S OVERSEAS ADDRESSES COMMUNITY ISSUES

DR RANA KHALID MEHMOOD

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) continues strengthening its connections with the Pakistani diaspora through active engagement and leadership across several countries. Key overseas chapters are working tirelessly to implement PML-N's manifesto for 2024, which focuses on addressing the challenges overseas Pakistanis face. Recent activities highlight the party's commitment to serving the overseas community, ensuring their concerns are addressed while promoting Pakistan's interests globally.

ISHAQ DAR'S MEETING WITH BARRISTER AMJAD MALIK



In a significant development, Deputy Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Ishaq Dar, who also serves as the president of PML-N Overseas, met with Barrister Amjad Malik, the Chief Coordinator of PML-N Overseas, at the Pakistan High Commission in London. The meeting reviewed the progress of the PML-N Manifesto 2024 regarding the issues of overseas Pakistanis.

Barrister Malik has played a crucial role in expanding PML-N's influence across more than 35 countries, organising chapters, and continuously addressing the concerns of the diaspora. Dar praised Malik's efforts and reiterated that the remaining parts of the manifesto would be swiftly implemented in the coming days, ensuring that overseas Pakistanis are adequately supported in various aspects of their lives.

RANA ASADULLAH KHAN'S VISIT TO ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA

Rana Asadullah Khan, Additional Attorney General of Pakistan, made a successful visit to Zimbabwe and South Africa in August 2024, further strengthening PML-N's presence and support for the Pakistani community in these regions. His visit was marked

COMMUNITY SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR MUHAMMAD ALI FAZAL IN OMAN



by a warm welcome from Senior Vice President of PML-N South Africa Rana Zahid Iqbal, and members of the Pakistan Association South Africa (PASA).

During the visit, a grand banquet was held in Rana Asadullah Khan's honour, attended by notable business and political figures from the Pakistani community. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by the community and encouraged a collaborative effort to resolve them.

Khan also had the honour of meeting Prince Thumbumuzi, son-in-law of the legendary Nelson Mandela, at his residence. Additionally, he visited the Pakistan High Commission, where he met High Commissioner Fahad Amjad to discuss enhancing bilateral trade and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and South Africa, addressing the issues faced by the Pakistani diaspora in the region.

In recognition of his outstanding services to the Pakistani community, Muhammad Ali Fazal, president of PML-N Oman, was honoured with the Community Services Excellence Award. The Pakistani Ambassador to Oman, Imran Ali Chaudhry, presented the award during a ceremony highlighting Fazal's contributions, including his leadership roles at the Pakistan Social Club Oman and Pakistan Schools. Ambassador Imran Ali Chaudhry praised Fazal's dedication and acknowledged his efforts to improve the lives of the Pakistani community in Oman. Fazal also highlighted the challenges faced by the diaspora in Oman, which the ambassador assured would be addressed promptly.

Earlier in August, Fazal visited Pakistan to participate in the International Youth Day event and met with Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. He pledged to play an active role in advancing the programme's objectives for empowering Pakistani youth abroad ■

PICTURE GALLERY



PML-N PRESIDENT NAWAZ SHARIF SPEAKS TO PARTY MEN DURING A MEETING AT MODEL TOWN SECRETARIAT IN LAHORE. 15 AUGUST 2024



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER JANE MARRIOTT CALLED ON PML-N PRESIDENT MIAN NAWAZ SHARIF AND PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ IN MURREE. 18 AUGUST 2024



PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF MEETS CHIEF MINISTER SINDH SYED MURAD ALI SHAH IN KARACHI. 9 AUGUST 2024



PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ ADDRESSING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF "APNI CHAT APNA GHAR" PROGRAMME IN LAHORE. 21 AUGUST 2024



A DELEGATION OF OFFICERS OF THE 7TH CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME OF SINDH MET WITH CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ IN LAHORE. 21 AUGUST 2024



PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF PRESENTS A MEMENTO TO CHAIRPERSON ARAB MONETARY FUND DR FAHAD M ALTURKI AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF BUNA-RAAST CONNECTIVITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE. ISLAMABAD. 22 AUGUST 2024



COMMANDER OF THE GROUND FORCES OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF CHINA, GENERAL LI QIAOMING CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF. ISLAMABAD. 26 AUGUST 2024



PML-N VICE PRESIDENT HAMZA SHAHBAZ OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO FEDERAL MINISTER RANA TANVEER HUSSAIN ON THE PASSING OF HIS BROTHER, MPA RANA AFZAL, IN MURIDKE. 8 SEPTEMBER 2024



THE PAKISTAN STREET CHILD FOOTBALL TEAM THAT REPRESENTED PAKISTAN IN THE NORWAY CUP 2024, U17 CATEGORY, CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF. ISLAMABAD. 11 SEPTEMBER 2024



A DELEGATION OF THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS FEDERATION CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF. ISLAMABAD. 11 SEPTEMBER 2024



CHIEF MINISTER PUNJAB MARYAM NAWAZ PRAYS AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE CONTROLLED ACCESS CORRIDOR ON BUND ROAD. LAHORE. 04 SEPTEMBER 2024



PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF PLANTS A SAPLING TO LAUNCH THE 'MONSOON TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN 2024. ISLAMABAD. 07 AUGUST 2024



CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ VISITS MIANWALI DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS HOSPITAL AND INSPECTED VARIOUS WARDS. 08 AUGUST 2024



HORIZON

Research and Policy Planning Unit
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