

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
عبداللہ بن عمرو رضی اللہ عنہ سے مروی ہے کہ ایک صاحب نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے پوچھا: اسلام کی کون سی حالت افضل ہے؟ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ کی مخلوق کو کھانا کھانا اور سلام کروانے بھی جتنے تم پہنچاتے ہو اور اسے بھی نہیں پہنچاتے۔  
(کنز الدقائق، حدیث نمبر 6236)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

## Insurance vital for welfare of community: Dr Arif Alvi

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that insurance is highly important for welfare of the community and humanity. He said this while addressing a seminar on 'Role of Insurance Ombudsman to Strengthen Business Sector', held at Governor's House, on Saturday. (Details on Page 8)



## Mushaal urges world to do more, raise voice against continues injustices in IIOJK

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick Saturday urged that the United Nations bodies, world powers and human rights organizations should do more and raise their voice against continues injustices against innocent Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Talking to PTV news channel, she regretted, "The international community is mysteriously quite over the Indian SC verdict..." (Details on Page 8)

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## Pakistan's stance

WASHINGTON: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's stance on the Palestinian issue during his meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



Photo: ISPR

# General Asim COAS, calls on U. N. chief in New York over Kashmir, Gaza

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: During ongoing visit to USA, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS called on Mr Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General at UN Headquarters, New York. UNSG warmly welcomed the visit by the COAS and appreciated the contributions made by

Pakistan Army and contingents of the Law Enforcement Agencies who have remained committed to the peace and stability of the world.

COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's continuous support to the United Nations in all its earnest efforts.

The COAS during his interaction particularly highlight-

ed about the ongoing Kashmir and Gaza issues. COAS said that peace in South Asia will remain elusive until a peaceful solution to the longstanding Kashmir Dispute is found in accordance with UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

COAS also condemned unilateral and illegal Indian efforts to change the status of Jammu &

Kashmir as it is in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

COAS reiterated Pakistan's stance on the Palestine issue and urged the UNSG to mobilize the international community for immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza to prevent the unfolding human tragedy and highlighted that enduring solution to the

issue lies in Two State Solution.

COAS particularly shared deep concerns over the plight of the innocent civilians who are being brutally targeted and are not being provided with sufficient humanitarian relief.

The UNSG acknowledged the concerns and thanked General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) for the visit to the UN Headquarters.

## PPP departs from 'old-school politics', shifts election campaign focus to positivity

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Saturday declared its departure from "old-school politics", as it commences its election campaign on Dec 27 with an inaugural gathering in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Larkana.

Following an important party meeting chaired by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, prominent PPP leaders Sherry Rehman, Shazia Marri, and Sharjeel Inam Memon addressed a press conference, announcing that Bilawal himself would lead the party's campaign from Dec 27 - the day marking the 16th anniversary of the tragic passing of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

## FM draws attention to Indian SC judgment on IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has addressed letters to the leadership of the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the European Union, inviting their attention to the illegality of the recent judgment by the Supreme Court of India on the status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In these letters, the Foreign Minister has underscored that under international law, domestic legislation and judicial verdicts cannot be invoked to determine the final status of an internationally-recognized disputed territory.

The Foreign Minister has condemned the unlawful measures of the Indian



authorities to consolidate their occupation of IIOJK and persistent suppression of the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Foreign Minister has called on the UN Security Council to ensure full implementation of its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute; and to urge India to end the grave and systematic human rights violations in IIOJK and to reverse all its illegal and unilateral actions in IIOJK undertaken since 5 August 2019.

ter Jilani has termed the recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, a breach of international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 122 (1957). This endorsement of India's unlawful measures cannot override the provisions and prescriptions of the UN Security Council as contained in its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

The Foreign Minister has called on the UN Security Council to ensure full implementation of its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute; and to urge India to end the grave and systematic human rights violations in IIOJK and to reverse all its illegal and unilateral actions in IIOJK undertaken since 5 August 2019.

## Parvez Elahi demands level-playing field for PTI candidates

PPA

RAWALPINDI: Demanding an end to mass arrests of PTI leaders and workers, former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi on Saturday said candidates of the PTI should be provided a level-playing field for the upcoming general elections.

Parvez Elahi, who is currently behind the bars in Adiala Jail, made these remarks during a meeting with his lawyers Sardar Abdul Razaq Khan and Chaudhry Shamshad Malhi.

According to sources, Elahi's meeting with his lawyers centered on legal matters and PTI's electoral strategy. Commenting on SC judgement on the appeal filed by the ECP, Parvez Elahi, who is also the PTI's Punjab chapter president, observed that all conspiracies aimed to delay the general elections had died down.

## Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf dies at 86, Sheikh Meshaal named successor

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "With great sadness and sorrow, we - the Kuwaiti people, the Arab and Islamic nations, and the friendly peoples of the world - mourn the late His Highness the emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, who passed away to his Lord today," Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah al-Sabah, the minister of his emiri court, said in a statement aired on state television on Saturday.

Authorities gave no cause of death, but announced the start of a 40-day official mourning period and a three-day closure of government departments.

Kuwait's crown prince and his half-brother, Sheikh Meshaal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, 83, was subsequently named new emir, a statement from Issa Al-Kandari, the deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs said.

Sheikh Nawaf was sworn in in September 2020 after the death of his half-brother, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, in the United States at the age of 91.

"This is a very sad day for Kuwait. The sheikh has only done good for the country. His legacy will be remembered fondly," Bader al-Saif, a history professor at Kuwait University,



told Al Jazeera. "His era is notable even though it is the third shortest in Kuwaiti history."

Sheikh Nawaf held high office for decades before he took power. Named heir apparent in 2006, he was serving as defence minister when Iraqi troops invaded the oil-rich emirate in 1990. He also worked as interior minister in the face of challenges from armed groups.

Popular within the ruling al-Sabah family, he had a reputation for modesty and largely maintained a low profile.

"He's known as the emir of pardons," al-Saif said.

"He has led the largest reconciliation in modern Kuwaiti history with a series of amnesties, release of prisoners and citizenships. He has also opened up to the opposition and opened the parliament again to all voices, and opened up to taking away from the government's role voting for the speaker of the house, which was really crucial to the positionality of the people and the popular opinion."

## PM Kakar pays tribute to APS Shuhada

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Saturday paid tribute to the sacrifices of Shuhada of Army Public School (APS) Peshawar and said that such precedents of sacrifices were rare in human history.

In a message on the 9th anniversary of APS tragedy, he said that on that tragic day, terrorists had launched a cowardly attack on APS leading to a tragic incident which had grieved the entire world.

The unfortunate incident had strengthened the nation's resolve against terrorism, the prime minister said, giving a clear message to terrorists and enemies of peace that the Pakistani nation was united.

Expressing his grief, the prime minister said that recollection of the incident brought



tears to his eyes.

Nine years back, the enemy had tried vainly to deter the resolve of the nation in the fight against terrorism by attacking their flowers like children, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The caretaker prime minister further said that he along with the entire nation still remembered the great sacrifices of the students and paid tribute to them. Principal APS Shaheed Tahira Qazi and other teachers stood against terrorists like a formidable wall and laid down their lives while saving the students, he added.

## President & PM condoles demise of Amir of Kuwait



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday expressed deep grief over the sad demise of Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

In a message posted on X, the prime minister prayed for the high ranks of the departed soul and said that Pakistan stood in solidarity with the Kuwaiti Royal Family and the people of Kuwait at this moment of grief.

He further said that the late Amir would always be remembered for his sterling contribution to strengthening Pak-Kuwait relations.

of Pakistan stood with their Kuwaiti brothers in this hour of grief, the President said adding Allah Almighty may grant eternal peace to the departed soul and elevate his ranks in Jannah.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday expressed his deep grief over the death of Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

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## NAB arrests Fawad on charges of corruption, misuse of authority

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Fawad Chaudhry - who served in the PTI government as minister and remained a vocal loyalist of the then prime minister - was arrested on corruption charges in the Adiala

jail where he is being housed after his detention in a case involving cheating and threatening a citizen.

The arrest came after NAB Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed Butt issued warrants for the purpose which were execut-

ed by the anti-graft body officials after obtaining permission from a local court in Islamabad.

In this connection, they appeared before Yasir Mehmood - a judicial magistrate, pleading for his arrest and informing the court that the accused was

nominated in a case pertaining to misuse of powers and corruption.

They were required to interrogate Fawad so that the facts could be ascertained as the NAB chairman had issued warrants under Section 24 of the related law, the court was informed.

It was a legal requirement to get court permission as the accused is already in judicial custody in the previous case and the judicial magistrate accepted the plea, directing the Adiala jail superintendent to ensure that the warrants were executed.

# Lahore tests first artificial rain in the country's history: CM Naqvi

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi's persistent efforts yielded success as, for the first time in the country's history, artificial rain was successfully tested in Lahore. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in an emergency press conference at the Chief Minister's Office today, announced the historic achievement, stating that after 15 days of continuous efforts, the first artificial rain event has taken place in Pakistan.

In the initial mission, 48 flares were deployed for cloud seeding in the morning, followed by a second artificial rainfall mission. The precipitation occurred around Shahdara and Muridke areas, benefiting from the necessary cloud cover and wind. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude that the artificial rain endeavor incurred no financial cost.

Acknowledging the cooperation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked the UAE team, which had been in Pakistan for the past 15 days to facilitate artificial rain. He highlighted that Lahore, once ranked as the most polluted city globally by Airindex, faced significant challenges in experimenting with artificial rain, and he appreciated the support of UAE President.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi extended gratitude to the federal government and institutions for their unwavering support. Both WASA and LWMC are on high alert, awaiting the results of the second artificial rainfall mission, which will be evident by the next night.

The artificial rain experiment was a joint effort between the Department of Environment and the UAE team. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi disclosed that the federal government is active-

ly working on artificial rain technology, expressing optimism about more successes in the near future.

Artificial rainfall is a regular practice in the UAE, and the successful implementation on a 15 km stretch in Lahore was a gift from the UAE. The Punjab government provided complete technical support, and Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi conveyed thanks on behalf of the Punjab Government to the UAE.

Emphasizing the importance of artificial rain experiments for future smog control, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also announced plans to install towers for smog control soon. He highlighted that comprehensive long-term and short-term policies are being pursued to address smog-related challenges.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that artificial rain would contribute to improving the air quality index, and the expertise gained would be shared with other provinces. Responding to a

question, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the importance of saving lives over monetary concerns and clarified that the Punjab government did not spend anything except for sprinkling water in this endeavor.

Regarding the concerns about health effects, he stated that if artificial rain were harmful, no country would practice it. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi stressed the need for comprehensive research on smog prevention and expressed confidence that the next government would make informed decisions based on good research.

Introducing an electric bike and vehicle policy, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi shared his personal opinion that the sale of fuel vehicles should be phased out in favor of electric vehicles. Provincial Minister Amir Mir, Commissioner, CCPO, DGPR, and other officials were present during the press conference.

## Cadet College Faisalabad gives media brief on grooming of cadets



**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Cadet College Faisalabad arranged a media brief for Beuro Chiefs and Senior Journalist from print and electronic media.

The brief started with tribute to the Shuhada of 1971 Indo Pak war and APS Peshawar followed by a dua.

The media persons were briefed about infra structure and facilities available in the college. The mechanism of grooming and personality development of the cadets was explained in detail. Brig Dr Abdul Hameed (R), SI(M), while briefing to the media persons, highlighted the system of smart classrooms and messaging systems. Media persons showed great interest in the organic food system of the college. Maj Taseer Ikraam Rana (Retd), while talking to the media persons, emphasised the importance of media in the nation building and termed the journalists as psychological fathers.

The media persons expressed their gratitude for arranging the brief and promised to play their role in the promotion of need for grooming and personality development as part of formal education.

## Customs' office arrests two Afghani smugglers, confiscates more than 10 crore rupees

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Collector Customs

Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari while holding a press conference at Multan Customs House revealed that Collector Customs Enforcement



has arrested two foreign National Afghani smugglers and recovered smuggled goods worth crores of rupees in the first two weeks of December. And while cracking down on vehicles, they have confiscated goods worth 107 millions 80 thousand from the limits of Multan Customs Collectorate. Establishing training desks has started providing necessary awareness to the people about the procedure, setting up special desks has also reduced the rate of illegal smuggling.

And the purpose of establishing this desk is to completely eliminate smuggling by promoting legal trade in the region, and in this regard, the training and information provision of citizens and businessmen is ongoing in the Customs Office, Collector of Customs Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari addressed the press conference While doing smuggling enforcement Multan Customs Collectorate has seized non-customs goods and vehicles worth more than 10 crore 78 lakhs in its limits, these views were expressed by Collector Customs Enforcement Multan Syed Imran Sajjad Bukhari. Additional Collector Shah Faisal Sahoo. Addressing a special press conference at the Customs House along with. Deputy Collector Miss Maryam Jameela and Assistant Collector Habibur Rahman, they said that Multan Customs Enforcement is working together with law enforcement agencies to eradicate smuggling.

## Benazir Kafalat Program provided 155,250 deserving women's of Khanewal District

**Asim Tanveer/ Waqar Paracha**

KHANEWAL: Benazir Income Support Program is providing social and economic security to the deserving women—Under the Benazir Income Support Program in Khanewal district, under the Benazir Kafalat program, 155,250 deserving women of Khanewal district have been provided this financial year. In the second quarter of October–December 2023 /- 8500 is being paid in an organized and transparent manner at 116 relief centers, it was revealed by the Deputy Director of Benazir Income Support Program Madam Noreen Zahra while talking to the media. She further informed that so far 58543 deserving women of the district have been paid, 116 payment centers have been established across the district for this payment and monitoring is being done to ensure transparency of payment in case of any mismanagement and complaint. Strict action is taken

## Pakistan People's Party will once again come to power with the power of the people

**Kiran Asim/ Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Former Prime

Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that the People's Party will once again come to power with the power of the people and provide employment opportunities to ensure revolutionary measures to end unemployment and stabilize the economy. People's Party will enter the field and fight against the opponents.



The workers will go door to door to deliver the message of the People's Party. They have served the people of the constituency in the true sense. He will make sure to express these views during the dinner given by Safer Khan and Sami Khan while addressing the dignitaries of the Election constituency. Malik Majeed Dhamraya, Asif Labar, Khizr Abbas Shah were also present on this occasion.

Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani further said that Pakistan People's Party welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the election and the announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission.

## Annual prize distribution ceremony held at FCPS Wana SWL

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The annual prize distribution ceremony was held in Frontier Corps Public School (FCPS) Wana, District South Waziristan, Lower (SWL) yesterday.



On this occasion, the Chief Guest, Major Zeeshan and Principal distributed prizes among the students who secured prominent positions in the examination.

Parents of students and people from different fields participated in the function organized by the school administration in large numbers. Meanwhile, Maheed Khan Afridi, principal of Frontier Corps Public School (FCPS) Wana, highlighted the history of this educational institution and its services in Waziristan.

## Clean Green

ISLAMABAD: Workers of CDA are installing dustbins on green belt along the Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry seeks urgent action on poultry sector

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Comprehensive planning is important to resolve the problems faced by the poultry sector so that Pakistan could not only meet its domestic needs of cheap protein but also enhance its exports, said Dr Sajjad Arshad Acting President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing the first meeting of FCCI standing committee on poultry, he said that he had tried his best to get agriculture tariff for the poultry sector but now we must file a writ petition to get justice from the judiciary. He said that poultry is an integral part of agriculture but the Government is not ready to accept its due status. He mentioned drastic reduction in the prices of ingredi-



ents used for poultry feed. He lamented that the prices of poultry feed and vaccine have not been reduced proportionately and in this connection, we must make concerted efforts by involving all stakeholders. He stressed the need for mutual consultation to fix the poultry rates and said

that farmers should sell out their birds of 2.5kg weight. He said that steps should also be taken to discourage the brokers who are eroding the financial strength of the poultry sector. He assured that the problems identified by the standing committee would be resolved at the highest level.

He also introduced FCCI and said that maximum farmers should get its membership to enhance their strength at this vocal platform of the business community. Rana Saleem Akhtar Convenor FCCI standing committee assured that a dedicated WhatsApp group of farmers would be established

today to ensure their connectivity. He also endorsed the idea that the rate committee should fix rates by calculating the distance of Toba Tek Singh and Pir Mahal. He said that another meeting of the standing committee would be convened very soon to create much needed harmony among the farmers. Mian Imran Chairman Poultry Association Punjab said that a provincial level committee would be constituted by including representatives of farmers from 36 districts of Punjab. He also explained in detail the problems confronted by the poultry farmers and said that efforts would be initiated in collaboration with FCCL. Later a question answer session was also held while the meeting concluded with prayer.

# Corruption is main reason for the downfall of institutions. VC Gomal Varsity

**ADAM KHAN WAZIR**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: An anti-corruption and anti-bribery event was organized at Quaid-e-Azam Campus of Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan (GUD) on Saturday.

Gomal University Dera (GUD) Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah was the chief guest of the event, while he was accompanied by Assistant Director of Anti-Corruption Department, Saif Ur Rehman Baloch, Coordinator of Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Dr. Allah Noor, and heads of all departments were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan (GUD) Professor Dr. Shakibullah said that the biggest reason for the downfall of institutions is corruption, against which we all have to fix ourselves



first and then move forward, while this will lead to the development of the institutions as well as the country's development, prosperity and its integrity.

He further said that since we belong to an educational institution, if we as teachers improve our educational system.

He said, tomorrow, these young people who will study from here will be associated with an institution, so they will know their responsibilities and duties and will know their rights, your country will be on the path of development.

Vice Chancellor Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan (GUD) Professor Dr. Shakibullah thanked the Anti-Corruption Department and said that due to which today's event was held, because by holding such events, institutions can be cleansed from the scourge of corruption.

Quaid-e-Azam Campus Coordinator Quaid-e-Azam Campus Dr. Allah Noor, Assistant Director of Anti-Corruption Department Saif Ur Rehman Baloch, Khatib Wajid Elahi of Jama Masjid in Quaid-e-Azam Campus emphasized in their speeches, that there should be fair distribution in educational institutions.



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# SC thwarted all attempts to disrupt elections

**O**n the 15th of December 2023, the judiciary faced an immense challenge: safeguarding the impending elections scheduled for the 8th of February. The judiciary successfully averted attempts to sabotage, excessively delay, or even indefinitely postpone the elections. Such actions could have derailed democracy, leading to the imposition of an alternative system, the form and structure of which would have been uncertain and potentially detrimental to the nation's democratic process and stability. The impact of such disruptions could have been monumental, causing severe repercussions for the country's governance, rule of law, and the citizens' rights to participate in a fair electoral process.

The Supreme Court in the last two consecutive days asserted its authority and independence like never seen before. Day before yesterday (14.12.2023) it issued notices to the two spymasters to defend the charges of manipulating the election 2018, manipulating the superior judiciary to constitute benches of the judges cultivated by them, pressurizing the judiciary to keep the Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz in Jail until the conduct the election 2018 and visiting the judges of the superior judiciary in private to pressurize them to give the decision in the impending political and administration case the way ISI wanted. please refine

The Supreme Court displayed unwavering determination to prevent any attempt to disrupt the upcoming elections. The court's extraordinary commitment was evident as it convened late into

the evening, forming a three-member bench with available members, bypassing the usual protocol of bench constitution outlined in the Supreme Court Practices and Procedure Act. Despite the absence of the primary petitioner, PTI, the court proceeded with the session and announced its decision while still in session, led by the Chief Justice. At one point, when a lady lawyer interrupted the Chief Justice during the order dictation, the court responded sternly, rebuking the lawyer and instructing her to sit at the rear benches while maintaining silence. This resolute stance highlighted the court's uncompromising dedication to ensure the integrity and timeliness of the electoral process.

The Supreme Court, despite being in a live session, openly expressed its discontent with the Chief Justice of the Lahore court. The single-bench order suspending the training of Returning Officers (ROs) and District Returning Officers (DROs) was critiqued by the Supreme Court, as it provided grounds for the Election Commission to delay announcing the election schedule. During the proceedings, the three-member bench was primarily supported by the Election Commission's lawyer and the Attorney General, with no representation to defend the initial petition filed in the Lahore High Court. The Election Commission's lawyer sought to challenge the Lahore high court's order which had suspended the Election Commission's notification

regarding the training of DRs and DROs.

When questioned by the Chief Justice, the Election Commission clarified that it hadn't issued the Election Schedule yet, intending to do so after the training sessions concluded. However, this response triggered the Chief Justice's ire directed toward the Election Commission. He vehemently criticized the Commission for attempting to leverage the Lahore High Court's order to postpone the announcement of the election schedule. The Chief Justice firmly asserted that the training and the schedule announcement were distinct matters and held

no direct correlation, deeming the Election Commission's attempt to link them as a malicious tactic to delay the electoral timeline.

Despite attempts by the lawyers and the Election Commission's representative to defend their position, they couldn't substantiate any constitutional or lawful basis linking the announcement of the Election Schedule with the training of the ROS. When questioned repeatedly by the Chief Justice about the schedule's announcement, their response of "soon" didn't satisfy the Court. Frustrated by the lack of a clear response, the Chief Justice sharply rebuked them, affirming that the election schedule must be issued that day, despite having only three hours left until midnight.

The Chief Justice made a resolute statement to the nation, affirming that while the Supreme Court won't micro-

manage institutions, it remains committed to ensuring their proper functioning. He stressed that any attempts, regardless of their size or influential backing, to delay or postpone the elections will not be tolerated. Such actions would be deemed contempt of the Supreme Court and face severe consequences.

The Court's steadfast and decisive stance in safeguarding the constitution, the law, and democracy itself has quelled numerous narratives seeking to postpone or indefinitely delay the elections. These narratives, propagated in the media and public spheres, aimed to disrupt the constitution, disregard the law, and harm democratic institutions. The Supreme Court's principled stand has curbed these attempts to protect the integrity of the nation's democratic process.

The narrative to extend the interim government until economic revival, improved security, and counter-terrorism measures were achieved lacked constitutional backing. Implementing this narrative without an elected government's legitimacy could have severely damaged the nation's democratic principles and international standing. It might have triggered economic collapse, jeopardized global financial operations, and led to severe currency devaluation. This move could have eroded trust in democratic processes, limited citizens' rights, and disrupted governance by subverting the electoral mandate essential for accountable decision-making. Such instability might trigger social unrest and portray a power grab rather than national interest, sparking protests or civil disobedience.

*To be continued*

## Instability

**P**akistan has expressed its concern over the "generous" supply of conventional weapons to "one state" in South Asia—an obvious reference to India, saying it was fueling instability and jeopardizing the delicate balance in the tension-ridden region. "The policy of double standards towards South Asia, based on narrow strategic, political and commercial considerations, must be eschewed," Ambassador Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, the deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN Security Council here late Friday.

He was speaking in a debate on 'addressing the threat posed by diversion, illicit trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to peace and security', in which over 60 countries took part. During the day-long debate, the speakers highlighted the threats posed by those weapons to global and regional security, as well as the nexus between those firearms, terrorism and organized crime. They sounded the alarm about their uncontrolled spread and easy availability, which, they said, undermine human security and impact a range of areas including development and fulfillment of basic human rights. In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon regretted that the goal of limiting and gradual reducing conventional weapons has not been realized. "Instead, we find ourselves amidst a persistent increase in global military expenditures." "Many destabilizing developments are evident in South Asia where one State's military spending vastly outnumbers that of all others," the Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Council. "The generous supply of conventional weaponry to this state, together with its strategic capabilities, is fueling instability, jeopardizing the delicate regional balance, hindering resolution of longstanding disputes, reinforcing its sense of impunity and hegemonic designs and impeding the realization of durable peace and sustainable development in the region. "This conventional imbalance can also lead to outbreak of conflict between nuclear-armed states due to the inherent danger of escalation", the Pakistani envoy added. Pakistan, he said, was committed to the establishment of a strategic restraint regime in South Asia, which includes an element of conventional force balance. "Pakistan neither wants, nor is engaged in an arms race in the region," Ambassador Jadoon said. Pakistan, he added, was of firm view that peace and stability in South Asia can only be achieved through the resolution of disputes in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the maintenance of a balance of conventional and strategic military forces. The Pakistani envoy also called for a stronger commitment from the international community to support developing countries with eliminating the scourge of illicit weapons proliferation. Recalling a recent attack on Pakistan's security forces' post by terrorist group Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, he expressed concern about the group's possession of modern and sophisticated arms, calling for an investigation into how these weapons were acquired. "While we successfully neutralized all of those involved, the possession of sophisticated weaponry by these terrorists, none of which they have the capability to manufacture, indicates a bigger problem today."



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

# India's continuous disregard and violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

**Sheikh Abdul Mateen**

**1**0 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It is a historical document considered as a milestone for humanity. This document is pointed out as a common standard of achievement for all nations of the world, and it sets out that human rights must be universally protected.

This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being—regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Today, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is as relevant as it was in 1948. It is a global yardstick through which we can measure right and wrong. The UDHR urges signatory members to promote and safeguard humanity across the world. However, it is deplorable that human rights violations still occur despite having such a golden document.

The UDHR was drafted by the Commission on Human Rights – created by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in May 1946 – and was adopted by the UNGA in December 1948. At various stages of drafting, India, so called largest democracy of world was represented by Hansa Mehta, M. R. Masani and Lakshmi Menon, who made a series of substantive

contributions to the numerous articles that made up the UDHR.

Moreover, India profess of having legal and conventional system of rights of fundamental nature, incorporated in their constitution and also affirm of being obedient of international laws, conventions, treaties and agreements to promote and protect human rights. But in practice India is found exploiting and violating human rights, international laws, treaties, conventions and agreements related to human rights. Even a brief set of fundamental rights that is enumerated in part 3rd categorized under section 7 of her constitution is being violated by their own armed forces with impunity on daily basis in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Indian occupying forces have not kept any stone unturned in making high record of human rights violation. Everyday new methods are being invented, adopted, introduced and practiced in the name of security and social order to exploit people of IOJK.

Since 1947, Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been under the forceful occupation of India, but from the beginning, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have never surrendered to the brutality of Indian forces. India tried very hard to control and suppress the voices of the people, but despite many violations, they failed to change the pro-resistance mindset of the people. India went to great lengths to discredit Kashmir's legitimate freedom struggle and label its participants as terrorists.

Various resolutions were passed by the UN to hold a plebiscite and to let the people of Kashmir decide their future. India also

accepted those resolutions, and her prominent leaders repeatedly promised to hold a plebiscite. Instead of adhering its promise of carrying out a free and fair plebiscite, they are maintaining its control in the IOJK through the means of hard power tactics.

In this regard, Kashmir is one of the chronic examples. Massive human rights violations have been going on in IOJK since 1989. Indian occupational forces have been carrying on a ruthless campaign of terror against the people of Kashmir, who are fighting for their right to self-determination. Human rights violations range from mass killings, youth killings, torture, rapes, enforced disappearances, and sexual abuses to political suppression and repression of fundamental rights.

Lack of access to justice and impunity for human rights violations are major challenges to human rights in IOJK. The black laws which are in force in IOJK, like the Public Safety Act (1978), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (1990), give unlimited powers to the Indian Armed Forces and have made the lives of the people of Kashmir more miserable, as they cannot raise their voice for the right of self-determination. More than eight thousand people have disappeared since 1989. More than seven thousand unknown, unmarked, and mass graves are found in IOJK. The total number of Indian troops deployed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir was 150,000 in 1990, but now there are more than nine lakh troops.

*To be continued*

# Prime Minister's directive and Punjab Police

**C**hanges can come with change in attitude and not by mere changing the uniform," Last day PM addressing the 7th annual conference of former Inspector Generals of Police (AFIGP) who had served the police force for decades. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday lauded the contributions and sacrifices of the police force for maintaining law and order in the country and stressed upon the need of change in attitude to improve upon the image of force.

However, IG Punjab Police has put all his resources on show work only. Law and order problems have increased in Punjab. Street crime has increased, drug peddlers and racketeers are on the frontline while police and law have taken a back seat. There is no public hearing in police stations. Despite these circumstances, the IG Punjab has assigned officers across all districts to focus on upgrading and improving police stations orally and through social media posts, while the public faces challenges and the police officers engage in non-essential tasks.

"Due to the lack of justice from the police offices and police stations, people have lost their trust in the police. The respect and dignity of the police in the society has also been badly damaged. Knowing all this, the Prime Minister has instructed the police to improve their morale." the morale of the police is decreasing day by day. Recognizing these ground realities, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, acknowledging them, has instructed the police to improve their performance and ensure timely justice to the public. However, despite two days passing, there has been no change in the perspectives and performance of Punjab Police.

In Multan, the police stations show no interest in legitimate complaints from law-abiding citizens. Only powerful and bribe-giving individuals are engaged in pursuing both legal and illegal activities. Near Shah Shams Police Station, a group of thugs Yousaf and Ali

Raza attacked a woman namely Zubida BiBi, tore her clothes, assaulted her sons, and they fired shots. A call was made on 15, several local residents testified, but the SHO sub inspected Imran Gul did not register her FIR. After this, a complainant obtained an SP Cantt's intervention, leading to the filing of a case FIR # 2065/23 PS shah shamas against the accused. Afterward, the SHO misused his powers. He reconciling with the accused, the police closed the complainant's witnesses when they were present in Thana for recording their statements. Until now, the police have not

recovered any illegal weapons from the accused. The entire neighborhood of New Shah Shams Colony is extremely distressed by the behavior of the police. The culprits are involved in harassment with illegal weapons.

This is an example of the police attitude and mindset, of which I am a witness, and such incidents are commonplace in police stations.

Every appointed police officer in the law. We all know that the station police do nothing other than demean and disgrace law-abiding and educated citizens. Until the police inspectors at the station level are just and competent, justice will not prevail for the public, and their morale cannot be uplifted.

PM Kakar underlines need for attitudinal change to improve police force image. He said the police force was the custodian to protect them from that anarchy and had been serving as the frontline force from sepoy to officer to protect the society. Caretaker prime minister referring to the functioning of the force, suggested that they required deep introspection as to how to further improve the situation and the image of force. "Changes can come with change in attitude and not by mere changing the uniform," he opined. PM Kakar underlines need for attitudinal change to improve police force image.

*To be continued*



**Pakzon Electric to offer electric bikes in installments: Faisal Bank**



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Environment-friendly and cost-effective electric bikes will now also be available to customers in installments. In this regard, an agreement has been signed between Pakzon Electric Motors (Pvt) Ltd. and Faisal Bank. Under the agreement, customers will be able to get bikes in their name in installments of three months without paying the down payment. Apart from this, the facility of getting bikes in easy installments will also be available under one year, two year and three year plans. Pakzon Electric Motors Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mohammad Amjad and Faisal Bank's Head of Consumer Finance Aneeq Malik signed on the agreement. Also, in attendance, Pakzon Electric Managing Director Shahzaib Amjad and Faisal Bank Head of Unsecured Business and Cards Feroz Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Amjad said that the trend of electric vehicles should be promoted to combat climate change. By using electric bikes, we can reduce air pollution in the country. Aneeq Malik said that reiterating Faisal Bank's commitment to promote environment-friendly initiatives. Faisal Bank is working tirelessly in the campaign to make Pakistan clean and green. There is a dire need for environmentally friendly transportation. The need for electric vehicles has increased as pollution has reached alarming levels due to rising fuel emissions.

**Türkiye-Pakistan Collaboration at Business Facilitation Center**

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In a concerted effort to cultivate a conducive business environment in Punjab, the provincial government, in collaboration with development partners, has initiated extensive reforms. As part of this reform program, the establishment of the Business Facilitation Center offers 133 services spanning 20 provincial and federal departments. Mr. Kunwar Dilshad, Adviser to the Chief Minister of Punjab on Law and Parliamentary Affairs, expressed these sentiments during a ceremony at a local hotel in Lahore. The event, organized by a private entity promoting business activities in Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan, highlighted the need for a coordinated strategy among businessmen from these countries to maximize trade opportunities.

Mr. Dilshad emphasized the strong fraternal relations between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Türkiye. These nations actively collaborate under an effective strategy to enhance cooperation in security, economic, and diplomatic realms. Acknowledging the historical ties, he noted that the relationship between Türkiye and Pakistan predates Pakistan's independence in 1947. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union three decades ago, Türkiye and Pakistan were the first two countries to recognize Azerbaijan as an independent state. Mr. Dilshad highlighted the ideal relations evident in the awarding of contracts for rebuilding Azerbaijan's infrastructure after the Nagorno-Karabakh war, where Türkiye and Pakistani firms secured contracts.

The trade agreement signed between Pakistan and Türkiye in August 2022 officially came into force on May 1, 2023. Representing a significant milestone in the enduring and fraternal relationship between the two countries, the agreement aims to foster greater integration between their markets and business communities.

Anticipated to have a considerable impact on Pakistan's exports, particularly in non-traditional sectors, the Türkiye market, with its population exceeding 80 million, presents substantial potential. Mr. Dilshad emphasized the need to capitalize on available business facilities through an integrated strategy.

**ICCI calls for doubling Pak-Italian bilateral trade to realize actual trade potential**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the current bilateral trade volume of around one billion euros between Pakistan and Italy is not matching with the actual potential of both countries and efforts should be made to double it as both countries have the potential to do trade in many more items. He said this while talking to Augusto Palmieri, First Secretary of the Embassy of Italy and Salvatore Parano, Director, Italian Trade Agency during their visit to ICCI.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that both countries should work to develop strong business linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of bilateral cooperation. He said that many sectors of Pakistan's economy offer good potential for joint ventures and investors and stressed that Italian investors should transfer technology and explore busi-



ness and investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Augusto Palmieri, First Secretary of the Embassy of Italy, and Salvatore Parano, Director, Italian Trade Agency said that Italy's annual exports are over

700 billion euros and both countries should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results. They said that Italy is providing advanced technology solutions and Pakistan can benefit its economy by developing

close cooperation in this sector with Italy. They said that both countries should encourage B2B meetings to establish contacts between their private sectors and explore new areas of bilateral trade.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI assured that the Chamber would like to work with the Italian Trade Agency to explore new areas for increasing bilateral trade between the two countries.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that ICCI intends to organize a Pak-Italy Business Forum in January next year to highlight the potential areas of business cooperation between the two countries and said that the Italian embassy should cooperate to make it successful.

Ameer Hamza, Raja Muhammad Abbasi, Muhammad Shabbir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, and others were also present on the occasion.

**Charpai**

FAISALABAD: Vendors are busy in making the traditional Charpai outside their shop on Dajkot road in City.



Photo: Online

**Engro Corporation and its listed subsidiaries recognized among top 10 recipients at PSX awards**

PPA

KARACHI: Engro Corporation and its subsidiaries Engro Fertilizers, Engro Polymer & Chemicals and Engro Powergen Qadirpur, were presented the prestigious Pakistan Stock Exchange Top 25 Companies awards by the caretaker Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar at a ceremony held in Karachi.

Chairman Engro Corporation Hussain Dawood, who was invited to address the distinguished guests, appreciated the Government for recognizing the pivotal role of private sector towards the economy of Pakistan. He said that the corporate sector is fully aligned with the direction being set by the Government to create a conducive business environment and restore investor confidence. Hussain Dawood also thanked



the Pakistan Stock Exchange for playing an instrumental role in encouraging the corporate sector to excel.

Reflecting on investor confidence, Chairman Engro Hussain Dawood said that "A country's potential for success and devel-

opment is directly proportional to its ability to speak the truth. Do we speak the truth? Domestic and foreign investors will invest if they believe we speak the truth."

In his speech, caretaker Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said he

personally felt proud of inspiring individuals like Hussain Dawood, who is an emblem of resilience, humility, and accomplishments. He acknowledged the contributions of Hussain Dawood towards philanthropy, business landscape and the country.

Every year, PSX acknowledges the performance of listed companies based on a comprehensive quantitative criterion, which includes strong corporate governance, transparency, excellent financial and managerial performance, and compliance with Listing of Companies and Securities Regulations. In terms of qualitative criteria, PSX selected high-performing listed companies based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), reporting on SDGs, ESG-related initiatives including Diversity & Inclusivity, among other considerations.

**BMP speeds up drive, get support for FPCCI polls: Presidential candidate**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has announced to speed up its drive for the annual elections of the apex trade body for 2024, holding series of important meetings and visiting various cities, chamber and trade & industrial associations across the country to get support for their nominated candidates.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar and FPCCI's presidential candidate for the election Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that the BMP has chalked out a comprehensive plan that would help ensure economic progress and prosperity in the country.

FPCCI's presidential candidate for the election Muhammad Ali Sheikh promised that the Panel would raise all the business issues at all relevant forums, help ensure businessmen access to cheaper loan for their working capital needs or expansion plans.



Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that his group tried its best to introduce sector specialists as their candidates for the Executive Committee with the sole objective to forward solid proposals to the government for economic progress and prosperity.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that the country was passing through critical times and a true business leadership at every tier could help pull the country out of these economic issues. He said the FPCCI elections are no more confined to voting day only but it had now become a whole year process as the elected members stay in touch with voters during the year as well.

**Over 5m SMEs receive mere 7% of private sector credit**

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Despite their significant importance, over 5 million SMEs face a huge credit gap, receiving only 7% of private sector credit, far below neighboring countries like Bangladesh (25%) and India (18%), with the State Bank committing to increasing SME credit share to 17% by 2023. To achieve this, we must advocate for targeted and fixed SME allocations in concess-

sional financing schemes, particularly those aimed at the export-oriented sector.

These views were expressed by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industries' Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar.

It was proposed to allocate at least 25 percent of concessional financing, including the Export Finance Scheme, exclusively to SMEs in the export sector.

**AlHuda CIBE about to launch the Shariah-compliant carbon Credit**

*Alhuda CIBE participated at UN COP28 for an interfaith dialogue for Environment, Climate Action and Land Restoration*

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: Alhuda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics (Alhuda CIBE) joined prominent religious leaders and representatives at United Nations COP28 for a powerful discussion on "How to mobilize your faith community towards climate change and land restoration."

Sharing the stage with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (The Art of Living), Yukiki Yamada Morovic (World Vision International), Maureen Goodman (Brahma Kumaris), and Georgina Bwango (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), and Alhuda CIBE CEO, Muhammad Zubair, highlighted the critical role of faith communities in driving meaningful action on environmental issues. They also emphasized the importance of

mobilizing collective action, promoting sustainable practices, and investing in innovative solutions to combat environmental degradation. This gathering serves as a powerful testament to the growing recognition of faith communities in shaping a healthier planet.

The discussion focused on three key messages; Shared Stewardship: Protecting the environment and land is a common thread that unites diverse faiths and religions, creating a powerful foundation for collaboration. Mobilizing for Change: Faith communities hold immense potential to mobilize their members and inspire collective action towards land restoration and preservation on a global scale. And Beyond the Environment: Land restoration is not just about environmental protection; it's about social justice, economic opportunities, and spiritual

fulfillment for all.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of Alhuda CIBE, highlighted the impact of limited access to Islamic financial products in Muslim countries, contributing to reduced financial inclusion that affects climate change and land restoration efforts. He emphasized the need for greater access to Islamic financial products in Muslim countries, highlighting their impact on financial inclusion and addressing climate change and land restoration challenges. He added that references to Islamic environmental principles can be found in the Quran and Sunnah.

Further, Mr. Muhammad Zubair introduced four Sharia-compliant Islamic financial products - Muzara'ah (A profit-sharing arrangement where a landowner provides the land, and the farmer provides labor and receives a

share of the profits.), MUSAQAH (An agricultural partnership where land is cultivated jointly, and profits are shared based on pre-agreed ratios), Mugharasa (A lease-based model where the landowner leases the land to the farmer for cultivation, and Salam (A forward contract for the purchase of agricultural produce, providing capital to farmers upfront) - specifically designed to support land restoration and environmental sustainability initiatives.

Alhuda CIBE, at the forefront of sustainable financial solutions, is about to introduce Shariah-compliant "Carbon Credits". This innovative initiative aims to harness the collective support of international communities, channeling funds towards sustainable development. These funds will be strategically invested in Muslim-majority countries, fostering sustainable devel-



opment projects that not only address environmental concerns but also adhere to Shariah principles, ensuring a harmonious balance between economic growth and ethical considerations. This innovative approach

reflects Alhuda CIBE commitment to promoting financial solutions that resonate with the values of the global Muslim community while contributing to a greener, and more sustainable future.

# Marnus Labuschagne to undergo scans on injured finger

A Sports

LAHORE: Australia batter Marnus Labuschagne suffered an injury scare after a ball hit his little finger ferociously on day three of the first Test against Pakistan in Perth.

Earlier, the visitors' batting lineup unfolded before lunch on the third day at Optus Stadium after they slipped from 3-188 to 271 all out.

However, the hosts' plans of leaving Pakistan with an insurmountable total were hurt late when firebrand left-arm-er Shaheen Shah Afridi and debutant Khurram Shahzad wreaked early havoc.

Australia succumbed to 5/2 in the eighth over when Khurram Shahzad removed David Warner (0) and Marnus Labuschagne (2) in quick succession.

After having a disastrous start to their second innings, the hosts recovered to 84/2 at the stumps on Day 3 with Steve Smith and Usman Khawaja firm at the crease.

Australia were sweating on Marnus Labuschagne's fitness after a knock to his little finger saw him sent for scans.

During the sixth over of Australia's second innings at Perth Stadium, Pakistan debutant Khurram Shahzad produced a jaffa that jumped off a good



length and struck Labuschagne on the right hand.

He eventually continued batting after the team doctor and physiotherapist had a lengthy examination of his right small finger.

But, having faced just seven more balls before being dismissed by the same bowler, he continued to receive treatment from the medics before being sent for X-rays at the close of play.

"He was just with the doc and physio

for the last hour just chatting through it, doing a few tests on the finger," paceman Josh Hazlewood told reporters at stumps with Australia leading by 300 runs.

"I daresay there might be a scan ... he was pretty sore I think."

A Cricket Australia spokesperson confirmed a full diagnosis was expected in the morning.

Usman Khawaja, who was at the non-striker's end when Marnus Labuschagne was hit, admitted his concern.

"It didn't look pretty," Khawaja said, adding: "Marnus is a pretty tough character. When he takes his glove and starts to do that I get a bit worried, because he's a pretty tough guy."

Hazlewood labelled Smith "incredibly brave" for soldiering on after he too required treatment before stumps when Shaheen Shah Afridi landed a blow to his left arm.

But Smith insisted at stumps: "It's all right. Bit of a bruise, but I'll live."

With Australia already holding an imposing lead, signs of the pitch breaking up have encouraged the hosts' bowlers.

Groundstaff had hoped the drop-in wicket at the cavernous stadium would show more signs of wear and tear after it largely held together for their Test against West Indies last summer.

Their approach looks to have succeeded, with temperatures in the mid-thirties helping to bake out and open up small cracks.

"Batting got really tough there at the end," said Hazlewood. "As the game goes along I think the cracks will come more into play, another hot day tomorrow I believe."

"I think it's probably going to be tougher to play the short ball than (it was) the first innings."

## Unfit Shami ruled out of South Africa Test series



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Injured pacer Mohammed Shami was left out of India's squad for the two-Test series against South Africa beginning this month after he failed to regain his fitness, the cricket board said.

Shami, 33, was earlier named in the squad announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the away series but his inclusion was subject to fitness clearance.

"Shami, whose participation in the Test series was subject to fitness has not been cleared by the BCCI Medical Team and the fast bowler is ruled out of the two Tests," BCCI said in a press release.

Mohammed Shami played a key role during India's recent World Cup campaign, bagging 24 wickets from seven games to finish as the tournament's highest wicket-taker.

India won 10 games in a row in the tournament before losing the final to Australia.

The BCCI also said that medium pacer Deepak Chahar had withdrawn from the one-day squad due to a family emergency.

He was replaced with Akash Deep, who is already in South Africa as part of the India A side.

Batsman Shreyas Iyer will be available for the first ODI but will skip the remaining two in order to prepare for the Test series, beginning on December 26.

The first game of the three-match ODI series begins in Johannesburg on Sunday.

Captain Rohit Sharma, along with Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravichandran Ashwin left for South Africa on Friday and are likely to feature in the practice game on December 20-22 in Pretoria.

India's updated ODI squad for South Africa series: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Tilak Varma, Rajat Patidar, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (C), Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Akash Deep.

## All-round Deepti powers India to record Test win against England



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Deepti Sharma starred with both bat and ball as India thrashed England by 347 runs in their one-off women's Test on Saturday for their first-ever win at home against the rivals.

Sharma, who made 67 in India's first-innings total of 428, took nine wickets including a red-hot 5-7 in the first innings, with the visitors bowled out for 131 to wrap up the match on the third morning in Mumbai.

Medium-pacer Pooja Vastrakar grabbed 3-23 as England were dismissed cheaply inside 28 overs during an extended first session of play while chasing a mammoth target of 479 runs.

England, bowled out for 136 in their first innings, offered very little fight even in their second outing, losing half their side inside 15 overs at the D. Y. Patil stadium.

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India's victory margin was the largest by runs in women's Test cricket and also their first Test win against England at home.

Harmanpreet Kaur's team took a 292-run first-innings lead after electing to bat first, and declared on their overnight second-innings total of 186-6 for an overall lead of 478.

Nat Sciver-Brunt top-scored with 59 in England's first innings but was bowled for a duck by Vastrakar in her second stint.

"It's a proud feeling... we bowled according to plan," said Sharma, who was named player of the match.

"I was just waiting to bowl and keeping myself warmed up. I got a lot of help from the wicket and I backed myself"

England's Heather Knight said India were "outstanding" in the game.

"The way they batted in the first innings is something we can learn a lot from," she said.

"The conditions (are) something we're not used to, we were trying to find a way to score runs."

## Andrescu targets Paris Olympics but rules out Australian Open

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Bianca Andreescu said on Thursday she hopes to represent Canada at next year's Paris Olympics but the 2019 U.S. Open champion has ruled out playing at next month's Australian Open as she continues her recovery from a back injury.

Andreescu has been sidelined by a stress fracture in her back and has not played since losing to Italian qualifier Camila Giorgi in her opening match of the Canadian Open in August.

The 23-year-old said progress in her recovery had been steady but slow and she has yet to even pick up a racquet, pushing her expected return to action back to March or April.

"No, sadly I won't be at the Australian Open," Andreescu confirmed during the Canadian Olympic Committee's Paris media summit on Thursday.

"Right now I'm looking at (returning) after the Australia Open or the American Tour, so Indian Wells... maybe."

"We're very close but right now I am still dealing with my back injury. It is getting better every single day and I am doing everything I can to get there as fast as possible but these things take time."

"I'm feeling very confident for 2024."

Whether Andreescu can work her way back to full fitness and earn a spot on the Canadian team for Paris is a big question.

Her world ranking has dropped to number 96 and is almost certain to fall further as she remains out of action, while she could only watch as Leylah Fernandez and Marina Stakusic lead Canada to a first Billie Jean King Cup title last month.

## Sports Day

FAISALABAD: Students along with teachers and parents are enjoying different games during sports event at school in City.



Photo: Online

# Shaun Tait appointed as Quetta Gladiators' bowling coach for PSL 9

A Sports

QUETTA: 2019 Pakistan Super League (PSL) champions Quetta Gladiators on Saturday, appointed former Australian pacer Shaun Tait as their bowling coach for the upcoming PSL 9.

Quetta Gladiators announced Shaun Tait's appointment as the bowling coach on their official X, formerly Twitter, account.

"Purple Force get another Australian boost as Shaun Tait joins Team Quetta as bowling coach," said the franchise.

"Tait - one of the fastest bowlers to have ever played the game - will work with [Mohammad Hasnain], [Mohammad Amir], [Mohammad Wasim Jr] and co," the statement



added. Notably, Shaun Tait served as the bowling coach of the Pakistan Men's cricket team from February 2022 to January 2023.

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WhatsApp channel. He represented Australia in three Tests, 35 ODIs and 21 T20Is, picking up 95 wickets across formats.

Shaun Tait will join his former

teammate Shane Watson - appointed as the head coach - in Quetta Gladiators' coaching panel.

"The Quetta Gladiators owner and the team management has decided to appoint Former Australian all-rounder and Gladiators' best run-getter in the PSL, Shane Watson as head coach of the team," the 2019 PSL champions stated.

Earlier, Quetta Gladiators also announced a change in their management with Moin Khan being appointed the Team Director, who served as their head coach since the inaugural season of PSL.

Under Moin Khan's coaching, Quetta Gladiators reached the play-off stage in the first four

editions, playing three finals.

Quetta Gladiators became PSL champions in 2019 under the captaincy of Sarfaraz Ahmed, with Shane Watson leading their batting line-up.

Watson was the highest run-scorer with 430 runs at a strike rate of 143.81 and was named player of the tournament during the 2019 edition.

However, since then Gladiators failed to qualify for the play-off stages in the next four editions of the PSL.

Shane Watson has previously served the IPL franchise Delhi Capitals as an assistant coach in 2022, as well as the head coach of the Major League Cricket franchise San Francisco Unicorns earlier this year.

# Raul Garcia's late header powers Osasuna to edge Rayo Vallecano in La Liga

A Sports

PAMPLONA: Raul Garcia scored a pin-point header in the stoppage time to power Osasuna to a sensational 1-0 victory over Rayo Vallecano at home in the La Liga 2023/24.

Garcia impressively scored his first goal of the season during the extra time of his side's La Liga fixture against Rayo, registering himself on the scoreboard, within 10 minutes after coming off the bench.

His timely strike gave Osasuna their first win in seven league matches, lifting the side two places to the 12th while Rayo Vallecano remained at the 10th, one point clear of Osasuna.

Despite having a superior spot in the La Liga standings, Rayo Vallecano have now gone winless in their seven



league matches.

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channel

Both sides went hard at each other

at the picturesque El Sadar stadium here and both hit the post in the early phase of the contest but it was eventually Raul Garcia's header that separated the two teams.

Garcia came in as a substitute in the 84th minute and soon left his mark when he successfully converted a header by going highest to a corner in the fifth minute of the injury time.

His first goal of the season, which eventually turned out to be the match-winner for Osasuna sent the home crowd in jubilation.

"I haven't been doing so well and I needed that goal," Garcia said.

"We have needed a win like this, even if we never played that well. I am here to help and I have to wait for my chance and take my chances when they come."

## Addressing

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the seminar titled 'Role of Insurance Ombudsman in strengthening Business sector' on Saturday.



Photo: PID

# Insurance vital for welfare of community: Dr Arif Alvi

City Desk

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that insurance is highly important for welfare of the community and humanity.

He said this while addressing a seminar on 'Role of Insurance Ombudsman to Strengthen Business Sector', held at Governor's House, on Saturday.

He said that collective efforts were required to increase quantum of insurance in the country for larger benefit of people.

He said that steps had been taken to formalise insurance for compassion of humans.

Insurance was important in different ways but people did not trust the product, he said

and added that there was need to bridge the trust gap.

Basic concept behind insurance was community consciousness, he said and added that old age insurance was a state encouraged phenomenon.

Dr Arif Alvi said, "Employees Old Age Benefits Institution is a social insurance institute while Benazir Income Support Programme is also a financial support scheme." He said that it was basic function of the government to provide level playing field to all segments of society for better development.

The president said that Scandinavian countries get high taxes and give more benefits, adding that if any country follow prejudices, this

was not good at all.

He said, "Elite exploitation and capitalism culture actually create unevenness in society." He said that world's few rich people hold almost 50 per cent wealth of the world.

Dr Arif Alvi said our beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) taught us about the essence behind charity and he added that alms-giving was all about compassion towards humanity. He said that Islamic laws were community related, adding that Islamic society was all about living in a society where love and care of each other could be practised.

He said that he used to think that wherever there was a democracy there would be compassion towards human-

ity, but situation in Gaza was totally opposite.

He said the world should consider brown and black people equally.

The president said that economic deprivations actually make generations lethargic.

Dr Arif Alvi said that it was vital to inform people about Insurance Ombudsman that it was one stop shop for solution to their problems.

He further said that he was also listening to appeals himself so that backlog could be cleared.

Hazrat Umar (RA) taught us that decision of cases of people coming from far-flung areas should be done swiftly, relevant authority should contest case of the poor and uneducated people, deci-

sion should be revisited if any wrong was done, and the decisions should be implemented immediately, Arif Alvi said and added that all these guidelines needed to be implemented for provision of justice.

Insurance was contributing 0.85 per cent to the country's GDP, while this percentage was higher in other countries, he added.

He said that decisions made by the Insurance Ombudsman should be highlighted to create awareness among people.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce Vice President Riffat Malik, Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr Muhammad Khawar Jameel also spoke.

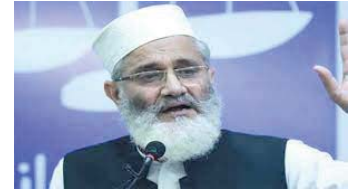
## Siraj wants fair, timely general elections

PNP

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq stated Friday the country will slide into anarchy if timely general elections are not ensued.

Addressing a JI workers convention here, Siraj said Pakistan's economy was in a dire state and there was widespread unemployment across the country.

He asserted that the only way to steer the country out of political and economic crises was to hold elections



on the scheduled date of Feb 8.

The JI chief stressed that holding transparent elections was crucial for the country's stability.

"Those suggesting to postpone the elections are pushing the country towards darkness," Siraj added.

## Dec 16 always to be remembered for great sacrifices of APS martyrs: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Saturday said that the day of December 16 would always be remembered for the great sacrifices of the martyrs of Army Public School.

In a message on the 9th anniversary of APS martyrs, he said, "Nine years have passed since the tragedy of APS, but the grief of those who lost their lives was still fresh today."

The minister said that cowardly miscreants attacked the future of the nation, the young children and martyred them.

Murtaza Solangi said adding no one could hold back their tears



remembering that tragic day.

Paying tributes to the martyrs of APS tragedy, he said they united the nation against terrorism.

After this incident, he said all the political parties and organizations united against terrorism, a twenty-point national action plan was adopted and the terrorists were defeated.

## National aviation policy: Fees revised for various license categories

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure the stable presence of companies, the National Aviation Policy has revised fees associated with different air service license categories.

According to the updated aviation policy, an initial security deposit of Rs 100 million along with Rs 600 million paid-up capital has been made mandatory for the applicants seeking a passenger and cargo Regular Public Transport (RPT) License.

As per the latest aviation policy update, the applicants aspiring to obtain a tourism license have to pay the initial cash security deposit of Rs10 million along with the paid-up capital of Rs50 million.

Meanwhile, the applicants seeking Charter Service License Class - I are required to pay Rs50 million along with an initial cash security deposit of Rs10 million, furthermore, Charter Service License Class - II demands a hefty financial commitment, with a requirement of Rs100 million in paid-up capital and an initial cash security deposit of Rs20 million.

The policy further covers Aerial Work Licenses with Class - I requir-



ing a substantial paid-up capital of Rs 20 million and an initial cash security deposit of Rs10 million, while Class - II requires a paid-up capital of Rs50 million with an initial cash security deposit of Rs10 million.

Similarly, Flying School Licenses Class - I demands Rs10 million in paid-up capital and Rs3 million initial cash security deposit, and Flying School Licenses Class - II demands Rs20 million in paid-up capital and Rs10 million initial cash security deposit.

The aviation policy indicates that the Ground School Licenses are subjected to a paid-up capital requirement of Rs 2 million and an initial cash security deposit of Rs 1 million.

Likewise, Private Air Operations Class - II mandates an initial cash security deposit of Rs 10 million, and Private Air Operations Class - I requires a Rs 5 million initial cash security deposit.

## Mushaal urges world to do more, raise voice against continues injustices in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick Saturday urged that the United Nations bodies, world powers and human rights organizations should do more and raise their voice against continues injustices against innocent Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to PTV news channel, she regretted, "The international community is mysteriously quite over the Indian Supreme Court verdict despite knowing that the India is committing worst human rights violations in IIOJK."

She mentioned, "Pakistan has always advocated the Kashmir cause on all international forums and will continue to do so till the people of Kashmir get their right to self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions."

"No doubt despite the worst atrocities by the Indian forces, the freedom struggle of the Kashmiris is gaining



momentum with each passing day and the time will come when the people of Kashmir will get their fundamental right of plebiscite, she also expressed hope."

"It is incumbent upon the international community to fulfill its responsibility in alleviating the suffering of the Kashmiri people and assisting them in realizing their fundamental right to self-determination," she stressed.

## Minister for IT, Telecommunications hails SIFC for facilitating ICT sector

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif has said that to pave the way for digital transformation and foreign direct investment in Pakistan, important decisions are being taken in the interest of the country and the nation through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) forum in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which will directly benefit to the masses. These initiatives will result in the speedy development & stability of the country's economy.

In a video statement on Saturday, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif said that all stakeholders including the military and political leadership are present in the SIFC forum, which makes decision-making very easy.

We are confident that with the presence of the Special Invest-



ment Facilitation Council, the upcoming government will also be able to make timely decisions for the country's development and public interests, because it is important that we do not compromise on our economic stability and public interests, we need to avoid departmental obstacles.

Instead of unnecessary delay tactics, quick and effective decisions have to be taken in the interest of the country and the nation, for this purpose SIFC is the most effective forum.

## Afghan ambassador calls on JUI-F chief

City desk

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan on Saturday called on JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to discuss matters of mutual interest. The ambassador also conveyed the Afghan government's message to the politico-religious leader.

Besides discussing Pak-Afghan



issues, the ambassador also invited the JUI-F chief to Afghanistan.

## Justice Mansoor Ali Shah-led meeting reviews SJC rules

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was convened on Saturday to review the rules of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Presided over by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the meeting decided to consider the modalities of the appointment of judges in the superior judiciary and to finalise the draft rules by Dec 29.

Those who participated in the meeting included Justice Manzoor Malik, Justice Nadeem Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Justice Shahzad Ahmed Khan, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Akhtar Hussain, Ziaul Hassan, Rahib Khan, Ahmed Farooq Khattak, and Qazi Rafiuddin Babar.

It may be recalled that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa had constituted a committee on Dec 4 to review the rules of the Supreme Judicial Council.

## Solangi-Ethiopian-Envoy

# Solangi for advancing relations with Africa including Ethiopia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen diplomatic, political, parliamentary, and trade relations with all countries in Africa, including Ethiopia.

In a meeting with Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula, the minister said engaging Africa was a crucial component of Pakistan's foreign policy. It was the priority of the government of Pakistan to further strengthen its trade relations with African nations through economic diplomacy, he added.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional and global issues, Engaging Africa policy, media collaboration, and bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia in the areas of politics, economy, and culture.

The minister said Pakistan and Ethiopia had long-standing brother-



ly relations steeped in shared history and mutual interest. The media was imperative for access to information, he said while underscoring the need for strengthening media cooperation between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Solangi stressed the exchange of media delegations between the two countries that would eventually enable the journalist communities of Pakistan and Ethiopia to learn from each other's

experiences. He recalled the visit of over 70 Pakistani businessmen to Ethiopia in March and the trip of an Ethiopian delegation to Pakistan this year. There was also a need to arrange media and cultural delegations between the two countries, he added.

The minister acknowledged the economic progress made by Ethiopia in the recent past.