**Barkat Rice Mills** 

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 Mullicl Saturday urged that the United Nations bodies, world powers and human rights organizations should do more and raise their PTV news channel, she regretted, "The international community is mysteriously quite over the Indian SC verdict... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 3, Sunday, December 17, 2023



🏏 @daily\_spokesman 🗗









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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



# 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 action particularly highlight- change the status of Jammu & ed that enduring solution to the

Pakistan Army and contingents ed about the ongoing Kashmir 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

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 unilat-The COAS during his inter- eral and illegal Indian efforts to

Kashmir as it is in violation of issue lies in Two State Solution. UN Security Council Resolu-

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 highlight-

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

#### 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

跨 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. India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, and a series mentation of its resolutions of subsequent steps, are aimed at altering the demographic structure and political land- end the grave and systematscape of IIOJK. The clear ic human rights violations in goal of these unlawful steps IIOJK and to reverse all its is to convert Kashmiris into a illegal and unilateral actions disempowered community in in IIOJK undertaken since 5 their own land. Foreign Minis-

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 impleon Jammu and Kashmir dispute; and to urge India to August 2019.

## Parvez Elahi demands levelplaying field for PTI candidates

RAWALPINDI: Demanding an 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 Razzaq Khan and

According to sources, Elahi's meeting with his lawyers centered toral strategy. Commenting on SC the ECP, Parvez Elahi, who is also dent, observed that all conspiracies

# visit to the UN Headquarters.

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

Chaudhry Shamshad Malhi.

on legal matters and PTI's elecjudgement on the appeal filed by the PTI's Punjab chapter presiaimed to delay the general elections had died down.

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

ISLAMABAD: Fawad Chaudhry - who served in the PTI government as minister and remained a vocal loyalist of the then prime

jail where he is being housed after ed by the anti-graft body officials nominated in a case pertaining to cheating and threatening a citi-

Chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Nazir minister - was arrested on Ahmed Butt issued warrants for corruption charges in the Adiala the purpose which were execut-

local court in Islamabad.

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

his detention in a case involving after obtaining permission from a misuse of powers and corruption. They were required to interro-

gate 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.

## **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 the students, he added.



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

## **President & PM condoles** demise of Amir of Kuwait



跨 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 of condolence, he said today the Islamic world was deprived of a great leader and ardent supporter of Islamic Ummah.

He said, "I express my heartfelt condolences to the royal family and people of Kuwait." The government and people

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.

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.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

## 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 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.

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 Minister's Office today, announced 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 activegy, 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 press conference.

Acknowledging the cooperation of ly working on artificial rain technolo-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

# Cadet College Faisalabad gives media brief on grooming of cadets



FAISALABAD: Cadet College Faisalabad arranged a media brief to Beurou 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 messing 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

腾 🛮 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

**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 Safeer 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

Mazir Adam Khan Wazir

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





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.



## 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 tionately and in this connecture the brokers who are eroding vocal platform of the business integral part of agriculture tion, we must make concerted the financial strength of the community. Rana Saleem but the Government is not ready to accept its due status. holders. He stressed the need the problems identified by the ing committee assured that a He mentioned drastic reduction in the prices of ingredi-



fix the poultry rates and said resolved at the highest level. farmers would be established

ents used for poultry feed. He that farmers should sell out He also introduced FCCI and lamented that the prices of their birds of 2.5kg weight. poultry feed and vaccine have He said that steps should not been reduced propor- also be taken to discourage efforts by involving all stake- poultry sector. He assured that for mutual consultation to standing committee would be dedicated WhatsApp group of

said that maximum farmers should get its membership to enhance their strength at this Akhtar Convenor FCCI stand-

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 FCCI. Later a question answer session was also held

while the meeting concluded

tivity. He also endorsed the

idea that the rate committee

should fix rates by calculat-

ing the distance of Toba Tek

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

**B** 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.

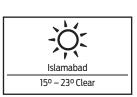
He further said that since we belong to an educational institution, if we as teachers improve our educational

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.





SERVICES		
Namaz	z Timings	
	5:36 am	
Zohr	12:03 pm	
Asr	3:23 pm	
Maghrih	5:01 pm	

## EMEDGENCY

EIVIER	KGENC I
Rescue (Police)	) 15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Ra	awalpindi/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Am	bulance 1122 &
& Rescue Servi	ces 4451122
Motorway Police	e9266044
Motorway Police	e9270601-20

#### **Women Police Stations**

214115115		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	
<b>ENOUIRY</b>		

-117-1	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	. 9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666
<b>DEPARTM</b>	IENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ....0331-5022125

## **Pakistan** airports are likely to equipped with e-gates facility

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to streamline the immigration process for passengers. Pakistan soon to introduce e-gates at Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad airports.

According to the details, the authorities of Pakistan are currently engaged in discussion with the relevant company for the installation of e-gates at three international airports in the country.

Sources close to the development claimed that the e-gates are soon to be installed at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Allama İqbal Airport in Lahore, and Islamabad International Airport, enhancing self-immigration services for its passen-

Similar to airports in developing countries in other regions, travelers at the designated airports in Pakistan will have the convenience of utilizing automated self-service immigration, Sources said.

The initiative will eliminate the need for queues and allow smooth passage through the e-gates.

## **Sufi opera**

# **Minister for Culture** Jamal Shah inaugurates Saira Arts Academy

#### 跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Jamal Shah has officially inaugurated Saira Arts Academy (SAA) in Lahore.

Federal minister Jamal Shah opened the academy with his best wishes and prayers for the fulfilment of SAAs vision, citing that music can address many of society's greatest issues.

Talking to media, the minister highlighted the importance of Saira Arts Academy saying it was very important to establish art institutions for youth and the Saira Arts Academy was specially created for them.

Establishment of the Saira Arts academy was an initiative of the world's first sufi and Pakistan first opera star Saira Peter that would usher a new era of music industry in the country.

SAA's founding Director, Pakistan's first opera singer and the world's first sufi opera voice, Saira Peter said SAA is the grassroots initiative of young people who wanted to create a secure, nour-



ishing space for new artists, especially talented female singers, to develop their music skills. She remarked that Lahore is a great city for Art lovers, with a legacy of centuries of musical creation.

Director Saira Peter further revealed that she has been approached by a large  $\,$ number of music aficionados requesting she open an academy catering to students of opera and Western and Paki-

stani classical singing.

In his speech Prof. Zafar Francis, Founding Chair of SAA's mother organisation The Sarah Foundation, explained how music is both scientific and spiritual, especially sufi music which produces purity and peace.

He stated that SAA aims to communicate these Pakistani values to the whole

## Gem & jewellery

ISLAMABAD: People are taking interest in gem stones on stall during Gems Jewelry Show at Pak-China Friendship Center, in Federal Capital.



## **™** MoU

## Roots Millennium Education Group Signs MoU with Constructor University

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Roots Millennium Education Group Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with the renowned Constructor University in Bremen Germany, to promote Global Educational Partnership says a press release.

In a resounding stride toward global educational connectivity, Roots Millennium Education Group solidifies a groundbreaking alliance with Constructor University, signifying a leap forward in fostering a more interconnected educational sphere. Roots Millennium



Education Group has been a pioneer in adopting modern learning systems, integrating top-ranked, English-laninternational curricula, introducing languages like German and Mandarin, and fostering ny. With its interdisciplinary cultural exchanges.

Constructor University Founded in 2001, is a guage, private university, with a campus in Bremen, Germaapproach, advanced digital

learning tools and accredited programs, it equips students with fundamental knowledge, critical thinking, and practical skills to build their professional career and address the world's most pressing challenges. The University emphasizes a synergetic and entrepreneurial spirit, offering program mentoring from top-tier professors and industry experts. Partner collaborations include the Constructor Institute in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, Carnegie Mellon, the National University of Singapore, the University of Geneva, and industry references such as JetBrains and ChemDiv.

# Attack police operations against drug dealers, five accused arrested

#### 👺 Raza Nagyi

ATTOCK: According to the details, on the instructions of District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, while cracking down on the scourge of narcotics, police station Hazro recovered 2000 grams of hashish from notorious drug dealer Mamreez Khan son of Parvez Mahmood Sukna Hameed Hazro. Jund police recovered 1600 grams of hashish from drug dealer Asif Rizwan son of Muhammad Afzal Sukna, Jund. While police station Sadar Attock recovered 1050 grams of hashish from the possession of notorious drug dealer Ashfaq Ahmed son of Mirza Khan Sukna Mari Attock, in another operation Sadar Attock police arrested the suspect Kamran Ali son of Sharaft Ali from Sukna Mari Attock. 530 grams of hashish was recovered from his possession. Cases were registered against the accused under the Narcotics Act and the accused were decorated with iron ornaments. On this occasion, DPO Attock said that drug dealers are the scourge of the society and Attock Police will kill them by exterminating them.

## Four sack-packed bodies found at Ghazi Brotha $\~water\, channel$

#### 👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Four sacked packed bodies were recovered from different locations of Ghazi Brotha water channel in the mutilated condition in the limits of Attock Saddar Police station. Police sources said that as water level in the water channel has decreased, four bodies packed in gunny bags surfaced in the water channel in different locations of water channel. The police shifted the dead bodies through rescue 1122 ambulances to District Headquarters Hospital Attock for post-mortem and identification. Police sources said that all the bodies are of the men in age between 35 to 50 years and all are beyond recognition as all are in mutilated condition. Attock Saddar Police registered four different cases and launched further investigation.

## Veteran Musician and Algoza Player Achar Samejo dies at 70



#### 腾 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Eminent musician of SIndh Ustad Achar who gained unparalleled fame as Algoza player across the country passed away at his residence in Jati town in the early hours of Saturday. His family source told local reporters that the seasoned Alghoza player had been bed-ridden for the past few months following multiple health complications, mainly kidney related diseases.

The veteran player leaves behind a great vacuum in the art of Alghoza playing. 70 year old Achar Samejo dedicated a major part of his life to music and gained unprecedented recognition across the province.

He was born in Jati in a family that always struggled to make both ends meet. His love for music and playing Alghoza nourished during his teenage years while grazing cattle. His mentor and trainer Khamiso Khan Jamali motivated him to become a musician and play Alghoza, a woodwind flute-like instrument that had always held a key status in the history of Sindhi folk music.

Achar got an opportunity to perform on Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan in 1978. He collaborated with several singers on stage including Allan Faqir, Suleman Shah, Ustad Muhammad Yousif, Anwar Wistro and others.

Besides that he also gave solo performances by playing Alghoza in front of massive gatherings organized by the Culture department and Government of Sindh.

Achar Samejo visited Germany, UK, UAE and China where he earned accolades through his performance. People belonging to different walks of life expressed deep grief at the demise of the noted artist and the indifferent attitude of the culture department towards him.

Senior Journalist Haji Zahid Ishaque Sommro who interviewed Ustad Achar several times said that; Ustad was displeased with the attitude of the culture department and worried about the diminishing trend of Alghoza-playing.

"He could play the tunes of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's poetry on

Alghoza with ease" he said. In recognition of his contributions he was bestowed with the Shah Latif and Sachal Sarmast Award. Scores of people from different parts of province converged at Baba Mugarbeen graveyard to attend his funeral.

## SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik advocates for future-ready Pakistani workforce at world's first Global Labor Market

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a historic moment, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, represented the voice of the Government of Pakistan at the world's first Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC) hosted at the King Abdul Aziz International Convention Centre in Riyadh by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development Saudi Arabia. Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik was warmly received and hosted by Saudi Minister of Human Resources and Social Devel-

opment, Ahmad bin Sulaiman employment. SAPM also unveiled Al-Rajhi, throughout GLMC which was attended by over 6,000 participants and representatives from 40 countries. Addressing labor ministers from 26 countries during the ministerial roundtable conference, SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik stressed that Pakistan possesses a vast pool of unskilled. semi-skilled, and highly skilled labor ready to meet the demands and requirements of the global job market. He underscored the importance for both the participants of ministerial roundtable conference and foreign employers to recognize the mutual benefits of engaging the highly competitive Pakistani workforce for

strategies aimed at preparing the Pakistani workforce for the future. These strategies encompass the revitalization of STEM education, enhancement of digital literacy, and the establishment of public-private partnerships for practical tech exposure.

He highlighted the evolving nature of today's job market, emphasizing the need for new skills for future jobs and the emergence of new professions. On the sidelines of GLMC, SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik is scheduled to hold separate meetings with labor ministers from United Arab Emirates, Greece, and Oman to discuss employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce and matters of mutual interest. Meetings are also planned with Ambassador Paula Narvez, President ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, and H. E Gilbert Houngbo, Director-General of ILO. The Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC) serves as a vital platform for experts, specialists, and labor market stakeholders to engage in discussions about current and future international market challenges, proposing innovative solutions. Launched in Riyadh by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, GLMC attracted partic-



ipation from prominent entities, Human Resources and Social including Takamol, Ministry of Development, Human Resourc-

es Development Fund, Riyadh Air, NEOM, Riyadh Airports Company, Saudi Investment Bank, National Council for Safety and Health, BAE Systems Saudi Arabia, Oracle, Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities, Mudad, Al-Rajhi Bank, Bank Albilad, Riyad Bank, and many others. Mr. Jawad Sohrab Malik's dynamic presence at GLMC underlines Pakistan's commitment to developing skilled workers and forging strategic partnerships in the global labor sector. His active engagement throughout the conference resonates as a powerful testament to Pakistan's proactive role in shaping the future of work.

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## **Instability**

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 to-

# SC thwarted all attempts to disrupt elections

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 the 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

n the 15th of December the evening, forming a three-member regarding the training of DRs and DROs. manage institutions, it remains commitbench 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

the integrity and timeliness of the elec-

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

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 Elec-

tion 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

uncompromising dedication to ensure 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 microted 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



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

#### **Sheikh Abdul Mateen**

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

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

contributions to the numerous articles that made up the UDHR.

Moreover, India profess of having legal 0 December 2023 marks the 75th 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 Menon, who made a series of substantive 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 IIOJK 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 IIOJK. 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

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

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

hanges can come with change in attitude and not by mere changing 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 station considers themselves an expert 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

To be continued

#### 跨 Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Rajioon

## 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

but announced the start of a 40-day official mourning period and a three-

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 in modern Kuwaiti history with a series

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 fond-"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 Authorities gave no cause of death, heir apparent in 2006, he was serving as defence minister when Iraqi troops invaded the oil-rich emirate in 1990. He day closure of government departments. also worked as interior minister in the face of challenges from armed groups.

> family, he had a reputation for modesty and largely maintained a low profile. "He's known as the emir of pardons,"

Popular within the ruling al-Sabah

al-Saif said. "He has led the largest reconciliation

**Kuwait bids** 

farewell to the Amir 📣

of amnesties, release of prisoners and ment again to all voices, and opened up citizenships. He has also opened up to to taking away from the government's

which was really crucial to the positionality of the people and the popular opin-

#### 'Insider, outsider'

Successor Sheikh Meshaal is "an insider and an outsider at the same time", al-Saif said.

"He has been accompanying emirs in all of their decisions and government practices. He comes in with a view to preserve what Kuwait has had and to moving it forward. Succession has been smooth in Kuwait. It is guided by a constitution and this process will unfold as we speak in the coming days,"

When Sheikh Nawaf became emir three years ago, he had to steer Kuwait's economy through a crisis caused by a fall in oil prices that saw the country's credit rating cut by international agencies in 2020.

He acknowledged the "serious" challenges in his inauguration speech at the the opposition and opened the parlia-role voting for the speaker of the house, time and the government spent heavily

- doubling public debt in 18 months to guide the state through the COVID-19 pandemic. He made few dramatic changes, however.

In late November, Sheikh Nawaf was rushed to hospital for an unspecified illness, the state news agency KUNA reported. In the time since, the tiny, oil-rich nation had been waiting for news about his health.

Sheikh Nawaf had handed over power several times during his rule to his deputy while facing medical checks and other issues. State-run media had previously reported that he travelled to the United States for unspecified medical checks in March 2021.

Born in 1937, Sheikh Nawaf was the fifth son of Kuwait's late ruler from 1921 to 1950, Sheikh Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

He received secondary schooling in Kuwait but did not go on to higher education. He started his political career at 25 as governor of Hawalli province.

## The East Pakistan Tragedy

KARACHI: A speaker of a seminar titled 'The East Pakistan Tragedy Revisited: Contemporary Concerns' organized by Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA).



US warns North Korea against nuclear attacks

Reuters

The United States has warned North Korea that any nuclear attack against the nation or its allies is unacceptable and will result in the end of the Kim regime, a joint US-South Korean statement said on Saturday.

"The U.S. side reiterated that any nuclear attack by the DPRK against the ROK will be met with a swift, overwhelming, and decisive response," the statement said.

The second U. S.-Republic of Korea Nuclear Consultative Group convened in Washington on Friday.

South Korea are planning a comprehensive guideto draw up joint guidelines



by the middle of next year and establish an integrated system to deter North Korea's nuclear weapons, Yonhap news agency earlier reported.

Washington and Seoul The United States and have decided to complete line by next year on how

on nuclear defence strategy to contain and respond to Pyongyang's nuclear threat together, Yonhap reported, citing Kim Tae-hyo, South Korea's deputy national security adviser speaking to reporters in the U.S.

The guideline is expected to include methods of sharing sensitive information related to North Korea's

nuclear weapons, the consultation process in the event of a nuclear crisis, and realtime communication channels between the two countries' leaders, it said.

The U.S. and South Korea are also expected to include nuclear operation exercises in next year's joint military drills, Yonhap said.

North Korea may testlaunch an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this month, which is a nuclear threat regardless of its range because it can carry a nuclear warhead, Kim had said on Friday.

North Korea has developed and tested a range of ballistic missiles that can reach targets in South Korea, Japan, and the U.S.

## UK PM Sunak warns Europe over asylum seekers

**Reuters** 

ROME: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Saturday that he would push for global reforms to the asylum system and warned the threat of growing number of refugees could "overwhelm" parts of Europe.

In a speech in Italy, Sunak made some of his strongest criticisms of the global asylum system as he tries to revive his government's plans to

send refugees to live in Rwanda. Sunak made the comments at a political festival organised by the party of his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, where he warned that some "enemies" were deliberately "driving people to our shores to try and destabilise our socie-

"If we do not tackle this problem, the numbers will only grow. It will overwhelm our countries and our capacity to help those who actually need our help the most,"



"If that requires us to update our laws and lead an international conversation to amend the postwar frameworks around asylum, then we must do that."

Britain's former Home Secretary Suella Brayerman earlier this year called for changes to United Nations Refugee Convention that obliges all signatories to grant on Tuesday when he won a vote in asylum to people fleeing persecu-

the biggest legal barriers to the lion from some of his lawmakers.

British government's efforts to stop small boat crossings and to send would-be asylum-seekers to Rwanda for processing.

Britain and Italy

announced plans on Saturday to jointly co-finance the journey home for migrants stranded in Tunisia, according to statements from both countries, but did not say how much would money was being provided.

Last month, Italy agreed with Albania to build sea migrant reception centres in Albania to host migrants trying to come ashore in an effort to try to bring down numbers that have nearly doubled in the past year.

A few days ago, Sunak survived a major threat to his leadership parliament on an emergency bill to revive his plan to send asylum seek-The provision has been one of ers to Rwanda, seeing off a rebel-

## Wang Yi meets with Saudi, Iranian deputy foreign ministers in Beijing

😂 News Desk

BEIJING: Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has put forward three suggestions for continuing to advance the process of improving relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Wang, also director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, made the suggestions during a meeting with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Elkhereiji and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani, who are in China for the first meeting of the China-Saudi Arabia-Iran trilateral joint committee, CGTN reported.

First, Wang called for unwavering adherence to the strategic choice of reconciliation. It is hoped that the two sides will continue to enhance mutual trust through dialogue and consultation, and achieve lasting and comprehensive good-neigh-



borly friendship, he said.

Second, Wang suggested further progress in improving relations. China welcomes the two sides to actively explore cooperation and expand personnel exchanges in such fields as economy, trade, security, and people-to-people exchanges, and stands ready to strengthen exchanges with the two sides to help improve their relations,

two sides should reject exter-

nal interference. The destiny of the Middle East should be in the hands of the people of regional countries, he said, China has always stood on the side of Arab and Muslim countries and supported the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestin-

ian people, Wang said. During the meeting, Wang also said China always supports the people of the Middle East in in continuing to take steps to independently exploring devel-Third, Wang said that the opment paths, supports Middle sides discussed trilateral coop-

together to solve regional security issues, and supports Saudi Arabia and Iran in continuously advancing the process of improving relations. China is willing to take this

trilateral meeting as an opportunity to inject new impetus into the good-neighborly friendship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and make new contributions to promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, he added.

Elkhereiji and Bagheri Kani thanked China for hosting the meeting, saying Saudi Arabia and Iran welcome and support China's greater role in the development of the Middle East.

During the trilateral meeting, Saudi Arabia and Iran expressed their commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing agreement. The Chinese side stressed that it will continue to play a constructive role and support Saudi Arabia and Iran strengthen relations. The three Eastern countries in working eration in various fields.

## 22 National Final Teams from 11 Middle Eastern & Central Asian Countries Compete for the Regional Final of Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: The Regional Final of the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Middle East & Central Asia is scheduled to kick off in the Kingdom of Bahrain in partnership with Bahrain Polytechnic and the University of Bahrain, from December 19-21, 2023. The event will bring together exceptional young talents from across the region, inspiring them to embrace digital technology and become future industry leaders in the rapidly evolving digital landscape, hence bridging the digital gap and paving the way for vibrant digital economies in their coun-

The seventh edition of Huawei's long-standing flagship ICT talent development initiative will witness

Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman. Since its launch in 2017, Huawei's ME & CA ICT Competition has become the largest and most influential initiative in the region, a powerful program for cultivating ICT talent and improving ME & CA countries' national competitiveness with ICT future leaders. More than 100,000 college students have signed up for the first six competitions.

Shunli Wang, Vice President of Huawei Middle East & Central Asia, said: "ICT talents form the crucial backbone of Middle East and Central Asia's digital economy and Huawei is dedicated to providing students with a platform for knowledge transfer, 22 teams from 11 Middle Eastern healthy competition, and exchange

& Central Asian countries, includ- of innovative ideas, focusing on ing Pakistan, Iraq, UAE, Bahrain, enhancing their ICT knowledge and practical skills. The Huawei ICT Competition underlines our commitment to nurturing young minds across the region while being a focal platform that brings together visionary government leaders, forward-thinking academia, and enthusiastic students." The Huawei ICT Competition

2023-2024 Middle East & Central Asia chapter kicked off in August this year and covered 21 countries in the region. With the support of UNESCO, and more than 20 ministries, operators, and industry partners, Huawei has attracted more than 27,500 students from over 600 universities across the region. This year's edition has achieved the highest level of participation ever in the competition's history. The 2022-2023 regional



edition featured 15 teams shortlisted from an initial list of 19,300 participants representing 472 universities and 11 countries across the Middle East and Central Asia.

The regional final of the Huawei ICT Competition is a culmination of four-month-long intense national-level contests that took place across 11 markets. 66 students and 20 tutors, divided into 22 teams, emerged victoria and hands-on ICT skills, as well is targeted at working with Bahrain to be crowned ME & CA winners and proceed to the global finals that will take place in May 2024 in China. Each team comprises of three students and one tutor. Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, and Saudi have three teams each, while Jordan, Kazakhstan, and Bahrain have two teams each. One team is participating from the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait

The 7th edition now features two more tracks for Cloud and Computing, which provides students with a wider platform to display professional skills. Students will participate in the Practice Competition that includes the Network, Cloud, and Computing Tracks. The competition will examine students' theoretical knowledge

Participants will be ranked according to their scores for lab exams.

The Opening Ceremony of the edition of the Huawei ICT Competition Middle East & Central Asia (ME & CA) will take place on December 19, 2023, at Bahrain Polytechnic. The students will participate in a written and practical exam on the campus, while the professors from universities Instructor Summit. The Closing and Awarding Ceremony will be held on December 21, 2023, at the University of Bahrain. A panel discussion featuring regional ICT leaders on the topic "Building the ICT talent ecosystem" will be held during the event as well.

Huawei ICT Competition

ous and will now battle it out in as their ability to work in a team. UNESCO, government authorities, colleges and universities in the Middle East & Central Asia to identify, support and grow regional final of the 2023-2024 the future leaders of ICT. The program attempts to bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace, thus enhancing students' future employment opportunities in the ICT sector through knowledge sharing on the latest ICT developments, international trends, and hands-on skills across the region will join the development training at Huawei's state-of-the-art labs, R&D centers and facilities. Huawei promotes innovation

and creativity among Middle East & Central Asia ICT students as they compete to win the national and regional finals and then the coveted International finals in

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



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 Bussines and Cards Feroz Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Amiad 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 Azerbaiian 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 integrat-

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

**Example 2** 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-



Speaking on the occasion, Augusto Palmieri, First Secretary of the Embassy of Italy, and Salvatore Parano, Director, Italian Trade ing advanced technology solutions and Paki-Agency said that Italy's annual exports are over stan can benefit its economy by developing present on the occasion.

ness and investment opportunities in Pakistan. 700 billion euros and both countries should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results. They said that Italy is provid-

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 bilat-

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

### Charpai

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



# 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 potential for success and devel- Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said he



Reflecting on investor confidence, Chairman Engro Hussain Dawood said that "A country's

the Pakistan Stock Exchange for opment is directly proportional playing an instrumental role in to its ability to speak the truth. encouraging the corporate sector 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.

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

## 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

candidate for the election help pull the country out of Muhammad Ali Sheikh these economic issues. He promised that the Panel said the FPCCI elections are would raise all the business issues at all relevant forms, day only but it had now 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 presidential leadership at every tier could no more confined to voting 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

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 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 conces-

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

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

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

## 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 ronmental degradation. This gathering of limited access to Islamic financial CIBE) joined prominent religious leaders and representatives at United Nation Nations-28 at the Faith Pavilion 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 hold immense potential to mobilize Bwango (United Nations Convention their members and inspire collective to Combat Desertification), and Alhu- action towards land restoration and da CIBE CEO, Muhammad Zubair, preservation on a global scale. And highlighted the critical role of faith Beyond the Environment: Land restocommunities in driving meaningful ration is not just about environmenaction on environmental issues. They tal protection; it's about social justice, also emphasized the importance of economic opportunities, and spiritual

mobilizing collective action, promot-fulfillment for all. ing sustainable practices, and investing in innovative solutions to combat enviserves 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

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of Alhuda CIBE, highlighted the impact 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), Mugharasah (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 ble future.

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 sustaina-

# 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-armer 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

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

Sports Day



length and struck Labuschagne on the

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

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

"He was just with the doc and physio chagne was hit, admitted his concern.

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 "incredi-

"It didn't look pretty," Khawaja said,

bly 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

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

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

## 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

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 the 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

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



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."

### Andreescu 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

"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.

for the last hour just chatting through it, doing a few tests on the finger," paceman Josh Hazlewood told reporters at stumps

was pretty sore I think.

Usman Khawaja, who was at the non-striker's end when Marnus Labus-

with Australia leading by 300 runs. "I daresay there might be a scan ... he

confirmed a full diagnosis was expected in the morning.



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 added. bowlers to have ever played the game – will work with [Moham- the bowling coach of the Pakimad Hasnain , [Mohammad

Amir , Mohammad Wasim

Jr ] and co," the statement



Notably, Shaun Tait served as stan Men's cricket team from February 2022 to January 2023. Follow us on our Official

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 Glad-

iators 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

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



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Both sides went hard at each other they come."

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 jubiliation. "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

# The Spokesman

## Addressing

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



# Insurance vital for welfare of community: Dr Arif Alvi

#### **E** City Desk

LAHORE: President Dr ance is highly important for consciousness, he said and welfare of the community and

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

He said that collective ance in the country for larger benefit of people.

taken to formalise insurance for compassion of humans.

Insurance was important in

and added that there was need was not good at all. to bridge the trust gap.

Basic concept behind Arif Alvi has said that insur- insurance was community added that old age insurance was a state encouraged phenomenon.

Dr Arif Alvi said, "Employtion is a social insurance institute while Benazir Income Support Programme is also a financial support scheme." efforts were required to He said that it was basic increase quantum of insur- function of the government to provide level playing field to all segments of society for He said that steps had been better development.

> The president said that Scandinavian countries get high taxes and give more

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 practiaed.

He said that he used to think that wherever there was

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 different ways but people did benefits, adding that if any a democracy there would be contest case of the poor and not trust the product, he said country follow prejudices, this compassion towards human- 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

## Siraj wants fair, timely general elections

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

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 economic crises was to hold elections try towards darkness," Siraj added.



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 steer the country out of political and the elections are pushing the coun-

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

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.

no one could hold back their tears



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 Murtaza Solangi said adding adopted and the terrorists were

# 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.

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 paidup capital and an initial cash security deposit of Rs20 million.

Work Licenses with Class – I requir-



According to the updated aviation 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 -The policy further covers Aerial I requires a Rs 5 million initial cash security deposit.

## National aviation policy: Mushaal urges world to do more, raise voice to do more, raise voice against continues injustices in IIOJK

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 (IIOJ&K).

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 IIOJ&K."

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 reso-

"No doubt despite the worst atrocistruggle of the Kashmiris is gaining stressed.



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

"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 fundamenties by the Indian forces, the freedom tal right to self-determination," she

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

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif has said that to have 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 Investment



Facilitation Council, the up-coming 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

跨 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.



issues, the ambassador also invited Besides discussing Pak-Afghan the JUI-F chief to Afghanistan.

#### *Fustice Mansoor* Ali Shah-led meeting reviews SJC rules

跨 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 Ibra him, 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



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 Ethiopia had long-standing brother- and Ethiopia to learn from each other's in the recent past.

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

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## Court rejects NAB's plea for extending physical remand of ex-PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD: The Accountability Court on Saturday turned down NAB's plea for extending the physical remand of the former PTI Chairman in the Toshakhana case. The court, Judge Muhammad

Bashir, conducted the hearing at Adiala Jail, rejecting NAB's request for a 3-day physical remand and Court yesterday. instead placed the ex-PTI chairman in judicial remand for 14 days. Chairman PTI, Barrister Gohar ary to conduct elections.

Khan, emphasised the party's commitment to a transparent election, expressing concerns about alleged attempts at political revenge through baseless cases and highlighting the importance of upholding basic human rights during legal proceedings.

He also said that none of their lawyers appeared in the Supreme

He said that the PTI had demanded ROs from the judici-