

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے محمد بن صالح نے یہاں کیا ہے
کہ ہم کو اپنے لئے جری کو شہید نے
دی کہ ہم سے فرا سے یہاں کیا کہ
نے شہید سے ہوا انہوں نے عبد اللہ بن عمرو
سے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ
کہ ساتھ میں کہ انہوں نے فرمایا کہ
کی کہتا ہے جان لینا اور «بئس العوس»
قصد اجماعی قسم کھانے کو کہتے ہیں۔
(بیتنازی ص 675)
Barkat Rice Mills
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Governor Kundi emphasizes education as key to peace, progress

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday highlighted the critical role of education and awareness in fostering peace and progress within society. The Governor said this at a welcome event for intermediate students at Punjab College, D-9 Campus in Rawalpindi.



World-class Green-Tech Hub in offing to transform Pakistan's energy landscape, says PM's climate aide

Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as an state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country. (Details on Page 8)

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94th Saudi National Day

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, cutting the cake during 94th national Day ceremony of Saudi Arabia, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan committed to further strengthening ties with KSA: President

Arabia on their National Day, the president highlighted that both brotherly countries enjoyed excellent relations in various fields and had always supported each other during challenging times. The president expressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He remarked that the bold initiatives taken by the Crown Prince would propel the country towards greater progress and prosperity. The president wished Saudi Arabia continued success on the transformative journey. They would work together for the advancement of their nations, the unity of the Muslim Ummah, and the promotion of peace and stability in the region and beyond, he added. The president on the occasion also gave Ghilaf-e-Ka'aba to Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem.

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the areas of economy, trade, defence, culture, education and people-to-people contacts. The president expressed these views while addressing the reception hosted by the Saudi Embassy to celebrate the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA. The event was attended by provincial governors, Punjab chief minister, federal ministers, diplomats, dignitaries, and civil and military officers. While extending heartfelt felicitations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and the people of Saudi

SC issues detailed judgement in reserved seats case

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Monday issued its detailed judgement in the reserved seats case, penned by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and spanning 70 pages.

The detailed verdict comes two months after the full court bench's decision on July 12, where a majority of 8 judges ruled in favor of awarding reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The top court ruled in favor of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), declaring the party eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

A 13-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case. Other notable justices included Mansoor Ali Shah, Shahid Waheed, Ayesha Malik, Irfan Saadat, Athar Minallah, Muneeb Akhtar, Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Muhammad Ali



Mazhar.

Eight judges who gave a majority verdict included Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid

Waheed and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan.

The detailed judgement issued today, available on SC website, has ruled that PTI was a political party which contested the Feb 8 elections and won seats in the National and provincial assemblies.

"The reserved seats should be given to the PTI," the court ruled. The apex court further observed that the ECP had failed to perform its constitutional duties.

Moreover, the top court has rebuked two judges, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, for their "unbecoming conduct" in a dissenting note dated August 3, 2024.

The Supreme Court in its detailed judgement expressed disappointment and concern over the two judges' remarks, which allegedly "undermined the institution's integrity and obstructed the administration of justice."

The 70-page judgement states: "Before parting with the judgment, we feel constrained to observe, with a heavy heart, that our two learned colleagues in the minority (Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan) have made certain observations in their dissenting judgment dated 3 August 2024,

which do not befit Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the highest court of the land." "After expressing their view that the order we passed on 12 July 2024 is not in accordance with the Constitution and that we ignored and disregarded its mandate, they observed that: [1] f the said 39 plus 41 persons take any step on the basis of this judgment which is not in accordance with the Constitution, they may lose their seats as returned candidates on the basis of violation of the Constitution,"90 and that "any order of the Court which is not in consonance with the constitutional provisions is not binding upon any other constitutional organ of the State."

The judgement also added that the ECP, as a guarantor, cannot challenge the court order as an aggrieved person and contest the case as a party.

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The judgement also added that the ECP, as a guarantor, cannot challenge the court order as an aggrieved person and contest the case as a party.

PM extends greetings on 94th Saudi National Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended greetings to the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the country celebrated its 94th National Day on Monday.

The prime minister, in his message, said that under the leadership of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom had emerged as a great country of the 21st century, according to a PM Office press release.

Calling Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 a role model for the world, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the Kingdom was playing a leading role in the developing world in business, technology, economy and other fields.

He said that Pakistan and



Saudi Arabia enjoyed historic relations based on religious and cultural values and both countries supported each other through tough times.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the entire Pakistani nation was grateful for Saudi Arabia's support in the recent stabilization of Pakistan's economy and expressed the hope that both countries would continue to enjoy cordial ties in the future as well.

Khan says his stance on Israel aligns with Pakistan's position



reaction to an article in a leading Israeli publication by foreign policy analyst Harry Richer. He alleged that Khan gave signs that he would favour a normalisation of ties between Pakistan and Israel, however, the military's tough stance stands in the way of such a change.

Pakistan does not have diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv, and believes in a "two-state solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions as well as international law, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of Palestine".

The former prime minister stated that any talks with Israel should be held after Gaza ceasefire and reiterated the country's demand for a two-state solution. He said that propaganda has been "rampant" since the article's publication.

He added that the article mentioned his "credibility" in the West and Muslim world.

Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik appointed DG ISI

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed the Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence.

Lt General Malik will assume charge of his duties on September 30.

He is currently serving as the Adjutant General in the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Lt General Malik has commanded an infantry division in Balochistan and an infantry brigade in Waziristan.

Malik is a graduate of Fort Leavenworth and Royal College of Defence Studies. He also won the sword of honour after his course.

Lt General Nadeem Anjum has been serving as the DG ISI since 2021 and was given a one-year extension in 2023.

ECP meets for fifth time to discuss reserved seats decision

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is holding its fifth meeting today, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, to discuss the Supreme Court's ruling on reserved seats.

Sources reveal that the ECP's legal

team is expected to present its final recommendations today, with a strong possibility of seeking further clarification from the Supreme Court.

The ECP is grappling with the implementation of the Supreme Court's recent ruling on reserved seats, which has thrown the political landscape into turmoil.

The ruling, if implemented, could have a significant impact on the composition of Parliament and the stability of the government.

The ECP's legal team is reportedly considering a request for further clarification from the Supreme Court on the specific aspects of the ruling that require interpretation.

Can the reserved seats ruling lead to fresh elections as Fazl suggested?

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan issued its detailed judgement in the reserved seats case on Monday. This decision has significantly weakened the government's ability to block the PTI's return to parliament, potentially posing a serious threat to its survival.

The ruling, if implemented, would not only make it impossible for the government to pass constitutional amendments but also potentially lead to its collapse. Some circles fear that if the same Supreme Court were to overturn election results in certain constituencies, the PML-N and PPP coalition government could lose power.

This raises the question of what options the government has left and how it can avoid implementing the ruling on specific seats.

Former Election Commission Secretary Kunwar Dilshad told Aaj News stated that the Election Commission could appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

People of Occupied Kashmir rejected the shameful elections: Pir Mazhar Saeed

Bureau Report

MUZZAFFARABAD: The Minister of Information of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has said that they accept criticism based on the truth with an open heart. are in flight of Article 505 of the Interim Constitution of Azad Jammu and Kashmir does not say that criticizing the government is a crime, it cannot suppress the truth, it is explained in this article to prevent the spread of hatred and chaos in the society through lies. If you see corruption or corruption in a government institution, you should point it out. It is a tragedy that the negative thing is news but the positive thing is not. Lies were spread against the Prime Minister in the media. The people of Occupied Kashmir have rejected the sham elections, they want to tell the Indian rulers that the struggle of Kashmiris has proved that 35A and 370 are not

part of the past, if the evil intentions of India do not stop, the map of India will also change. 1 lakh 19 thousand 318 applications have been collected under the Social Protection Welfare Program, no fee has been collected from anyone for this program. No one is being laid off, a committee has been formed as per the instructions of the Supreme Court regarding Adhoc employees. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the PID Complex.

Secretary Information and Forests Ansar Yaqub Khan and Director Information Muhammad Bashir Mirza were also present on this occasion. Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah said that the government has given funds to the areas affected by climate change on a priority basis, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has set an example by abolishing his discretionary powers and posts. Through NTS, 3000 youths were recruited as teachers purely on the basis of their



ability. Through PSC, children of poor parents were appointed to high posts. He said that despite the difficulties, the government has implemented the biometric attendance system in government offices, educational institutions and hospitals. Due to biometrics, the

attendance rate has reached 90%. 3 billion rupees were saved due to the implementation of E-Tendering. The Accountability Bureau was made fully functional. He said that Prime Minister Azad Kashmir during his visits to various districts of Heard the problems

and gave orders to solve them on occasion. The Minister of Information said that 100% utilization of development funds received by the interim government has been ensured. He said that despite the pressure, the government seized more than 200 official vehi-

cles which were being used by underprivileged persons and some ex-Lent officers.

He said that funds have been provided to the Department of Local Government and Rural Development to improve social infrastructure, and special measures have been taken to promote technical education. Steps have been taken to improve the investigation process including increasing the infrastructure, capacity, manpower of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police. A thousand new posts are being created in the police.

On questions from the media, Secretary Forests and Information Ansar Yaqub Khan said that the government wants to increase the price of dumped wood managed by the forest department and sell it at market rate. The government wants to sell the wood through tendering instead of auction, in this regard, all the necessary accessories are being fulfilled.

Damaged by fire

KARACHI: A large numbers of damaged vehicles were reportedly government-owned and parked in a plot in Clifton Block 1, Shireen Jinnah Colony, more than 30 vehicles were partially or fully destroyed by a fire early Monday morning, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Alumni of Women University inaugurate new classroom block at Katchery Campus

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pertaining to increasing demand of Admissions at Women University Multan and the need of new classrooms, Alumni WUM took swift timely action. Under the sponsorship by Taare Zameen Par Foundation, the Alumni and the former student of the Women University Ms. Fadia Kashif raised a huge amount of Rs.9 million to construct a new block and gifted it to the university. The new block has been named of "Block Taare Zameen Par". The inauguration ceremony for the upper storey of L-shape block was held at Katchery Campus. The chief guest was VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha, while the guest of honor was Ms. Fadia Kashif (Chairperson, Taare Zameen Par). The ceremony was attended by Registrar Prof Dr Mamoona Khan, Ms. Zahida Malik, (Taare Zameen Par), DSA Dr. Adeela Saeed, Asad Bhutta (Project Director) and officials of Taare Zameen Par Foundation. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha gave the laudatory address and thanked the alumni and Taare Zameen Par Foundation for constructing the much needed three big classrooms with an estimated cost of Rs.9 million. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha emphasized the project significance, and said that this new block "Taare



Zameen Par" is a fundamental need to expand and enhance our campus facilities. It will serve as a cornerstone for future academic achievements and will support the holistic development of our students.

Ms. Fadia Kashif said that the Women University is playing a very important role in the promotion of education in this district. She said we

hoped that the construction of the new block would help the institution provide even better educational facilities to students. Registrar Prof Dr Mamoona Khan said this new block represents a significant step forward in our commitment to academic excellence. This facility will feature modern classrooms, labs and dedicated research spaces, all aimed at fostering a culture

of innovation and academic growth. She told that Women University had set an example for other universities in South Punjab for motivating the Alumni for this noble work. The officials of Taaray Zameen Par assured the management that they will continue to play their active role for the improvement of the university in the future too.

Road Safety Campaign in schools, colleges under way in Multan: CTO

Zain Khan

MULTAN: Under the supervision of CTO Moolan, Sardar Mavarhan Khan, the Road Safety Campaign continues in Multan with the collaboration of school and college administrations alongside the traffic police. Security guards from schools and colleges have been selected under the Traffic Help

Volunteers Program to control traffic in front of these institutions. These guards are being trained on traffic laws and management.

In this regard, a training session for Traffic Help Volunteers was held at the Traffic Office in Police Lines, where Inspectors Muhammad Gaddafi, Suhail Ahmed, and Tasawwur Hussain provided briefings on road safety rules



and parking plans.

CTO Moolan has requested parents and school administrations to support the Road Safety Campaign and demonstrate responsible citizenship by adhering to road safety laws. It is also

urged to maintain proper checks on vehicles and rickshaws used for picking up and dropping off children. Ensure they are obligated to get their vehicles timely tuned to help control the possible smog situation.

Tajran Pakistan to protest against FBR's new taxes

Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: The Central Chairman of Tajran Pakistan, Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, has said that the FBR tried to block mobile phones including electricity and gas connections on September 30 for the implementation of cruel taxes. The community will be forced to surround the FBR offices, so the government and the FBR should negotiate with the representatives of business organizations and take better decisions in the light of their suggestions so that the country is not subjected to more crises and neither the people. They should be forced to take to the streets, he expressed these thoughts during the ceremony of giving the new function to the General Secretary of Anjuman Tajran Kachhari Road, Sheikh Faisal Mehmood, as the vice president of the central organization of Tajran District Multan, in which South Punjab. Patron Ali Sardar Aslam Javed Ganda Po, South Punjab President Sheikh Javed Akhtar, Multan District President Syed Jafar Ali Shah, Multan President Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, Anjuman Tajran Kachhari Road President Muhammad Raheel Asghar Qureshi, Anjuman Tajran Purani Sabzi Mandi President Sheikh Makki Qureshi, Khawaja Anisur Rahman Siddiqui, Haji Riaz Babar Qureshi and others participated. The middle class is also suffering from some problems, they have no leisure to fill the bills of electricity, gas, waste, for which it has become impossible to feed their children, but the ruling class is busy playing the tune of all good things.

Lahore High Court officials inspect bar buildings in connection with reconstruction of building



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Senior Additional Registrar of Lahore High Court Multan Bench Abid Rizwan Abid along with High Court Bar Association Multan President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla and General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi made a detailed visit to the bar places in connection with the reconstruction of Bar Association Multan Building. Gave a full briefing and thanked them. President of High Court Bar Association Multan Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla and General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi said that the development works of Bar Association Multan will be completed soon and High Court Bar Multan will be one of the beautiful bars of Punjab. Abid Rizwan Abid along with Bar President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla and General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi are inspecting the place in connection with the reconstruction of the bar building

A Woman gave Birth to Four Children in Tehsil Kabirwala



Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: A woman gave birth to four children in Tehsil Kabirwala, from which the family rejoiced over the birth of three sons and one daughter.

Asrar Hussain, a farmer resident of Badarpur, a suburb of Khanewal's Kabirwala Tehsil, was overjoyed when he learned that his wife had given birth to four children at the same time. Among the four children are three sons and one daughter. On which the parents are happy.

Expressing happiness, Israr Hussain said, "Allah has been kind, I have been blessed with four children. The good news has caused happiness in the area and the people of the area reached Asrar Hussain's house with sweets as soon as they heard the news. Before that, Israr Hussain is the father of one son, now in total, Israr Hussain is the father of four sons and one daughter and Israr has been married for four years.

Delegation of NIM visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, SEP 23 (APP): A delegation of officers under training from the Mid-Career Management Course of the National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad visited Safe City Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) on Monday as part of their study tour.

According to a public relations officer in the light of the special orders of Inspector General (IG) Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Safe City Muhammad Shoaib Khan welcomed the Mid-Career Management Course delegation from National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad at the Safe City Islamabad.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:34 am
Zohr 12:01 pm
Asr 4:19 pm
Maghrib 6:03 pm
Isha 7:26 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Resolving public issues top priority, says IG Rizvi

ISLAMABAD, SEP 23 (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery (open court) on Monday at the Central Police Office Islamabad.

According to a public relations officer during the session, the IG personally listened to the concerns of both citizens and police officers, issuing on-the-spot directives for their immediate resolution.

IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority, he said.

Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated, IG added.

He said any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery, my office is always open for my citizens, the IG added.

IG ICT further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office, he said.

Ali Nasir Rizvi directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues, he added.

On this occasion, the IG said that the ICT Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens, he said.

He said the daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, Rizvi added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Fruit waste can revive textile industry: Mujeebullah Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A team of scientists from the National Textile University successfully extracted fibre from banana bark and made it usable for the textile industry, opening up new possibilities for Pakistan's troubled textile sector.

The team, led by Dr Yasir Nawab is positive that this development has the potential to revolutionize the textile sector and bolster the struggling economy as it transforms fruit waste into raw materials for the production of textile fibres.

Consumers' growing awareness of ethical fashion has led to an ever-increasing demand for the use of natural fibres in not just garments but the whole

textile industry, said Mujeebullah Khan, a team member representing the textile industry.

He added that this invention would not only save billions of dollars in foreign exchange but also reduce environmental pollution by extracting one million tons of fibre from banana stems and turning them into yarn.

Farmers' lives will change as a result of using 90% of the leftover banana crop waste to produce fertilizer and electricity.

Mujeebullah Khan informed that the team is also targeting other countries known for banana production, with Kenya and Uganda being the first choice. In addition to bananas, the team extracts yarn from corn husks, other fruits, and vegetable waste. Many international



brands use this yarn, and Pakistani exporters are also interested.

Natural fibre from banana trees consists of cellulose, lignin, and hemi-

celluloses. The appearance of banana fibrosis similar to bamboo and ramie fibres but they are known for their superior smoothness, he said.

However, as there is a growing demand for eco-friendly textile fabrics, the significance of banana fibres is increasing.

Currently, he said, people use banana fibre to make garments, neckties, cushion covers, tablecloths, curtains, and other items. The physical properties of banana fibres, such as strong moisture absorption, natural shine, high strength, and minimal elongation, make them ideal for apparel production.

This versatile fibre offers an eco-friendly alternative to traditional textiles and supports sustainable fashion

practices.

Mujeebullah Khan said that the use of fruits to extract fibres for fabric production represents a unique and innovative development in the field of fibre technology. Natural fibres like cotton, wool, silk, and linen have long been known to the textile industry, but the utilization of fruits is a new trend.

He said that sugarcane production in Pakistan is surplus, which can generate similar benefits. The fruit's cane stalk, also known as bagasse, yields sugarcane fibre.

In some countries, the garment industry uses bagasse, a waste product, to make textile fibres. It also has immense potential application in the medical field.

National Heroes

ISLAMABAD: A man walk past in front of a painting wall of National Heroes, alongside a road at sector F-6, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Badiuddin Akber, CEO-CDC elected as Chairman

City Desk

KARACHI: Badiuddin Akber CEO-Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited has been elected as the Chairman of Executive Committee of Asia-Pacific Central Securities Depositories Group (ACG) for the three year term of 2024-2027 during the proceedings of the ACG's 26th Annual General Meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on September 11, 2024. Accordingly, Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited has also become the ACG Secretariat for the same term. The ACG currently consists of 41 member institutions from 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Badiuddin Akber will also be representing the Asia-Pacific Region on the Executive Board of World Forum of CSDs (WFC), the global body of five regional CSD associations including Americas' Central Securities Depositories Association (ACSDA), Association of Eurasian Central Securities Depositories (AECSD), European Central Securities Depositories Association (ECSDA), Africa and Middle East Depositories Association (AMEDA) and ACG.

Pervaaaz Digital Campaign To Educate Youth Against Irregular Migrations Reaches Millions in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pervaaaz, has received accolades from the European Union and the European Research Institute (ERI) for its remarkable successes achieved in Pakistan. Under the SAFER project and co-funded by the European Union, the digital campaign is implemented through its local partner, Cirrus Pakistan.

Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Haris Naveed, Chief Operating Officer, Cirrus Pakistan said "The PervaaazPK initiative's success reflects our commitment to empowering Pakistani youth and providing them with safe, viable alternatives to irregular migration. By combining impactful digital campaigns with on-the-ground sessions, we're fostering a brighter future for young people across the country."

The wide reach of the campaign through digital media, in addition to radio and TV, particularly among young audiences, has sparked important conversations about staying in Pakistan and pursuing local opportunities rather than considering irregular migration.

"The PervaaazPK initiative has showed positive results particularly on young males, aged between 18 to 30, with assessments revealing 77.3% of participants reconsidering their plans for irregular migration." He added further.

The online initiative complements the awareness sessions, reinforcing the project's goals of empowering the youth and encouraging them to rethink their futures within Pakistan.

Youth are the leading force of Pakistan Muslim League-N: Pasha

Divisional President of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Youth Wing Rawalpindi Naem Pasha said that the youth are the leading force of Pakistan Muslim League-N. Today, Pakistan is progressing once again, the young leadership of PML-N will devote its energies to making Pakistan a great empire.

He said this while congratulating Member National Assembly Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on being nominated as Federal Parliamentary Secretary Information and Broadcasting. He presented a bouquet of flowers and expressed his good wishes for him. On this occasion, the officials of the Youth Wing highly appreciated the leadership skills and services of Naem Pasha for youth. Naem Pasha said that the journey started with PML-N since childhood continues even today. Loyalty to country and party is my first priority. Naem Pasha said that in every difficult period, the role of PML-N workers has been prominent in relieving Pakistan from difficulties. He said that The PML-N and youth will never compromise the integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan at any cost, In Shaa ALLAH



WAWA Awards Dr. Bubri Gul Scholarship to 103 Students

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: In a ceremony held on Monday in the Lower South Waziristan tribal district, the Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) awarded the Dr. Bubri Gul Scholarship to 103 successful students from various government and private schools.

The event was attended by people from all walks of life, including Ullama, principals, tribal elders, political and social personalities, and parents of the students.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Finance and Planning Kashmir Khan, who emphasized the importance of education in his address.

He praised WAWA's efforts in promoting education in the area and assured that the district administration will continue to work together with the association to develop the area through quality education.

WAWA President Rehmat Ullah Wazir presented a gift of 240 books to the library of Musa Nika Public School and College Wana on the occasion.

He stated that this scholarship is a significant step towards quality education up



to the primary level in Wana, which is especially beneficial for the underprivileged students of the area.

The Dr. Bubri Gul Scholarship will be awarded to 103 successful students of the fifth class for three years. Additionally, scholarships will be given to male and female students from 5th to 7th standard under this scholarship program.

Furthermore, scholarships are also provided to students under the Wana Welfare Asso-

ciation Annual Hunt Test and Merit Scholarship Test.

The ceremony was a testament to WAWA's commitment to promoting education in the area. The association's efforts have been widely appreciated, and the district administration has pledged to continue working together with WAWA to develop the area through quality education. The Dr. Bubri Gul Scholarship is a significant step towards achieving this goal, and it is expected to have a

positive impact on the education sector in the area.

In his address, WAWA President Rehmat Ullah Wazir emphasized the importance of education in developing the area. He stated that quality education is the only solution to all problems, and no area can develop without it. He praised the efforts of WAWA in promoting education in the area and assured that the association will continue to work tirelessly to develop the area through quality education.

Epic of Mughal Saga IV: Hedonistic Jahangir

Munaza Kazmi

Akbar's very last act on his deathbed was to invest Jahangir, aged 32, with the regalia. Although, Jahangir had broken out in rebellion towards the close of Akbar's reign, but no one held that against him. The fight of son against father, and of brother against brother, over the throne was the norm among the Mughals; Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Shah Jahan and Aurengzeb had all fought fratricidal wars. Moreover, such clashes were seemed as a rite to Mughal princes.

Very little is known about Jahangir's childhood. He was born on 30th August 1569, at noon, in the hermitage

of Sheikh Salim Chishti at Sikri and named Nur-ud-din Mohammad Salim. A child of many prayers, he had a pampered childhood.

Talking about the character and temperament of Jahangir, which resembles much as his grandfather Humayun; a courteous, gregarious, fun loving epicure. And just as Humayun had a serious interest in astronomy and astrology, Jahangir also prided himself on being a poet and wrote his own candid memoirs. He was very much his father's son, too, being open minded and liberal in his culture and religious attitudes.

In comparison to Akbar, Jahangir pales into insignificance, but only in comparison to Akbar. He was a man of diverse talents and, despite a certain playfulness, quite conscientious in the discharge of royal duties. Although, he was a physical wreck during most of his region, reasoning his long addiction to wine and opium, and his life would have probably ended in disgrace, however for his good fortune in having by

his side the imperiously beautiful and enormously talented Nur Jahan, his chief queen. As the reins of power began to slip from his hands, she stood behind



and gave him strength. As, recorded by Mughal courtier Inayat Khan, "gradually acquired such unbounded influence on His Majesty's mind that she seized

the reins of government and took on herself the supreme civil and financial administration of the realm, ruling with absolute authority till the conclusion

of the reign".

However, on the whole Nur Jahan's role in government was positive. There were two major rebellions towards the close of Jahangir's reign; by the prince Shah Jahan and other by the royal commander Mahabat Khan, but both were effectively and decisively suppressed under the leadership of Nur Jahan.

Jahangir's ambition was to be known as a just ruler, who inspired by the "Drum of Justice", concept of his grandfather Humayun setup the "Chain of Justice". Broadly, Jahangir's twenty-two years region was marked by peace and prosperity, and he was equally beloved by his subjects and his neighbors.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

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Dramatic uptick in Israeli violence in Mideast, especially in Gaza, Lebanon

Tensions continued to ratchet up in the Middle East on Monday with reports of hundreds of Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and strikes in Gaza including on a refugee camp, UN humanitarian officials said.

The development comes as the UN's top official in Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert began an official visit to Israel to meet senior government officials, after insisting that "there is no military solution that will make either side safer".

In Lebanon, it has been reported that people in the south received phone and social media messages on Monday from the Israeli military telling them to keep away from any building or villages linked to the militant group Hezbollah.

According to media reports, Israeli military struck 800 Hezbollah targets as part of the deadliest strikes on Lebanon since fighting started last October, killing over 182 people and injuring more than 700.

The Hezbollah group reportedly launched some 150 projectiles into northern Israel over the weekend, the latest in a series that began shortly after war erupted in Gaza. In southern Lebanon, some 30,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

The UN mission which patrols the Blue Line separating Lebanon and Israel, UNIFIL, expressed "grave concern for the safety of civilians", amid what has been the deadliest day of violence and bombing by Israel since the October terror attacks sparked the regional crisis.

Lt. Gen. Aroldo Lazaro, Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL, has contacted both Lebanese and Israeli parties, emphasizing the urgent need for de-escalation. "Efforts are ongoing to reduce tensions and halt the shelling", the mission added.

Any further escalation of this dangerous situation could have far-reaching and devastating consequences, not only for those living on both sides of the Blue Line but also for the broader region.

Attacks on civilians are not only violations of international law but could amount to war crimes, UNIFIL reminded.

"It is essential to fully recommit to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which is now more critical than ever to address the underlying causes of the conflict and ensure lasting stability."

Amid repeated calls from the international community for regional de-escalation, the Security Council met in emergency session last Friday, following deadly Israeli strikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut and in the south.

The meeting came at the end of a week of increased cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israeli forces after two days of deadly wireless device explosions targeting the militant group.

In central Gaza, meanwhile, shelters were destroyed in the strike on the camp around Nuseirat, according to the UN agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, while media reports also indicated an uptick in Israeli military activity.

Unhealthy junk food harming youth health

Fakhar-e-Alam

Excessive use of unhealthy food by bulk of teenagers and youngsters across the country had negative effects on their health exposing them to fatal ailments like obesity, piles, allergies and stomach disorders.

Like other parts of the country, unhindered use of junk and expired food like burger, shawarma, chicken rolls, chips, snacks, burgers etc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also often land its victims to doctors clinics and hospitals.

Faraz Khan (24), a youth of Wapda Town Nowshera was a recent instance of this dilemma as few days back he felt severe pain in his stomach due to irritable bowel syndrome and piles and was rushed to Government hospital Pabbi where doctors operated him to cure the ailment.

The doctors diagnosed that over-eating of an expired chicken mostly used in shawarma, chicken rolls, chips, snacks, burgers besides low fat yogurt and cheese, high carbohydrate fatty food and beverages were the major causes of ailment in patients like Faraz.

Faraz was not alone but thousands other students of colleges and schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were exposed to unhealthy junk foods being sold openly outside the educational institutions in towns and cities adversely

affecting their health.

There is an abundance of such shops and foods stalls at Qissa Khwani bazaar, Namak Mandai, Karimpura, Charsadda Road, Faqirabad, Tehkal, Board bazaar, Lateef Abad, Hayatabad, Warsak Road, Dalzak Road, Chamkani, GT Road and other localities, mostly seen selling unsafe cuisines and expired food.

Professor Dr Ata Muhammad at Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar said that like many other countries Pakistan is also confronting challenge of an over-weighting, piles and obesity mostly among college and schools students who excessively consume unhygienic and substandard food.

Declaring these ailments mostly as the fifth leading cause of global death, Dr Ata Muhammad said that obesity contributes to about 60-70% deaths besides non-communicable diseases across the world including Pakistan.

"The number of children and youth aged five to 19 with obesity had increased from 11 million in 1975 to 124 million in 2016 globally due to excessive consumption unhealthy junk food," he said referring to a WHO report.

Termining obesity a salient killer, he said around 30 percent of the world population was overweight that becomes the cause of making 44% to suffer from diabetes, 23% from heart diseases and seven to 41% from cancers.

"Pakistan ranks 10th among 188 countries with about 50 percent of its population being overweight or obese,"

Dr Ata said and mentioned to World Obesity Foundation report revealing that around 5.4 million school children in our country would be obese by 2030 if open sale and manufacturing of unsafe food is not properly controlled.

Besides new emerging trends of eating, a marketing onslaught through different mediums especially the social media was also reckoned as a major cause of attracting more and more youth to these unhealthy foods.

Professor Dr Naeem Khattak, an economist from University of Peshawar thinks massive social media campaigns as major cause of attracting youth to unhealthy junk food. "These mediums unfortunately tempt youth, who form around half of our population, to such foods."

Dr Sirzamin Khan, Head of Urology Department, Govt Hospital Pabbi has also noted that data compiled from different hospitals had revealed that 40 to 50 percent children were either overweight or obese and policy makers and healthcare commission of KP need to take prompt measures for its prevention.

"Lack of parents' attention to children's food needs, publicity of different unhealthy foods items on digital and social media and their unchecked sale and limited sports events had largely contributed to ailments," he said.

These doctors have recommended healthy, balanced and home cooked diet besides sports, daily exercises and walk as well as regulation of sale of standard

food items.

Meanwhile, the Spokesman of KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPF&HFA) has claimed that operation against unsafe and substandard food sellers has been accelerated across the province as during last year over 136,690 inspections were conducted and 539,982 kilograms and litres of substandard food items were destroyed.

"Thousands of litres counterfeit beverages and adulterated milk was also discarded," he said reiterating the government's resolve of zero tolerance against those involved in sale and purchase of adulterated and junk food.

"Mobile food testing laboratories with latest testing equipments have been established at all divisional headquarters," he informed. "These labs cover a range of food tests, including testing of milk, flour, edible oil, ghee, water and other food items on spot. The government is also planning to establish such labs at district level."

The authority setup under KP Food Safety Authority Act of 2014 also hires volunteers alongside regular staff, to monitor food safety and quality standards, the spokesman said.

As he urged people to inform the authority in case of selling expired or substandard food items by the restaurants or hotels, the experts have urged the provincial government to enact special legislation against sale and purchase of substandard junk food and take strict action against food mafia.



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

Myths surrounding Seniors and Juniors in Pak Army - II

Communication serves as the linchpin of effective collaboration between officers and soldiers. Precise and transparent communication ensures comprehension of objectives, execution of orders, and dissemination of information. Officers convey their intent and directives to soldiers, providing context and guidance for the mission. In return, soldiers relay observations, feedback, and requests to officers, facilitating adaptability and refinement of plans as necessary. Through candid and open communication, officers and soldiers cultivate trust, cohesion, and synchronized effort crucial for success in complex and dynamic environments. The collaboration between officers and soldiers extends far beyond the battlefield, encompassing all facets of military operations. During training and preparation, officers work closely alongside soldiers to hone skills, refine tactics, and foster teamwork. They cultivate a culture of continual learning and enhancement, where feedback is valued, and experiences are shared. Soldiers, in turn, offer their insights and perspectives, drawing from frontline experiences to enrich training and development endeavors. This collaborative approach ensures the army's agility, adaptability, and readiness to confront the evolving challenges of the modern world.

Mutual respect serves as a cornerstone principle of teamwork between officers and soldiers. Officers hold in high regard the expertise, professionalism, and dedication of their soldiers, acknowledging their pivotal role in mission success. Likewise, soldiers honor the leadership, experience, and authority of their officers, placing trust in their judgment

and guidance. This mutual respect forms the bedrock of a cohesive and resilient team, where each member is esteemed and acknowledged for their individual strengths and contributions.

There is a claim that only junior officers and soldiers in the Pakistan Army make sacrifices while senior officers lead a life of luxury and avoid danger. This narrative is misleading and not supported by numerous examples of senior Army officers' sacrifices. The history of the Pakistan Army is replete with instances of both officers and soldiers laying down their lives. In recent years, Pakistan has been embroiled in a relentless fight against terrorism, with the Army playing a crucial role in this struggle. Many senior officers have exhibited extraordinary bravery and leadership in some of the most perilous situations.

Major General Sanaullah Niazi, for example, made notable contributions in the battle against terrorism. Serving in the volatile North Waziristan Agency, he was key to Operation Zarb-e-Azb, a significant military offensive aimed at dismantling terrorist networks. General Niazi was martyred on September 22, 2014, in a fierce clash with militants, his sacrifice underscoring his leadership and valor.

Similarly, Major General Javed Iqbal was instrumental in counter-terrorism efforts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As a commanding officer, he was deeply involved in key operations against militant groups and was killed on January 11, 2015, during a high-intensity battle with terrorists. His commitment and ultimate sacrifice highlight the dangers faced by senior officers on the frontlines of Pakistan's

counter-terrorism initiatives.

Brigadier Khalid Javed, another prominent figure in counter-terrorism, was active in the volatile FATA region. He made the ultimate sacrifice on July 19, 2012, during an operation in Khyber Agency, leading his troops against a heavily entrenched militant force. His bravery and leadership in such a perilous environment reflect the significant risks undertaken by military officers engaged in counter-terrorism.

Major General Adnan Iqbal also made considerable sacrifices in high-risk areas like the tribal regions and Balochistan. His leadership and strategic acumen in counter-terrorism operations were pivotal, and he was martyred on April 26, 2017, in Balochistan. His service greatly contributed to improving security in challenging conditions.

Brigadier Tariq Mahmood, though retired, played a significant role in the early years of the conflict and continued to advocate for effective counter-terrorism strategies. His legacy of sacrifice and dedication remains an inspiration.

Last Year, Brigadier Mustafa Kamal Barki from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was martyred while leading an encounter with "hardcore terrorists" in South Waziristan's Angoor Adda.

These examples demonstrate that all ranks within the Pakistan Army are equally committed to defending the country from internal and external threats. The propaganda suggesting otherwise is a misguided attempt to create divisions and undermine the morale of the Army.

Readers, the aforementioned facts debunk myths regarding any discrepancies among different cadres. All branches of the Pakistani Army are committed to serving Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Army Chief General Asim Munir.

Glacial melting - an emerging climatic threat

Ali Jabir

With the world confronting global warming and accelerated glacial melting, countries like Pakistan are under severe pressure of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) that pose serious threats to human lives and infrastructure in wake of sudden flash floods especially in hilly areas.

As Pakistan falls among top ten most vulnerable countries to climate change and hosts three mountain ranges including Hindukush, Karakoram and Himalayan (HKH), rapid melting of glaciers in ranges can pose serious challenges of water availability being a crucial water source for its Indus River that serves as a lifeline for agriculture, energy and water supply.

Dr. Arun B. Shrestha, a renowned expert on glaciology and Strategic Group Lead Climate and Environmental Risks at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has expressed concerns on escalating risks of GLOFs in the HKH region due to rising temperature.

Dr. Bashir credited modern technology and community-based early warning systems for preventing large-scale loss of life during these events. "The PMD continues to study cryosphere and issue timely GLOF alerts that are crucial for national disaster management efforts."

The risk of GLOFs and other climate-induced disasters will increase dramatically in coming decades and Pakistan, already vulnerable due to its geographical location and reliance on glacial meltwater, faces a dual threat: floods caused by excessive glacial melt and droughts due to reduced water storage capacity.

"With Pakistan already slipping down the water scarcity level, the challenge posed by too much water during floods and too little during droughts would further exacerbate due to its insufficient storage capacity," stated Aisha Humera Chaudhary,

Secretary Ministry of Climate Change.

She mentioned to the launch of Recharge Pakistan, a program designed to use wetlands as natural water storage facilities as part of broader National Climate Change Policy that focuses disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and enhancing community resilience. "We are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2040, with 35% conditional on international assistance. But, need international support to achieve these targets."

Pakistan's economy, agriculture and overall water security are intertwined with the health of HKH glaciers. As country's storage facilities are inadequate, the consequences of erratic water availability—too much in flood seasons and too little in droughts—could cripple different sectors.

As efforts are on to tackle this situation, Ahmed Kamal, Chairman Federal Flood Commission (FFC) provides an insight into Pakistan's efforts to upgrade its flood management systems in response to devastating 2022 monsoon floods.

"We, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, plan to establish six regional forecasting centers across the country focusing on vulnerable regions like Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," Kamal said. "These centers would enable us to more accurately forecast and quicker responses to reduce impact of floods caused by glacial melting."

Muhammad Ali from Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) informed that the Authority has identified 16 potential GLOF sites, with several major glaciers—Shisper, Passu and Hussaini—already causing problems. "GBDMA is working to establish flood protection infrastructure, engage communities in disaster preparedness and issue early warnings."

In present situation, the experts stress enhanced disaster management, sustainable infrastructure and multi-level approach with global cooperation to address climate crisis and protect vulnerable communities and resources for the future generations.

'Global Leaders in Takaful Recognized at Prestigious 6th Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum in Dubai'

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: The Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Forum proudly concluded its 6th edition with a grand awards ceremony, organized by AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE) at the prestigious Dusit Thani Hotel, Dubai-UAE. This event was a significant milestone in the journey to promote the Takaful industry globally, as it recognized and applauded the remarkable efforts and achievements of leading individuals and organizations within the sector. AlHuda CIBE extended its warmest congratulations to all the recipients of the prestigious awards.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE, noted that these awards recognize the collective effort and innovative advancements in the global Takaful industry. He expressed gratitude for the support from participants, judges, sponsors, and partners, emphasizing their role in making 6th Global Takaful & Re-Takaful Awards a resounding success and contributing significantly to the sector's growth and establishment of new benchmarks for excel-

lence."

The forum attracted attendees from numerous countries, including distinguished guests such as H. E. Mohammed Abu Zafar, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE, and Mr. Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, who presented the awards to the winners. The ceremony highlighted various categories, celebrating the top achievers across multiple disciplines. Among the honorees were Societe Central De Reassurance, awarded Best Re-Takaful Company; Takaful Insurance of Africa, recognized for Best Takaful Operation; and Fitch Ratings, receiving the accolade for Best Rating Agency in Islamic Finance. Other notable winners included Mufti Aziz Ur Rehman, honored as the Best Takaful Industry Shariah Scholar, and FC "Taiba Finance" LLC, which earned the title for Best Islamic Finance Products.

The awards also recognized Watania Takaful for Best Personal Takaful Products; InvoiceMate as the Best Islamic Finance Digital Platform; and Milliman, which was acknowledged for Best Actuarial Services Provider. Furthermore, SALAMA-Islamic Arab Insurance Co. was celebrated as the

Best Family Takaful Company; while the National Insurance Authority received the award for Best Takaful Regulator.

In addition to institutional awards, individual excellence was recognized with honors such as the Business Leader of the Year Award presented to Ankit Shukla; and the Dynamic Entrepreneur Award, bestowed upon Aziz Dorany. Other winners included Nawaz Jadoon, who was acknowledged for Business Leadership in the Financial Industry; and Tariq Nizami, honored with the Master of Business Innovation Award. Zuneid Yousuf, who received the Best African Entrepreneur in UAE Award; and Qurat ul Ain, recognized for her Dynamic Leadership in Real Estate Investment; Muhammad Kalim was honored for Audit Firm of the Year for Quality Assurance; and Ms. Cathy received the Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Additional notable awards were presented to Ms. Sadia Afrin Himi Mohammad Ali for Best Financial Consultancy of the Year; Mr. Rashed Ahmadyar for Best Emerging Developer of the Year; Dr. Ravi Datt for Sustainable Energy Excellence; and



Mr. Ameenullah, who was celebrated as the Leading Corporate Consultant; The Leading Emirati Women Contributor to Nation's Development Award went to Dr. Muna Makk; while Ali Jaber Al Ateya was honored as the Pioneer of Financial Development;

Bharat J. Mehra received the Leader in Corporate Strategy Award; and Aslam Nizami was recognized as the Leading Consultant for Mergers and Acquisitions; Mr. Sulley Muntari was awarded Best Emerging Businessman of the Year.

This was highly supported by the contributions from the sponsors to the success of the event. We value our sponsors as we have been able to hold an event that was successful. As a matter of fact, their contribution was key in this milestone.

Pakistan Enters a New Era of Global Education

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development for Pakistan's education sector, the University of Essex has officially launched a pioneering transnational education (TNE) partnership with Beaconhouse International College. This collaboration opens new doors for Pakistani students, offering them the opportunity to earn globally recognized University of Essex degrees while studying at local campuses, marking a significant milestone in Pakistan's academic landscape.

The launch event, held at Beacon-

house International College's H/11 campus in Islamabad, was graced by Mr. Oliver Christian, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner to the UK, as the chief guest. The event also welcomed an esteemed delegation from the University of Essex, including Dr. Anney Lax, Dean of Partnerships (Education), and Mr. David Briggs, Deputy Dean of Partnerships, who expressed excitement over the impactful collaboration.

Mr. Oliver Christian, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner to the UK, delivers a keynote address at the launch event.

Through this partnership, students across Pakistan can now access a range



of undergraduate and postgraduate programs in disciplines such as business, law, and technology. The courses will be offered at state-of-the-art campuses located in major cities, including Islamabad, Faisalabad, and Lahore, enabling students to pursue a top-tier international qualification without the need to travel abroad.

Dr. Anney Lax, Dean of Partnerships (Education) at the University of Essex, addresses the audience, emphasizing the university's commitment to delivering world-class education.

Mr. David Briggs, Deputy Dean of Partnerships, expressed excitement over

the impactful collaboration between University of Essex and Beaconhouse International College.

This initiative reflects the University of Essex's commitment to expanding access to world-class education, empowering Pakistani students with the skills and knowledge to excel in today's globalized world. By offering a prestigious international degree locally, this collaboration is set to redefine higher education opportunities in Pakistan, providing students with the chance to receive the same quality of education as those studying at the Essex campus in the UK.

A journey through Saudi's UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Saudi welcomes 8th site on UNESCO World Heritage List: Al-Faw Archeological Area

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saudi lies at the heart of Arabia, a land of living wonders and legends. From ancient landscapes, natural and cultural treasures, Saudi is where the tales of the past are an integral part of today's life.

Adding another gem to its ever-expanding collection of global wonders, Saudi has just unveiled its eighth UNESCO World Heritage Site. Recognized for its outstanding cultural and natural significance, the Al-Faw Archeological Area, located south of Riyadh, at the northwest of the Empty Quarter, has now joined the list. This ancient site, with nearly 12,000 archaeological remains spanning from prehistoric times to the 5th century CE, offers a remarkable window into the life and achievements of early civilizations. UNESCO's latest inclusion highlights the global significance of Saudi's unique cultural treasures.

From cultural to natural World Heritage Sites, from the ancient rock art of the Hail Region to the lush landscapes of Al Ahsa Oasis, the towering tombs of Hegra at AlUla, to Historic Jeddah and At-Turaif, and more, these sites reflect the diversity of the Arabian Peninsula, a melting pot of peoples and languages, still present in today's culture and traditions.

Here are Saudi's 8 UNESCO World Heritage Site - ready to be explored, discovered and remembered:

The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archeological Area: discover Saudi's newest World Heritage Site

Get ready to be transported through the centuries at the Al-Faw Archaeological Area, Saudi's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located about 700 kilometers (435 miles) south of Riyadh, this ancient hub of trade and civilization invites you to uncover nearly 12,000 remnants spanning from prehistoric times to the 5th century CE.

Regularly scheduled flights are available from Riyadh to Najran Regional Airport, which is approximately a 2.5 hour drive from Al-Faw. Saudia (offering flights from Jeddah and Riyadh), Flynas (from Dammam, Jeddah, and Riyadh), and Flyadeal (from Dammam and Riyadh) provide convenient options and efficient way to reach this historic site. Transportation to Al-Faw can be arranged through taxis or car rental services like Al Wafaq Rent a Car and Lumirental.

Imagine a time when the desert was a bustling thoroughfare, with traders from distant lands mingling at this oasis town, strategically posi-



tioned along key trade routes. In Al-Faw, 6,000 years of human habitation come alive through inscriptions, tools, artifacts, and a well-preserved water management system. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Rub' al-Khali desert and the Tuwaiq Mountain range, you can almost hear the whispers of the ancients.

The journey through Al-Faw is not just a walk-through ruins; it's an immersion into the vibrant life of an ancient trading hub. The landscapes enhance the experience, with breathtaking views that remain unchanged from days past. With each step, you connect with the deep historical roots of the region, discovering how Al-Faw played a pivotal role in shaping this part of the world.

Hegra Archeological Site: remember the past

Step into the ancient city of Hegra, Saudi's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, and embark on a journey through time. As you wander among the monumental tombs carved into the rock, you're stepping into a world where the Nabatean civilization once flourished. Imagine the grandeur of 111 intricately adorned tombs, each one a masterpiece of architectural brilliance that whispers tales of an ancient people's ingenuity and artistry.

The facades tell stories through their elaborate carvings, while inscriptions and ancient water wells reveal the daily lives and spiritual practices of a civilization that thrived more than two millennia ago. Visiting Hegra feels like entering a living museum, where every stone and carving holds a piece of history. Allow yourself to be transported to an ancient era, where the air is thick with the mysteries of the past, and each corner of this majestic site offers a glimpse into a world both captivating and enigmatic.

At-Turaif District in Diriyah: visit the

birthplace of the Saudi state

Walking into the heart of the At-Turaif District in Diriyah, known as "The City of Earth," is the founding place of the First Saudi State in 1727. At its heart sits the UNESCO World Heritage Site of At-Turaif, a cradle of Saudi culture where the echoes of Saudi's past come alive. Imagine wandering through the ancient streets of this historic birthplace, where the origins of the Saudi state are vividly preserved, where the mud-brick buildings and traditional Najdi architecture stand as timeless witnesses to a bygone era. Each structure tells its own story, reflecting the ingenuity and resilience of early Saudi civilization, and offering a glimpse into the way people once lived and organized their society.

As you explore the area, you're transported to the roots of Saudi history. The preserved buildings and the Diriyah Museum provide a window into the past. At-Turaif is not just a place of history; it's a vibrant living canvas where ancient and modern blend seamlessly. Experience the lively cultural events, traditional music, dance, and art performances that breathe new life into the historic setting. Local restaurants invite you to savor authentic Saudi cuisine, each bite a testament to the region's deep culinary roots. Dive into an unforgettable journey into the soul of Saudi. Every alley and structure weaves a story, creating a colorful mosaic of legend and legacy that captivates and inspires, drawing you into a timeless narrative of the past and present.

Historic Jeddah (Al-Balad): uncover the cosmopolitan heart of the Red Sea

Step into the historic heart of Jeddah, and travel back in time to when this vibrant district was a bustling port of global significance. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Historic Jeddah showcases its cosmopolitan legacy through unique coral stone buildings

and traditional architecture. Wander through lively souks and ancient mosques, where every corner reveals stories of traders, pilgrims, and diverse cultures that once flowed through the city.

Historic Jeddah is more than just a historic district, it is a journey back in time with its 7th-century architecture and narrow streets filled with stalls offering spices, jewelry, textiles, and perfumes. It is also a living center for art and culture. Explore Zawiya 97, where local artists and craftsmen display their work, and immerse yourself in the creative energy of master classes and workshops. This dynamic space fosters a deeper understanding of traditional crafts and contemporary art, reflecting the authenticity of the area. Historic Jeddah's blend of old-world charm and its pivotal role in the Red Sea's trade routes, combined with its flourishing art scene and lively festivals, underscore its profound historical value. Experience a captivating glimpse into Saudi's past, seamlessly intertwined with its present.

Rock Art in the Hail Region

Discover the Rock Art in the Hail Region, where ancient petroglyphs and inscriptions reveal the artistic spirit of prehistoric times. At Jubbah and Shuwaymis, these intricate carvings of human and animal figures transport you to an era where early societies expressed their lives and environments through rock art. As you explore this timeless gallery, the ancient carvings whisper stories of past civilizations, weaving an unbreakable connection with the land.

The Rock Art in the Hail Region invites you to witness the creative brilliance of early humans and embark on a profound journey into the depths of our shared cultural heritage. Each carving whispers ancient tales, with the petroglyphs in Jubbah and Shuwaymis dating back to the Neolithic period and the early Bronze Age, reflecting the lives of early inhabitants and their bond with the land, creating an inspiring and unforgettable exploration of Saudi's past legends. To reach these remarkable sites, fly into Hail Regional Airport, then take a short drive to Jubbah and Shuwaymis. Guided tours and local maps are available to help you navigate the area.

Al Ahsa Oasis: journey through an evolving cultural landscape

Journey through the Al Ahsa Oasis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its lush beauty and ancient agricultural brilliance. To visit, fly into Al Ahsa International Airport, which



is well-connected to major Saudi cities. From there, you can easily reach the oasis by car or taxi, traversing the scenic desert landscape.

As one of the largest oases in the world, Al Ahsa stands as a living testament to human innovation, featuring vast palm groves, historic irrigation canals, and ancient forts. Historically, it has been a crucial supplier of dates and fresh produce to the region, supporting local communities and trade routes. Its fertile lands have sustained the surrounding inhabitants for centuries and continue to provide agricultural products to local markets and beyond.

Walking amidst these verdant landscapes, you'll find yourself enveloped in tranquility, where the echoes of history resonate through the serene surroundings. The oasis invites you to experience a unique blend of natural splendor and history, with every corner revealing a story of human perseverance and cultural legacy.

'Uruq Bani Ma'arid: discover the iconic wilderness of Arabia

Unveiled at the end of last year, 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid is Saudi's 7th UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated on the western edge of Ar-Rub' al-Khali, or the Empty Quarter. This vast and remote expanse epitomizes Saudi's iconic wilderness, featuring one of Earth's most breathtaking landscapes, and incredible ecosystem and wildlife. It is home to the Arabian Oryx—now the focus of a successful reintroduction program—as well as the Arabian Sand Gazelle and the Arabian Mountain Gazelle, underscoring Saudi's commitment to preserving its natural heritage and endemic species. For the best experience, visit during the winter months when the weather is milder.

To reach 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid, fly into Riyadh or Dhahran and proceed with a 4x4 vehicle - using a local guide is strongly recommended to navigate the challenging terrain.

Hima Cultural Area: Petroglyphs and Inscriptions

Nestled in the southwestern part of Saudi, the Bir Hima rock petroglyphs present a distinctive canvas of prehistoric artistry that transcends time. Unlike other petroglyph sites, Bir Hima stands out for its extensive collection of intricate carvings that vividly depict the dynamic interactions between early human societies and their environment.

Picture yourself amidst these ancient engravings, which date back thousands of years, where the rock surfaces burst with vivid scenes of wildlife, human rituals, and ceremonial practices. Each petroglyph serves as a silent storyteller, offering unique insights into the cultural and spiritual life of bygone civilizations. Unlike other sites, Bir Hima's petroglyphs reveal a complex interplay of daily life and ceremonial practices, showcasing the core of human expression. This exceptional gallery invites you to explore its timeless artistry, where every carved figure and symbolic scene offers a window into the profound narratives of early human creativity and connection to the natural world.

The land is calling to those who dream, with Saudi's eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites offering an inspiring journey through history and culture. Rooted in Saudi traditions, hospitality, and community, these sites invite you to uncover the stories and secrets that have shaped the heart of Arabia.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
81,459.28	81,850.50	
Day's High	Day's Low	
82,463.05	81,548.64	
Index Value	Change	
13,868,201,000	-223.94	
Percentage	Time	
-0.27%	23 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,259.71	+29.72	
Percentage	Time	
+0.36%	23 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,063.46	+0.10	
Percentage	Time	
+0.00024%	23 Sept, 1:04 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
37,723.91	+568.58	
Percentage	Time	
+1.53%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	188	189.8
Bahrain Dinar	734.20	742.20
Canadian Dollar	207	209
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.00	310.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.93	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.65	910.15
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	718.50	727.00
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.7	74.4
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	328.70	331.50
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.2
UK Pound Sterling	368.25	371.9
US Dollar	279	280.7

No sector should profit at the cost of the country: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the manufacturing sector's future has become bleak due to high electricity rates and taxes. Many industrialists are investing their resources and profits in trading and gradually withdrawing from manufacturing, which is dangerous for the country's future, he said. Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the power sector has become a problem that is pushing the economy into a quagmire, resulting in investors fleeing the country. At present, the electricity sector is losing

trillions of rupees annually, but the employees and officers working in it have become very rich due to rampant corruption. Mian Zahid Hussain said that governments had made generous agreements with IPPs, but people and businesses are facing its impact. He noticed that people pay for electricity they don't use and for exemplary electricity sector corruption. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the consumption of electricity in the country is continuously decreasing while the theft is increasing, and if the system goes down, the profit of IPPs will also end. All stakeholders should resolve this issue for the country's economic recovery, and no sector should profit at the nation's expense going forward. He noted that unless the IPPs and the government make a fair and amicable agree-



ment, the situation will only worsen. In Mian Zahid Hussain's opinion, the

current situation is detrimental for IPPs because their payments are unbearable. Currently, we need to strike a balance between the interests of electricity producers and consumers, but unfortunately, Nepra is not prepared to contribute positively in this area. According to Mian Zahid Hussain, the heinous role of IPPs exposes the need for an immediate ban on the establishment of new IPPs, the extension of their contracts, and the equalisation of these power plants' tariffs with those of neighbouring countries. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that a few years ago electricity was available at less than 15 rupees per unit, but now, due to severe inflation, the common man has to pay more than 60 rupees per unit. If the owners of private power plants continue to lack flexibility, the situation could potentially shift in either direction.

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying clay pots attraction for customers at his workplace alongside a road, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful assigned initial Asset Manager Rating (AM2)

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), a leading and pioneer provider of Family Takaful solutions in Pakistan and part of Pak-Qatar Group, has been assigned the Asset Manager rating of AM2 as Pension Fund Manager with stable outlook by The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (PACRA). This prestigious rating reflects PQFTL's strong market position, financial stability, and commitment to innovation in Islamic financial services. On this occasion, Mr. Waqas Ahmad, CEO of PQFTL expressed enthusiasm in his statement, "We are pleased to receive the Asset Manager rating of AM2 as Pension Fund Managers from PACRA, which reflects our commitment to providing technologically innovative Takaful solutions to our customers



and bringing excellence to their experience with us. This not only validates our strong market position as the first Takaful operator to introduce pension fund in Pakistan but also reinforces our dedication to providing Shariah-compliant financial solutions." The Asset Manager rating (AM2) emphasizes on PQFTL's ability to maintain strong performance while expanding its market presence as a Takaful Operator and Pension Fund Manager. The company remains focused on enhancing profitability and maintaining a strong market position, further strengthening its role as a key player in Pakistan's Islamic financial services sector.

Jubilee Life Insurance Accelerates Net Zero Transition with Spectreco

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a pioneering move towards sustainability, Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, has partnered with Spectreco to spearhead its transition to Net Zero. This step sets a benchmark not just in Pakistan but for the global insurance industry as well, reinforcing Jubilee Life's commitment to embedding sustainability at the heart of its business operations. In the face of escalating environmental challenges, Jubilee Life's collaboration with Spectreco embodies a forward-thinking approach, positioning the company as a leader in responsible business practices. Leveraging Spectreco's innovative technology platform, data-driven insights, and expert guidance, Jubilee Life is taking decisive actions to reduce its carbon footprint and align its operations with international sustainability standards. Faraz Khan, CEO & Partner of Spectreco, emphasized the significance of this collaboration: "We are excited to support Jubilee Life on their transformative journey towards a Net Zero future. This partnership is a testament to how business case development, GHG emission reduction strategies, and data-backed messaging can collectively drive substantial change. Together, we are setting a new standard for sustainability in the insurance sector, not only in Pakistan but globally."



Operations, Marketing & Administration of JLI further commented "By incorporating decarbonization strategies into our operations, we have begun our journey toward meeting global sustainability standards, with the potential to lead by example in the insurance industry in the future. Our collaboration with Spectreco marks a pivotal moment in our journey toward achieving Net Zero. This partner-

ship demonstrates our commitment to driving meaningful environmental change while continuing to deliver value to our customers." This partnership is a bold step in leading the charge towards a more sustainable future, combining cutting-edge technology and business excellence to deliver measurable results and set new industry standards.

Qist Bazaar Raises US\$3.2 M 'Series A' Funding

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Qist Bazaar, Pakistan's Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) fintech startup, announced that it has secured US\$3.2 million in its Series A funding round. The round was led by Indus Valley Capital, with participation from Gobi Partners holding US\$1.6 billion in assets under management (AUM). Bank Alfalah, has already invested in Arif Lakhani, Co-founder and CEO at Qist Bazaar, shared, "At Qist Bazaar, we are committed to bringing the fundamental needs of Pakistanis within their reach. Home essentials like ceiling fans and water dispensers are necessities, yet many

cannot afford them. With the support of our investors, we offer flexible payment plans, making these essential items more accessible to everyone." Aatif Awan, Founder and Managing Partner at Indus Valley Capital, shared, "We see enormous potential in Qist Bazaar's ability to fundamentally reshape how consumer financing is done in Pakistan, similar to what Bajaj Finance did for India. Naeel Ikram, General Partner for Gobi Partners' Pakistan-focused fund added, "What stood out to us about Qist Bazaar is how effectively they use technology to drive operational efficiencies while simultaneously leveraging it for sustainable, high growth."

Standard Chartered launches Goal Accelerator Programme to enhance women's economic inclusion & employability



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank launched the Goal Accelerator Programme in collaboration with Right To Play International Pakistan at the SC Pakistan Head Office. The Goal Accelerator Programme is an evolution of the deeply impactful Goal Programme that was first launched in Karachi in 2016. It is a sport-powered, gender-responsive economic resilience initiative with the aim to create concrete pathways and steps for disadvantaged girls and young women to obtain decent employment, earn an income and become economically resilient. Mr. Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Pakistan commented, "Today marks a significant milestone, not just for the Bank, but for the countless women who will benefit from the Goal Accelerator Programme. Since 2016, we have partnered with 140 schools across Pakistan, equipping young girls and women with the skills needed to become economically independent. Currently, there are over 90,000 Goal beneficiaries who have benefited from this programme and can now work towards shaping their own futures. Mr. Ali Khayam, Country Director Right To Play Pakistan addressed the audience, stating, "This partnership between Right To Play and Standard Chartered has benefitted thousands of young girls over the last 08 years. The event concluded with a call to action, reiterating the commitment to champion the rights of youth particularly young women and girls so they can reach their full potential."

Hamdard University selects PTCL to expedite the Digital Transformation Journey

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Hamdard University, a part of Hamdard Foundation, have entered a strategic partnership for the provisioning of managed ICT & Mobility solutions for the faculty & students. In the esteemed presence of Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Basharat Qureshi Group VP Enterprise PTCL & Umar Farooqi, Group Director Enterprise PTCL, Hamdard University's Kaleem Ahmed Ghias, Registrar, Faisal Mangrora, Group Director Finance, Abutalib Bhutto, Group Director, HR, Muhammad Ovais, Director Finance and PTCL's Group VP B2B Strategy

& Product Management, Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali, led a signing ceremony recently held at Marriott Karachi. PTCL provides Hamdard University with its state-of-the-art infrastructure and platform solutions equipped with the latest technology & managed security. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hasan, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University, said, "We are pleased to develop the understanding with PTCL as our trusted partner for infrastructure and platform hosting as part of the university's digital transformation strategy. During the ceremony, Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali, Group VP B2B Strategy & Product Management,



ment, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "We are pleased to develop the understanding with Hamdard University to support them in fulfilling their educa-

tional needs. PTCL aims to provide best-in-class services to its corporate customers across various industries in Pakistan. This understanding is part of the growth momentum in the diverse ICT and Security Solutions, which is key to a digital banking ecosystem in Pakistan.

Team 'unity' among key points discussed in Connection Camp

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Salman Naseer shared that team unity was one of the key points that came under discussion during the recently concluded Connection Camp here at Gaddafi Stadium on Monday.

Naseer, addressing the media here, revealed that the idea behind calling the high-profile meeting, dubbed Connection Camp, was to resolve the issues ahead of the national team's busy schedule.

The PCB COO acknowledged a dip in the performance of not just the national team but also of the management before revealing the talking points of the discussion including unity and collaboration.

"We have a hectic schedule, and it was the right moment to sit together and discuss matters," said Naseer.

"There were three to four important things on which we did brainstorming and I think it was the need of the hour as we all know that the performance of either players or management can be improvised.

"Another idea [behind the Connection Camp] was that we sit together to identify the issues, things which can be improved and also our vision and what steps are needed to achieve it.



"So, we built a roadmap on how we can reignite our excellence and what steps are necessary to achieve success.

"It was an open and transparent session, during which we got to talk to each other with utmost honesty and discussed unity, collaboration and how we can improve our communication."

When asked whether he acknowledges that there was a lack of unity in the team, Salman Naseer shared that the Connection Camp was held in this regard as well.

"Today's session was held in this regard as well so that we can openly, sincerely and candidly accept, identify and ask for commitment from each other and make demands so that we can improve our performance and also on how we need to work together as a team since it is a team sport."

On the other hand, Pakistan's white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten termed Connection Camp a success before asserting that the stakeholders have largely achieved the purpose of the gathering.

"The connection camp was brilliant. We spoke about supporting each other, and I believe we've largely achieved the purpose of this gathering. Everyone has shown a real commitment to restore the pride of Pakistan cricket," Kirsten said.

Pakistan red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie backed Kirsten's remarks and termed the Connection Camp a wonderful opportunity.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to sit down together. We need to connect with each other, and this was the right time to do so," Gillespie said.

Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup playoff stage to begin tomorrow

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The playoff stage of the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup, involving the Qualifier, Eliminator 1 & 2 and the final, will begin tomorrow with the UMT Markhors taking on the Lake City Panthers in the Qualifier. In the league round match between the Markhors and Panthers, the former won by a whopping margin of 160 runs in the tournament opener. The winner of the Qualifier will secure a spot in the final while the losing team will take on the winner of the Wednesday's eliminator on 27 September in eliminator 2. Eliminator 1, to be played on Wednesday 25 September, will be contested between Allied Bank Stallions and Nurpur Lions. The four teams, Markhors, Panthers, Stallions and Lions, finished first, second, third and fourth on the points table, respectively after the 10-match single league round from 12 to 22 September at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad. Engro Dolphins, finished at the fifth and last position, after managing to win only one match out of four outings in the tournament. Markhors and Panthers won three out of four league round matches each. The Stallions won two and lost two while the Lions lost three of their league round games and came out triumphant in one. Among the top performers with the bat, Markhors' Kamran Ghulam leads the charts



with 247 runs in four matches at an average of 61.75 with the help of two centuries. Stallions' Babar Azam and Tayyab Tahir occupy the second and third positions with 230 (76.67 average) and 221 (55.25 average) runs, respectively with one century each to their name. On the bowling front, Panthers' pacer Mohammad Hasnain has bagged 11 wickets including career best List-A figures of 5-74 while Stallions' Jahandad Khan is the second leading wicket-taker with 10 scalps to his name. Zahid Mehmood (Markhors) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (Lions) are joint-third leading wicket takers with nine each.

UMT Markhors Captain, Mohammad Rizwan

"We had an exciting run in the league round of the Bahria Town matches apart from the one hiccup and we look forward to carrying the winning momentum with the help of Almighty.

"The Qualifier against Lake City Panthers is going to be highly challenging and I'm sure the fans will witness a good contest."

Lake City Panthers Captain, Shadab Khan

"After losing the first match we got back to winning ways which is due to some of our batters and bowlers getting back to their form.

"The batters and bowlers are eager to prove their mettle in the all-important Qualifier against the strong Markhors

outfit and we look forward to putting our best foot forward." Allied Bank Stallions Captain, Mohammad Haris

"The league round of the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup has been a very competitive and the Stallions are now up for the challenge that lies ahead.

"Our game against the Lions is going to be a do or die affair and we will strive to showcase the best of our abilities."

Nurpur Lions Captain, Shaheen Shah Afridi

"Our team has been tested throughout the league round and now the eliminator is the best opportunity to put that valuable experience to use.

"We are aware of the strength of the Stallions and will look to give our best in the knock-out game on Wednesday. Hopefully, the Faisalabad crowd will turn up in big numbers as usual."

Playoff stage schedule:

24 September-Qualifier: UMT Markhors vs Lake City Panthers, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 3pm (local time)

25 September-Eliminator 1: Allied Bank Stallions vs Nurpur Lions, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 3pm (local time)

27 September - Eliminator 2: Loser of Qualifier vs Winner of Eliminator 1, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 3pm (local time)

29 September - Final: Winner of Qualifier vs Winner of Eliminator 2, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 3pm (local time)

Adil Rashid breaks silence on retirement plans

A Sports

CHESTER-LE-STREET: England leg-spinner Adil Rashid on Monday, opened up regarding the future of his professional career, stating he has no plans to retire "any time soon".

The 36-year-old spinner and right-arm speedster Jofra Archer are the only two members of England's World Cup-winning team in the squad for the ongoing white-ball home series against Australia.

Rashid is the oldest member of the inexperienced England side by five years with fellow World Cup winners Moeen Ali and Jonny Bairstow left out of the squad, which features new faces.

Meanwhile, Adil Rashid remained confident about his future in the young team and said he has not thought about retirement yet.

"I have not thought about it [retirement] yet," Rashid told the BBC.

"Keep playing, enjoy it, stay fit, bowl well, contribute to wins, hopefully World



Cups and Champions' Trophies - that is my ultimate aim. "I have not thought about retiring or calling it a day any time soon."

England, who failed to defend both their ODI and T20 World Cup titles,

enter a rebuilding process with the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in view or more certainly the next T20 World Cup in 2026 and 2027 ODI World Cup.

The Three Lions had a rough start to

their rebuilding process, having suffered crushing defeats in the first two ODIs of the five-match series against Australia. Their defeat in the second fixture at Headingley was their 10th in the last 14 matches.

"There have been big changes, new batters, new bowlers," he said.

"It will take time. It will always take time when it is a rebuilding process.

"We have got every base covered in terms of bowling, batting, keeping.

"Everything is there for us. All we have to do now is play the game of cricket, enjoy it, string a few games together of winning and then off we go."

Despite succumbing to a heavy defeat, England had something to cherish as Adil Rashid became just the third from the nation to amass 200 wickets in ODIs.

"I'm playing each game and each series as it comes and if I'm still enjoying it and performing well, I'll keep carrying on," Rashid stated ahead of the third ODI between England and Australia, scheduled here on Tuesday.

Pakistan has a bright future in Special Olympics: Rebecca

ISLAMABAD, SEP 22 (APP): Senior Director of Early Childhood and Preventive Health of Special Olympics International Rebecca



Ralston has lauded the Special Olympics Pakistan (SOP) saying Pakistan has a bright future in games.

Special Olympics Pakistan is laudable and we appreciate the steps taken by them to train and nurture the abilities of special athletes, she expressed these views at a reception held by the Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan Ronak Lakhani to honour Ms Rebecca, Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region Senior Manager Health Pearl Ang and Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region Manager Youth Pam Rolink, said a press release.

SOP Board Member Asma Hasan, Advisor Yasmin Haider, Media Advisor of Pakistan Olympic Association Asif Azeem, Vice President of Softball Federation of Pakistan Tehmina Asif, National Director of SOP Taha Tahir, National Sports Director Farkhunda Jabeen and Consultant Communication Saif Azhar, special children and their parents were also present on the occasion.

Rebecca Ralston said we visited various stadiums, hospitals and schools in Lahore and Karachi and carefully reviewed the facilities provided to the special children.

We are happy to see that special children are showing keen interest in various sports. I see a bright future for special games in Pakistan. Special Olympics Pakistan under the leadership of Ronak Lakhani is playing its full role in giving special children their rightful place in society, she said.

I felt very happy to come to Pakistan and I will visit here again very soon. Special Olympic Asia Pacific Region Senior Manager Health Pearl said during our visit, we tried to share our experience with the National Youth Leaders and Coaches of Pakistan whom we met and found with full of talent and also enjoyed the traditional cuisine of Lahore and Karachi. We had the opportunity to visit the shopping centres here and do some shopping too. I would consider it an honour to come back to Pakistan.

Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region Manager Youth Initiatives Pam Rolink said the Pakistani nation is very hospitable and I will never forget the love received here.

Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani thanked the officials of the World and Asian Organization of Special Olympics for coming to Pakistan for the first time and said it is an honour for us to host them. The experience they have passed on to our youth leaders and coaches will prove to be a valuable asset for our athletes in the future, she said.

KC Jinko Solar National Juniors & Seniors Tennis Championship



Tahir Amin Malik

Juniors Under 18 Singles 1st Round M. Yahya Islamabad beat Aboubakar Khalil Lhr 6-0,6-0

Nabeel Qayyum Islamabad beat Ahsan Ahmed 6-1,6-3 Taimoor Ansari beat Muhammad Ali Khatak Hyderabad 6-2, 6-0.

Junaid Meher Hyderabad beat Karoon Kumar 6-0,6-1 Muhammad Salar Islamabad w/o Zaid Panjwani Aboubakar Talha Lahore Shamoon Hidayat 6-0,6-1

Asad Zaman Lahore beat Faiz Ilyas 6-3,3-0 rtd. Under 14 Singles main 1st Round

Ibrahim Amir beat Fasih Usman Punnon Aqil. 4-0,4-1 Muhammad Muaz Lahore beat Arham Shahzad 5-4, 4-1

Boys Under 12 main 2nd Round Tariq Rafi beat Qazi Ahyar 1-4, 4-2, 4-1

Girls Under 18 Singles 1st Round Romsha Malik beat Ayla Malik 6-2,6-1

England cricket captain Knight reprimanded over 'blackface' photo

England women's cricket captain Heather Knight has been reprimanded and given a suspended £1,000 (\$1,300) fine after a historical photograph of her in "blackface" emerged on social media.

Knight, set to lead England at next month's Women's T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, said she was "truly sorry" for conduct that was deemed "racist and discriminatory" by Cricket Discipline Commission adjudicator Tim O'Gorman.

However, O'Gorman accepted there was no racist or discriminatory intent by Heather Knight, who was 21 when the image was taken at a sports-themed fancy dress party in 2012.

Knight, whose fine has been suspended for two years, said in a statement: "I'm truly sorry for the mistake I made in 2012. It was wrong and I have long regretted it.

"Back then, I simply was not as educated as to the implications and consequences of my actions as I have become since. There was no ill-intent meant.

"Whilst I can't change the past, I am passionate and committed to using my platform to promote inclusivity across the game, ensuring under-represented groups are afforded the same opportunities and fulfilment within the game as I have."

The picture of Heather Knight in blackface was posted to the Face-

book account of another person.

Knight promptly accepted the charges brought last month, showed remorse and apologised for her conduct.

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Her punishment also takes into account the fact she did not have any education about the issues involved in posing for such a photo at the time and the work she undertakes to promote diversity and inclusion.

O'Gorman's judgement said: "At a 'sports stars' themed party in 2012, Ms Knight appeared in a photo in fancy dress with blackface. This, I find, was racist and discriminatory conduct.

"(But) I find and accept that there was no racist or discriminatory intent in the blackface itself.

"It is accepted that Ms Knight did not herself post the photograph on any social media platform, has no power to delete the photo and has no power to control how it has been posted (or might be posted in future).

"I consider that it is inappropriate and unnecessary to require a further apology."

Heather Knight's teammate Danni Wyatt-Hodge was reprimanded two years ago for charges relating to blackface from an Instagram post in 2013.

England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive Richard



Gould said: "Heather recognises this was a serious error of judgement which took place more than

10 years ago and has rightly apologised. "As a public figure and leader,

Heather has worked tirelessly to foster a more inclusive and equitable future for cricket."

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal and UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian discuss strengthening bilateral trade and exploring new avenues for partnership on Monday.



Photo: PID

UK trade commissioner meets Jam Kamal, discusses bilateral ties

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian on Monday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade.

The meeting highlighted the need for sectoral collaboration and a business-to-business matchmaking approach to target growth areas in both countries, said a news release.

Jam Kamal emphasized Pakistan's immense potential in the food sector, particularly through value addition. "Pakistan currently can get more foreign exchange by focusing on value addition," he added.

The minister underscored the government's commitment to expanding trade, particularly under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif.

He praised Prime Minister's dedication to achieving an ambitious export growth plan, aiming to increase

exports from US\$30 billion to US\$60 billion.

He also highlighted Pakistan's success in organizing the FoodAg Expo in Karachi, where more than 800 foreign delegates participated.

"This was the first event of its kind, with such a large international presence, and it opened doors to significant business opportunities," he added.

Kamal cited Pakistan's growing exports in other sectors, such as IT, mining,

horticulture, and dairy, and discussed the potential for future exports, including olive products.

"Pakistan is on its way to becoming a significant olive exporter, with vast cultivation underway," he informed.

The UK Trade Commissioner acknowledged Pakistan's vast potential and extended full support for increasing the trade volume between the two nations.

Both sides emphasized the importance of the "UK-Pakistan

Trade Dialogue", a platform to be established soon to promote trade and investment.

As the UK diversifies its import sources post-Brexit, the minister highlighted Pakistan's potential to become a key supplier of food products to the UK, given its compliance with international standards.

This discussion marked a significant step in strengthening trade ties, with both parties expressing optimism for the future of UK-Pakistan trade relations.

World-class Green-Tech Hub in offing to transform Pakistan's energy landscape, says PM's climate aide

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as a state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.

Addressing a webinar on 'Creation of G-TH' as a chief guest, organised by the PakLaunch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator said further that the

G-TH, an initiative backed by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, and international green technology leaders, aims to position the country as a regional leader in sustainable innovation, according to a press statement issued on Monday.

During her address, she also revealed that efforts are also being made by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to showcase highly innovative and impactful projects at the Pakistan Pavilion during the two-week UN-led global climate summit (COP29).

The climate summit is scheduled to begin from Nov.



11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is expected to be attended by 40,000 to 50,000 delegations from over 192 countries.

"Showcasing the initiatives at the upcoming UN-led global climate conference

aims to attract potential global and local investors to finance the projects to help Pakistan achieve its environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

The global leaders at this year's annual global climate conference, which is the second largest gathering of head of states, international leaders and civil society members after UN General Assembly (UNGA), will strive to finalise the first enhanced transparency framework and establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, among other critical issues of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and technical know-how.

Judges committee a one-man show, says SC's Justice Shah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah expressed his concerns in a letter to the SC Practice and Procedure Committee following his absence from a meeting on Monday, stating that he cannot participate until the full court ordinance is reviewed.

In a letter to the judges' committee, Justice Shah stated that the previous committee could have continued its work even after the ordinance was issued.

Justice Shah departed without attending the judges committee meeting in Islamabad. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan waited for Justice Shah to arrive before deciding to leave the session. The lack of attendance from the SC judge led to the early adjournment of the meeting.

It was the first session the federal government promulgated an ordinance to amend the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023. CJP Isa was supposed to preside over the meeting, which was held to decide the formation of benches for the cases to be heard next week. He criticised the immediate restructuring of the committee as "unnecessary" and described the inclusion of a preferred member as an "undemocratic approach" and a "one-man show."

FIA files supplementary challan in Toshakhana II case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday filed a supplementary challan to the trial court in the Toshakhana II reference against the PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Special Judge Central Shahr-rukh Arjmand heard the case against the two accused.

The FIA, in its challan, stated that there were solid proofs against the accused for misconduct. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his wife had taken financial benefits from illegal sources and corrupt practices.

It stated that the PTI founder received a Bulgarian jewelry set while misusing his position.

The FIA also attached the list of 24 prosecution witness along

with the challan document. The witnesses included Section Officer Cabinet Division Banyaman, Prime Minister (PM)'s House Protocol Officer Talat Mehmood, Additional Director NAB Headquarter Qaiser Mehmood, Assistant Director Foreign Affairs Muhammad Faheem, PM's former Military Secretary Muhammad Ahmed, former PM's Personal Secretary Inaam-ullah Shah, Director NAB Shafiqat Mehmood, case investigation officers Mohammad Mohsin Haroon, Assistant Director FIA Investigation Wajid Hussain and Assistant Director Shahid Pervaiz.

It was alleged in the case that the two accused had received the Bulgarian jewelry set as a gift during an official visit to Saudi Arabia from May 7, to 10, 2021. The set included a ring, bracelet,

necklace and earrings.

As per the allegations, Bushra Bibi kept the jewelry set with herself illegally. The Deputy Military Secretary on May 18, asked the Section Officer Toshakhana to get assessment of the value of the set, however, the set was never deposited in the Toshakhana.

The total value of the jewelry set in Pakistani currency is Rs 75.66 million. As per the Toshakhana rules 50 percent of the amount Rs 37.56 million was supposed to be paid to get the set.

It was claimed that the accused got the lower value assessment report by using their position and caused a loss of Rs 32.8 million to the exchequer.

It was further alleged that the PTI founder had kept 58 Toshakhana gifts with him out of a total of 108 received during his tenure.

Qatar Emiri Naval Ship Alkhor Visits Karachi To Participate In Bilateral Exercise Asad Al Bahr



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Qatar Emiri Naval Ship (QENS) ALKHOR visited Karachi. Upon arrival, the Ship was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors.

During the visit, Commanding Officer of the QEN Ship paid homage at Mazar-e-Quaid. He also called on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi.

During the meeting, he appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Navy in promoting peace and

security in the region. Additionally matters of mutual interest and enhancing bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The Qatari Ship will participate in joint exercise Asad Al Bahr and bilateral training and discussions with PN counterparts during its stay at Karachi.

The significant visit of Qatari Ship not only underscores the strong diplomatic ties between both countries but also presents an opportunity to further augment defense and bilateral relations.

British HC supports the SSDO for a comprehensive two-day workshop



The British High Commission supported the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) for a comprehensive two-day "Capacity Building Training of Parliamentary Working Group of Punjab" to deepen participants' understanding of migration issues, specifically Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) while emphasising the crucial role that parliamentarians play in addressing these challenges. The workshop aims to equip participants with practical tools and strategies

for effective legislative action to combat TIP and SOM. The training was attended by 42 participants, including 33 members of the Provincial Assembly (PA) of Punjab, Secretary General and Director Parliamentary Development Unit, Punjab Assembly Pakistan, and representation from Home Department Punjab, Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab, Higher Education Department Punjab, District Administration, and Punjab University.

Tajikistan to import 40,000 metric tons of sugar from Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Tajikistan will sign an agreement to import 40,000 metric tons of sugar from Pakistan, while the Trade Corporation of Pakistan will facilitate Pakistan Sugar Mills Association and Tajikistan's State Reserve Material Reserve for materializing the agreement.

The consensus to this effect was developed in a meeting between Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Director of State of Tajikistan Ahmadzoda Nurmuhammad Ato, who called on the minister and discussed matters relating to mutual interest and promotion of bilateral trade and investment.

Head of Department of International Cooperation Tolibov Muhammadjon, Abdulatovovich and Agha Mullah Amounullah Representative General of Logistics Company ZFA

General Trading were also presented in the meeting, said a press release issued here Monday.

Saif Anjum, Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production also attended the meeting, it said adding that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had approved to export about 40,000 metric tons of sugar to Republic of Tajikistan.

Both the sides also agreed for establishing joint working group to promote bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan and agreed for initiating trade partnership in edibles goods, besides developing storage facilities along the boarder sides and taking measures for trade facilitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer said that Pakistan was ready to help the Tajikistan for fulfilling its requirements of edibles goods and promoting trade and investment relations between both the counties.