

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عبد اللہ بن مبارک نے کہا تم کو
شعبہ سے خریدی، انہیں قادیانے کہا تم سے
عبد اللہ بن مبارک نے کہا تم سے ماہر جو اس رضی اللہ عنہ
کے علم میں کہ ابو سعید خدری نے بیان کیا
کہ نبی کریم ﷺ کو انور لایوں سے بھی
زیادہ خر مہلتے تھے، جب آپ کو کسی چیز
دیکھتے جو آپ کو ناکار ہوئی تو ہم آپ کے
پہرے مبارک سے بچھ جاتے تھے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6102)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



CM directs strict monitoring of price control mechanism

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday directed strict monitoring of price control mechanism for disseminating its fruits to the masses. Presiding over a briefing at the Commissioner Office during her visit to Faisalabad, she said the govt had decided to provide metro bus service in Faisalabad after Lahore whereas second IT City and Safari Park would also be established in this metropolis.



California schools to restrict smartphone use under new legislation

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law on Monday a bill that requires schools to limit or ban the use of smartphones, amid a growing consensus that excess usage can increase the risk of mental illness and impair learning. Thirteen other states this year have banned or restricted cellphones in school or recommended local educators do so, after Florida led the way by banning phones in class in 2023, according to Education Week.

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Camaraderie

Chief Advisor (Head of Government) of the Interim Government of Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the reception to commemorate 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh's membership in the United Nations. New York, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

IMF formally approves \$7 billion bailout package for Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund approved a \$7 billion bailout package for Pakistan on Wednesday. According to sources, the bailout package will be 37 months long in duration.

The first tranche from the bailout worth \$1.1 billion has also been approved for release and the funds could be transferred as soon as September 30.

The IMF loan will be available at less than 5 percent interest rate, sources in the Ministry of Finance said.

The approval for the bailout package was given in a meeting of the Fund's executive board in Washington on Wednesday.

Pakistan's package was reportedly the top item on the

meeting's agenda. The meeting will also discuss packages for Liberia, Turkey and Portugal. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had recently stated that the terms of the loan would be made public on September 25.

He had also claimed that his five predecessors had not been able to negotiate such favorable terms with the global lender.

The finance minister expressed hope that it could be Pakistan's last IMF programme, contingent upon the country implementing agreed-upon structural reforms.

The IMF had announced that it reached staff-level agreement with Pakistan for an extended fund facility (EFF) of around \$7 billion on July 13.

PM address at SDG Moment 2024

A clarion call for global unity against pressing challenges

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's inclusive address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment 2024, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York, has garnered widespread acclaim from international relations experts, civil society members, environmentalists and politicians, terming it inclusive and wide ranging with solution to all issues.

Eminent experts said PM Shehbaz Sharif's address at the SDG Moment 2024 served as a clarion call for international and regional unity in tackling

the world's most pressing challenges including climate change, debt burden and terrorism that mostly affected underdeveloped and developed countries including Pakistan.

Manzoorul Haq, a former Pakistani ambassador, emphasized the significance of the Prime Minister's focus on pressing global challenges such as debt burdens, climate change, and carbon emissions.

He noted that these issues disproportionately affected developing nations, including Pakistan, which has been severely impacted by climate-related disasters despite no contribution in global carbon gas emissions.

The huge debt burdens which are increasing with each passing year, are directly affecting development in developing countries including Pakistan, marring efforts to provide better services to residents due to repayment of financial resources.

"The world witnessed the devastating floods in northern Pakistan in 2022, which obliterated infrastructure, agriculture, and energy projects, particularly in Swat and Kohistan districts," Manzoor, who served as Pakistani ambassador to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, explained.

He said that several expensive hotels in River Swat beds were razed to group and small dams were washed away in KP due to

climate change.

He underscored the anticipation surrounding the Prime Minister's forthcoming key note address at the UNGA, which is expected to address the complex geopolitical and security landscape and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and continued political, moral and diplomatic support to the oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK who faced endless India's state terrorism since 1947.

Echoing Manzoor's sentiments, Professor Dr. Ejaz Khan, a former chairman of the International Relations Department at the University of Peshawar, commended the inclusivity of PM Sharif's speech. He pointed

out the Prime Minister's candid discussion on combating terrorism, climate change and its great toll on Pakistan, citing the loss of approximately 80,000 lives and an economic setback of \$150 billion due to this imposed terrorism war.

"Pakistan had faced unprecedented challenges, and the international community must step forward to aid in the rebuilding of our infrastructure damaged by both climate change and terrorism," Dr Ejaz Khan stated.

He urged the Afghan government to take responsibility for preventing its territory from being used for anti-Pakistan activities.

Judges are not a tribe of prophets, reserved seats verdict full of mistakes, Siddiqui says

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui has raised serious concerns about recent Supreme Court rulings, particularly regarding reserved seats, questioning the judiciary's interpretation of the constitution and its power to overturn legislation.

In a press conference in Islamabad, Siddiqui stated that laws are frequently struck down on the grounds of being unconstitutional, leading to a pattern of judicial overreach. He added that judges are not a 'tribe of prophets' who cannot be criticised.

Siddiqui highlighted the controversy surrounding the recent ruling on reserved seats, asserting that the decision contained numerous flaws and raised several questions. He emphasized that while respecting the judiciary, the PML-N will not compromise on the supremacy of the constitution.

He questioned the court's authority, stating, "If the judiciary makes a decision against the consti-



tution, who will correct it?" He further argued that the judiciary's role is to uphold the constitution, not create it, and that the parliament, not the courts, is responsible for lawmaking.

The Senator criticized the handling of appeals related to the reserved seats ruling, noting that they have yet to be heard despite the passage of two months. He pointed out the inherent

contradictions within the ruling, specifically citing violations of the Election Act.

He also highlighted the frequent use of the claim that laws are unconstitutional, questioning the possibility of judicial error and the process for rectifying such errors. He stated that the issue has become far more complicated than it was before the ruling, highlighting that even during four martial laws, the judiciary did not put up a challenge.

Siddiqui specifically criticized the court's handling of the three-day deadline for party affiliation, pointing out that the same court allowed members to join the Sunni Ittehad Council, despite a five-year constitutional restriction on such movements. He questioned the court's authority to override this constitutional provision, allowing members to join the PTI. He argued that this action represents an over-reach of power.

The Senator stressed the importance of upholding the constitution, arguing that the recent rulings have created more problems than they have solved.

Notification for Justice Mansoor's appointment is 'fake', clarifies Law ministry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Law and Justice has declared a notification circulating on social media, purportedly appointing Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as Chief Justice, to be fake.

In a statement, the ministry clarified that it has not issued any such notification and the notification in circulation is fake.

Justice Shah, the senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court, is expected to become Chief Justice upon the retirement of the current Chief Justice, Justice Qazi Faez Isa on October 26.

Shehbaz simply requested 'support', Fazl says



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has expressed his desire for a consensus-based approach to constitutional amendments, criticizing the government's approach as being driven by self-interest rather than necessity.

In a meeting with senior journalists in Islamabad, Maulana Fazlur Rehman stated that while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had simply requested their

support, the JUI-F believes any extension should be based on genuine need, not political expediency.

He reiterated the party's support for the establishment of an electoral reforms commission.

He also stated that he is in favour of constitutional court.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman criticized the government's handling of the situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that these provinces are under the control of armed groups.

Pakistan condemns Israel's aggression against Lebanon

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms, Israel's latest military aggression against Lebanon, massacring hundreds of civilians.

This act of aggression against the Republic of Lebanon is a grave violation of the UN Charter and international law. It is a dangerous escalation that has further endangered peace and security

in an already volatile region.

Pakistan reaffirms its full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and stands in solidarity with the people of Lebanon and for their right to live in peace and security.

We call upon the international community to take urgent steps to hold Israel to account for its alarming adventurism in the region and its acts of aggression and genocide.

Sindh CM hails progress on Safe City Project as significant step

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI (SEPT 24): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the work done so far was a significant step toward establishing Karachi as a safer city through enhanced surveillance and response capabilities.

"I have got the work on the long-awaited Safe City Project in Karachi, Phase-I significantly accelerated," he said and added that the project, aimed at enhancing public safety and security in the metropolis, has reached several key milestones.

This emerged in a meeting held at CM House on Tuesday. It was attended by Minister Home Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and others.

The IG Police briefed the CM on the project's progress and informed him that 1300 Cameras will be installed at different locations.

It was disclosed that all 300 pole site surveys and 18 Point of Presence (POP) site surveys have been completed. Under the civil work, Right-of-Way (RoW) approvals from



all relevant stakeholders have been obtained and foundation excavation and digging have been completed at 200 pole sites.

The CM was told that 50 poles have been installed so far, with ongoing work at the remaining sites.

The CM was informed that the Control Room and Data Center equipment, along with a Video Wall, have

been installed at the Central Police Office (CPO), receiving live monitoring through 35 cameras at 7 locations.

The Safe City Authority's headquarters at Shahrah-e-Faisal is being established for which the land has been developed and handed over its possession to the National Radio Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC).

To a question, the CM was told that so far 35 police cameras have been made operational under the project and the work on the installation of other cameras was in progress.

The chief minister said that the work done so far was a significant step toward establishing Karachi as a safer city through enhanced surveillance and response capabilities.

Meeting

LAHORE: President Multan Press Club Mr Shakeel Anjum Meeting With Information Minister Punjab Uzma Bukhari at Her Minister Office Lahore.



Photo: Spokesman

City Traffic Police Officer Multan will issue driving license to Disabled Persons



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: CTO Multan Sardar Mauhrhan Khan has assured to issue driving license (motorbike) to disabled people in Multan for the first time and steps are being taken in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to the delegation of the Mainstream Association of Persons with Disabilities Handiman Stream ILC Multan. CTO Multan had specially invited the Main Stream Association (Persons with Disabilities) to his office. The delegation was headed by Nader Khan who highlighted the problems of disabled people and assured to play his role as a traffic volunteer for the betterment of traffic. Sardar Mawarhan Khan actively contributed to the services of MainStream Association, MainStream ILC. Nader Khan's services for disabled people are unforgettable. We are happy that there is a young man in our city who is giving new life to many disabled people with his own disability. On this occasion, he appointed Nader Khan as his traffic volunteer as his Disability Advisor and Representative of Disabled Persons Secret Traffic Police Multan Bay. I and my office are always here to serve the disabled people.

God willing, we will make our society accessible to disabled people together. On this occasion, he also issued orders to make the city traffic office accessible.

The delegation included Ruksana Kasar, Imama Arbab, Saira Neelam, Muslim Raza, Areej Ejaz, Muhammad Akhtar, Muhammad Majid, Adil Ali Khan, Haq Nawaz, Muhammad Shahzad, Muhammad Rafiq and others.

DFP says Indian poll invites foreign diplomats to observe Kashmir are ploy to mislead world

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that the Indian government's invitation to foreign diplomats to observe the so-called poll exercise in Kashmir was an attempt to mislead the international community about Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that instead of arranging curated tours of foreign envoys the Indian government should allow independent observers to monitor the situation in the restive region that has been marred by conflict and human rights violations since several decades.

Urging foreign diplomats not to allow themselves to be used as brand ambassadors for the Indian government to project its fake normalcy narrative on Kashmir, Iqbal said that India has a history of using such guided trips to the territory as a tool to hoodwink global community and deflect its attention away from the real issue of Kashmir that happens to be one of the longest pending disputes on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Reminding their respective countries' significant contribution in the passage of the UNSC resolutions that guarantee right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir, the DFP spokesman asked the visiting diplomats to play their much needed role to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in line with these resolutions.

Terming resolution of Kashmir issue as a key to regional peace, the DFP spokesman said that solution to the lingering dispute lies in the implementation of the UN resolutions.

The so-called elections held under the shadow of guns, he said, cannot be a substitute for Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Women's Struggles in Muzaffarabad Backward Areas



Rabbiya Wahid

MUZAFFARABAD: As a proud advocate for Kashmir's empowerment, I embarked on a journey to the lesser-known towns of Muzaffarabad. Witnessing firsthand the stark reality of women's lives in these backward areas reinforced my commitment to their cause.

During my visit, I interacted with women from diverse backgrounds, each with a unique story to share. Their experiences echoed a common thread—the desperate need for empowerment.

In villages like Chatter Kalas, girls are often forced to drop out of school after primary education, lacking access to healthcare facilities and economic independence.

Nusrat, a 25-year-old resident, shared her struggles: "We're confined to our homes, with no opportunities for skill development or employment. Our voices are silenced, and our potential remains untapped." Shahnaz from Leepa Valley echoed similar sentiments: "We lack resources, support, and platforms to express ourselves."

Driven by my passion for Kashmir's progress, I have worked tirelessly to create opportunities for its women. Through our department's initiatives and collaborations with local organizations, we have:

- Established vocational training centers
- Provided scholarships for girls' education
- Supported women-led entrepreneurship
- Promoted healthcare accessibility

These efforts aim to bridge the gap between Kashmir's women and their rightful potential. I believe that empowering Kashmiri women is crucial to the region's growth and prosperity.

As we move forward, it's essential to acknowledge the resilience of Kashmiri women and their determination to break free from societal shackles. Let us continue to amplify their voices, provide resources, and foster.

SCO's Digital Transformation in AJK and GB – Empowering Youth Through IT

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Special Communications Organization (SCO) has made incredible strides in advancing the IT infrastructure of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In a record time of 11 months, SCO is proud to establish 12 state-of-the-art Software Technology Parks (STPs) and 37 Freelancing Hubs (FLHs) across these regions under a "Swift Action Plan".

These initiatives are part of SCO's commitment to empower local youth, providing them with modern IT facilities, high-speed internet, promote IT culture and access to global freelancing platforms.

Key highlights of the STP and FLH Projects:

- 12 STPs have been established at district level in major cities of AJK and GB including Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Kotli etc. These STPs are equipped with cutting-edge technology, enabling young IT professionals to develop their digital skills and contribute to Pakistan's growing digital economy.

- 37 Freelancing Hubs have been launched at tehsil level and are connected with STPs providing local youth with access to online freelancing platforms and resources that enable them to work and earn from anywhere. Notably, a dedicated FLH for Girls in Kel has been a game-changer in promoting gender equality



within the IT sector.

- These initiatives have already started reducing unemployment and empowering youth with tools and training they need for self-reliance and economic independence.

Ameen This is not just about technology, but about building a brighter future for the youth of AJK and GB. SCO's aim is to foster innovation and skill-building that will help our young generation contribute positively to their communities and the national economy. Whole ecosystem is being developed by encouraging college students and local youth to join SCO's initiatives and get training/enablement for self-empowerment. The mission is clear: equip our youth with essential digital skills, open doors to global earning opportunities and foster a culture of innovation and self-reliance. In this short span of time, so many success stories have emerged that have transformed the lives of families and communities. Few success stories are narrated as under:-

Success Stories

Success Story 1: Nad-e-Ali – Overcoming Challenges Through SCO's Support

Nad-e-Ali, from Gilgit-Baltistan, was born differently-abled, and his family worried about his future. His father, a painter, did his best to provide, but opportunities for Nad-e-Ali seemed limited. Everything changed when SCO's Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities offered him the tools, facilities, and emotional support he needed.

With training and access to high-speed internet, Nad-e-Ali learned graphic design and now works as a successful freelancer. He earns enough to support his family and is an inspiration to others in his community, showing that with the right support, anything is possible.

Success Story 2: Miss Sara – Leading the Way for Women in Technology

Miss Sara, a young tech-entrepreneur from Baltistan, began her career at SCO's Software Technology Park in Skardu in 2023. Starting as a solo worker, she received

mentorship and guidance from SCO, which helped her grow her skills and confidence.

Within a year, Sara founded her own technical startup and now employs several young women from her community. Her leadership and success have made her a role model, inspiring young women in Gilgit-Baltistan to pursue careers in technology.

Both Nad-e-Ali and Miss Sara are examples of how SCO is empowering individuals in remote areas, helping them achieve success and contribute to their communities.

Success Story 3: Zil-e-Huma – Empowering Women Through Freelancing in Gilgit-Baltistan

Zil-e-Huma belongs to a remote area of Chhalla in GB, moved to Gilgit to pursue better educational and career opportunities. She discovered SCO's first Freelancing Hub in Gilgit, where she embarked on her professional journey. Gaining essential skills, Zil-e-Huma not only built a successful freelancing career but also established her own company. She is now dedicated to training and empowering other women from her

community, helping them access similar opportunities.

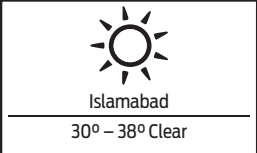
Grateful for SCO's support, Zil-e-Huma highlights the importance of such facilities in remote areas where many women are deprived of these resources.

Success Story 4: Faisal Ali – From Pedlar to Aspiring E-Commerce Entrepreneur

Faisal Ali, from the streets of Kotli, spent his early years helping his father earn a living by selling fruits and vegetables. Although he came from a humble background, Faisal was determined to achieve more. After completing his matriculation with 850 marks, a promising opportunity came his way through The Smart Hub, a startup incubated at STP Kotli.

Recognizing Faisal's potential, The Smart Hub offered him guidance and training in freelancing, specifically focused on Amazon's e-commerce platform. Over the past two months, Faisal has been learning the intricacies of managing an online store, and although he's still in the early stages of his training, he's determined to build his own business.

Faisal is committed to changing not only his life but also uplifting his family's standard of living. With the support of STP Kotli, and through hard work and perseverance, Faisal is on his way to achieving success as an e-commerce entrepreneur, demonstrating that with the right resources and mentorship, great transformations are possible.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:35 am
Zohr12:00 Noon
Asr4:17 pm
Maghrib6:00 pm
Isha7:23 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 Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09

Companies to report induction and cessation of directors and CEOs through eZfile

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in line with its objective to simplify corporate reporting has introduced key amendments to Regulation 50 of the Companies Regulations, 2024, to ensure a transparent and foolproof process for the induction and cessation of directors and chief executive officer (CEO) of companies. The amendments aim to address the challenges and concerns earlier faced by the directors and CEOs while reporting changes in their status.

Key changes include the requirement for the individual to provide consent through a digital PIN application before reporting of induction or cessation by the companies to the registrar. The new feature will considerably reduce the false or fraudulent reporting by companies and shall ensure that incoming and outgoing directors or CEOs are informed through notifications via email and registered mobile number regarding the changes made by the companies in their reporting.

The amendments require all existing directors and CEOs to register themselves in the eZfile within three months from the date of notification or earlier before their induction, resignation or retirement. The amendments also stipulate that all returns notifying the induction or cessation of directors or CEOs be filed exclusively through eZfile, enhancing the process's efficiency and transparency.

Practical IPP actions expected soon: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the power sector has held the people and the economy hostage for the last thirty years.

He added that the public and the business community across the country are being charged a heavy price for keeping the incompetent and corrupt power sector afloat. Still, they can't bear the burden now.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce has highlighted this issue and created public awareness, so the government is now inclined to conduct a forensic audit of IPPs to satisfy the public.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government is compelled to take real and effective measures.

Federal Minister of Energy Owais Ahmed Khan Leghari has promised that electricity prices will be reduced this month and brought to par with other countries in a few more months so that Pakistani manufacturers can reduce their costs and sell their products.

Making exporters able to compete in



global markets at competitive prices is welcomed by businesses, he informed. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IPPs and supportive bureaucrats have

created a trap against the people and the economy that has become impossible to escape, but despite this, dozens of new IPPs are being set up.

Non-transparent contracts, payment in dollars instead of profits in rupees, collusion with private power company owners, over-invoicing by IPP owners, tax exemptions, violation of open bidding laws, and record corruption in power companies inevitably result in circular debt.

The burden of this debt has left the economy almost dead. While making contracts with IPPs, the electricity transmission and distribution system was not upgraded, so trillions of rupees could be paid to private power plants without generating electricity.

To solve all these problems, a policy of continuous increase in the price of electricity was adopted. As a result, the people's and the industrialists' purchasing power was lost, and many industries were closed.

He said that to survive, people started taking loans to install solar systems in this situation, which gave discs another opportunity to make money.

Presently, Discos are receiving up to fifty thousand rupees in bribes for installing a single residential green meter, which is distributed very honestly from top to bottom.

Power plants worldwide are paid up to thirty-five percent according to their capacity, which in Pakistan is between sixty-two and seventy percent.

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Principal Prof Shugufta Rauf awarding prize to winner of English Speech competition held at Model college for girls G10/2 on Wednesday.



Photo: Sarmad Sultan

International Day of Newspaper Reading

City Desk



MULTAN: On September 25, the International Day of Newspaper Reading, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Chairman of SM Group of Industries and member of the National Export Development Board, emphasized that newspapers are the most reliable source of

accurate information. He highlighted their crucial role in raising public awareness and promoting democratic values, noting that newspapers have historically helped awaken the importance of a separate homeland during Pakistan's independence movement. Despite a decline in reading habits due to digital media, he asserted that newspapers remain an essential medium for credible news and vocabulary expansion, especially amidst rising misinformation on social media.

IPL Triumphs Once Again at P@SHA ICT Awards 2024

KARACHI:

nnovative Pvt Ltd (IPL), Pakistan's leading provider of Self-Service Banking and Currency Technology Solutions, has once again demonstrated its industry leadership by winning the prestigious P@SHA ICT Award 2024 in the Business Services-FinTech category. This marks the second time in a row, IPL has secured this coveted honor, solidifying its position as a trailblazer in financial technology and innovation.



The company's CEO, Mr. Naveed Ali Baig expressed pride in IPL's remarkable achievement, stating, "This award is a testament to the relentless efforts of our team and our unwavering commitment to delivering the best-in-class solutions to our clients. We are honored to be recognized by P@SHA once again and remain dedicated to driving innovation in Pakistan's FinTech ecosystem."

Police arrest 17 criminals; Recover valuables, drugs, and illegal weapons

ISLAMABAD, SEP 25 (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 17 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered cash, valuables and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

He said following these directions (ICT) Police apprehended 17 criminals involved in various criminal activities, including bike lifting, drug peddling, and possessing illegal weapons. Police teams also recovered cash, valuables, and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

In this regard, the Aabpara police team arrested two wanted members of the bike lifter gang and recovered four stolen bikes from their possession, he said. The accused were identified as Khurram and Waqas, while further investigation is underway, he added.

Moreover, ICT Police Sangjani, Aabpara, Noon, Khanna, Koral, Lohi Bher and Nilore police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons, he said.

Which resulted in the apprehension of 07 drug dealers and seizing over 300 liters of liquor, 1020-gram hashish and 620-gram heroin, two 30 bore pistols, one dagger and iron punch from their possession, he said.

Moreover, five absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours, he added. IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, said that the ICT Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace, he said.

Bank Alfalah receives prestigious global recognition at the GIFA 2024



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank Alfalah has earned international acclaim by winning two awards at the 2024 Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA), highlighting its position as a leader in the Islamic banking sector.

The Bank received accolades for its contributions to Islamic banking, including the Islamic Banker of the Year 2024 award and the Best Islamic Banking Window Operations Award 2024 under the GIFA Market Leadership Awards category. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Imran, Group Head-Islamic Banking at Bank Alfalah, expressed his gratitude for the recognition: "These awards are the testament to the collective efforts of our team at Bank Alfalah Islamic. We have always aimed to elevate the standards of

Islamic banking in Pakistan and globally by adhering to the highest Shari'ah standards and offering customer-centric solutions. This is an honour and a reflection of the hard work we have put into transforming Islamic banking into an impactful financial service."

Experts call for active role in countering extremism at IIU seminar

ISLAMABAD: In a seminar titled "Peace Begins with Us: Youth as a Real Source of Change," experts emphasized the critical role of young people in promoting peace and countering extremism. The event, held at the female campus of the International Islamic University (IIU) in collaboration with the Department of Psychology and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), brought together academics and experts to discuss strategies for empowering the younger generation in peacebuilding.

The seminar's chief guest, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at IIU, Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, highlighted the need to foster a constructive mindset among youth to combat extremism. "Youth must be nurtured to adopt positive attitudes, and collective efforts are essential to bring about change," Dr. Iqbal stated. He stressed that youth empowerment is crucial

to shaping the country's future and called on academia to play a vital role in educating young minds through research and practical peacebuilding activities.

Senior Analyst Zooni Ashfaq, representing NACTA, emphasized that a united front among all stakeholders is necessary to protect Pakistan from the threats of extremism and terrorism.

"Students are our most valuable asset," Zooni Ashfaq said, while sharing statistics on the damages caused by extremism. She urged the youth to recognize the signs and causes of radicalization, warning that Pakistan can no longer afford the destructive impacts of terrorism. Ashfaq further highlighted NACTA's efforts to engage students through competitions in essay writing, filmmaking, animation, and other creative outlets aimed at promoting peace. Professor Dr. Nazia Iqbal, head



of IIU's Department of Psychology, discussed the psychological aspects of peacebuilding, appreciating the active involvement of students in

the seminar. She stressed the importance of engaging the younger generation in activities that not only raise awareness but also encourage proac-



tive involvement in peacebuilding. The seminar also featured contributions from NACTA analysts Muhammad Hussain Rizvi, Rida

Tariq, Javeria Abbasi, and Nayyab Batool, underscoring the collaborative efforts needed to create a peaceful resilient society.

Pakistan Highly Values its Bilateral Relations with Russian Government: Yousaf Raza Gilani

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani expressed Pakistan's desire to establish a long-term, multidimensional partnership with Russia, particularly in the areas of energy, defense, food security, and people-to-people contacts.

He made these remarks during a meeting with Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev, who visited him in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Chairman Gilani emphasized that Pakistan values its bilateral relations with Russia and is eager to enhance collaboration across various sectors, including trade and the economy. He highlighted the significance of



parliamentary diplomacy in fostering connections between the two nations.

Gilani noted that Pakistan is endowed with rich agricultural land and expressed interest in leveraging Russian expertise in agriculture.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Pakistan, Russia, energy, defense, food security, Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev,

The Ambassador concurred with the Chairman's views, stating that Russia possesses substantial experience and advanced technology that could benefit Pakistan's agricultural sector.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Pakistan, Russia, energy, defense, food security, Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev,

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Russian Federation Council, the Ambassador presented a letter of congratulation to Chairman Gilani.

CCP discourages the term of 'Big Four' in agreements

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in its recent decisions, has explicitly discouraged the practice of using the term 'Big Four' in commercial covenants for appointing the firms for assurance or financial services.



The term Big Four refers to the four large firms that offer assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, and tax services, globally as well as locally.

The Commission made this observation while reviewing the application from MNT Halan Pak B. V. and later in another application from Advans S. A. SICAR. Both applicants while seeking exemptions on certain restrictive clauses in their agreements entered into with third parties, had used the term 'Big Four' for engaging of financial and other services.

Presently, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) maintains a list of 130 CA firms with satisfactory Quality Control Review (QCR) ratings. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) maintains a panel of 46 auditors under Section 35(1) of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962, categorized into three categories A, B and C. Furthermore, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has an approved list of auditors pursuant to section 48 of Insurance Ordinance for audit of insurance and takaful entities. Notably, none of these lists have specified or implied the use of the term 'Big Four' either.

Under the Competition Act, 2010, limiting the provision of services to a selected group of undertakings violates the principles of open and fair competition. Through its directions in both the above cases, the CCP has upheld and emphasized fostering open competition across all spheres of commercial and economic activities in the country. Besides, CCP underscores the importance of transparent and open selection processes to ensure a level playing field for all firms in the relevant market.

RCCI's 64th Annual General Meeting, New Team will take charge on Oct 1

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The 64th Annual General Meeting of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) was held at chamber premises here on Wednesday. In the meeting, the annual report and accounts presented by the outgoing committee were approved. The annual report covered important events and activities.

The house officially announced and approved the election of newly elected Office Bearers, President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Qazi Farooq Khalid, and Fahad Barlas as Vice President.

The new officials will officially assume charge from October 1. The meeting was presided over by President Saqib Rafiq, while Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Group Leader Sohail Altaf were also present in the meeting, outgoing Executive Committee members, newly elected Executive Body, former Presidents and a large number of Chamber members were also present on the occasion.

FPCCI Appoints Kashif Zahir as an Advisor on Regional Coordination



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Shiekh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has appointed Mr. Kashif Zahir Chairman of Pakistan Affairs Scandinavia-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SPCCI) & Former Vice Chairman of Handicraft Association Pakistan as an Advisor to the President of FPCCI on Regional Coordination for the term 2024-25.

Mr. Zahir's appointment acknowledges his vast experience in fostering global relationships. His timely recommendations and strategic insights are expected to greatly benefit the business community, particularly in promoting bilateral trade and enhancing exports from Pakistan through the various initiatives of the Ministry of Commerce and the SIFC.

Mr. Zahir's Leadership and Vision will play a pivotal Role in enhancing Trade Relations and Fostering Economic Collaborations between Pakistan & Various Regions of the World.

Mr. Zahir stated, "The government must focus on rapid industrialization and take bold steps to accelerate economic growth. It is essential to restore the confidence of both foreign and local investors to drive sustainable development."

BF Biosciences Book Building Starts today (25 September)!

City Desk

KARACHI: BF Biosciences IPO's book building phase will be held on 25th and 26th September where high net worth individuals and institutional investors will subscribe to 100 per cent of the issue size.

BF Biosciences, a leader in the biotech pharmaceuticals sector in Pakistan, is set to raise between Rs1.38 and Rs1.93 billion to expand its key product lines and obtain export certifications.

The floor price for the issue has been set at Rs55 per share through a 100 percent book building process.

The unsubscribed shares, if any, of the general subscription portion would be allocated to the successful bidders of the book building portion on a pro-rata basis. The issuer will utilize any additional funds raised above the floor price in managing its additional requirements for capex and working capital needs.

BF Biosciences has estimated that the maximum strike price for the IPO may climb to Rs77 per share that would increase the funds raised to Rs1.93 billion.

This strategic initiative is expected to drive significant growth in both the company's top line and profitability as company has already completed a brownfield expansion and IPO will also help the company to manage working capital needs of the aforesaid expansion.

Arif Habib Limited has been appointed as a lead manager and book runner to the issue.

Call on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan, H.E. Fahad Bin Sulaiman Bin Khalaf Alkharusi called on the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Pashtoon culture Day celebrated with traditional grandeur in Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: The Pashtoon Culture Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal in Wana, South Waziristan Lower, on Wednesday.

The event was a rich tribute to local culture, attended by people from all walks of life in large numbers.

Muhammad Tahir, Commandant of South Waziristan Scouts Force, Wana, was the Chief Guest of Pashtoon Culture Day.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Nasir Khan, Assistant Commissioner Wana, Faisal Ismail, tribal elders, and a large number of children were also present.



Guests were given turbans as a Pashtoon traditional honor, an important part of Pashtoon cultural traditions. The event started with traditional Pashtoon music, where bangles were put on to the beat of drums, and wonderful Waziristan and

Khattak traditional dances were performed.

Participants generously participated in this traditional dance, making the event a highlight. Pashtoon traditional foods were served, including traditional dishes. Cultural stalls showcased local handicrafts and products. Recreational activities included a tug-of-war competition and a friendly football match, giving the youth opportunities for happiness.

Various games for children and adults connected people with culture and sports. The Pashtoon Culture Day celebrated in Wana was a colorful festival, providing an important opportunity to convey Pashtoon culture to the new generation.

Factors Influencing Equine Reproduction and Growth in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Athar Chatha / Dr. Nisar Ahmad

Pakistan's rich equine heritage is under the spotlight as researchers delve into the factors affecting the reproductive performance of broodmares and the growth of young equines. Studies conducted in the country's subtropical climate have shed light on the intricate interplay of intrinsic and extrinsic factors influencing these vital aspects of equine husbandry.

Reproductive Performance of Brood Mares

A comparative analysis of Arabian, Percheron, and Thoroughbred mares revealed significant differences in their reproductive performance. Arabian mares outperformed their counterparts in terms of foal numbers, foal heat conceptions, and pregnancy rates. The study also highlighted the critical role of housing management. Mares housed in excellent conditions exhibited higher foal production, foal heat conceptions, and a lower rate of dystocia compared to those in less optimal environments.

Growth and Development of Young Equines

Another study focused on the

growth of Thoroughbred Pakistani (TBP) foals, examining the impact of feeding strategies and weaning protocols. The researchers found that foals fed a commercial diet and weaned later exhibited superior girth growth and height development. These findings underscore the importance of tailored nutrition and weaning practices for optimal foal growth.

A third study explored the influence of intrinsic and extrinsic factors on foal growth and survival. The analysis of data from Thoroughbred, Arab, and Percheron foals revealed that late weaning, sheltered housing, and middle-aged dams contributed to

enhanced growth and survival rates. However, extreme winter conditions posed a significant challenge to foal survival.

Implications for Equine Husbandry The findings of these studies offer valuable insights for equine breeders and managers in Pakistan. By optimizing housing conditions, feeding strategies, and weaning protocols, breeders can improve the reproductive performance of brood mares and enhance the growth and development of young equines. These measures are essential for ensuring the sustainability of the equine industry in the country's subtropical climate.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
82,247.91	81,483.64	
Day's High	Day's Low	
82,331.85	81,524.41	
Index Value	Change	
13,085,023,880	+764.27	
Percentage	Time	
+0.94%	25 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,268.70	-14.06	
Percentage	Time	
-0.17%	25 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
41,943.98	-264.24	
Percentage	Time	
-0.63%	25 Sept, 1:02 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
37,870.26	-70.33	
Percentage	Time	
-0.19%	25 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.50	193.75
Bahrain Dinar	733.25	741.25
Canadian Dollar	207.35	209.75
China Yuan	38.25	38.65
Danish Krone	40.03	40.43
Euro	308.85	309.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	900.00	909.50
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	60.3
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	717.70	726.20
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.78	74.33
Singapore Dollar	201.85	203.85
Swedish Korona	26.15	26.45
Swiss Franc	329.45	332.25
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	370.1	371.15
US Dollar	279.00	280.50

Govt to Reactivate 16 Sectoral Councils to Boost Pharma Industry Growth: Jam Kamal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan while reaffirming the government's unwavering commitment to revitalizing and advancing our pharmaceutical industry on Wednesday, said that the Ministry of Commerce is reactivating 16 sectoral councils to prepare comprehensive plans and policies for industrial development and trade promotion in the country.

Addressing the 7th Pharma Export Summit and Award 2024, the minister said that the suggestions from the sectoral councils would be presented to the export development board, headed by the Prime Minister, for their swift implementation.

He added that each sectoral council would have its own secretariat to determine ways and means and take measures to enhance trade and industrial activities in the country, noting that such initiatives would also help promote the local pharmaceutical sector.

The minister congratulated the organizers of the Pharma Summit for bringing together key stakeholders, thought leaders, and innovators in Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion Coor-



inator to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath said that the pharma industry was playing an indispensable role in promoting health and well-being across the nation and the globe

as well. The country's pharma industry was not only created vast employment opportunities but also fulfilling 90 per cent medicines need.

Speaking on the occasion CEO Drug

Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) Dr Asim Rauf lauded the organizers of the summit and said that world was changing and digitizing was very important thing. The theme of the summit indicated that we were on right path, he added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chairman PPMA Mian Khalid Mishbah ur Rehman said that PPMA is a recognized trade body with over 250 members and started its journey in 1961. He said that 90 per cent country's medicines need was being fulfilled through local production. The pharma industry was providing a quality medicines to the people at affordable prices, he added.

Chairman Organizing Committee Dr Kaisar Waheed, CEO Hevolution Foundation Saudi Arabia, Dr Mehmood Jan, Dr Semith Kumluk, Dr Mahwash A Khan, Aamir Altaf Qureshi, Usman Shaukat, Mian Asad Shuja-ur-Rehman, Dr Adeel Abbas, Haroon Qasim and other pharmaceutical industry experts, researchers, academics, and managers from all over the country and abroad spoke on the occasion.

Later, awards were given to over 50 pharmaceutical companies for showing excellence in drug production in Pakistan.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Belarus called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Government action against non-filers is the right decision: Atif Ikram

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government's decision to take action against non-filers is correct while tax burden should be reduced on tax payers. Action against non-payers of taxable income should have been decided earlier. Action should be taken against taxpayers and facilitating officers involved in tax evasion, he expressed these views while talking to Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail and others.

President Federation Atif Ikram said that tax collection must be increased to



improve the economy of Pakistan, to increase the tax revenue it is necessary to increase the number of taxpayers, tax net does not increase by imposing more taxes on taxpayers rather people start evading taxes, so instead of increasing the tax rate on those who are already paying taxes, steps should be taken to bring people into the tax net by themselves.

Dysfunctional energy sector greater threat than terrorism: Dr. Shahid Butt

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that mega corruption and incompetence in the energy sector pose a more significant threat to the country than terrorism.

He said the energy sector is ruining the economy and the public while bankrupting the country, but meaningful reforms to save Pakistan remain a far cry.

He added that a critical factor in our industrial collapse is the element of mega corruption in the energy sector by the ruling elite and their blue-eyed bureaucrats.

In a statement released today, Shahid Rasheed Butt said, "We are blessed with a potential of millions of megawatts of clean electricity because we have many sources, including the fifth largest irrigation network in the world. However, only a small portion of this resource has been tapped."

In 1984, hydroelectric power made up about 60% of our energy. Because of corruption at the top, it has dropped to less than 30%. Most of our energy comes from expensive oil and LNG we import.

He said the devastation started in 1994, when a policy let independent power producers (IPPs) bring in old, low-efficiency power plants with the promise of



guaranteed government profits in dollar terms, no matter how much they cost.

The Rental Power Plants tell an even more shocking story. The prices these thermal power plants charged the government ranged from a ridiculously low Rs25 per unit to as much as Rs50 per unit because the agreements were based on capacity and not actual output.

At that time, Shahid Rasheed Butt said the cost of making hydroelectric power ranged from Rs1.18 to Rs4 per unit, while the cost of producing energy from coal was around Rs7 per unit. However, Wapda was not allowed to build its power plants. Instead, old plants were brought in from other countries.

He noted that about 50,000 MW of energy could be produced in the triangle

of Kati Bander, Gharo, and Hyderabad in Sindh and along the coast of Baluchistan. This vast potential is still mostly untapped. India and China make their wind turbines, and we should do the same. This is a great way to get affordable energy, but the elite seems uninterested.

It has been proven that Pakistan has 579 million tonnes of coal deposits. However, the country is thought to have 186 billion tonnes more. He said that these have been mostly overlooked.

Much of our energy comes from expensive oil and gas that we have to import, which uses up much of our much-needed foreign exchange savings. Under the "take or pay" deal, the government agreed to take on all risks, even if the plants did not work as they should have.

The government still pays millions of dollars to power plants that are not being used, which raises our power rates and slows down industry growth.

In February 2016, Pakistan signed a 15-year Long-Term Sales Agreement (LTSAs) with Qatar for LNG at 13.35% of the Brent price, which proved to be another wrong move.

There are many such events when national interests were compromised for personal gains, but it is inevitable that we can't get ahead without cheap and stable energy. For our businesses to compete with those in Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam, energy should not exceed 9 cents per unit.

Systems Limited wins Top IT Services Exporter Award at the P@SHA ICT Awards 2024

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Upholding its legacy as a distinguished global systems integrator, Systems Limited has once again marked its success at the P@SHA ICT Awards 2024 by securing the esteemed Top IT Services Exporter Award.

The award was presented

by Shaza Fatima Khawaja, State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, and proudly received by Tariq Rasheed, Senior Vice President - Telco Growth Leader, and Javeria Fahad, Head of Marketing, from Systems Limited.

Asif Peer, Group CEO & Managing Director of Systems Limited, expressed,

"This accomplishment reflects the steadfast dedication and exemplary efforts of our exceptional team. It demonstrates our commitment to excellence and our strong focus on advancing the growth and prosperity of the country on a global level. As we move forward, we will continue our pursuit of innovation, raising the stand-



ards in the IT industry and making meaningful contributions to the betterment of

our nation." Carrying this winning momentum forward, Systems

Limited continues its mission of driving global change for individuals and businesses.

NTDC Marks Milestone in Digital Transformation: Successful Launch of SAP Finance Module

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has achieved a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey with the successful implementation of the SAP Finance Module, a key component of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. A ceremony marking this achievement was held at NTDC's office in Shaheen Complex, Lahore, where the Information Technology department team initiated the Go-Live for the Finance Module, signaling a major step towards modernizing the company's operations.

Deputy Managing Directors Engr. Qaiser Khan (P&E) and Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto (AD&M) congratulated the teams of Information Technology and Finance Directorates on this success. They directed the development of comprehensive training programs, including videos and manuals, for NTDC employees nationwide.

Mr. Waseem Saadat, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Chief Information Officer, along with their teams and power users, provided updates to NTDC management on the Finance Module and the overall ERP implementation.

The ceremony was attended by key NTDC officials, including Engr. Sohail Mumtaz Bajwa, GM (HR); Muhammad Ibrahim, GM (Media & PR); Amir Rasheed, DG IT Network; Muhammad Farooq Shaukat, DG IT Software; Mr. Zakaullah Project Manager, Mr. Atif Riaz, Functional Managers Finance; and Tashbih-ul-Hassan, Manager Finance. Representatives from Siemens SAP vendor and PWC PMQA were also present at the event, highlighting the collaborative nature of this significant undertaking.

Punjab Premier League to commence on October 4

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Premier League (PPL) is set to commence on October 4 in Gujranwala, with the Rawalpindi Markhors aiming to mark their success.

"Our team will feature some of the finest cricketers from the Potohar region", Rawalpindi Markhors CEO Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Begga said on Wednesday.

"The team's training camp, under the supervision of former Test cricketer and senior coach of the Rawalpindi Markhors, Hasan Raza, will begin on September 28," Nadeem told media at a press conference at National Press Club Islamabad.

He expressed the hope that the League



would become the biggest cricket event in Pakistan after the Pakistan Super League. Eight teams from across Punjab, spanning from Rahim Yar Khan to Attock, will be participating in the league.

Nadeem said that Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and the surrounding areas had a large pool of talented cricketers, who would now have an opportunity to play at the provincial level.

"We aim to steer the youth away from unproductive activities and move them towards sports, contributing to our mission of promoting a drug-free lifestyle," he said.

Senior coach and former Test cricketer Hasan Raza said that the PPL would usher in a new era of cricket. "We will bring forward talent from the grassroots level, offering cricket enthusiasts a chance to witness top-quality performances."

"Rawalpindi and Islamabad have produced several legendary cricketers for Pakistan. We aim to turn Rawalpindi Markhors into a nursery for the national team, and within the next few years, a significant portion of the Pakistan cricket team will consist of Rawalpindi Markhors players," he added.

Registration of U-22 Khelta Punjab Games under way across the province



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The registration process of U-22 Khelta Punjab Games 2024 is in progress across the province under the leadership of Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and as per direction of DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal.

The registration booths have been established in Lahore, Faisalabad, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, Sargodha and Gujranwala.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal in a statement on Wednesday said that Befitting preparations are being made for the biggest ever games of history of Punjab province. "We are quite upbeat that several talented athletes will emerge from Khelta Punjab Games," he added.

He said that sports clubs, players and citizens should complete their registration as soon as possible and if there is any problem, then they should inform the concerned tehsil, District and Divisional Sports Officers. "The online registration of Khelta Punjab Games is also going on".

DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal further said that six games such as Athletics, Cricket (Tape Ball), Badminton, Football, hockey and kabaddi will be held at inter club district level. "The inter club district level competitions will be held from October 2 to 11 while inter district division level competitions will be held from October 16 to 29".

He informed that the competitions of 12 games—athletics, cricket (tape ball), basketball, football, kabaddi, mat wrestling, taekwondo, table tennis, badminton, hockey, volleyball and archery will be held at Inter district division level and inter division provincial level. "The final phase of Khelta Punjab Games will be conducted from November 2 to 7".

Real Madrid suffer Mbappe blow ahead of Atletico derby



Sports Desk

Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe has sustained a thigh injury ahead of this weekend's La Liga derby with Atletico, his club said on Wednesday.

The French superstar was taken off during the 3-2 win over Alaves on Tuesday and appeared to be suffering some discomfort. Spanish media suggest Mbappe will miss around three weeks injured.

"Following tests carried out today by Real Madrid's medical services on our player Kylian Mbappe, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg," said the Spanish champions in a statement.

Mbappe scored a superb goal in the thriller at the Santiago Bernabeu with Alaves and has netted five times this season in seven league appearances.

Asked about Kylian Mbappe's condition after the game, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "He's fine, he's fine, a little overloaded, he asked me for the change to avoid problems."

Madrid, a point behind leaders Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' match on Wednesday against Getafe, visit the Metropolitan stadium on Sunday to face rivals Atletico.

Los Blancos have not been beaten in La Liga for 39 games, since a defeat at Atletico a year ago.

The striker is also set to miss the visit to Lille in the Champions League next week and potentially October's Nations League matches against Israel and Belgium with France.

Mbappe joined Real Madrid this summer at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain contract, fulfilling a long-held dream.

The 25-year-old hit his stride in recent matches after taking a few games to find his footing in the Spanish capital.

Kylian Mbappe has seven goals in nine appearances for Real Madrid across all competitions, scoring in the UEFA Super Cup victory over Atalanta in August and on his Champions League debut.

Jason Gillespie opens up on Kamran Ghulam's exclusion from Test squad

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Pakistan's Test head coach Jason Gillespie on Wednesday, broke silence over Kamran Ghulam's absence from the Pakistan squad for the upcoming Test series against England.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday, announced a 15-member squad for the first Test against England, which marked the return of fast bowling all-rounder Aamir Jamal and left-arm spinner Noman Ali.

Meanwhile, Kamran Ghulam, despite being a consistent performer in the domestic circuit, was left out of the squad. He alongside Mohammad Ali and injured Khuram Shahzad was a part of the Pakistan squad for Bangladesh Tests.

"Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Ali, who were part of the squad for the Bangladesh Tests, remain firmly in the selec-



tioners' plans," said PCB in a statement.

"However, due to the selection policy's emphasis on consistency and continuity, and the belief

that 15 players are sufficient for a Test, they have been advised and encouraged to continue representing their teams in the Champions One-Day Cup and

the President's Cup, starting on 3 October, to ensure they stay match-ready through competitive cricket," the statement added.

Ghulam's exclusion turned heads and fans questioned the selection criteria for the national team.

Consequently, during the Champions One-Day Cup Eliminator 1 between Lions and Stallions, former cricketer Salman Butt asked Jason Gillespie to share his views on Kamran Ghulam's exclusion during the commentary.

"Tell us about Kamran Ghulam. He's not in the squad for the first Test even after scoring heaps of runs," asked Butt.

In response, Gillespie acknowledged Ghulam's performances in domestic cricket and also for Pakistan Shaheens on their tour to Darwin but emphasized showing faith in the current squad.

"I saw him perform with Pakistan Shaheens in Darwin. His form has been acknowledged, but we're showing faith and patience in our current squad," said Gillespie.

Afghanistan captain makes bold prediction about Champions Trophy semi-finalists

Sports Desk

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi on Wednesday, made a bold prediction regarding the semi-finalist teams of the ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in Pakistan next year.

Shahidi appeared in a podcast with an Indian journalist and was asked to share which four teams he foresees in the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy 2025.

In response, the Afghanistan captain picked Afghanistan, India, England, and Australia, leaving out Pakistan – the hosts of the eight-team tournament. His answer prompted the podcast host to mention Bangladesh's first-ever Test series victory over Pakistan.

But Hashmatullah Shahidi swiftly countered, stating, "The formats are different; this one is ODI now, and it's a different format."

Shahidi also commented on the growing intense rivalry between Pakistan and Afghanistan and also shared insights regarding their famous victory over the former champions in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 which came after a series of heartbreaks for the Atalans.

"Back home, people were very happy.



If you look at previous World Cups, the Asia Cup, and series against Pakistan, we came very close but didn't win. The 2019 World Cup match was in our hands but slipped away, and in the 2022 Asia Cup, we faced heartbreak when Fazal Haq got hit for two sixes by Naseem Shah. We had lost almost eight matches that we were winning," Shahidi reflected.

"When we got the opportunity, I was lucky to lead the team, and I finished the match. After winning, it felt great; I couldn't sleep the whole night out of

happiness." When asked to compare Afghanistan's victory over Pakistan in the ODI World Cup to that of their triumph over Australia in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, Hashmatullah Shahidi emphasized both wins were important but described beating Pakistan as "monumental".

"Both wins were important, but the victory over Pakistan in the ODI World Cup was monumental; people were incredibly happy."

Hundred hero Brook keeps England alive in Australia ODI series

England captain Harry Brook's maiden one-day international century revived his side's series hopes against Australia as they beat the world champions by 46 runs at Chester-le-Street on Tuesday.

Victory in the third ODI left England 2-1 down with two to play.

England slumped to 11-2, chasing 305 to win, after Mitchell Starc removed openers Phil Salt (nought) and Ben Duckett (eight) in the space of four balls.

But Will Jacks (84) and Brook (110 not out) then added 156 in a third-wicket partnership of good judgement as well as shot-making skill.

Rain stopped play with England 254-4 off 37.4 overs.

But they were 46 runs ahead of where they needed to be under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method for weather-affected matches.

And, with a downpour preventing any further play, England had ended Australia's run of 14 consecutive ODI wins.

Player-of-the-match Brook was understandably elated by a first century in his 18 ODIs, with the 25-year-old Yorkshireman saying at the presentation ceremony: "It's nice to get the first one on the board and hopefully plenty more to come."

"We just have to keep doing what we said we are going to do (in Friday's fourth ODI at Lord's) and keep being positive, take the game to them (Australia)."

Ahmed Daniyal lifts Lions to 263 against Stallions in Champions Cup Eliminator

FAISALABAD: Ahmed Daniyal showcased his batting capability with a gutsy half-century and recovered Lions to a fighting total against Stallions in the Champions One-Day Cup Eliminator here at Iqbal Stadium on Wednesday.

Opting to bat first, Lions managed to accumulate 263/9 in the allotted 50 overs, mainly due to a defiant 81-run partnership between Aamer Yamin and Daniyal.

The Lions got off to a dismal start to their innings as Ubaid Shah ran through their top order,

claiming key wickets of Kamran Ghulam (4), Omair Bin Yousuf (4) and stand-in captain Imam-ul-Haq (23) inside the batting powerplay.

The Lions were in tatters at 43/3 in the 10th over.

Following the slump, Sharoon Siraj and Mohammad Talha launched a recovery with a cautious partnership for the fourth wicket.

The duo batted sensibly against a charged Stallions' bowling attack and added 77 runs for the fourth wicket, conceding 92 balls in the process.

The budding partnership finally ended in the 25th over when Maaz Sadaqat sent Siraj packing. He scored 38 off 50 deliveries with the help of three boundaries including a six.

Taha followed suit in the next over, falling victim to Adil Amin after scoring a gritty 47 off 59 deliveries, laced up with two fours and as many sixes.

The Lions then lost two more wickets in quick succession and consequently slipped to 140/7 in 30.4 overs.

But, a sensational eighth-wicket partnership between Ahmed

Daniyal and Aamer Yamin pulled the side out of trouble.

The duo added 81 runs in 80 deliveries amid their defiant stand, which lasted with Yamin getting run out in the 44th over.

The seasoned all-rounder smashed three fours and two sixes on his way to a 57-ball 46.

Meanwhile, Daniyal continued to dominate the Stallions' bowlers and carried his bat all the way through with an unbeaten half-century.

He remained the top-scorer for the Lions with a 59-ball 65, peppered with one four and five



sixes. Ubaid Shah was the standout bowler for the Stallions, picking up three wickets while Adil and

Stallions will face Markhors in Qualifier 2 of the Champions One-Day Cup, scheduled on Friday.

Maaz bagged two wickets apiece. It is worth mentioning here that the winner of the ongoing Eliminator between Lions and

Third Meeting of the Committee

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Prime Minister chaired the third meeting of the Committee, Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Secretary Petroleum, Secretary Power, senior government officials, and representatives from SNGPL, SSGC, OGDCL, and members representing the petroleum industry were attended the meeting.



Photo: PID

D. PM Dar reviews Sui gas, oil and production to address sector challenges

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Prime Minister chaired the third meeting of the Committee established by the Prime Minister to develop a comprehensive action plan to address the challenges faced by the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector.

The participants included the Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Secretary Petroleum, Secretary Power, senior government officials, and representatives from Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), and members representing the petroleum industry.

The Committee reviewed progress on the development of an integrated

energy plan with assistance from renowned international consultants; the proposed amendments to the OGRA Ordinance to establish a mechanism for monthly or quarterly gas tariff adjustments; and strategies for optimizing gas utilization from dedicated fields.

The Committee also examined plans for: restructuring both Sui companies to transition away from an asset-based fixed return regime; digitization and automation of processes to streamline regulatory approvals; introduction of a dedicated one-window facilitation service at both federal and provincial levels.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the necessity of establishing firm timelines for the completion of all initiatives.

PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, CM Punjab, Maryam Nawaz meets Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H. E. Jiang Zaidong to review possibilities of promoting ties in technology, business and investment.

PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on the occasion that "China is our reliable friend and we are proud of our relationship with this great nation." He shared that Maryam Nawaz Sharif is leading many welfare projects for the people of Punjab and further stated that Punjab will welcome China's cooperation in infrastructure and technology.

Madam Chief Minister said, "Together with China, we can create economic miracles." She added, "We are always ready to welcome our Chinese friends in Punjab." The Chief Minister proposed to establish "Special Chinese Economic Zones" committed to provide incentives and facilities for the Chinese investors.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "We consider the success of China as our own success." She added, "Pakistan can benefit greatly and learn from the Chinese model to reduce poverty."

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H. E. Jiang Zaidong said that China too greatly values its friendship with Pakistan and has made great strides under the PML-N governments. He further said that they will welcome the inclu-

sion of Punjab in the upgraded vision of CPEC which also includes development of Special Economic Zones. He shared that China is keen on investing in the Agriculture Sector in Punjab. He appreciated the initiatives of the CM pertaining to Farmer Card, Tractor Scheme among others and shared that high yielding hybrid rapeseed was being cultivated on 5 lakh acres in Punjab and now they want to double the area. He added, "1000 farmers of Pakistan will be trained in modern farming techniques by Chinese experts". The Chief Minister underscored the importance of mechanization and efficient use of water in agriculture and that Chinese expertise in these areas will add great value.

H. E. Jiang Zaidong said that they would like to take this opportunity to invite the Chief Minister, Madam Maryam Nawaz Sharif to visit China, which she accepted with gratitude. The Chinese Ambassador said, "Maryam Nawaz Sharif will be welcomed in China as Pakistan's first woman Chief Minister." He added that "There was a long history of Pakistan-China relations during the Prime Ministership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. During the government of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan-China relations moved to great heights and hoped to take it even further with Maryam Nawaz Sharif"

Senator Pervaiz Rashid and Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman and other relevant officers were also present on the occasion.

President reaffirms commitment to marine conservation, climate action

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to preserving its maritime ecosystems and coastal areas by tackling critical challenges such as marine pollution and climate change. President Zardari, in his message on the World Maritime Day being observed on Thursday (Sept 26), emphasized the significance of this year's theme, "Navigating the Future: Safety First." He highlighted the vital role of enhancing maritime safety and security to promote a more efficient and secure shipping environment, ensuring the smooth

flow of seaborne trade. "The theme calls for proactive strategies to tackle emerging challenges and adopt technological advancements in maritime practices. By embracing these changes, we can improve operational efficiency while also protecting the ocean environment for future generations, allowing them to inherit a vibrant and sustainable marine ecosystem." The president said the maritime sector was the backbone of global trade contributing to economic growth, creating jobs, and facilitating international cooperation. "Every individual in this industry, from seafarers and engineers to policymakers and



environmental advocates, plays a critical part in maintaining our oceans' safety, security, and sustainability." He said as an active member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), "Pakistan remains

fully committed to adhering to international regulations and standards that safeguard maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. "Pakistan has acceded to various IMO conventions, including the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships which underscores Pakistan's commitment to environmental protection and the safety of maritime operations. We have taken steps towards implementing these commitments, and we pledge our continued progress in this regard." Pakistan, he said, was actively seeking to strengthen its regulatory framework,

improve waste management systems, and expand community-driven projects to combat marine pollution. "Collaboration among government bodies, international organizations, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and local communities is essential to reducing the ecological damage to its marine ecosystems," he stressed. The president summed up: "As we observe World Maritime Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to improving safety standards, adopting environmentally friendly practices, and supporting the well-being of seafarers, who are often the unsung heroes of international trade."

Message from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on the occasion of World Maritime Day-2024

World Maritime Day, a significant reminder of maritime safety, security and environmental conservation is marked annually, urging nations to work together for sustainable maritime practices. This year, IMO has selected 'Navigating the Future: Safety First' as the theme for World Maritime Day, which is observed on the last Thursday of September each year. This theme reflects IMO's work in the aforesaid areas and its drive towards ensuring regulatory development processes are integrated with the fast paced technological changes and innovation. This year is also significant as it marks the 50 years since the adoption of 1974 SOLAS Convention, which is the key IMO treaty regulating maritime safety.

Since shipping transports about 90% of global trade by volume; it also obligates safe, secure and efficient international shipping industry for future sustainable green economic growth. It is therefore, evident that improving the safety of ships and reducing their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions must go hand in hand. Both are critical to achieving a sustainable and efficient maritime industry. This year's theme is also closely linked to UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aligned with several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve them, we need to keep pace with the digitalization and automation that are revolutionizing the ship-



ping industry. This calls for introduction of newer technologies for enhancing safety, security and efficiency, optimizing performance, reducing environmental impact and ensuring sustainability. These measures can greatly help in

improving overall efficacy and competitiveness of the shipping industry, making it possible to design, construct and operate ships more efficiently, handle more cargo, reduce costs and enhance customer satisfaction.

The thrust on 'safety' in this year's theme has been an integral component of Pakistan Navy operations and processes, next only to their efficient conduct, which is continuously reviewed to address any gaps that may arise. Pakistan Navy has instituted exacting measures to ensure 'safety first' principle, onboard as well as ashore. Our efforts towards maritime safety bear testimony to our unwavering commitment and emphasis on implementation of SOPs, in their true letter and spirit.

On this World Maritime Day, as we take stock of our shared maritime achievements, let us also look forward with determination and resolve to align our national objectives with the ongoing global shift towards sustainable and green marine practices. I urge all the stakeholders to embrace these evolving trends and reiterate Pakistan Navy's commitment in ensuring maritime safety and upholding environmental mandates.

Let us recommit to the principle of maritime safety and reaffirm our solemn pledge that in pursuing, 'Navigating the Future: Safety First', we shall spare no effort, neither in spirit nor in action. I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders.

'Newspapers are indispensable for socio-economic betterment', says Speaker Sadiq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, warmly congratulates the All-Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), print media outlets, dedicated journalists, and newspaper readers on the occasion of National Newspaper Readership Day, celebrated annually on 25th September, 2024 across

the country.

In his message, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasizes the vital role that newspapers play in shaping a more informed and engaged society.

He notes that reading newspapers is essential for fostering critical awareness among citizens, enabling them to participate meaningfully in national discourse. Newspapers are indispensable for socio-economic

betterment, providing insights into issues that affect daily life and highlighting opportunities for progress.

The Speaker further underscores the importance of newspapers in enhancing transparency and accountability within all tiers of government. By serving as vigilant watchdogs, they maintain essential checks and balances, ensuring that those in power are held



accountable to the public.

Moreover, newspapers defend civil liberties and serve as the eyes and ears of the community, amplifying voices that may otherwise go unheard.

On the occasion of celebrating National Newspaper Readership Day, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq urges all citizens to embrace the habit of reading newspapers. This commitment not only empowers individuals but also strengthens societies.

Pakistan's economic growth rebounds in FY2024: ADB

ISLAMABAD, SEP 25 (APP): Pakistan's economic growth rebounded in fiscal year 2023-24, supported by higher domestic consumption from increased agriculture income and workers' remittances, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report released on Wednesday.

According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2024, an update to ADB's flagship economic publication, Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to have recovered modestly to 2.4% in FY2024 and should grow further by 2.8% in FY2025 accompanied by a decline in inflation.

Adhering to the country's economic reform program will be critical to strengthening macroeconomic stability and the continued

recovery of growth, even as downside risks remain.

"Pakistan's economic prospects are closely tied to the steadfast and consistent implementation of policy reforms to stabilize the economy and rebuild fiscal and external buffers," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye.

Ye said, it was imperative that Pakistan continues to consolidate public finances, expand social spending and protection, reduce fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises, and improve the business environment to encourage growth led by the private sector.

In FY2025, the implementation of the economic adjustment program is expected to support economic activity by providing a more stable macroeconomic environment, it says.