



X banned due to security concerns as terrorists using platform: Tarar

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, on Friday said that ban on X, formerly Twitter, was imposed due to national security issues, not to curb freedom of expression. The minister, in an interview with Voice of America, dispelled the impression that it was an unannounced ban, saying that the caretaker government had banned X before the February elections due to the issues related to compliance.



Veteran cricket umpire Aleem Dar decides to hang boots

Aleem Dar has decided to put an end to his umpiring career at the end of the Pakistan Cricket Board's 2024-25 domestic season, concluding a career that spanned for nearly a quarter of a century, the PCB said in a statement on Friday. Dar was a true gentleman for cricketers and fans both on and off the field and was awarded the highly prestigious David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year three times from 2009 to 2011. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

COAS appreciated to business community

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacts with the business community of Karachi during a visit to the port city on September 27, 2024.



Photo: ISPR

Army chief makes brief visit to Karachi Corps, inaugurated Innovista IT Park

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the Karachi Corps area of responsibility, where he was briefed on operational preparedness and key training initiatives undertaken by the Army.

During his visit, COAS also inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry collaboration in the field of Information Technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence. Honourable Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and notable civil community members attended the inauguration ceremony. Chief Minister Sindh emphasized the importance of IT domain for optimal exploitation of potential of youth and economic growth. COAS highlighted that such projects are aimed at providing the most conducive environment to further promote the growth of IT industry in the country, which is already accelerating at a respectable pace.

COAS also interacted with the business community of Karachi. COAS appreciated the contributions of business community and entrepreneurs towards the country's economic growth. Participants expressed confidence and praised SIFC for its role towards achieving the positive economic indicators, which are providing an enabling environment for further economic growth. COAS commended the efforts of Federal and Provincial Governments towards supporting all initiatives and remarked that naysayers who made failed efforts towards creating despair and despondency in the society have been defeated through the collective efforts of all stakeholders. COAS appreciated the praiseworthy role performed by brotherly and friendly countries especially China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UAE in the economic recovery of Pakistan by helping us in multiple domains.

COAS highlighted that Pakistan has remarkable potential in various domains and all must have unflinching trust and confidence in the bright future of Pakistan. Given the immense resources and potential, Pakistan is destined to achieve its rightful position in the comity of nations, Insha Allah.

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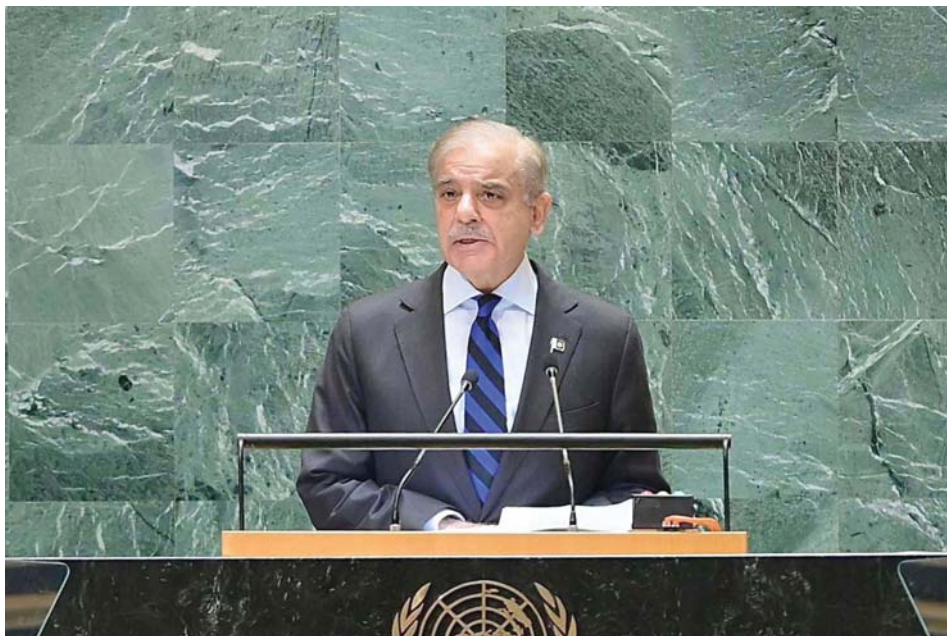
PM urges world action as illegal occupation of Palestine, Kashmir creates a 'fresh hell' daily

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday warned the world community that the illegal occupation of Palestine and Kashmir was creating a "fresh hell" every day and stressed the efforts for dispute resolution besides addressing the global challenges of terrorism, climate change and Islamophobia.

"Illegal occupation creates a fresh hell, every day, in the killing fields of Palestine, and in occupied Jammu and Kashmir... Can we turn a blind eye to the mothers, cradling the lifeless bodies of their children? This is not just a conflict; this is systematic slaughter of innocent people; an assault on the very essence of human life and dignity. The blood of Gaza's children stains the hands of not just the oppressors, but also of those who are complicit in prolonging this cruel conflict," the prime minister told the annual 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) here.

The prime minister, in his 21-minute address at the



193-member Assembly, touched upon multiple regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir disputes, Ukraine war, climate change, rising poverty and debt burden particularly induced by climate change impacts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called upon the international community's action to demand an immediate end to the bloodshed, as work for a durable peace through a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with

Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its eternal capital.

Before the gathering of the global leaders, Prime Minister Shehbaz also highlighted the sufferings of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and said that India

had resiled from commitments to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir which mandated a plebiscite to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

"Since 5 August 2019, India has initiated unilateral illegal steps to impose what its leaders ominously call, a "Final Solution" for Jammu and Kashmir. Nine hundred thousand Indian troops terrorize the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, with draconian measures, including prolonged curfews, extra-judicial killings and the abduction of thousands of young Kashmiris."

He highlighted the Indian nefarious designs of seizing Kashmiri lands and properties, and settling outsiders into occupied Jammu and Kashmir, to transform the Muslim-majority into a minority.

"This hackneyed tactic is employed by all occupying powers, but it has always failed. In Jammu and Kashmir too, it shall fail, InshaAllah," he remarked.

Continued on Page 8

PTI instructs workers to reach Rawalpindi, lawyers protest outside SC ends

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has abruptly changed its plans for a large rally in Rawalpindi, converting it into a protest instead. The party has withdrawn its application for the rally and is now mobilizing its workers for the demonstration.

The PTI had filed a petition with the Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench regarding the planned September 28 rally, seeking permission after the district administration denied a No Objection Certificate (NOC). However, this petition was withdrawn today by PTI lawyer Muhammad Faisal Malik, acting on instructions from PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Meanwhile, PTI's lawyers staged a brief protest outside the Supreme Court on Friday. Strict security arrangements had been made for the protest.

Salman Akram Raja, Shoaib Shaheen, Laif Khosa, Azam Swati and Niazullah Niazi attended the protest.



Speakers at the protest said that the SC was a beacon of hope but the government wants to clip its powers.

The protest, according to Niazi, was against the government's proposed "Form 47" (likely referring to a legal document or amendment) and the government's constitutional package, particularly the creation of additional constitutional courts.

Niazi asserted that constitutional courts already exist in the country and that the PTI opposes the creation of more.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PTI leadership has instructed party workers and officials to assemble at 10:00 AM to participate in the protest.

PM Shehbaz, delegations from Arab & Islamic countries walk out of UNGA in snub to Netanyahu

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The Pakistan delegation to the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, led by Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, walked out on Friday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the stage to address the 193-member Assembly.

The walk out, which was joined

by Arab and Islamic delegations, served as a strong gesture of protest to the presence of Netanyahu, whom the UN organs and human rights bodies have accused of being responsible for carrying

out a massacre of the Palestinian people in its deadly war in Gaza.

The Pakistani delegation included Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Science

and Technology Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mumir Akram, and Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh.

ECP prays for stay order against reserved seats judgment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has filed more prayers in its review appeal to the Supreme Court and requested it to issue a stay order on the implementation of the reserved seats' judgment.

The ECP, in its plea, said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could not be given the relief of reserved seats which it had never claimed before any forum. It cited a judgment of the full court that a relief could not be given to one who did not claim it. The Commission said that the independent candidates were



bound to join a party within three days after elections. The independent members had

submitted affidavits for joining the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), and those affidavits had been ignored in the judgment.

It said that in the detailed decision, the apex court limited 41 members to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and gave 15 days to the other independent members to declare their party affiliation.

The PTI members, the ECP said, could not reach the number 39 even if the certificates of Barrister Gohar were accepted. The candidates did not file the party affiliation declaration under Section 66, it said.

The Rule 34 was related to a political party having an election symbol, it added.

Lt General Muhammad Ali appointed defence secretary

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan appointed a three-star general as the secretary of defence on Friday.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali was appointed for two years and three months until his retirement.

Lt. General Ali is serving as the quartermaster general in the General Headquarters.

A notification issued on



Friday said that Ali's term would begin on October 1 and end at December 31, 2026, when he retires.

Lt. General Ali has been awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz.

PM says welfare of Kashmir's common masses 'key priority'

Bureau Report

MANDHOLE/BUTTLE: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that welfare of the common masses was his government's key priority. Addressing a reception ceremony at Mandhole/Buttle.

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that welfare of the common masses was his government's key priority. Addressing a reception ceremony at Mandhole the PM said that a big welfare package would be announced soon to remove sense of deprivation amongst the people of the area. The PM said that he can feel the pain, suffering and hardships the people settled in the areas near LoC have been enduring. The government, he said, would take all possible measures to improve quality of life for residents in rural areas. "Steps are being taken to strengthen local institutions", he said, adding that service of the people of the state was his sole mission. He said that the social protection program and other mega projects launched by the government would be instrumental in providing relief to the common masses. The PM



said that BHU has been upgraded to HRC keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the people living near LoC. He said that the shortage of teaching staff in girls' school would be met soon. The Prime Minister Haq on the occasion thanked former advisor Sardar Amjad Yusuf for organizing a grand reception in his honour.

Earlier, on his arrival at Buttle Mandol, the PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq was warmly welcomed by people

of the area. He was accompanied by government ministers including Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Zafar Iqbal Malik and others. The PM said that a big welfare package would be announced soon to remove a sense of deprivation amongst the people of the area.

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Local polls in Indian Occupied Kashmir no substitute for people's right to self-determination: OIC

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/UNITED NATIONS: The OIC Contact Group on Kashmir Wednesday reaffirmed its support to the Kashmiri people's "legitimate" struggle for their right to self-determination, and firmly rejected Indian leaders' "unwarranted" claims over Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

A joint communique issued after the meeting also underscored that the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections in Indian Occupied Kashmir cannot serve as a substitute to the grant of the right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

It emphasized that durable peace and stability in South Asia remain contingent upon the Kashmir dispute's final settlement in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and Kashmiri people's aspirations.

The meeting, in which Ministers and Senior Officials of Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan and Niger took part, was presided over by OIC Secretary-General Hissein



Brahim Taha. It was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 79th session.

Pakistan was represented at the Contact Group by Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif.

Others participating were Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz,

Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister ELnur Mammadov, Saudi Ambassador Haitham Al-Aalki and Niger's Director of International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry, Hama Knsaye Souleymane. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir awareness forum,

attended in his capacity as True Representative of the People of Jammu and Kashmir.

At the outset, Khawaja Asif brief members of the Contact Group about the deteriorating situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir, saying that human rights abuses were rampant.

Lodhran Pilot Project Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Quratul Ain Asim

LODHRAN: The Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP), founded by Jahangir Khan Tareen, marked its 25th anniversary by honoring the pioneers of the initiative and celebrating its success stories. Founder Jahangir Khan Tareen, LPP President Ali Khan Tareen, and DC Lodhran Abdul Rauf Mehr were special guests at the event.

Speaking at the occasion, Jahangir Tareen reflected on the project's origin, stating, "Before entering politics, I initiated welfare projects aimed at regional development and poverty alleviation. These initiatives have continued throughout my political career and remain active even after stepping away from politics. The elimination of poverty and backwardness has always been my focus, and serving the public remains my mission. My son, Ali Khan Tareen, is actively involved in these projects, and



I am confident he will celebrate LPP's Golden Jubilee 25 years from now. As long as I live, our social work will continue."

LPP President, Ali Khan Tareen,

reaffirmed their commitment to the community, saying, "Our focus is now on women empowerment, as the progress of women will drive the overall development of our region. With our full poten-

tial, we will continue to complete welfare projects in education, health, sports, and women empowerment."

Ali Khan Tareen also praised the current LPP management and paid tribute to former contributors, including Akhtar Hameed Khan, Hafeez Arain, Barkat Ali Riaz, and the late Ghazanfar Shah.

Lodhran Deputy Commissioner Abdul Rauf Mehr, in his address, acknowledged the continuous support LPP has provided to the district administration, especially during natural disasters like floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in public-private partnership initiatives.

LPP CEO, Dr. Abdul Saboor, highlighted that 4.2 million people have benefited from LPP's initiatives so far. He added that the project, which began in a few villages in Lodhran, has now expanded to 12 districts across three provinces in southern Punjab.

27th Pakistan Hypertension League Conference held

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Nursing Symposium was organized before the official launch of Pakistan Hypertension League in Multan institute Of Cardiology which was presided over by Executive Director Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology Dr Mujtabi Ali Siddiqui and

Head of Department of Medicine Prof. Dr. Tariq Abbas. The support and services of nurses along with doctors in blood pressure diseases were appreciated. In the ceremony, various doctors and nurses including Professor Tariq Abbas spoke about various blood pressure and heart diseases. In this event, MS Cardiology. Dr. Iqbal, AMS Dr. Farhan Khan, Dr. Ikram Langayal, Nursing Superintendent Cardiology Hospital Madam Tahira Nazir, Chief Nursing Superintendent Nishtar Hospital Rukhsana Manzoor, Chief Nursing Superintendent Children Complex Hospital Multan Mrs Tabitha Gohar and Principal of all Nursing Colleges of Punjab and Nurses participated, at the end of the ceremony shields were thrown appreciating the services of the nurses, remember that the formal start of the 27th Pakistan Hypertension League will be held at Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology, Multan from today.

VC Women's University Multan Dr Kalsoom Pracha Visited Various Departments at Katchery Campus



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice-Chancellor Women's University Multan Prof. Dr Kalsoom Pracha visited teaching departments falling under various faculties to examine the state of ongoing classes, research and development activities at Katchery Campus. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha said that regularity of students in the academic session was of tremendous importance without which smooth and successful functioning of the semester would not be possible. She said the regularity of teachers, students and support staff was the beauty of the very process of teaching and learning. She called upon students to maintain the highest possible ratio of attendance to help improve the quality of education at the campus. She visited Jinnah hall to take into account the ongoing extra-curricular activities conducted for the students. She said due to the support of Alumni of WUM and Aspire Pakistan we have recently inaugurated the air conditioning project of Jinnah Hall. The purpose of this project was to provide comfortable space that are suitable for learning and other activities for the students

RPO Faisalabad organized a crime meeting at the Regional Police Office

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer Faisalabad Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan held a meeting to review the crime in the Regional Police Office. CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil, SPs and DSPs participated in the meeting.



In the meeting, the progress in serious cases was reviewed. During the meeting, the control of the crime rate and the settlement of the cases under investigation were reviewed. Briefed RPO Faisalabad. The cases under investigation of murder, robbery and murder, blind murder, robbery, robbery and theft of vehicles should be traced and recovered as soon as possible. Patrolling should be made more effective to control the incidents of robbery and robbery. Strict action should be taken against drug peddlers, gambling dens and previous record holders of illegal weapons. Ensure conviction by improving prosecution against drug peddlers. No delay in enrollment cases will be acceptable.

Chairman HEC stresses measures for continuous sustainable development of higher education sector

ISLAMABAD, SEP 27 (APP): Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has reiterated HEC's commitment to materialising holistic development of higher education sector and extending utmost facilitation to the universities for their role in the country's socio-economic development.

Sharing HEC's accomplishments during the 4th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training with Dr. Azim-ud-Din Zahid Lakhvi in the chair, the Chairman HEC emphasised the need for continuous support from the state to higher education sector to ensure sustainable development of higher education sector in the country.

He said that HEC, in line with its core objectives, has made remarkable progress in terms of enhancing access, quality and relevance while employing financing, regulations and capacity building as its tools.

He elaborated that the number of universities has reached 265 in the country. He maintained that the tertiary education rate was 2.1 percent before 2002, however it has now reached around 13 percent. Highlighting the improvement in gender parity in the enrolment ratio of male and female students in the higher education institutions, he revealed that the ratio was 68 percent male and 32 percent female students respectively before HEC, however it has now come closer to 52 percent males and 48 percent females.

He underlined that universities are meant for creation of knowledge, dissemination of knowledge, and integration of knowledge with society. He continued to say that the universities' role has been remarkable in all the three areas. A single university today hits 1000 publications annually now, while the number of research publications in high-impact journals has grown significantly. He said that despite facing scarcity of funds, Pakistani universities are making their way to international rankings.

He said HEC spends a major part of its funding on development of human capital. He added that HEC has so far awarded as many as 3,97,250 scholarships under various HEC scholarship programmes.

ADS in collaboration with NTU

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad successfully co-hosted the launch of its study titled "Emission Analysis and Pathways to Progress with Carbon Reduction," focusing on the textile sector, one of Pakistan's most vital industries. The event, held on September 26, 2024, provided an in-depth analysis of emission profiles, energy consumption patterns, and the decarbonization potential of Pakistan's textile industry, a cornerstone of the country's economy.

Pakistan's textile sector plays a crucial role in the nation's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030.

as outlined in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. However, the sector is largely powered by fossil fuel-based grid electricity, contributing significantly to emissions. The ADS study, conducted under the Alternate and Renewable Energy Campaign-Pakistan (AREC-P), examined this energy mix, the sector's reliance on grid electricity, and the opportunities for transitioning to renewable energy. The research aimed to realign industrial decarbonization efforts with national and international climate targets.

In his address, ADS CEO Mr. Amjad Nazeer emphasized the critical role of the textile industry in

addressing climate change and global warming. "The textile sector, being highly energy-intensive and reliant on fossil fuels, is at a pivotal point for decarbonization," said Mr. Nazeer.


The seminar featured a range of speakers, including Chaudhary Bashir Ahmad, former CEO of FESCO and HESCO, who spoke about the devolution of the power sector from public to private hands. He pointed out that the issues of circular debt and high tariffs arose post-WAPDA disintegration. Advocating for renewable energy solutions, he stressed, "Pakistan needs to shift towards wind and solar ultimately."

Mr. Ahsan Umar, Commercial Director of Bata Pakistan, presented

a sustainability framework, focusing on the shared responsibility between industries and consumers in driving decarbonization.

Dr. Shahood Uz Zaman from NTU Faisalabad provided key insights into the study's findings, while Mr. Sher Ali, General Manager of Sadaqat Limited, discussed the textile industry's progress towards adopting green energy solutions.

Finally, Dr. Yasir Nawab warned that European demand for Pakistani textiles is declining due to the industry's reliance on fossil fuels. He emphasized that the impending EU policy CBAM could further harm exports unless the sector transitions to renewable energy.

 Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:37 am
Zohr	11:59 am
Asr	4:15 pm
Maghrib	5:57 pm
Isha	7:20 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 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

Karachi Police Chief promises enhanced security for North Karachi Industrial Area

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi, Javed Alam Odho, assured the improvement of the security situation in the North Karachi industrial area and pledged all possible cooperation to the industrialists. He emphasized that all resources would

be employed to enhance law & order, and that strict action would be taken against criminals to provide the industrial community with a peaceful environment.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation that included Faisal Moiz Khan, President of the North Karachi Association of Trade &



Industry (NKATI), Chief CPLC Zubair Habib, Senior Vice President NKATI Shabbir Ismail, Vice President Naem Haider, Deputy Chief CMC-NKATI Syed Yasir Ali, and Assistant Chief CMC Shehzad Elahi.

During the meeting, Faisal Moiz Khan informed the Additional IG about

the unsatisfactory security situation in the industrial area and discussed various aspects related to establishing lasting peace and order. He thanked the AIG for providing additional personnel to the crime monitoring cell and offered the support of the industrial community, stating that if industries thrive, the

country will prosper. NKATI president further stated that providing a conducive environment for the industrial community will undoubtedly increase production activities and boost exports, helping the country overcome serious economic crises and deficits.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside Supreme Court, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bahir

PML-N demands specific seats for its MPs



City Desk

Senior Vice President Rawalpindi city of Pakistan Muslim League-N and Member of Provincial Assembly Begum Tahsin Fawad said that the suggestion of taking the issue of specific seats to the Parliament by Muslim League (N) would be a correct move, which would be welcomed.

In her statement, She said that the independence of the Parliament should be maintained and specific seats should be allotted. A Member of Parliament who has not submitted the party certificate along with the nomination papers will be an independent candidate. Independent members who become part of a political party cannot be allowed to change parties. Begum Tahsin Fawad further said that relief was given to such a party, which did not go to the Election Commission with the demand for specific seats. She said that We request the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa to reconsider the decision of the specific seats. And the decision should be taken soon.

LONGi unveiled Hi-MO X10 Solar Panels in Pakistan: A New Era of Solar Innovation

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a significant step towards advancing solar technology in Pakistan, LONGi, a global leader in solar energy, launched its latest innovation – the Hi-MO X10 solar panels. The launch event was held at the Crystal Ballroom in the Marriott Hotel, Karachi.

The event introduced and featured a presentation of the newly launched Hi-MO X10, a groundbreaking solar panel designed to push the boundaries of energy efficiency, durability, and reliability. Attendees witnessed a live product demonstration showcasing the innovative features of the panel, alongside a networking session with key industry leaders from the renewable energy sector,



exchanging insights and exploring collaboration possibilities. The evening concluded with refreshments and a gala dinner, providing a relaxed atmosphere for further discussions and connections.

The event featured Mr. Alex, representing LONGi Solar, as well as prominent government officials, including Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor Sindh, Malik Khuda Buksh, Convener Energy Committee

FPCCL, Engr. Mehfooz Kazi, Project Director, Sindh Solar Energy Project, Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali, Minister Women Development, Government of Sindh, and Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Member National Assembly of Pakistan and Renowned Businessman, among others.

Speaking on the Occasion, Alex Li, GM Central Asia branch of MEA & CA Region, LONGi Solar, said, 'LONGi has always been at the fore-

front of solar technology innovation. We are excited to bring these advancements to Pakistan, where solar energy is a vital component of the energy mix.' He further emphasized, 'these innovations will not only contribute to the country's renewable energy goals but also provide sustainable, efficient solutions for both residential and industrial applications.'

With the launch of Hi-MO X10 panels, LONGi reaffirms its commitment to accelerating the adoption of renewable energy in Pakistan. These panels are expected to support the country's efforts in meeting its renewable energy targets, providing reliable and high-performance solutions for both residential and industrial applications.

Deputy Commissioner announces end of dengue campaign in Attock district

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has stated that the complete eradication of dengue is only possible through effective public participation and awareness. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding the anti-dengue campaign at the DC Office in Attock. The meeting was attended by CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail, District Coordinator IRMNCH Dr. Muhammad Saeed, DDEHOs, and officers from the Education and Health Departments, among others. Dr. Asad Ismail and health department officials provided the participants with a detailed briefing on the anti-dengue campaign. It was informed during the briefing that measures are being taken to eradicate dengue throughout the district, with all departments playing a special role. In addition, the departments are running campaigns for public awareness. A detailed review of the performance of all departments concerning the dengue campaign was conducted in the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner of Attock emphasized that in the current situation, the dengue mosquito is extremely dangerous and life-threatening. With the rising cases of dengue in the Rawalpindi Division, it is essential that all government, semi-government, and private institutions actively contribute to eliminating dengue and ensure that necessary measures are taken. There is a need to provide the public with awareness about protective measures against dengue mosquitoes and to ensure that the public diligently follows these measures. The meeting also reviewed the polio campaign.



District Oversight Committee to assess dilapidated school buildings in District Dadu

Azad Baloch

DADU: A meeting of the District Oversight Committee regarding the dilapidated condition of schools in District Dadu was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Mukhtiar Ali Abro, at the DC Office Dadu. In the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the completion of pending work for 53 male and female primary, elementary, and secondary schools in the district.

In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the officials of the Education Department to submit a report within 15 days regarding the relevant issues and the needs of the schools so that the required needs and issues of the schools can be resolved as soon as possible. Additionally, the DC Dadu directed Assistant Commissioners to visit the schools, review the facilities and educational activities, and submit a report.

Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Mukhtiar Ali Abro, stated on this occasion that if we want to bring change to Sindh, improving its educational institutions is our responsibility. Teachers are continuing the educational process even in tent schools, which is a testament to their dedication and commitment to the nation. The development of the country and the nation lies in education, and improving the educational institutions in District Dadu is one of my top priorities.

The meeting was attended by DEO Secondary Dadu Muhammad Musa Khokhar, DEO Primary Liaquat Naich, CMO Dadu Din Muhammad Abro, Assistant Engineer Sajjad Ahmed Shahani, TEO Syed Sadaf Shah, Niaz Ali Abro, Ghulam Mustafa Sahar, and other relevant officials.

Mashreq's Climb2Change Mountain Expedition in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mashreq, a leading financial institution in the MENA region, has announced the successful conclusion of its mountain clean-up expeditions in Pakistan. The completion of the expedition in Pakistan is a historic milestone in Mashreq's global journey to scale and clean up 14 of the world's mightiest mountains, with the aim of reaching 7 peaks and the base camps of the remaining 7 mountains scale. The initiative falls under Climb2Change, Mashreq's global initiative integrating the bank's comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) efforts and milestones.

From June to August 2024, Mashreq's team – led by renowned climbers Maria Conceicao and Naila

Kiani – undertook a rigorous 50-day expedition, actively engaging in cleaning up 16 mountain sites including two prominent peaks, K2 and Broad Peak base camp (K3), and the base camps at Goro2 and Concordia, to address the critical issue of mountain waste accumulation and ecological imbalance. The team successfully collected 1,727 tons (1,727 kilograms) of waste across 26 categories (from plastics to metals), including a wide range of items such as personal hygiene products, camping equipment, and discarded clothing. All waste was 100% processed, strictly adhering to Central Karakoram National Park and Pakistani waste management regulations.

Muhammad Humayun Sajjad, CEO of Mashreq Pakistan, reflected on the expedition's success saying: "The completion of the Climb2Change

mountain clean-up expedition in Pakistan stands as a powerful testament to Mashreq's unwavering commitment to sustainability, environmental conservation, and social impact.

Naila Kiani, renowned Pakistani mountaineer and Climb2Change team member, shared her pride in having participated in this mission a Climb2Change Ambassador: "Climbing has always been about pushing my personal boundaries, but partnering with Mashreq for this initiative allowed me to transform that passion into a force for environmental conservation.

Maria Conceicao, international climber, philanthropist, and fellow Climb2Change team member, offered her perspective: "Becoming the first Portuguese woman to summit K2 during this expedition was a challenging yet rewarding experience.



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TTP and BLA: Weapons of Geopolitical Manipulation

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), despite their diametrically opposite narratives and goals, converge in their objective. Both groups appear to share common financiers, trainers, and external backers. While they operate with different narratives and methodologies, their activities serve a unified purpose: destabilizing Pakistan, undermining Chinese investments, and promoting India as a regional power to counter China's influence in South Asia.

These militant organizations act as instruments to achieve broader transnational, regional, national, and local objectives. At the international level, they fit into a strategy resembling a modernized version of the USA's Marshall Plan, aimed at containing China's influence, particularly in South Asia, by disrupting Chinese interests through financial and economic means, and by using groups like the TTP and BLA to challenge China's presence in the region.

The containment of China in South Asia manifests in various forms, particularly in Pakistan. Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has invested around \$70 billion, and a second phase of CPEC of similar magnitude has been launched. Despite these massive investments in Pakistan's \$226 billion economy, which should have accelerated development and prosperity, their impact has been undermined by creating political instability. This included orchestrating a regime change when the GDP growth reached 6%, which then plunged

into negative territory. The management of Pakistan's economy was effectively taken out of its control and handed over to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which began micro-managing the country's financial affairs. This, combined with a series of legal, social, political, and constitutional crises, hindered Pakistan's progress, reversing its financial and economic gains.

Simultaneously, international forces fueled insurgent, separatist, terrorist, and criminal activities, increasing attacks on Pakistan's state institutions, especially targeting the army and economic infrastructure. These groups destroyed bridges, highways, and other assets, killed civilians, and fanned religious and ethnic divisions.

Initially, these attacks targeted Pakistani security forces and the local population, but they escalated to involve international interests by targeting Chinese nationals associated with CPEC projects. This was further extended when militants attacked a convoy of ambassadors from various countries, even those with no direct connection to China's interests, reflecting a broader strategy to disrupt China's ambitions for international economic expansion.

The Baloch and TTP insurgents share both similarities and differences in their operations. They have common financial sources, with international intelligence agencies, primarily operating through

contacts in Afghanistan, providing funding, training, intelligence, weapons, and religious, political, or ethnic motivations. These groups also generate income through charity, blackmail, and smuggling.

International agencies have effectively divided responsibilities between the two groups. The TTP focuses on targeting the state of Pakistan and Chinese interests across the country, excluding Balochistan, where Baloch insurgents are tasked with destabilizing the province and undermining both Pakistani and Chinese interests. These agencies supply highly sensitive information, precise target locations, and advanced weaponry to enhance the effectiveness of both groups.

Operating like business entities, these insurgent groups bid for assignments, showcasing their skills, weaponry, and expertise to carry out terrorist attacks of varying scales and complexity. Upon completing their objectives, they submit video, audio, and photographic evidence to claim financial rewards. This compensation enables them to recruit new members, support their families, reinvest in training, acquire more lethal weapons, strengthen their intelligence networks, and enhance their capabilities to inflict greater damage on their assigned targets.

To counter these insurgent groups, China and Pakistan should adopt similar methods, utilizing advanced technology, financial incentives, and strategic engage-

ment to redirect the groups' efforts. By offering them better compensation than their current backers, they can be guided toward targeting common enemies, using the latest technologies to identify threats and protect shared interests.

In parallel, China and Pakistan should implement comprehensive short- and long-term strategies to uplift communities in erstwhile FATA, the Northern Areas, and Balochistan. This involves developing marketable skills among the local population, establishing credible industrial infrastructure to absorb the adult workforce, and investing in road and street infrastructure, housing, commercial centers, and duty-free border markets to integrate the smuggling economy into the mainstream. It is essential to provide access to water, electricity, gas, and other necessities, while promoting cultural and social development.

Furthermore, it's crucial to ensure these populations have a stake in CPEC-1 and CPEC-2, granting them ownership and benefits from natural resources in their regions. The state machinery must serve the people of Pakistan impartially, recognizing its role as a facilitator rather than an occupying force. Both the Pathan and Baloch communities should feel empowered, respected, and valued, rather than marginalized, exploited, or deprived of national resources by the groups dominating the federation or wielding kinetic control.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC and CEO, ATV



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

PM Shehbaz calls for enhanced investment, trade ties with the US

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized his government's commitment to strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States during a meeting with a delegation from the US-Pakistan Business Council in New York on Friday.

Addressing the delegation, which included the president, senior officials, and corporate leaders from leading US companies, he expressed a strong desire to attract American investments in key sectors to foster growth and prosperity.

During his remarks, the prime minister highlighted the government's focus on improving the ease of doing business in Pakistan, noting that gathering insights from the corporate sector is a top priority.

He introduced the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a high-level, one-stop agency designed to assist foreign investors in planning and executing projects in four critical areas: agriculture, information technology, energy, and mining.

He explained that the SIFC aims to enhance investor confidence and expedite project implementation through tailored solutions and demand-driven support.

The prime minister identified several sectors in Pakistan's economy—particularly agriculture, the tech sector (including fintech), pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, and mining—where US companies could take advantage of favorable government policies and engage in mutually beneficial projects.

Attendees included prominent representatives of US investors in Pakistan, such as John Murphy, Senior Vice President and Head of International at the US Chamber of Commerce; Esperanza Jelalian, President of the US-Pakistan Business Council; and Steven Kobos, President and CEO of Excelex Energy. Other notable participants came from PepsiCo, TRG Pakistan, Mastercard, Procter & Gamble, Illumina, and Abbott.

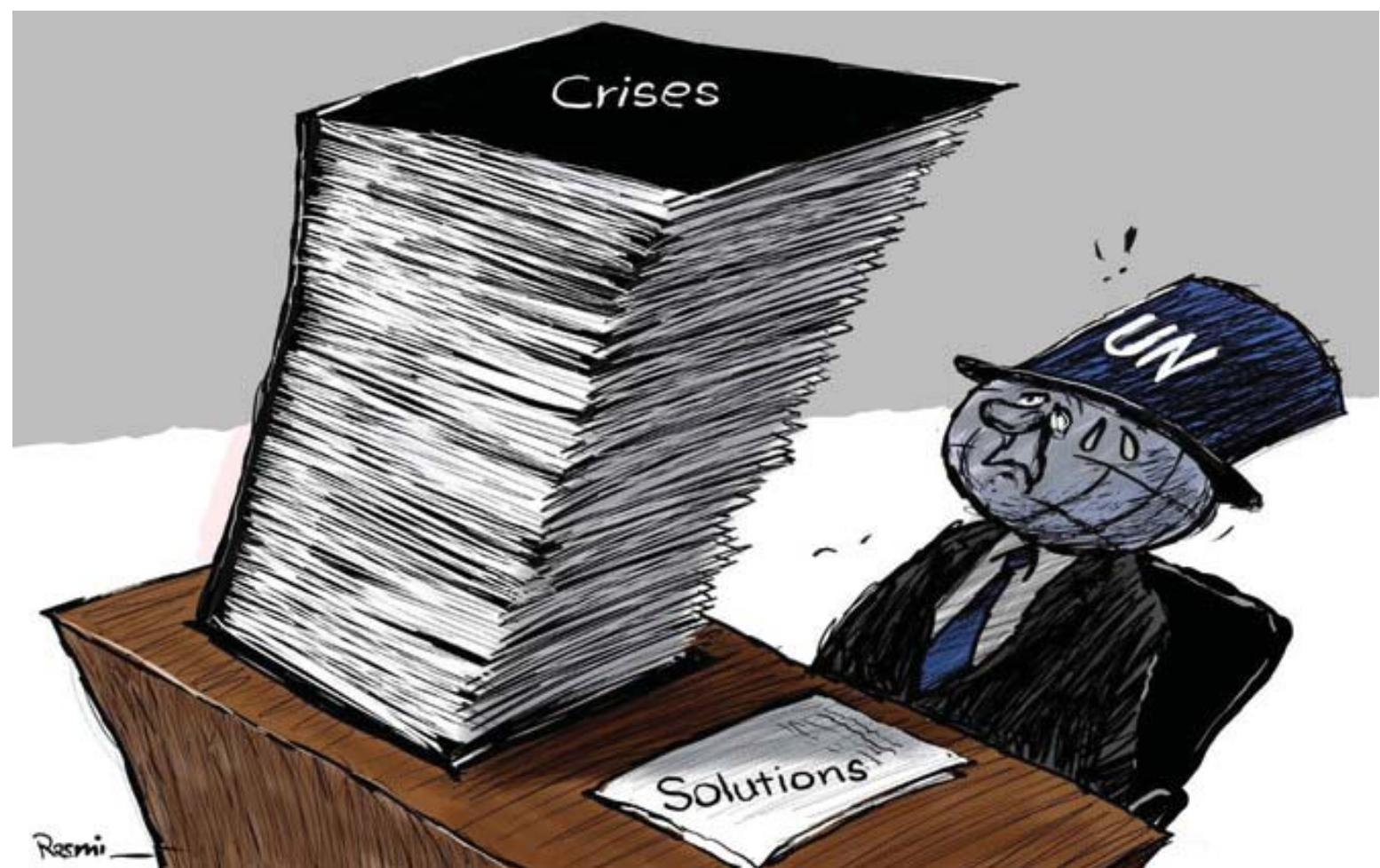
In her remarks, Ms. Jelalian noted that Pakistan is a favored destination for US investments and has significant potential. She mentioned that a US-Pakistan Business Council delegation is being organized this year to explore additional investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion, during which the prime minister addressed various questions from representatives of US enterprises. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday also invited American banks to invest in Pakistan's key sectors of infrastructure, energy, technology, agriculture, and assured of the government's commitment to maintain a stable macro-economic environment to facilitate foreign investors.

The prime minister said this while talking to a delegation of prominent Pakistani American bankers on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly. The delegation comprised high-ranking representatives from prestigious banks including JP Morgan, Natixis Corps & Investments, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp, Goldman Sachs, Citizens Bank, Lazard, Audax Group.

He informed the delegation about the key initiatives taken by the government to stabilize the economy and attract foreign investment to Pakistan, including broadening the tax base, enhancing the ease of doing business, and ongoing reforms in the state-owned enterprises.

These steps have resulted in improved economic indicators and upgradation of Pakistan's credit rating by international rating agencies, including Fitch and Moody's. He also briefed the delegation on the establishment of a Sustainable Finance Framework, which will allow the Government to carry out a green/sustainability bond issuance in the international capital markets.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awdat)

Low budget impacts on education

At a time when more than 26 million students are out of school, the government spends only 1.7% of GDP on education, whereas most of the UN agencies recommend that the minimum expenditure on education should be 4% of GDP, and the recent budget cut of HEC from RS65 billion to a meagre Rs25 billion left every literate Pakistani holding their heads. Pakistan stands at the top of the region regarding low education funding, which is unambiguously disconcerting. Adding to the woes of every responsible Pakistani, Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC), counting 26 million children between the ages of 5 and 16, and representing 44 percent of children not attending school.

Balochistan is performing the worst among the four provinces, with 44 percent of the total OOSC.

As Quaid-e-Azam said, "Education is a matter of life and death for Pakistan. The world is progressing so rapidly that without the requisite advances in education, not only will we lag behind others, but maybe we will be wiped out altogether."

No doubt, education is of paramount importance for a country's progress. It equips citizens with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities that are essential for economic growth, social cohesion, and overall well-being. The country's economic prosperity is highly dependent on the educated population it has. Education and the country's development are inextricably intertwined. Unequivocally, the students of today are going to create the world of tomorrow. We have many examples of countries that have progressed by leaps and bounds through quality education. Progressive countries deem education an integral part of their progress. Therefore, they are kissing

the sky in today's battle for the economy. They spend more money on education because they know that the more input, the higher the output. Unfortunately, while we stand in the midst of political instability, a precarious economy, brain drain, hyperinflation, terrorism, sectarianism, violence, security uncertainty, a lack of tolerance, and a lack of general awareness are all signs of a poor, insufficient, and ineffective education system. We hardly spend 2% of our GDP on education. Low budget allocations can have significant negative impacts on the quality of education.

Overcrowded classrooms: The Centre for Public Education reports that classes with 18 or fewer students produce the best student outcomes. However, where the government cuts the budget for education, teachers may be compelled to lead classes of up to 50 students. Even with the best teaching strategies, it is nearly impossible for any educator to give each student the attention they need in those settings. As a result, the quality and understanding of education are lost somewhere in the deluge of students.

Shortage of teachers: It is another vexing issue our education system is facing due to low funding. We are unable to hire more teachers because we don't have a sufficient amount of money to pay them their salaries. According to sources in the Punjab School Education Department, it is estimated that around 500 primary schools in the province have no teacher appointed in them. They rely on staff from other schools to continue their functions. The sources said around 10,000 schools in the Punjab were operating with one or two teachers. There is a shortage of more than 100,000 teachers in government schools in the province. The dearth of teachers in other provinces is acute, leaving everyone in despondency.

Inadequate infrastructure: A well-maintained

environment is conducive to the learning process as compared to tumbledown buildings. Good infrastructure and environment lead to lucrative learning. Unfortunately, many schools in Pakistan lack basic infrastructure like safe and clean classrooms, toilets, and drinking water facilities. Nearly 42% of government schools lack basic facilities such as electricity and drinking water. Pakistan Education Statistics 2023. Only 68% of primary schools nationwide have access to drinking water, while 74% have toilets for students. (PES 2018-19). Some schools even have no physical building structure, so students sit out in open space without shelter.

Lack of resources: Lack of resources makes the learning environment uncondusive, both for the students and the parents. Students interest starts to decrease when there is a lack of resources to utilise their abilities. Our many institutions are devoid of some modern educational resources like digital libraries, digital screens, AC, well-equipped research laboratories, smart lighting, video conferencing equipment, high-speed Wi-Fi, physical space in libraries, and no generator in case of an electricity breakdown. It is imperative for the government to facilitate educational institutions with these basic modern resources.

Furthermore, low education is also an obstacle to research. As a large amount of the grant received by the universities goes towards the salaries of the teachers, sufficient funds are not available for the students research work. The government has to increase the budget allocation for education to overcome these grim issues. Modern education is the need of the hour. Education can propel the sinking boat of Pakistan through difficult times. We have myriad examples of nations that have progressed by investing in education. We should see our neighbours; they are progressing day by day because they are adapting to modern education.

Writer is Student of Public Administration at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad

Kopi-Luwak coffee's costly journey from cat poop to gold

Andleeb Khan

Imagine sipping a cup of coffee that has been delicately processed through the digestive system of a wild cat, highlighting the sophisticated interplay between nature and flavour. Yes, you heard that right! Kopi Luwak, often dubbed the "cat poop coffee," comes with a price tag that might make your wallet weep—sometimes upwards of \$600 a pound. But for those who embrace luxury with a twist, this cup of joe offers a thrilling and one-of-a-kind taste.

Produced primarily in Indonesia, especially on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Sulawesi, these coffee beans undergo a unique process involving the civet cat. The cat consumes the ripe coffee cherries, and after digestion, the beans are excreted in its feces. This unusual method contributes to the beans' distinctive taste profile. Once collected, they are thoroughly cleaned and roasted to perfection. Experts believe that the natural fermentation that occurs during digestion enhances its flavour and aroma, resulting in a truly exceptional character that sets it apart from other coffee brands.

Step into the fascinating realm of Kopi Luwak, where coffee takes on an extraordinary twist! As the APP scribe explores this unique brew, it becomes clear that many people remain unaware of its origins.

Rakhshanda Taj, a resident of Islamabad and a constant visitor at Al-Fateh Mall, sharing her perspective with a hint of longing said: "I thought I should try it since many celebrities enjoy Kopi Luwak and it's known as the most expensive coffee. However, after learning about the process behind it, I decided I could never bring myself to try it. It's fascinating to think this might be a choice for the Ambani family or Elon Musk, but as a government employee, indulging in such luxury feels like a distant dream."

Iqra Yousuf a student from Islamic University expressed her astonishment about Kopi Luwak, saying, "I was truly amazed to discover this coffee for the very first time. It feels almost surreal to think that something like this exists in the world! The whole idea is so bizarre that I can hardly wrap my head around it. Despite the intrigue, I know for sure I wouldn't want to drink it!"

In response to APP's query about whether they offer Kopi Luwak, a manager at Al Fateh Mall remarked, "Our focus is always on our customers' preferences. While Kopi Luwak has its charm, I must admit we haven't had a single customer ask for it in years! It's hard to justify stocking such an expensive item when our shoppers seem more interested in their daily brews. After all, we're here to offer what people want, not just to showcase rare curiosities! If one day I see a line of coffee lovers demanding it, I'd be more than happy to reconsider!"

Coffee known as the universal language of comfort, with an estimated global market value exceeding \$100 billion, is a vital economic driver. Major producers like Brazil, Vietnam, and Colombia significantly impact their economies, with Brazil alone accounting for about one-third of the world's coffee production.

In 2022, the U. S. coffee market was valued at around \$45 billion, reflecting American consumers' enduring love for this brew. The coffee industry supports millions of jobs globally, from farmers to baristas, serving as a cornerstone of economies.

While we savor our morning cup, many remain unaware of nature's wonders like Kopi Luwak often served to state guests and celebrities, with some well-off individuals indulging in its rarity. Meanwhile, a few fake labels are capitalizing on its allure, profiting in the international market. Kopi Luwak sparks curiosity and invites us to explore the stories behind a favorite brew, deepening our appreciation for its journey from bean to cup.

IS 'New Nusantara, Advanced Indonesia':

Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad celebrates 79th Independence Day

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad hosted a majestic and cordial diplomatic reception to celebrate the Anniversary of 79th Indonesia's Independence Day at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel on 26 September 2024.

Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Hon. Mr. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while State Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Power, Hon. Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik was also present. Approximately 400 attendees from diverse backgrounds, including members of diplomatic corps, Pakistani government officials, politicians, business leaders, media professionals and others made the celebration vibrant and well-attended.

The Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, diplomats, and their families attired in traditional dresses and colorful ethnic outfits, brought a lively and authentic Indonesian ambiance to the event. The venue itself was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements, Batik fabric, and cultural ornaments, which further enriched by posters of the founding fathers of the respective both countries, President Sukarno of Indonesia and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah of Pakistan. The decorations seamlessly blended symbolism and aesthetics, celebrating the shared values of the two nations.

The theme of the reception was "New Nusantara, Advanced Indonesia", which referred to the current massive development on infrastructure and connectivity across the Indonesian archipelago, including the Indonesian new Capital City of Nusantara (IKN). Indeed, within one decade under incumbent President Joko Widodo, Indonesia has focused on improving the mobility of goods, people, and services through huge investment in infrastructure and connectivity.

"Infrastructure projects across Indonesia is critical, as the Government of Indonesia will never let certain parts of the country left behind. Once again, improving connectivity and infrastructure means a lot, not only in strengthening economy but also in bolstering the unity of Indonesia," Chargé d'Affaires (CdA) Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma said in his remarks while he wore the traditional Javanese outfit inspired by the youth movement in the era of struggle for independence.

"Indeed, Indonesia is not yet a role model, but I would say that Indonesia is an example for political stability,



national unity, and economic prosperity," he added highlighting those issues in his extensive visits to several chambers of commerce and industry, universities, madrasahs, and think tanks in Pakistan.

Touching upon economic cooperation, CdA Rahmat Hindiarta noted that Indonesia and Pakistan have significant untapped opportunities in trade and investment. He invited the Pakistani business community to attend the Indonesia and South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) on 7 October 2024, as well as the prestig-

ious Trade Expo Indonesia on 9-12 October 2024.

In his turn, the Federal Minister Pirzada said that Indonesia and Pakistan are two brotherly countries that share firm views on regional and international issues as members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other international organizations. It is expected that the bilateral relations, including economic cooperation continue to grow. "On behalf of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, I convey congratulations to Indonesia on its 79th Independence Day," said Minister



Pirzada concluded his remarks.

The diplomatic reception commenced with moment of silence to remember and honor those who had sacrificed their lives in Gaza, occupied territories of Palestine, and surrounding countries in the region. The following programs were Indonesian and Pakistani national anthems, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, and documentary video on Indonesian new Capital City of Nusantara in Kalimantan island.

Another major attraction was the "Saman Dance" from Indonesian Province of Aceh performed with rhythmic precision by dancers seated in a row. The dancers were the Indonesian

students in Islamabad. They mesmerized the audience with synchronized hand clapping, chest slapping, and graceful body movements, reflecting Indonesia's vibrant cultural identity. The performance garnered enthusiastic applause, with the audience expressing admiration for Indonesia's artistic and cultural legacy.

One of the highlights of the evening was a captivating fashion show, showcasing Indonesia's rich cultural heritage. Traditional costumes with distinct textiles, colors, motifs, and symbolic designs enchanted the audience, offering a vivid glimpse into the country's diverse traditions. The audi-

ence was also treated to a sumptuous spread that featured both local and continental cuisine, with Indonesian signature delicacies and drinks stealing the spotlight.

"I really enjoy your event. Programs, performances, foods, and everything here are the best and well-organized," praised CEO Centaurus, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas, while in parallel the Gemu Famire dance started. The dance becomes one of the mainstays of Fashion's Indonesian promotional activities abroad.

Photos By Sultan Bashir / Ramzan Mughal



ISSI-HSF International Conference on Climate Change fosters meaningful dialogue

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ISSI-HSF International Conference on "Navigating Pakistan's Climate Action Path: Adaptation, Finance, and Technology" featured a keynote address by H. E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, and a special address by Chief Guest Senator Sherry Rehman. The event drew a significant gathering of diplomats, climate practitioners, and academics, reflecting strong interest in addressing Pakistan's climate challenges.

The Inaugural Session was followed by two insightful panel discussions that explored key drivers of climate adaptation, financing mechanisms, and the role of green technology in shaping Pakistan's climate response. Experts emphasized the urgent need for innovative solutions, global cooperation, and strategic investments in climate resilience, stressing that Pakistan must lead by example as it approaches COP29. The discussions highlighted Pakistan's unique vulnerability to climate impacts and its potential to serve as a regional leader in sustainable climate action,

setting the stage for continued engagement on the global stage.

Session I: Navigating Pakistan's Climate Action Path: Adaptation, Finance, and Technology

Moderated by Ms. Aisha Khan, Executive Director for the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change, this session explored innovative ways to adapt to climate change, governance mechanisms to enhance adaptability, and cooperation between various stakeholders, with a focus on the financial aspects of climate action.

In her introductory remarks, Ms. Aisha Khan emphasized the urgency of climate action, particularly as the 2030 deadline for adaptation looms closer. She highlighted the increased risks faced by developing countries like Pakistan due to their vulnerability and limited resources.

Mr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of UN Development Programme, Pakistan addressed the need for indigenous strategies to tackle climate challenges in Pakistan, emphasizing the role of capacity building, technology transfer, and concessional financing. He noted the developed world's limited contribu-



tions to addressing the costs of climate disasters and called for depoliticizing climate issues to foster regional cooperation.

Providing an overview of Pakistan's preparations for COP29, Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), discussed the government's coordinated efforts to foster public-private partnerships, attract investments in climate projects, and enhance Pakistan's commitment to global climate action. He noted that Pakistan would present itself at COP29

as a responsible nation, ready to participate in global climate efforts.

Mr. Jamil Ahmed from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) reassured of the UN's continued support to Pakistan in addressing climate-driven disasters. He emphasized the need for immediate action to address the agricultural sector's vulnerability due to floods, droughts, and water scarcity.

Dr. Faisal Ali, Research Fellow, PIDE discussed the importance of alternative economic measures for climate resilience, advocating for a shift to paperless

work environments and a water-pricing system to reduce waste.

Session II: Leveraging Global Climate Finance and the Need for Renewable Energy Transition and Green Technology

Moderated by Director CSP, Dr. Neelum Nigar, this session focused on the financial strategies and technologies needed to address Pakistan's climate challenges.

In his address, Ambassador Nauman Bashir Bhatti, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kazakhstan, emphasized the central role of climate change in global financial strategies, particu-

larly with institutions like the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He highlighted the need for Pakistan to build domestic capacity to develop climate projects that meet international financing standards.

Ms. Kashmala Kakakhel, an eminent Climate Finance expert emphasized that while Pakistan's climate action plans are often shaped by obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, they must also focus on mitigation. She stressed the importance of tapping into global climate funds for adaptation and mitigation and called for dynamic strategies to develop bankable projects.

Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, a lecturer for the MA in Global Security Studies program, Johns Hopkins University discussed the inequities in global climate finance, where wealthier nations benefit from providing loans rather than grants. He called for a just energy transition that balances environmental and economic needs, stressing local engagement and responsible practices in projects like CPEC.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow at SDPI highlighted the disproportionate focus on mitigation projects, particularly in

energy and transportation, with little attention to adaptation. He urged Pakistan to tap into global climate finance strategically and mentioned the upcoming announcement of Pakistan's national green taxonomy at COP29.

In the concluding session, Mr. Muhammad Bilal, Senior Program Manager at Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan, expressed appreciation for the insightful discussions and emphasized that the ideas generated would shape policymaking ahead of COP29. He reiterated that climate change is an existential threat for Pakistan, requiring urgent attention and global cooperation.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of ISSI's Board of Governors, reflected on the evolution of climate discussions, noting that they were nearly non-existent in 1972 but have now become central to global discourse. He expressed concern over the developed world's preference to offer loans rather than grants for climate efforts and emphasized the critical need for technology transfer to help developing countries combat climate change effectively.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
81,292.13	81,657.96
Day's High	Day's Low
81,842.74	81,183.50
Index Value	Change
8,019,296,729	-365.83
Percentage	Time
-0.45%	27 Sept, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,320.76	+35.85
Percentage	Time
+0.43%	27 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
42,381.80	+206.69
Percentage	Time
+0.49%	27 Sept, 1:06 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
39,829.56	+903.93
Percentage	Time
+2.32%	27 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.00	193.25
Bahrain Dinar	732.30	740.30
Canadian Dollar	206.60	209.00
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	308.55	311.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.7	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.65	908.15
Malaysian Ringgit	63.65	64.25
New Zealand \$	172.47	174.47
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	716.67	725.17
Qatari Riyal	76.29	76.99
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.30
Singapore Dollar	216.45	218.45
Swedish Korona	27.20	27.51
Swiss Franc	325.45	328.25
Thai Bhat	8.34	8.49
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	369.85	373.35
US Dollar	278.80	280.30

Engro Fertilizers strengthens dealer and farmer partnerships for agricultural progress



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro Fertilizers Limited, one of Pakistan's leading fertilizer manufacturers, hosted a meeting in Depalpur for dealers and farmers to address key challenges of the agricultural sector and explore innovative solutions for growth.

The highlight of this session was the live demonstration of Engro's Mobile Lab, which offers on-site soil and water testing services.

This initiative empowers farmers with data-driven recommendations for optimized fertilizer use, ensuring balanced soil nutrition and enhanced crop productivity.

Addressing the audience, CEO Engro Fertilizers, Mr. Ali Rathore, expressed the Company's wholehearted support for its dealer network and the country's farming community, acknowledging their essential role in the agricultural value chain. He also highlighted the Company's initiatives aimed at empowering farmers with tools and resources to make informed decisions enabling better planning, lower costs, and higher yields.

Prominent members of the farming community, including Chaudhry Tahir Irshad, Ahmed Raza Khan, Rao Fayyaz Aslam Khan, Rao Imran, Rana Saeed Khan, Syed Sajid Shah, Syed Noor Hassan Shah, Rao Abdul Kareem, and Haji Shoban, attended the meeting.

Business leaders appreciate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's tireless efforts for community

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The business community holds a vital position in every nation for driving economic growth and development. Similarly, in our country, entrepreneurs and business leaders play a pivotal role in shaping the economy. During my tenure the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has made significant strides, overcoming challenges to facilitate ease of doing business. As a result, the ICCI has emerged as the premier chamber of commerce in the country, achieving numerous milestones and setting a benchmark for others."

While congratulating the newly elected office bearers of the Traders Welfare Association of I-8

Markaz, Bakhtawari stated that as President ICCI has served the entire business community of Islamabad without any discrimination, kept the ICCI doors open for its problems resolution. He, by mentioning some of his notable initiatives, said that for provision of clean drinking water to the community and the residents he installed water filtration plants, CCTV cameras for enhancing security of business areas and organized Eid shopping festivals and exhibitions to promote business through community's engagement.

Bakhtawari pledged to continue these efforts personally, even after completing his ICCI presidency. As Chairman All Markets Unions, he vowed to vigorously advocate for the business

community, ensuring ample opportunities for growth.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) Zafar Bakhtawari expressed his gratitude to the community for electing Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as Chairman All Markets Unions of Islamabad by assuring that he (Ahsan Bakhtawari) will wholeheartedly work for community's welfare and try his level best to come to the its expectations.

Former President FPCCI and ICCI Zubair Ahmed Malik extended gratitude to the business community of I-8 for supporting Founder Group candidates in the ICCI election and enabling them to bag a clean sweep.

Former President ICCI Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi commended Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his tireless services for the fraternity and vowed all out support to him in his future endeavors.

Chairman I-8 Markaz Yassir Abbasi underlined the need for prompt resolution of the business community's problems for the economic welfare of the country.

In his address Waheed Cheema President Traders Welfare Association I/8 markaz thanked ICCI President for his initiatives for the community especially for the I-8 markaz and highlighted his entire team's support for him.

A sizable gathering of business leaders from Islamabad, predominantly from I-8 Markaz, marked the occasion.

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presenting bouquet to President TWA I-8 Markaz Waheed Cheema. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, former President Ejaz Abbasi, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Yasir Jameel Abbasi, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Assad Aziz, Faizan Shahzad, Zia ur Rehman, Saifur Rehman, Rana Bilal, Fasihullah Khan, Imtiaz Abbasi, Imran Bukhari, Noman Bhatti and other are also present.



SITE Association Elects New Office Bearers for 2024-26



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Chairman of the Election Commission of the SITE Association of Industry (SAI), Muhammad Tariq Yousuf, has announced the unopposed election of Ahmed Azeem Alvi as President, Khalid Riaz as Senior Vice President, and Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi as Vice President for the 2024-26 term. These appointments were confirmed at the 60th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association, chaired by Saleem Parekh, Chief Coordinator and former President of SAI.

The newly elected office

bearers, alongside members of the Executive Committee, will formally assume their roles on 1st October 2024. The AGM was held at the SAI office, with Zubair Motiwala, Chairman of the Businessmen Group (BMG) and Patron-in-Chief of SAI, also in attendance.

President-elect Ahmed Azeem Alvi expressed gratitude to the members for their trust and praised the outgoing office bearers for their efforts. He stressed the importance of addressing critical challenges such as deteriorating infrastructure and shortages of basic utilities in the SITE area.

Pakistan's E-commerce Revolution Gains Momentum as JD Technology

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: JD Technology, a global technology and e-commerce company has announced a strategic partnership with East River Digital, a digital marketing agency in Pakistan. This collaboration, formalized at the headquarters of JD Technology in Beijing, China, aims to drive digital transformation in Pakistan by introducing world-class e-commerce services, AI-driven solutions, and advanced supply chain technologies to empower local businesses and enhance the digital experience for consumers across various sectors.

The partnership will focus on revolutionizing Pakistan's digital infrastructure through innovative technologies. Leveraging JD Technology's expertise in AI-powered retail platforms, personalized marketing tools, autonomous delivery systems, and smart logistics solutions, the collaboration will enable Pakistani businesses to streamline operations, improve customer experiences, and access global markets.



The CEO of East River Digital, Mr. Faizan S. Syed, expressed his enthusiasm, "We are thrilled to partner with JD Technology and bring their cutting-edge tech-

nology to Pakistan. This collaboration will drive the next phase of digital transformation in the country, helping local businesses and consumers access world-class e-commerce services."

The strategy director of JD Technology, Zhang Ping, shared insights, stating, "Pakistan represents a key market for JD Technology as we expand our global footprint. With East River Digital's expertise in local market dynamics, we are confident in delivering our advanced technological solutions to help accelerate the growth of Pakistan's digital economy."

With a population of over 241 million and a GDP per capita of \$1,568, Pakistan offers tremendous opportunities for digital expansion. Despite current economic hurdles, the digital market continues to thrive, with internet penetration at 36% and the e-commerce sector projected to grow to \$10 billion by 2025. The youthful population—over 63% under the age of 30—and increasing smartphone usage present a strong consumer base for JD Technology's services.

NTDC and French Development Agency Organize 2-Day Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) is committed for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment within the organization. To support this commitment, NTDC Human Resource Department organized a two-day training workshop on gender mainstreaming at a local hotel in Lahore.

General Manager (HR) Engr. Sohail Mumtaz Bajwa was the chief guest of the concluding ceremony, who gave away shields and certificates to the trainers and participants.

The workshop was conducted in collabora-

tion with French Development Agency (AFD) and its consultancy firm NIRAS. This firm has been engaged by AFD for gender reforms within NTDC. It was the last session of a series of 06 workshops, after Islamabad, Faisalabad, Multan, Hyderabad and Peshawar.

The training was conducted by Dr. Farzana Bari, a lead trainer from NIRAS. Key topics covered in the workshop, includes, societal constructs of gender, intersectional approaches, Pakistan's constitutional and international commitments to gender equality and the need of formal gender mainstreaming policies within NTDC.

GCNP, MACN host key session to improve customs procedures in maritime sector

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Global Compact Network Pakistan (GCNP), and the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) organized a highly engaging and informative session titled "Streamlining the Missing Links in Customs Procedures for Port Operations & Shipping Sector". This pivotal event brought together esteemed stakeholders, including senior leaders from terminal operators, off-dock terminals, and members of the All-Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA).

The session was graciously hosted by Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited (KGTL), with Syed Tanvir Ahmed, Senior Advisor to -GCNP-MACN, delivering the opening remarks. He warmly welcomed attendees and underscored the significance of the session, also providing a concise introduction to the GCNP-MACN Project's mission and objectives.

Esteemed speakers from Pakistan Customs Omar Shafiq, Collector of Customs Enforcement (Port), and Daud Pirzada, Director, Intelligence & Investigation (customs) delivered comprehensive presentations, tackling critical topics such as shipping licensing, cargo handling at terminals, resolving issues of stuck-up containers, GD hold containers, auction/destruction, various charges, port container movement, TP containers, transshipment hub, and document amendments.



It is worth noting that an interactive session was held to commemorate the "World Mari-

time Day" proving that MACN is striving to enhance good practices in the maritime

industry of Pakistan along with its stakeholders.

National fastest men & women competition on Oct 8

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 1st Superior national fastest men and women competition will be held on October 8, at Punjab Stadium, Lahore.

According to President, Athletics Federation of Pakistan, Brig. Wajahat Hussain (R) all men and women players from all over the country will take part in the mega event.

The invitation letter has already been issued to the affiliated units, including departments, Provincial and regional associations.

He said that the cash prizes will be awarded to winner men and women



athletes including 1st prize Rs 100,000, 2nd prize Rs 50,000, 3rd prize Rs 25,000 and 4 to 8 position holders Rs 10,000 each.

All interested players who can take part in the competition, and can register their name by October 5.

All athletes will report at Punjab Stadium, on October 8 at 9am to Rafique Ahmad, President, National Coaching Association and Ch. Asghar Ali Gill, Head Coach, Athletics Federation of Pakistan, for registration and scrutiny of documents.

This mega event will be held under supervision of Athletics Federation of Pakistan and in collaboration with Superior University, Lahore.

Pakistan make one addition to squad for first Test against England

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has added leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood to the squad for the first of the three-match Test series against England.

The first Test is set to take place in Multan from 7-11 October, while the training camp will commence from 1 October.

Zahid will join the team's training camp in Multan, however, the squad will be trimmed to 15 players at the start of the first Test on October 7.

Meanwhile, Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Ali will be reserve players, but they will continue to play in the domestic matches.

"Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Ali will remain on reserve but will continue playing domestic matches to stay match-ready," the PCB said in a statement.

"All three players are part of the Pakistan Test team setup, but 15 players are sufficient for the home Test series due to cricketing and logis-



tical reasons," he added.

Following the squad announcement and based on the recommendation of head coach Jason Gillespie, the selected players have been withdrawn from the Champions One-Day Cup playoffs to allow them some rest ahead of the series.

"With a busy domestic and international cricket schedule, it makes sense to

give our players some much-needed rest ahead of the Test series against England," said Gillespie.

"We are very much looking forward to the series against England here in Pakistan and cannot wait for it to begin. We are excited about playing in front of our wonderful supporters," he added.

Pakistan Squad for first England Test:

Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Hurrara, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper), and Shaheen Shah Afridi, Zahid Mahmood.

Veteran cricket umpire Aleem Dar decides to hang boots

Aleem Dar has decided to put an end to his umpiring career at the end of the Pakistan



Cricket Board's 2024-25 domestic season, concluding a career that spanned for nearly a quarter of a century, the PCB said in a statement on Friday.

Dar was a true gentleman for cricketers and fans both on and off the field and was awarded the highly prestigious David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year three times from 2009 to 2011.

As for his cricket playing career, the maestro played 17 first-class and 18 List-A games from the year 1986 to 1988, then went on to umpiring games from the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in 1998-99.

From 2003 to 2023, he served on the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, where he earned a reputation for his player management skills, understanding of the playing conditions, calm demeanour and outstanding decision-making.

He is currently part of the PCB's Elite Panel and remains one of four Pakistani umpires on the ICC's International Panel, making him eligible to officiate in ODIs and T20Is.

To date, Dar has officiated in a record-breaking 145 Tests, 231 ODIs, 72 T20Is, 5 WT20Is, 181 first-class matches, and 282 List-A matches.

"His contributions to the sport extend far beyond these numbers, with his professionalism and respectful manner making him a beloved figure worldwide," the statement read.

Reflecting on his decision to retire, the maestro of the umpiring world said:

"Umpiring has been my life for nearly 25 years and I have cherished the privilege of officiating some of the most iconic matches involving the greatest players of this generation," Dar remarked.

"Throughout my career, I've strived to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, and it has been an honour to work alongside some of the finest match officials in the world.

"However, all great journeys must eventually come to an end, and the time has come for me to focus fully on my social and charity work. My hospital project and other initiatives are very close to my heart and require my full devotion and attention."

Dar acknowledged the support he has had from his colleagues during his journey further adding that it is the right time to hang the boots.

"Having achieved almost everything that I had aspired to in umpiring with the unwavering support of my peers and colleagues, I also feel it's the right moment to step aside and allow emerging umpires to shine. It is my hope that they too will have the same opportunities to make their mark on the great game of cricket and represent Pakistan with pride," he added.

'Three matches Conclude in PCB Senior Inter-District Cricket Tournament'

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone VI defeated Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone IV by 7 wickets and paved the way to become the champion of PCB Senior Inter-District Cricket Tournament Karachi Region. Three more matches were decided in the fifth round of the tournament.

In the second match, Zone V beat Zone III by 150 runs. In the third match, Zone One defeated Zone VII by 183 runs in the first match at KCCA Stadium Zone IV batted first in first inning after scoring 138 runs in 40.1 overs, Naimat Khan got out for 34 runs, Yasir Mushaq scored 30 runs, off-spinner Saifullah took 4 for 59, Tariq Khan 3-48, Razaul Hasan took 3-27 wickets. In reply Zone VI was bowled

out for 136 runs in 41.4 overs. Khawaja Muhammad Nafay 42, Ashar Ahmed scored 22 runs, Afnan Khan took 6 for 43, Ahad Ali took 2-05 wickets. Zone IV scored 151 runs in 63 overs in the second innings and got out. Muhammad Afzal 50, Abdullah Fazal scored 42 runs. Left-arm leg-spinner Tariq Khan bowled devastatingly taking 7 for 48 to take 10 wickets in the match Raza Al Hasan took 2-42. Zone VI needed 154 runs to win in the second innings completed in 42.5 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Khawaja Nafay scored 57, Arbaaz Khan 31, Akbar ul Rehman 37 not out. Adeel Meco scored 21 not out. Naimat Khan took 3 wickets. In the second match Zone V scored 317 runs in 71.4 overs in the first innings at Landhi Gymkhana, Moazzam Malik 74, Jawad Mehmood 30,

Shoib Khan 34, Waseem Ahmed 32, Arslan Bashir scored 35 runs, Israr Ahmed 2-46 wickets, Ahmed took 2-74 wickets, Fahad Amin took 2-50, Amit Ravi took 2-29 wickets. In reply, RCAA Zone III was bowled out for 171 runs in 41.1 overs in the first innings. Abdul Rafay played a brilliant innings of 75 runs. Junaid Ilyas took 3 for 27.

Zone V in the second innings scoring 159 runs in 36 overs. Shoib Khan scored 31 runs. Israr Ahmed Captured 6 for 66 in the second innings Zone III bowled out for 155 runs in 42.2 overs.

Malik Qarar scored 40 runs, Rabish Ahmed was with 34 runs, Junaid Ilyas 5-72 wickets, Moazzam Malik took 3-48 wickets. RCAA Zone One Battering first at the RLCA Ground

Gulburg in the first innings, 316 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 75 overs, Zia ur Rehman scored 72 runs, Alman Shafiq 64, Zubair Dilawar scored 72 runs. Mahmood Shah took 3-76 wickets. In reply Zone VII first innings Scored 170 runs in 53.4 overs. Kashif Khan scored 43 runs, Fawad Khan 33 runs not out, Rahman Ghani took 4-34 wickets. Zone One scored 185 runs in 38.2 overs for the loss of 9 wickets in the second innings and declared the innings. Fazal Subhan 60, Taha Mehmood scored 34 runs, Fawad Khan took 5-58 wickets, Zafar Ali Khan took 3-64, Zone VII got out after scoring 148 runs in 44.1 overs in the second innings. Naem Gul 35, Huzafa Munir 35 runs. Rahman Ghani scored 4-25 and Mirza Ahsan Jameel took 4-48 wickets.

Man City's Rodri to miss rest of season with ACL injury

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Manchester City midfielder Rodri will miss the rest of the season with a serious knee injury, dealing a huge blow to their hopes of winning a fifth straight Premier League title.

City manager Pep Guardiola said the Spain international, who suffered an anterior cruciate ligament injury in last week's 2-2 draw with Arsenal, had gone under the knife on Friday.

"He had surgery this morning, ACL and some meniscus," he said. "So, next season he will be here. This season is over."

Rodri is one of City's most important players and his loss will be keenly felt by Guardiola, who is also seeking to regain the Champions League crown.

The City boss, speaking on the eve of his team's Premier League

match against Newcastle, said it was the worst news possible, underlining the importance of the defensive midfielder he has called "irreplaceable".

"We have to do it as a team and find a way to play during a lot of months without an important player for us," he said.

"Everybody knows it. Speedy recovery and next season he will compete against them.

"We are stronger with him, we're stronger with Nathan Ake, we are strong with Oscar Bobb.

"All the injuries we did not want it, but football happens."

Rodri played a key role as City held off Arsenal to win a fourth straight Premier League title last season and was named player of the tournament at Euro 2024 as Spain emerged triumphant.

Each of City's past four Premier League defeats have all

come when the former Atletico Madrid player has not featured in the side.

The 28-year-old, touted as a potential Ballon d'Or winner, is unbeaten in his past 52 Premier League appearances, a run stretching back to February 2023.

Guardiola, whose team are top of the Premier League, said he had a number of alternatives among his group of "magnificent players", including Mateo Kovacic, a like-for-like replacement.

Gundo (Ilkay Gundogan) can play in that position. John Stones and Manu (Manuel Akanji) have played in that position. So we have an alternative to do it," he said.

Guardiola was asked whether City would dip into the transfer market in January.

"We'll talk today with Txiki (Begiristain, the director of football), we'll see how it's going on," he said.

"It's closed until January, so we'll have time and see potential problems we have, and after we'll see."

Rodri, who joined City in 2019, had already had a frustrating start to the season, missing Manchester City's first four games, including the Community Shield, after suffering a hamstring injury.

Only last week he joined a host of high-profile players to speak out about the ever-increasing fixture workload facing the game's top stars, and said he thought players could be "close" to striking because of the over-loaded calendar.

City will also be without Belgium midfielder Kevin



De Bruyne for their trip to Newcastle as he continues to recover

Closing Ceremony of Idea Sports Program Held at University of Education, Lahore



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The closing ceremony of the Idea Sports Program, organized by the University of Education, Lahore, was held today with great enthusiasm at main campus township Lahore. The event was presided over by Prof. Dr. Aqif Anwar Ch., Vice Chancellor of the University of Education, Lahore, while Kristin K. Hawkins, Consul General of the US Consulate Lahore, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. Zil-e-Huma, Vice Chancellor of Government College University for Women, Faisalabad, participated as the guest of honor.

The Idea Sports Program, a year-long initiative, was launched by the University of Education, Lahore in collaboration with the US Consulate Lahore, Baylor University USA, University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), University of North Carolina Pembroke (UNCP), Forman Christian College University Lahore, Kinnaird College University Lahore, and Government College University for Women Faisalabad. The program aimed to promote leadership among women through sports, with 28 teachers and over 1,000 female students from 10 selected schools receiving training under this initiative.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Aqif Anwar Ch. warmly welcomed the participants and highlighted the impact of the program in empowering women with essential life skills. He expressed his pride in the successful conclusion of the initiative, which is a product of a seven-year partnership between the US Consulate and the University of Education, Lahore. "This program will foster global citizenship, create a healthy nation, and develop a skillful workforce for future generations," he stated.

Addressing the ceremony, Kristin K. Hawkins, Consul General of the US Consulate Lahore, congratulated the trainers for their dedication and the systematic execution of the training sessions. She emphasized the enduring collaboration between Baylor University USA and the University of Education, Lahore, adding that this partnership would further strengthen the bonds between Pakistan and the United States.

The event also featured a showcase of sports skills by the female trainee students, demonstrating the success of the program in cultivating leadership through sports.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Dr. Ahsen Bashir, who expressed gratitude to all the participants, trainers, and collaborators for their contributions to the program's success.

Liam Livingstone smashes Mitchell Starc for record 28 runs in an over

A Sports

LONDON: England's hard-hitting middle-order batter Liam Livingstone on Friday, wreaked havoc as he smashed Australia's Mitchell Starc for 28 runs in an over.



The incident occurred in the 39th over of England's innings in the rain-affected fourth ODI against arch-rivals Australia.

England were 284/5 in 38 overs and needed something special to breach the 300-run barrier in the allotted 39 overs.

The eventful over started with Strac trying to deliver a yorker just outside the off stump but got fractionally short, allowing Livingstone to open his arms and launch the ball for a gigantic six over the long-on.

Starc responded with a slower bouncer and managed to deceive Livingstone.

The left-arm pacer cleared again went for a yorker but faltered and Livingstone, cleared his front leg to flick the ball over the square-leg boundary.

The baton charge appeared to have taken a toll on Mitchell Starc as he bowled a wide full-toss, which received the same treatment from Liam Livingstone.

After being hit for three sixes on his first four deliveries, Starc decided to improvise and bowled a pacy length delivery angling outside off but Livingstone, fuelled with momentum, managed to drag it over the cow corner for another massive six.

The experienced pacer finally managed to execute a wide yorker on the final delivery of the innings but still could not get away with it as Livingstone slashed it for a four over point.

The late fireworks saw Livingstone finish at an unbeaten 62 off just 27 deliveries, laced up with 10 boundaries including seven sixes, playing a pivotal role in leading England to a massive total after skipper Harry Brook's brisk 87-run knock.

RTC on Business & Investment

BEIJING: Group photo of participants of Business Round Table with Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan in China.



Pak Embassy hosts Business & Investment Roundtable in Beijing

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: As part of ongoing efforts to promote investment cooperation between Pakistan and China, the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing hosted a Business and Investment Roundtable on Friday.

Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, presided over the roundtable in which over three dozen Chinese companies participated.

The roundtable aimed to showcase investment opportunities, incentives and facilitations in Pakistan to attract Chinese investments in the fields of technology, infrastructure, logistics, constructions, energy, agriculture and pharmaceutical.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi, in his welcome remarks, highlighted inter alia the growing momentum in B2B exchanges between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and China.

He mentioned the successful B2B meetings in Shenzhen, Beijing, Karachi and Xian including participation in fairs, expos and conferences.

Minister Abdul Aleem Khan recalled the "iron-clad" friendship between Pakistan and China and noted that since the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China in June 2024, significant progress had been made in accelerating China-Pakistan business-to-business and investment cooperation.

He highlighted how CPEC served

as a cornerstone of Pakistan-China economic cooperation and underlined that in its next phase, industrialization, especially through promotion of B2Bs, the development of SEZs, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and the Gwadar Free Zone would be joint priority.

The minister pointed out the advantages of investing in Pakistan; such as skilled IT force, competitive wage rates, high consumer demand and attractive incentives for the Chinese companies.

He invited Chinese businesses to invest in housing, energy, transport, and logistics, mentioning the huge demand for housing units allied industries and housing finances in Pakistan.

The minister commended Ambassador Hashmi and his team for organizing the roundtable. He also apprised the companies about the forthcoming investment road shows in the next six months and urged them to participate in them.

Li Shuang, Mayor of Daming city; Qu Zongkuan, Deputy Mayor of Linyi city, Shandong province; Qin Linzheng, Chief Advisor of the China Society for Future Studies; and representatives of enterprises appreciated the outreach of the embassy and described the B2B exchange as very useful.

Three memorandums of understanding were also signed between Chinese and Pakistani companies on the occasion.

Gilani highlights vital role of textile sector in national economy

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has underscored the significant contribution of the textile sector to Pakistan's economy, emphasizing its role in both employment and exports.

Speaking as the chief guest at the 7th International Conference on Textiles, titled "Inspiring Change: Challenges and Strides are the Wings of Success," held at a local hotel on Friday, Gilani noted that textiles account for over 60 per cent of the country's exports, a substantial share of the national income.

He acknowledged the industry's role in providing

livelihoods to thousands of workers and highlighted Pakistan's potential in producing high-quality cotton, the backbone of the textile sector. He stressed the need for research and development to enhance cotton quality and reduce reliance on imported raw materials.

The Senate Chairman called for the production of innovative, high-quality textile products, emphasizing that reducing dependency on government subsidies would make industrialists more self-sufficient. He stressed the importance of remaining competitive on the global stage and urged the strengthening of Research and Development (R&D) from cotton



cultivation to finished textile products.

He also highlighted the importance of advancing both traditional and modern sectors of the textile industry, stating that the parliament,

particularly the Senate, plays a crucial role in crafting legislation that supports sustainable industrial growth. He emphasized the need for technological advancements and assured the Senate's commit-

ment to providing the best technology to the industry.

Praising the students talent displayed at the event, Gilani remarked that colleges and universities play a pivotal role in developing modern techniques, technologies, and designs for the textile industry. He expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan's textile sector.

U. S. Consul General in Lahore, Kristin K. Hawkins, also addressed the conference, highlighting the mutual business ties between Pakistan and the United States.

Earlier, Gilani presented awards to standout participants in recognition of their contributions to the textile industry.

Govt eyeing first week of October for passage of constitutional amendment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: After weeks of negotiations, the Pakistani government intends to reintroduce its constitutional package to parliament in the first week

of October, expressing confidence in securing the necessary support for its passage.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate,

told reporters that the package is likely to be presented to the Senate in the first week of October. However, he stressed

that the passage of the constitutional amendments is contingent upon securing the support of Maulana Fazl-

ur-Rehman, the head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), particularly within the Senate.



Celebrating Peace through Tourism: 1st National Tourism Awards 2024 held

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 1st National Tourism Awards of Excellence celebrated with full zest in Islamabad with theme "Celebrating Peace through Tourism" was organized by Discover Pakistan and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2024.

The National Tourism Awards seek to recognize and encourage the remarkable endeavours of those who are contributing to the growth and development of tourism and hospitality sector in Pakistan.

The event was attended by over 300 participants including Diplomats, Senior Government Officials and Private Sector Stakeholders of tourism and hospitality sector. In the event, awards were distributed among the individuals and organization who make remarkable contribution in independent jury of top professionals of tourism and hospitality sector through an extremely fair and transparent procedure.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of the event Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal stated that, "The National Tourism Awards of Excellence highlight the remarkable progress of Pakistan is making in the tourism and hospitality sectors. As we celebrate World Tourism



Day 2024, under the theme "Tourism & Peace," we recognize the power of tourism in promoting peace, understanding, and economic growth. I congratulate all the winners for their outstanding contributions and encourage further efforts to showcase Pakistan's rich culture, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality to the world."

Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) while congratulating Discover Pakistan HD TV for their initiative of

1st National Tourism Awards of Excellence which will held on the annual basis, expressed that "these National Tourism Awards not only celebrate individual and organizational success but also reflect the overall growth of Pakistan's tourism industry. On World Tourism Day, we renew our commitment to making tourism a key part of Pakistan's development. These awards recognize the hard work of those ensuring our country becomes a top destination for both local and international tourists,

while also promoting peace, sustainability, and cultural exchange."

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said that since 2017 there was no direct investment came in Pakistan.

After seven years now in 2023-24 several countries like KSA, China, UAE, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, are now started investing in the Pakistan, he added. "We are bringing new initiatives for youth of the country. We have to portray the soft image of Pakistan at World level to attract the international tourists in our beautiful country. Pakistani foods, art and culture are also part of tourism and gaining momentum at World level, he added. He lauded the efforts of Dr Qaiser Rafiq CEO of Discover Pakistan for promoting Pakistan at international level.

This year's theme, "Tourism & Peace," emphasizes tourism's role in encouraging mutual respect, reducing tensions, and building global harmony by connecting people across borders.

The day also underscores tourism's contributions to job creation, cultural preservation, and responsible travel, all while promoting international cooperation and sustainable development.

The event was organized by Discover Pakistan TV with the support of PTDC, Green Tourism Pvt. Ltd, and provincial tourism departments.

Romina Khurshheed for promoting hygiene practices



Bureau Report

KARACHI/LASBELA: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshheed Alam, underscoring the importance of hygiene for living a healthy life, on Friday, urged the female students to spread the message of health and hygiene among their communities.

She was addressing a ceremony held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Uthal town of District Lasbela Balochistan on conclusion of Health and Hygiene training under "She Power" project. She, at the occasion, also distributed health and hygiene kits among the students.

The Hygiene kits consisting essen-

tial hygiene products were provided under the "She Power" project launched by the Embassy of Peoples Republic of China as a health sector initiative with objectives of improving the health and well-being of young girls.

The She Power project is aimed at promoting use of hygiene products and foster health awareness as well as addressing the critical health related requirements of girls in the Balochistan and 20,000 health and hygiene kits would be distributed among the female students across the region under the initiative.

Senator Samina Zehri, CEO Asian Synergy Neelam Hamid, and officials of revenue, health and education departments attended the ceremony.

PM urges world action as illegal occupation...

Continued from Page 1

Apprising the global leaders of India's massive expansion of its military capabilities, he said its war doctrines, envisaged a surprise attack and a "limited war under the nuclear overhang". Thoughtlessly, India has spurned Pakistan's proposals, for a mutual "Strategic Restraint Regime". Its leadership has often threatened to cross the Line of Control and "take-over" Azad Kashmir," he added.

"Let me state, in no uncertain terms that Pakistan will respond, most decisively, to any Indian aggression," he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for the reversal of the Indian unilateral and illegal measures of August 5, 2019 to enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution, of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

"As we leave this august hall, we must carry with us a message for our people that the weak are not voiceless, that the oppressed should not lose hope, that poverty is not pre-ordained, and that the Almighty's promise of justice and equality in

our only terrestrial home, must be respected," he urged.

He said that the daunting challenges of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza; a dangerous conflict in Ukraine; destructive conflicts across Africa and Asia; rising geopolitical tensions; resurging terrorism; rising poverty; a stifling debt, and the mounting impact of climate change acted as a "chill of a new world order" and lauded the adoption of 54 actions by the Summit of the Future called by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Prime Minister Shehbaz referred to the devastation caused by climate change-induced floods in Pakistan in 2022 causing \$30 billion in damages despite the country's less than 1% carbon emissions.

"This is unfair in any calculus of global justice. We must uphold the axiom: the polluter must pay," he remarked and called for the fulfillment of commitments made by the developed countries in climate financing to support the achievements of the SDGs and climate goals.