



Dr Fai urges OIC to advocate for peaceful Kashmir settlement

Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, has called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to advocate for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.



Ensuring smooth flow of traffic on roads top priority; SSP Traffic

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk held a meeting at ITP Headquarters. According to ITP statement during the meeting SSP Traffic Islamabad instructed officials to maintain smooth flow of traffic on roads. SSP also discussed measures to improve the traffic system in the federal capital and take special initiatives to keep citizens safe from accidents.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Group photo of friendship

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a group photo at Malaysia-Pakistan High Level Business Dialogue on Thursday.



Pakistan and Malaysia for further enhancing bilateral cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have reiterated their commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, banking sector, food technology and agriculture. The two sides also agreed to cooperate on issues of bilateral importance.



Malaysian Prime Minister would further boost bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He expressed concern over the current situation in Gaza and called on the international community to take measures to prevent Israel from committing genocide and atrocities against the Palestinian people.

This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chairman Pakistan People's Party, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Commerce, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, Senator Sherry Rehman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia apprised the President that he held a very good discussion with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Welcoming the Malaysian Prime Minister, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Malaysia and was committed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. He added that the visit of the

Later, during a special investiture ceremony, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir.

regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir. As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as

Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality.

He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of

further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that both sides had agreed on a number of matters and follow-up discussions would be held in the upcoming joint commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month to ensure swift implementation of the decisions.

He assured that the Malaysian trade office would be opened in Karachi soon to strengthen economic collaboration between the two countries.

He said Malaysia was seeking

more skilled labour in various sectors including IT, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors and Pakistan could also be a source for such skilled labour.

The Malaysian PM said that Malaysia had agreed to import 100,000 tonnes of Basmati Rice from Pakistan.

Anwar Ibrahim appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz's address at the United Nations General Assembly in which he had pleaded the case of Gaza effectively. He also appreciated Pakistan's strong stance against Israel's genocide of Palestinians and escalation of hostilities on the Middle East by Israel.

SC overturns decision in 63-A case paving way for defecting votes to be counted

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court unanimously agreed on Thursday to review its 2022 ruling regarding the deflection clause outlined in Article 63-A of the Constitution.

In its decision from May 17, 2022, the Court declared that votes cast against the parliamentary party lines in four specific situations mentioned in Article 63-A should not be counted. Today's ruling implies that in future legislative actions, votes from lawmakers who oppose party policy will indeed be counted.

The four situations include the election of the prime minister and chief minister, votes of confidence or no-confidence, constitutional amendment bills, and money bills.



The verdict, delivered by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, could significantly aid the government in securing the necessary support for proposed amendments to the Constitution, many of which relate to the judiciary.

The 2022 ruling on the presidential reference submitted by then-president Arif Alvi was a narrow 3-2 decision, authored by then-CJP Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and Justice Munib Akhtar. Justices Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal and Jamal Khan Mandokhail dissented, arguing that further interpretation of Article 63-A would be akin to "rewriting or reading into the Constitution." The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), which initiated the petition, shared this viewpoint.

A five-member bench, led by CJP Isa and including Justices Mandokhail, Miankhal, Naem Akhtar Afghan, and Aminuddin Khan, heard the review petition filed by SCBA in June 2022.

Justice Afghan was added to the bench

after Justice Akhtar, who was part of the original panel, and senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah opted out due to concerns over a recent ordinance affecting bench formations.

In a prior hearing, CJP Isa criticized the earlier larger bench's conclusions. On Wednesday, the Court dismissed objections raised by Zafar, counsel for Imran, regarding the bench's composition related to the ordinance.

During today's proceedings, Zafar expressed a desire to withdraw from the case if his client was not permitted to appear via video link. However, CJP Isa requested his assistance, to which he agreed.

Justice Isa announced the unanimous acceptance of the SCBA's appeal, stating that a detailed verdict would follow.

Fazl says constitutional amendment should be postponed

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called for a postponement of the proposed 26th constitutional amendment bill. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday, he criticized the current government, stating it lacks both popular mandate and the capacity for improvement.

Rehman urged the government to delay

the amendment until after the conclusion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference. He expressed surprise at the government's haste in pursuing the amendment, drawing a comparison to the extensive deliberation that preceded the 18th Amendment.

He emphasized the importance of the JUI-F's vote and demanded to be heard on the matter. While accepting the court's ruling on Article 63-A, he cautioned

against using the decision as a tool for manipulation or vote-buying.

He stated that any future strategy regarding the constitutional amendment will depend on the JUI-F's stance, clarifying that the party is currently not in favor of the amendment. He also indicated a lack of information regarding any joint parliamentary session. He dismissed the government's justifications for the amendment as insignificant.



Govt to table constitutional amendment next week, sources say

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Despite a request from Maulana Fazlur-Rehman to postpone proposed constitutional amendments, the government appears determined to proceed.

Sources indicate that the government plans to convene separate sessions of the Senate and National Assembly next week to consider the proposed 26th Amendment to the

Constitution. According to sources, the government intends to introduce the constitutional amendment during these sessions, alongside other significant legislation.

It is noteworthy that Maulana Fazlur-Rehman has urged the government to delay the amendments until after the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Private schools, Metro Bus to be closed amid strict security for PTI protest in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Section 144, prohibiting gatherings, has been imposed in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Sargodha and Attock, Pakistan, in anticipation of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest planned for Islamabad on October 4.

A notification confirming the imposition of Section 144, effective from October 4 to 6, has been issued. Private schools in Islamabad will also remain closed on October 4.

Sources indicate that access to Rawalpindi will be restricted, with the Metro Bus service suspended and Motorways M1 and M2 completely closed. Access from Taxila, Chakrial, Rawat, and the Airport will also be blocked.

Law enforcement agencies have reportedly recommended a temporary shutdown of mobile networks to the Home Department.

Over 4,000 Rawalpindi police officers and personnel will be deployed, along with separate anti-riot squads. Police

have been supplied with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Sources say that any protestors will be immediately arrested, and Rawalpindi authorities have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel.

Due to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s call for protests and the potential for road closures, the Private Schools Association has announced the closure of schools on Friday.

In a statement, General Secretary of the Private Schools Association, Wahid Khan, said that the safety of children is their top priority. He stated that while they remained in contact with the Deputy Commissioner earlier in the day, they received no response in the afternoon. He expressed a desire to avoid causing hardship to students, noting that students already faced difficulties today due to roadblocks.



Experts at CASS explore the rising threat of weaponised consumer technologies

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted a NextGen Tech Roundtable, 'Lebanon Explosions: Weaponising Consumer Technologies,' where experts analysed implications of the recent incidents in Lebanon for global technological security. Air Commodore Raza Haider (Retd) provided an overview of the subject and highlighted the unprecedented nature of the pager and walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon, stressing that they exemplify the potential dangers of weaponising consumer technologies. He urged for an exhaustive analysis of these incidents due to their implications for Fifth Generation Warfare (5GW).

Dr Haider Abbas (TI), Director General of Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT), discussed how the Lebanon incidents validate concerns about the weaponisation of operational technology. He urged the need for Pakistan to enhance cybersecurity preparedness by screening consumer technologies and aligning with international



frameworks. Dr Abbas warned that the strengthening Indo-Israel defence cooperation could have security implications for Pakistan, acknowledging Pakistan's vulnerability due to its high dependence on imported technologies. However, he also apprised that there are forensics and screening labs in Pakistan which reflect the govern-

ment's commitment to auditing procured technologies and products. These labs are the basis for Pakistan's indigenous cyber security capabilities, he said.

Dr Fateh ud Din B. Mehmood, CEO of Lunsys, underscored the need for supply chain security, physical device security, and addressing

insider threats. He advocated for strengthening Pakistan's regulatory compliance and cybersecurity frameworks to protect consumer gadgets and critical infrastructure.

In closing, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President of CASS, reiterated the significant national security implications of the Lebanon explosions. The President of CASS stated that the growing collaboration between Israel and India indicated that disruptive technologies could soon make their way to India, urging Pakistan to develop countering mechanisms.

He appreciated the work being undertaken at NCERT but stressed the urgency of maintaining a focus on these issues amidst the changing technological landscape, warning that Pakistan must navigate carefully through the emerging technological blocs and the evolving nature of Fifth Generation Warfare.

The roundtable also included an interactive question and answer session with experts from NICAT, NASTP, retired military officers, and researchers, further enriching the discourse on this critical subject.

VC Agriculture University inaugurates Kisan Mela



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan inaugurated the fancy bird show, javelin competitions, nutrition festival and art and literature on the third day of Kisan Mela in Agriculture University Faisalabad, while on this occasion the convener Kisan Mela Organizing Committee Dr. Riaz Work, Dean Animal Husbandry Dr. Qamar Bilal, Dr. Fawad Ahmed, Dean Food Sciences Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt, Director General National Institute of Food Science Dr. Imran Pasha, Principal Public Relations Officer Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Senior Tutor Dr. Shaikat Ali, Dr. Arafah Bin Tahir, Deputy Director Endowment Fund Dr. Rana Aamir, Deans, Directors of the University along with a large number of teachers and students were present. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that Kisan Mela has been a tradition of the university in which farmers, policy makers, agricultural scientists, industry and other people from other sectors have a platform to play their role for food self-sufficiency and share wisdom.

In the Nutrition Festival, the students decorated various food stalls and along with this more tips were given to improve health. Convener Dr. Riaz Vark said that on 4th October farmers convention, javelin final competitions, photography, videography. And poster making competitions will be organized while on 5th October, photo exhibition, beautiful horse competition, kabaddi and greyhound race have been organized. He said that the series of various events under Kisan Mela will continue till October 9.

Anjuman Tajran urges government to be more to the benefit of businessmen

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Anjuman Tajran City Faisalabad Deputy Secretary General and President Montgomery Bazaar Mian Riaz Shahid urged the government to reduce its expenses and move towards self-reliance instead of opening the door to international financial institutions. He said that the business community is the backbone of the country's economy and can get the country out of the economic crisis, so the government should trust the businessmen and their organizations and solve their problems on a priority basis. When the prices of petroleum products increase, the wave of inflation sets everything on fire, but when there is a shortage, the prices of commodities do not decrease. Shahid said that governments all over the world provide facilities to businessmen and industrialists for the development of their respective countries, but in Pakistan, the reverse Ganga is flowing, continuing the continuity of the former rulers, the current government has also handed over dozens of departments to block the businessmen. There is a problem that does not end when a new one is erected. Due to inflation, the traders and the salaried class are very worried at this time. Mian Riaz Shahid said that the rulers say that bureaucracy is more to blame for obstructing the path of national development and national prosperity.



Attock Police arrested 128 drug dealers and recovered valued of 21.4 million rupees

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock Police has released the performance report for September 2024. Under the leadership of District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan, Attock Police arrested 128 drug dealers and recovered 147 kilograms of hashish, 3,100 grams of opium, 490 grams of heroin, and 120 grams of ice. During September, 26 cases were registered against liquor sellers, leading to the arrest of 31 individuals involved in liquor supply, with 303 liters of alcohol seized from their possession. Under the Arms Ordinance, 71 cases were registered, resulting in the arrest of 72 individuals. From them, 65 pistols, 4 rifles, 3 shotguns, 4 Kalashnikovs, 1 revolver, 306 bullets, and 2 sharp knives were recovered. Additionally, 23 proclaimed offenders were arrested last month, including 5 from Category A and 18 from Category B, along with multiple court fugitives. In September, 15 dangerous robbery gangs consisting of 42 suspects were apprehended, with a total recovery of valuables worth 21.4 million rupees. During the past month, Attock Police issued 1,649 character certificates and 1,414 general police verifications, providing services to the public. Moreover, 8,227 learner permits and 5,897 driving licenses were issued, while 418 tenancy reports and 242 missing reports were registered.

ADCG Anil Saeed, stated that the district administration's top priority is public service

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Attock, Anil Saeed, has stated that the district administration's top priority is public service, and all resources are being utilized for this purpose. He expressed these views while presiding over various official meetings. Chairing a meeting on preventing electricity theft, he mentioned that the district administration is taking strict action against those involved in power theft, and the desired results are being achieved. ADCG Anil Saeed, while acting as the Administrator of the Municipal Committee of Attock, presided over a meeting and reviewed the affairs of the municipality. The Chief Officer of Municipal Committee Attock, Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan, and the heads of all branches were also present. ADCG was briefed on issues such as cleanliness, revenue, salaries, encroachments, and other subjects. Anil Saeed remarked on this occasion that the Municipal Committee staff is working hard to deliver services to the public at their doorsteps. The ADCG Attock also chaired a meeting related to transport. Secretary RTA Zaheer Ahmed Khan provided a briefing. The meeting reviewed various topics, including traffic accidents, axle load management, traffic issues in district and tehsil cities, rickshaw registration, rickshaw drivers' licenses, and other related matters. Additionally, ADCG Attock visited Attock Jail along with the members of the Business Health Council to review matters related to the Health Council. He was accompanied by Superintendent Jail Arif Gul, MS of Government Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital Dr. Jawad Elahi, and other relevant officials. On this occasion, Anil Saeed emphasized that all possible measures will be taken for the welfare of the inmates. Furthermore, a meeting regarding Population Welfare was held at the ADCG office, chaired by ADCG Attock Anil Saeed. The District Population Welfare Officer, Zafar Rehmani, briefed the participants, informing them that ongoing directives from the Punjab government are being implemented accordingly.

Wrongly parked vehicle

KARACHI: A traffic police warden removing wrongly parked vehicle with the help of fork lifter for smooth flow of traffic at M.A Jinnah Road, in the Provincial Capital.

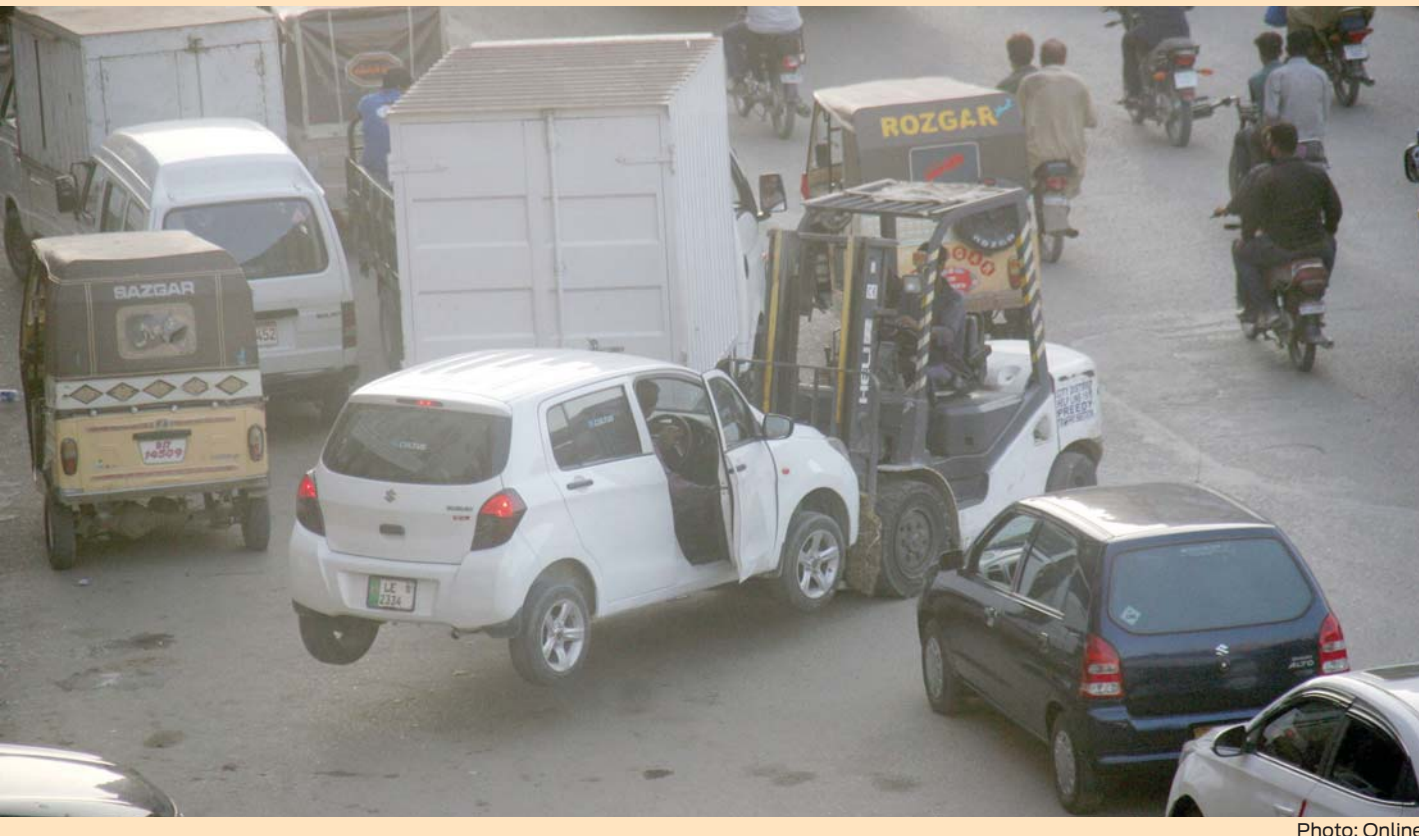


Photo: Online

Former finance minister says PM threatens to destroy Abbaspur administratively

ABBASPUR: Former Finance Minister Government of Azad Kashmir and Central Vice President of Muslim League N Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Gulshan has said that Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq Abbaspur has gone so far in hostility that he will destroy Abbaspur administratively. I suggest him to drop a 'cluster bomb' on Abbaspur so that the oppressed people here and the face of Abbaspur will be erased from existence. They

want to abolish the centralization of Abbaspur, they want to shift the institutions here to Bhimbar and Barnala, they want to shift the ADC offices from Abbaspur sub-division and the vehicle and driver of ADC have been shifted to Rawalkot, Abbaspur sub-division. The division of the Electronics Department is being abolished from the end and shifted to Bhimbar and the public defense road project which I had planned during my government's tenure of 6

km road from Mati Post to Chhatra Morre has been put in limbo. In such circumstances, the Prime Minister is inviting the wrath of God by imposing on the people of Azad Kashmir. He said that this is a cruel, oppressive and incompetent government group.

The government has to pay attention to the public problems and gradually reduce the problems, but the incompetent and incompetent prime minister is constantly pushing the people into the circle of

problems, which is less to be condemned in Azad Kashmir. Except for, there is no remarkable work of his government. Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Gulshan demanded the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shahbaz Sharif and Azad Kashmir Muslim League President Shah Ghulam Qadir to withdraw from this corrupt government immediately. Otherwise, the Muslim League N will remain as a mere name in Azad Kashmir. Yasin Gulshan said that I give

a one-week ultimatum to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and the powerful circles that if they do ADC here to restore the centralization of Abbaspur. And if they don't end the rumors that are happening here about the division of the electronics department and don't fulfill all our demands, we will be forced to take strict action. It is the duty of the people to rid the people of these incompetents who are in charge of the government of Kashmir.

Award-winning documentary film 'Hum Saya-Neighbor' screened in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) hosted an event featuring the screening of the award-winning documentary film 'Hum Saya-Neighbor' in Press Club Faisalabad. The event commenced with a screening of CSJ's documentary film based on the true stories of the families of minor girls who had been forcibly converted in Pakistan and present awards to leading Characters Haider Jamal and Lala Robin. The film won the award for Best Short Documentary on Human Rights at the prestigious Venice International Film Festival in 2023, and it has been selected for its fifth international screening, including at the 7th FICNOVA in Spain in 2024.

Human rights activist including: Lala Robin, Saiqa Kaur, Yassar Talib, Gurmeet Singh, Manzoor Anthony and



Abbar Sohtra addressed the pressing issue of forced conversions and child marriages in Pakistan. The speakers emphasized that coerced conversions violate fundamental human rights, yet remain largely unaddressed due to governmental inaction. The speakers called on the government and legislative bodies to introduce and implement

legal and administrative safeguards to protect underage girls from forced religious conversions and marriages.

Lala Robin underlined that the half-hearted efforts made by federal and provincial governments in the past, failed to cultivate empathy for strengthening protections against forced conversions and child marriages.

Saiqa Kaur stressed that the adoption of legal procedures for conversion and marriage under judicial oversight was crucial.

Gurmeet Singh agreed that no individuals particularly children should be forced to enter into marriage and revoke their religion, therefore legislation criminalizing the act of forced conversions, and strictly enforcing 18 years as the minimum legal age for both religious conversion and marriage is imperative, in line with rulings issued by the Lahore High Court in 2019, Federal Shariat Court in 2021, and Islamabad High Court in 2022.

Yassar Talib quoted CSJ data revealing that at least 338 cases of abduction and forced religious conversions of minority girls and women were reported in Pakistan during 2021 and 2023, which underscores the credibility of these complaints.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:41 am
Zohr 11:57 am
Asr 4:08 pm
Maghrib 5:49 pm
Isha 7:12 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
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

KE's petition for August '24 FCA at PKR 0.51 per unit is PKR 2.58 per unit

Commerce Desk

KARACHI, OCTOBER 3, 2024: NEPRA concluded its hearing on K-Electric's petition of provisional monthly fuel charge adjustments (FCA) for August 2024, at PKR 0.51 per unit. Following the public hearing the regulator will issue a decision clarifying the FCA amount to be passed on to customer bills and the period for which they will be applicable. For July 2024, K-Electric requested the regulator for an increase of PKR 3.09 per unit, and the hearing for this request has already been concluded on August 29, while a decision is awaited on the final amount and which month they will reflect in customer bills. By comparison, KE's request for August 2024 reflects a net decrease of PKR 2.58 rupees per unit as compared to its requested FCA for July 2024.

BISP, UN WFP sign agreement to extend Benazir Nashonuma Programme

ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 03, 2024: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have extended their partnership for another two years under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme. In a ceremony held today at BISP Headquarters, witnessed by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP, Secretary BISP Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad and Ms. Coco Ushiyama, Country Director & Representative of WFP exchanged the agreement documents. This collaboration highlights the critical need to address malnutrition in Pakistan, where nearly 40% of children under five suffer from stunting due to poor nutrition.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of BISP Ms. Rubina Khalid emphasized the significance of this new agreement, describing it as a key step in the country's fight against malnutrition. She said "The Government of Pakistan is proud



to strengthen this vital partnership with WFP. Our commitment to the Benazir Nashonuma Programme remains unwavering, and we are dedicated to expanding its reach and effectiveness to ensure that every child in Pakistan gets the opportunity of a healthy start in life, setting the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future".

Key participants at the signing ceremony included Ms. Rathi Palakrishnan, Deputy Country Director; Mr. Eric Kenefick, Head of Programme; Ms. Rie Ishii, Head of Supply Chain; Ms. Mamoonah Ghaffar, Programme Policy Officer; Dr. Yasir Ihtesham, Head of Nutrition; Dr. Asma Badar, Programme Policy Officer, Nutrition; Dr. Ijaz Habib, Nutritionist, WFP KP office; and Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Procurement Officer.

The official signing of the new two-year agreement took place in Rome on 28 August 2024 between WFP's Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships and Innovation, Ms. Rania Dagash-Kamara, and Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed.

Fatiha

ISLAMABAD: Editor-in-chief Online International News Agency, and Daily Jinnah Mohsin Jamil Baig, President of RIUJ Tariq Virk, and others offer fateha of late Abdul Rasheed elder brother of staff photo journalist of Online News Agency Sultan Bashir at his residence, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Abrar Khan warns school owners to take preventive measures to prevent dengue

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Member District Registration Authority Rawalpindi and President All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab Abrar Ahmad Khan said that preventive measures should be taken by implementing the instructions of the health department to prevent dengue. Private educational institutions should ensure safety measures and save the lives of their loved ones by following the SOPs of District Health Authority Rawalpindi.



Member District Registration Authority Rawalpindi and President All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab Abrar Ahmad Khan said in his important statement that school owners should not allow water to accumulate in buildings, water pots, water coolers, tires etc. The water tank should be covered. Abrar Ahmad Khan further said that the students should also be encouraged to play their role in improving the sanitation system in their homes and create awareness among the people through dengue campaign. He said that October and November are very important months for the spread of dengue. Our slight negligence can endanger human lives. He added that use mosquito nets while sleeping at night to avoid mosquito bites. Apply mosquito repellent lotion especially in the morning and evening when mosquitoes are most active.

AIOU Hosts Naat Competition



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, emphasized that following the teachings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is the most revered way of expressing devotion. He remarked that to achieve success in both worlds, we must integrate the Prophet's ﷺ life and exemplary conduct into our daily routines. He shared these thoughts while addressing the final round of a Naat recitation competition and awards ceremony.

In the school-level competition, Muhammad Subhan secured first place, while Husnain Ali stood second. At the college level, Muhammad Ali Adil took first place, with Mubeen Irshad as runner-up. At the university level, Tarain Ali claimed first place, followed by Muhammad Sabgatullah in second. Judges for the event included Dr. Ahmed Raza from the Department of Islamic Thought, History and Culture, Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Sajjad from the Department of Interfaith Studies, Dr. Muhammad Qasim from the Urdu Department, Dr. Syed Shiraz Ali Zaidi from Iqbal Studies, and Salma Khan from Pakistan Television.

The final round of the Naat competition, organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services in collaboration with Islamabad and Rawalpindi regional offices, concluded with the Vice Chancellor congratulating Director Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali and DGRS Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan for their efforts. Dr. Malik highlighted the significance of gatherings that honor the Prophet ﷺ, stating that the light of the Prophet's ﷺ grace illuminates the hearts of believers. The event concluded with cash prizes and certificates awarded to the winners, attended by university officials, students, and their parents.

Economic model should be changed to ensure development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), Farida Rashid, said on Thursday that we have wasted a lot of time, and now the rapid execution of reforms is essential to Pakistan's continued existence.

Following the IMF's approval of the loan, Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb has made it very clear how important it is to quickly implement structural reforms to improve the situation, she said.

Pakistan has a huge public sector, a huge debt load, falling human development indicators, and an environment that doesn't encourage investment or growth because of years of inadequate management,



lack of fiscal discipline, political instability, corruption, and giving in to the greedy elite, she added.

Talking to businesswomen, Farida Rashid, who has recently been elected as a member of the executive committee of the IWCCI, said that Pakistan needs to

change its development model because it is based on the government getting involved in everything resulting in heavy losses.

Furthermore, numerous federal and provincial offices and ministries performing comparable tasks result in significant resource wastage.

Even though the 18th Amendment gave the provinces a lot of power and responsibility, many central ministries and departments are still in use, even if they aren't needed.

The real reasons for our steady economic decline are a government that doesn't work well together and policies that favour the wealthy in areas like taxes and investments.

If leaders want to raise the standard of living for the average Pakistani and make the economy, they need to completely change how the economy works, she observed.

They can do this by reducing wasteful government spending, making taxes fairer, and boosting programs for social welfare and human development. Pakistan can only hope to give all of its people a good future if it takes strong action in these areas.

The Millennium Education bagged Fastest Growing Brand of the Year Award 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education Group Pakistan has proudly announced its recent accolade of being named the Brand of the Year 2024 in the category of School System-Fastest Growing Brand of the Year says a press release. This prestigious award, presented at an elaborate ceremony celebrating excellence across various sectors, underscores the organization's dedication to providing high-quality education and fostering innovation within the educational landscape of Pakistan.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Chairman & CEO of The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan, received the prestigious award from the Honourable Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan, during a graceful ceremony which was held in Islamabad. Dr. Mushtaq spoke at the Award Ceremony, underlined the importance of quality education in guaranteeing the success of Pakistan's youth. He furthered and urged to focus on how quality education vitally plays a role, not only for individual success but also for the country's general prosperity and advancement.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman and CEO of The Millennium Education Group, has been instrumental in steering the organization toward this remarkable achievement. His visionary leadership and relentless pursuit of educational excellence have been pivotal in the group's rapid expansion and success. Under his guidance, The Millennium Education

Group has implemented innovative teaching methodologies, invested in state-of-the-art facilities, and prioritized the professional development of its educators.

The award serves as a testament to the collective efforts of the entire TME family, including dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and engaged students. It highlights the importance of collaboration in achieving shared goals and fostering an environment conducive to learning. The Millennium Education Group's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are equipped to face the challenges of the future is evident in its holistic approach to education. In addition to this accolade,

As The Millennium Education



Group celebrates this significant achievement, it remains committed to its mission of shaping the future

of education in Pakistan. The recognition as Brand of the Year 2024 not only honours the organization's past

accomplishments but also sets the stage for continued growth and innovation in the years to come.

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Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan: Political Concerns and Implications - II

For instance, the 19th Amendment (2011) was passed to address concerns raised by the judiciary regarding the appointment of judges to the higher courts. This amendment was a response to the judiciary's pushback against the 18th Amendment's changes to the judicial appointment process, which gave parliament a greater role in the appointment of judges. While the 19th Amendment was seen as a compromise that respected judicial concerns, it highlighted the ongoing tension between the executive, legislature, and judiciary regarding the separation of powers.

Judicial independence is crucial because the judiciary is often seen as the last defense against executive overreach. During periods of military rule or authoritarianism, the judiciary has been sidelined or co-opted through constitutional amendments, further eroding its ability to function as an impartial institution. Amendments that threaten the judiciary's independence thus trigger political concerns about the erosion of democracy and rule of law in Pakistan.

Constitutional amendments that touch upon civil liberties and fundamental rights are often the subject of intense political debate. In Pakistan, where political freedoms and civil rights have been curtailed at various points in history—particularly during military rule—amendments that seek to limit or expand these rights are watched closely by political actors, civil society, and the general public.

The 17th Amendment (2003), passed during General Musharraf's rule, is an example of an amendment that directly

reflected the military's influence on the constitutional framework. It legitimized Musharraf's presidency and allowed him to hold dual offices as both President and Chief of Army Staff, effectively formalizing military control over civilian institutions. This amendment was widely condemned by political parties and civil society as a step backward for democracy.

Even in periods of civilian rule, amendments that touch upon national security or military affairs can be controversial. The military's influence in Pakistan's political system has been persistent, and any attempt to limit or expand its role through constitutional means inevitably raises concerns about the future of civilian supremacy in governance. Political actors are often divided on this issue, with some advocating for greater civilian control over the military, while others, particularly conservative and nationalist forces, support a more prominent role for the military in decision-making.

Federalism and provincial autonomy have been central issues in Pakistan's constitutional history, particularly due to the country's diverse ethnic, linguistic, and regional identities. Amendments that affect the distribution of powers between the federal government and the provinces often spark political controversy, especially in regions like Balochistan and Sindh, where grievances over resource distribution and political marginalization have been longstanding.

The 18th Amendment, as previously mentioned, was a landmark amendment that devolved significant powers to the provinces. While this amendment was hailed as a triumph of federalism, it also led to concerns in some quarters about the potential weakening of the central government's ability to ensure national unity and coordinate policy across the country. Critics argued that the provinces lacked the administrative capacity to manage the newly devolved responsibilities, leading to inefficiencies in governance and service delivery.

In provinces like Balochistan, where there has been a history of insurgency and demands for greater autonomy, constitutional amendments that affect provincial rights are particularly sensitive. Amendments that are perceived as centralizing power or restricting provincial autonomy are likely to provoke strong reactions, including from nationalist parties that advocate for greater decentralization and control over local resources.

The process of amending the constitution itself can sometimes lead to political instability, particularly if it is perceived as being driven by partisan interests rather than national consensus. In Pakistan, where political institutions are often fragile and susceptible to crises, the introduction of contentious amendments can exacerbate existing political divisions and contribute to instability.

For instance, when amendments are

introduced without broad consensus, they can lead to boycotts, protests, and political deadlock. Opposition parties may view such amendments as an attempt by the ruling party to consolidate power, leading to a breakdown in cooperation and trust between political actors. In some cases, contentious amendments have even led to legal challenges, with the judiciary being called upon to rule on their constitutionality.

The 18th Amendment, for example, was the result of a lengthy process of negotiation and consensus-building among Pakistan's major political parties. However, subsequent calls to roll back some of its provisions have generated political controversy, with opposition parties warning that any attempt to undo the amendment could destabilize the country's federal structure and lead to renewed tensions between the center and the provinces.

Amendments introduced during periods of military rule, such as the 8th and 17th Amendments, were particularly destabilizing because they were seen as undermining democratic institutions and entrenching authoritarian rule. The frequent use of constitutional amendments to legitimize military takeovers or extend the powers of military rulers has contributed to a climate of political instability and uncertainty in Pakistan.

Constitutional amendments in Pakistan are inherently political processes that reflect the ongoing struggles for power, authority, and governance in the country. Whether they seek to decentralize power

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Ejaz Khan

Cyber threats to 27.2% of industrial systems in Pakistan

Kaspersky's report on the cyber security landscape for industrial control systems (ICS) in the second quarter of 2024, revealed a 20% increase in ransomware attacks compared to the previous quarter. The report underscores a growing threat to critical infrastructure sectors worldwide, with ransomware and spyware posing the most significant risks.

Kaspersky Security Network statistics show that 23.5% of ICS computers globally were exposed to cyber threats in Q2 2024. ICS systems in Africa remain the most heavily exposed, with 30% of ICS computers attacked, while in Pakistan the figure is 27%.

Ransom ware activity surged, with the percentage of ICS computers affected by ransom ware rising by 1.2 times compared to the previous quarter. Kaspersky's report also highlights a continued exposure to scripts and phishing pages as well as to spyware, including backdoors, keyloggers, and trojans, which are often used for data theft and to enable further attacks such as ransomware.

"Our findings reveal that while the overall number of attacks on operational technology (OT) computers is slightly down, the rise in ransomware and spyware is concerning," says Evgeny Goncharov, head of Kaspersky's ICS Cyber Emergency Response Team. "High-impact malware like ransom ware can disrupt critical operations in any industry. Phishing pages and spyware are often used to steal corporate credentials and either uses them for further propagation into the target's infrastructure or to sell them on dark web marketplaces for future reuse by ransomware gangs, activists, and APT groups. Overexposing OT infrastructures to these threats puts operations and businesses at high risk of a devastating incident."

The building automation sector saw the highest percentage of ICS computers attacked (28.3%) in the reviewed period globally, with attackers exploiting weak points in building automation networks, often targeting internet-facing systems and outdated software. The following sectors are Energy (26.3%), Oil & Gas (22.5%), Engineering and ICS Integration (23.4%) and Manufacturing (11.7%).

Kaspersky experts recommend conducting audits and regular security assessments of IT and OT systems. And apply security fixes and patches or implement mitigation measures as soon as it is technically possible.

Enable reliable protection of industrial networks and automation systems by using specialized solutions such as Kaspersky Industrial Cyber Security. Provide the security team responsible for protecting industrial control systems with up-to-date threat intelligence. The ICS Threat Intelligence Reporting service gives insights into current threats and attack vectors and into alarming OT vulnerabilities, as well as ways to mitigate them.



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

SCO's Digital Transformation in AJ&K and GB – Empowering Youth through IT II

These initiatives demonstrate SCO's commitment to empowering local youth by providing modern IT facilities, high-speed internet, and access to global freelancing platforms.

The 12 STPs have been set up at the district level in key cities throughout AJK and GB, including Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, and Kotli. These STPs are equipped with cutting-edge technology, enabling young IT professionals to enhance their digital skills and contribute to Pakistan's burgeoning digital economy. Meanwhile, the 37 Freelancing Hubs, launched at the tehsil level and linked to the STPs, provide local youth with access to online freelancing platforms and resources that empower them to work and earn from anywhere. Notably, a dedicated FLH for girls in Kel has been a game-changer in promoting gender equality within the IT sector.

These initiatives are already making strides in reducing unemployment and equipping youth with the tools and training they need for self-reliance and economic independence. This effort goes beyond technology; it is about creating a brighter future for the youth of AJK and GB.

Another success story is Miss Sara,

a young tech entrepreneur from Baltistan who exemplifies leadership for women in technology. She began her career at SCO's Software Technology Park in Skardu in 2023. Starting as a solo worker, she received mentorship and guidance from SCO, which helped her develop her skills and confidence. Within a year, Sara founded her own tech startup, employing several young women from her community. Her success has made her a role model, inspiring other women in Gilgit-Baltistan to pursue careers in technology.

Zil-e-Huma also stands out as a champion for women through freelancing in Gilgit-Baltistan. Hailing from the remote area of Challat, she moved to Gilgit to seek better educational and career opportunities. There, she discovered SCO's first Freelancing Hub, which marked the beginning of her professional journey. After acquiring essential skills, Zil-e-Huma not only built a successful freelancing career but also founded her own company. She is now dedicated to training and empowering other women in her community, helping them access similar opportunities. Grateful for SCO's support, Zil-e-Huma emphasizes the importance of such facilities in remote areas, where many women lack access to these resources.

Another noteworthy example is Faisal Ali, who transformed from a street vendor to an aspiring e-commerce entrepreneur. Growing up in Kotli, Faisal helped his father sell fruits and vegetables. Despite coming from humble beginnings, he was determined to achieve more. After completing his matriculation with an impressive score of 850, Faisal found a promising opportunity through The Smart Hub, a startup incubated at STP Kotli. Recognizing his potential, The Smart Hub provided him guidance and training in freelancing, specifically focused on Amazon's e-commerce platform. Over the past two months, Faisal has been learning how to manage an online store. Though still in the early stages of training, he is committed to building his own business and improving his family's standard of living. With support from STP Kotli and through hard work, Faisal is on his way to becoming a successful e-commerce entrepreneur, showcasing that great transformations are possible with the right resources and mentorship.

SCO is fully dedicated to empowering youth through IT, and the initiatives it has undertaken are warmly embraced by the people of AJK and GB. These remarkable efforts serve as excellent examples for other organizations, encouraging them to contribute to empowering youth and transforming them into a valuable and productive force for themselves, their families, and Pakistan.



Abdul Basit Alvi

The Mystery of Missing Jobs

Iqra lali

In Pakistan, the problem of not getting a job after graduation has become like a whirlpool that thousands of graduates get trapped in every year. This storm isn't just a social issue but also a personal, domestic, and psychological challenge that every graduate must face. Whether you've earned a degree in medicine, engineering, business, IT, or arts, the reality is that jobs aren't available in this country. There are doctors but no space in hospitals, engineers but no construction companies hiring, IT experts who are busy creating profiles on "freelancer.com," and arts students are often seen as useless. It's like you've bought a plane ticket, but instead of taking you, the plane flies away somewhere else. This is exactly what happens to our poor graduates.

The tragedy of not finding a job after graduation in Pakistan is like knowing how to cook a full meal but not having a stove! Yes, getting an education and then looking for a job here is just like searching for "ways to make money for free" on Google. When you can't find a job, you're offered one option: "Do an internship!" Now, internships have become like trying to quench hunger by offering someone a glass of water. Companies quickly say, "We need experienced people, but you can do an internship." As an intern, you work hard, but when it's time for a job, they say, "Your performance was good, but we don't have any positions available right now." This internship phase drags on so long that you start to wonder if you got a degree or just a license to be an intern. Despite working day and night, you never hear the good news of a permanent job. People say, "Gain experience, and you'll get a good job." But the question is, who will give you that job? Everyone just wants to hire interns.

Many times, when you go for a job interview, they ask for five years of experience. Now, you think, "I just graduated, where am I supposed to get five years of experience?" Their response is, "You've studied, but we don't have a place for you." Hearing this, you feel like framing your degree and hanging it on the wall, asking it every day, "Did you betray me?" In Pakistan, unemployment isn't just a social problem but has become a psychological challenge as well. For students, not

getting a job means not only financial difficulties but also a loss of confidence and increasing frustration.

Now, if we talk about government jobs, the obsession with them in Pakistani society is so strong that every family dreams, "If only my child gets a government job, life will be peaceful." But the corruption and favoritism in government hiring have pushed this dream far from reality. It's often seen that during government job recruitment, bribes and connections are used. Hardworking students, who work day and night to earn a place on merit, are ignored, while connected candidates take the jobs. This not only creates injustice but also plays with the future of young people.

Another interesting thing about jobs in Pakistani society is that everyone wants a "high-paying" job. As long as you're earning millions, you're respected, but the lower your salary, the less respect you get. This mentality puts unnecessary pressure on young people and creates social imbalance. And the most interesting thing is that in every Pakistani household, parents have one dream: "At least take the CSS exam once!" As if taking the CSS exam isn't just a major goal in life but the last solution to avoid failure. No matter how many degrees or how much experience you have, until you've taken the CSS exam, parents feel like you've missed the biggest opportunity in life.

All these problems not only frustrate the youth but also leave them at a crossroads. There are no jobs, social and family pressure keeps increasing, and corruption in government institutions has blurred the dream of a government job. In Pakistan, the government introduces different schemes and programs, but they are either limited or fail due to political instability. With each new government, policies change, and many young people cannot benefit. There's a need for sustainable and long-term policies made by the government and institutions that don't just stay on paper but reach the youth practically. To solve unemployment, political stability and long-term plans are crucial so that our youth can have a secure and bright future. There is a big gap between education and employment that needs to be bridged. Along with jobs, we need to teach youth skills so they can start their businesses. The government and institutions must take steps together so that our youth can prosper and the country can progress.

Inauguration Ceremony of Bahria University College of Medicine Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bahria University College of Medicine Islamabad held its inauguration ceremony on 03 October 2024. Admiral Naveed Ashraf NI(M), Chief of the Naval Staff, graced the ceremony as the chief guest. Senior officials from HEC, PM&DC, Health Ministry, former Rectors of Bahria University, and other dignitaries also attended the event. The Chief Guest was received by the Rector of Bahria University, Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq HI(M), along with the DG Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad and the Principal.



In his welcome address, the Rector Bahria University expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest for attending the event and acknowledged the support provided by the Pakistan Navy in developing the campus. The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available

for students.

During his speech, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf NI(M) appreciated Bahria University's efforts and the assistance provided by the Naval Headquarters.

He said that while there are many opportunities and challenges ahead, he is confident that under the leadership of Bahria University, the Bahria University College of Medicine Islamabad will evolve

into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education. He emphasized that the professionalism, commitment, and dedication of faculty members are crucial to establishing the campus as one of the leading medical institutes in the country.

Following this, the Chief Guest unveiled the plaque to officially inaugurate the Bahria University College of Medicine Islamabad. He, along with other distinguished guests, toured various facilities, including the library, laboratories, lecture halls, faculty departments, museum, administrative departments, and auditorium, expressing satisfaction with the infrastructure. As part of a plantation drive, the Chief of Naval Staff also planted a tree at the main entrance of BUCMI.

Press Statement by Vice-Minister of National Defence of DPRK



KCNA

PYONGYANG: Kim Kang Il, vice-minister of National Defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on Tuesday issued the following press statement titled "The U. S. reckless military bluff and moves for escalating tensions will only increase security instability of its mainland":

Pentagon's confrontational attempt to permanently deploy nuclear strategic assets to the Korean peninsula and its vicinities to intentionally demonstrate the "upperhand in strength" and put military pressure on the sovereign states in the region is being manifested in a diverse way.

Shortly ago, the latest nuclear submarine of the U. S. Navy openly revealed its shape at Pusan Port of the ROK. And, this time, B-1B bomber, one of the three air strategic assets of the U. S. Air Force, will be reportedly to fly in the sky above the Korean peninsula and conduct a demonstration flight, timed to coincide with a military parade on the "ROK army day".

The U. S. bluffing military demonstration is nothing but a "hallucination" to save even a bit its military face driven into a strategic disadvantage in the Korean peninsula and calm down a sense of collapse of its stooge having a poor sleep at night from chronic nuclear phobia.

In June the U. S. B-1Bs flew over the sky of the Korean peninsula to stage a joint air drill with military gangsters of the ROK and a precision guided bomb dropping drill for the first time in several years. And nuclear carrier Theodore Roosevelt entered the Pusan operational base to insist on the "combined defence posture" and "demonstration of extended deterrence". All those facts clearly show where the intemperate hysteric confrontation racket of the ROK is based on.

The Korean People's Army (KPA) is keenly watching the frequent deployment of U. S. strategic assets and their traces in the Korean peninsula and is fully ready to thoroughly defend the security environment of the state from any threat.

It is the invariable stand of KPA that the U. S. which is seized with violence and high-handed practices, should be governed from the stand of strength.

Now that the U. S. unannounced deployment of strategic assets has fixed as an incurable bad habit, a measure of unpredictable strategic nature corresponding to it should be an inevitable and legitimate right of a sovereign state, and fresh methods of adding serious concern to the security of the U. S. mainland should be surely produced.

We can examine such fresh action plans any time and carry them out. The armed forces of the DPRK will never remain a passive onlooker to the military provocative acts of the hostile forces escalated in three dimensions in the Korean peninsula and its vicinities, but take a thoroughgoing action corresponding to them and steadily improve their powerful war deterrent capable of initiatively coping with any instable situation of security caused by the U. S. irresponsible acts.

NDRMF Business Policy 2024 envisages paradigm shift in disaster, humanitarian sector: Bilal Anwar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on Thursday said the Fund have launched its first Business Policy 2024 that helped in repurposing and redefining it over a course of 18-month to change the donors' mindset for well-informed disaster resilience interventions.

The document is a 10-year long-term policy intervention being implemented after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NDRMF, Bilal Anwar said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund.

"Resilience building is a long-term process and its challenging amid growing climate catastrophes as every intervention has its impacts but a long-term strategy is necessary and the NDRMF Business Policy is addressing it.

There have been repeated discussions with relevant bodies, provinces, fund implementing partners (FIPs), researchers, practitioners and experts related to the subject which resulted into culmination of our efforts in the form of the strategy," Bilal Anwar said.

"The National Catastrophe model (NATCAT) Data Center has been established with the support of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) whereas a special application to be built on its data is underway," he said.

"The NATCAT unlike the conventional databases is a progressive tech-based solution using most-modern approach and solutions," he said, adding that it could help drawing risk profiling of intended regions and use that risk modelling to assess future disaster before time."

The NDRMF CEO underlined that there have been nine perils identified by this system and it could undertake 400 years modelling in case of flood and gauge its impacts. The NATCAT covered the entire country whereas it has the capability to provide limited and selected area projections as well, he said.

He informed that the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) Strategy has been recently approved by the government which was enacted in the aftermath of devastating 2022 floods' impacts and losses borne by the government.

ISSI signs Working Protocol with Myanmar think-tank

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) today signed a Working Protocol aimed at fostering deeper collaboration between the two think-tanks. The virtual signing ceremony marks a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation on both sides. The event was attended by the Myanmar Ambassador in Islamabad and the Pakistan's CdA in Yangon.



Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director of the India Study Centre at ISSI, moderated the event, who highlighted that this Protocol is a testament to the commitment of both institutions to develop joint research and promote policy advisory on issues of mutual interest.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the importance of this collaboration, particularly in the wake of rapidly evolving international landscape. He noted that robust research, informed analysis, and scholarly cooperation

are essential in understanding global changes and their impacts. Furthermore, he underlined Pakistan's long-standing relationship with Myanmar, noting that the two countries share decades of cooperation across diplomatic, economic, security, and cultural spheres.

Ambassador U Thant Kyaw, Chairman of MISIS, expressed gratitude to all those involved in bringing this Protocol to fruition. He stressed that it symbolizes mutual respect and trust, laying a solid foundation for future cooperation and joint research endeavors.

Myanmar's Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Wunna Han, described the signing as a milestone in the relationship between the two sides. He noted that this Protocol will further promote collaborative research projects, serving as a positive reflection of Pakistan-Myanmar relations. Ambassador Han also recognized the crucial role that think-tanks like ISSI and MISIS play in shaping future policy directions.

Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires in Yangon, Mr. Anwar Zeb, reiterated the commitment of the Pakistan Mission to support collaboration between ISSI and MISIS. He highlighted the importance of think-tank cooperation in advancing the development of cordial bilateral relations and assured continued support for future joint initiatives.

The signing ceremony concluded with a reaffirmation of mutual commitment to explore new avenues for academic and research cooperation, contributing to a deeper understanding of regional and international issues.

Pakistan needs unified strategy for sustainable growth and investment: Azfar Ahsan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, former Minister for Investment, stressed the need for Pakistan to prioritize optimizing its existing investments, advocating for a strategy that focuses 80% on nurturing current investors rather than concentrating on attracting new investments.

Azfar spoke at a special talk hosted by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on the topic of "Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities, and Way Forward." He emphasized that sustainable economic growth and stability can only be achieved by consolidating resources, improving capacity-building, and creating an enabling environment for investors. "If we focus 80% on existing investments, foreign investment will follow," he remarked.

Comparing Pakistan's investment track record to its regional neighbors, Azfar highlighted that the country has attracted USD 49 billion

in foreign investment over the last 25 years, averaging USD 2 billion annually. In comparison, smaller African nations attract USD 3 billion annually, Bangladesh secures USD 3.5 billion, and India pulls in USD 50 billion every year. "This disparity reflects the need for a coherent national strategy and reforms to improve Pakistan's competitiveness," he said.

Azfar also raised concerns about Pakistan's rapidly growing population, which is expected to reach 400 million by 2047. "Pakistan is the fifth most populous country today with 250 million people, and without a strategy to address education, health, and population growth, the country's prospects will remain bleak," he warned.

Highlighting the need for policy continuity and long-term planning, Azfar mentioned India's IT sector, which generates USD 200 billion annually. He emphasized that a strong education system, consistent policies, and strategic government initiatives are key to replicating such success in Pakistan.

To address these challenges,

he proposed the creation of a 'Charter of Business', a comprehensive economic strategy approved by the Parliament and the National Security Council, ensuring continuity across different government tenures. "We need policies that are not affected by changing governments," he asserted.

Drawing comparisons with other successful countries, Azfar Ahsan praised the robust investment environments provided by Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan, urging Pakistan to adopt similar models. He also encouraged closer collaboration with China, particularly in technology exchange, noting that Pakistan's youthful population complements China's aging demographic. He further called for capacity-building in Pakistan's public and private sectors, stressing the importance of reforms within ministries to create a more favorable climate for local and foreign investors. "If the environment for local investment improves, foreign investment will follow naturally," he said.

Azfar also criticized the lack of long-term planning, frequent leadership changes,



and the political instability that has hindered the country's progress. He urged a national-level dialogue to bridge political divisions and promote unity behind a shared national vision. He also underscored the need to engage Pakistan's diaspora, which, if provided the right environment, could significantly boost the country's economy. He pointed to the Roshan Digital Account as an example of an initiative that could succeed if executed seriously. "Pakistan's foreign reserves stand at USD 8.8 billion today, and tapping into the diaspora's potential could transform the investment landscape," he added.

On political stability, he underscored the need for national dialogue and stakeholders' engagement. He warned that political polarization is the biggest challenge facing the country today and called for collective efforts to unify the nation's interests. "Muhammad Bin Salman has worked with six different prime ministers of Pakistan - this political instability must end," he remarked.

Lamenting the absence of

a national-level strategy in key sectors such as health, education, media, tourism, food security, technology, and finance, he said: "Pakistan is facing an identity crisis. Are we a democracy, a kingdom, a dictatorship, or a presidential government? There is no unified vision," he observed.

Azfar urged the country to learn from countries like Vietnam, Middle Eastern nations, and Africa, where continuity of policies has been key to their success. "Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a good concept, but it is not sustainable. The Board of Investment (BOI) should not be ignored," he cautioned, advocating for a 25-year national strategy to guide the country's progress.

In his concluding remarks, Azfar reiterated the importance of nation-building and the need to project positivity in the media, focusing on stories related to education, sports, and technology. "Political polarization is our biggest challenge. If we don't stop the negativity, it will only serve our enemies' aim to halt Pakistan's progress," he warned.



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
82,721.76	81,967.00	
Day's High	Day's Low	
82,958.73	81,981.50	
Index Value	Change	
13,013,083,793	+754.76	
Percentage	Time	
+0.92%	3 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,282.52	-8.34	
Percentage	Time	
-0.10%	3 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
41,866.64	-329.88	
Percentage	Time	
-0.78%	3 Oct, 1:06 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,552.06	+743.30	
Percentage	Time	
+1.97%	3 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190.68	192.93
Bahrain Dinar	733.18	741.18
Canadian Dollar	205.60	208.00
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	305.07	307.82
Hong Kong Dollar	35.7	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.90	909.40
Malaysian Ringgit	63.65	64.25
New Zealand \$	174.21	176.21
Norwegians Krone	26.26	26.56
Omani Riyal	717.63	726.13
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.40
Singapore Dollar	215.04	217.04
Swedish Korona	27.20	27.51
Swiss Franc	327.20	329.00
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.55	76.20
UK Pound Sterling	365.40	368.9
US Dollar	278.50	280.00

Pakistani IT companies shine at AI & Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024

Spokesman Report

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands Four leading Pakistani IT companies — REACH THE GLOBE, ICILtek, NorthBay Solutions, and Sofizar / ConstellationCK — proudly represented Pakistan at the AI & Big Data Exhibition Europe held on 1st & 2nd October 2024 at the RAI Convention Centre in Amsterdam. Sponsored by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the companies showcased cutting-edge solutions in AI and Big Data, positioning Pakistan as a key player in the global tech arena.

The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague played a pivotal role in promoting the participation of these companies. In collaboration with the event organizers, the Embassy ensured seamless setup of the Pakistan Pavilion and facilitated the booths for the participating companies. Additionally, the Embassy actively promoted the presence of Pakistani IT firms, attracting visitors from various sectors to explore



innovative solutions offered by the country's top tech talent. To further strengthen ties and

foster business collaborations, the Embassy hosted a networking dinner, bringing together Pakistani IT firms

and key stakeholders from Dutch companies. This gathering provided an invaluable platform for both Paki-

stani and Dutch businesses to discuss opportunities for collaboration in AI, Big Data, and beyond.

The Pakistan Pavilion emerged as a popular highlight at the exhibition, drawing considerable attention from visitors keen on discovering Pakistan's advancements in AI and Big Data technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Counsellor for Trade and Investment in The Netherlands, Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, remarked, "The participation of these four companies demonstrates Pakistan's growing expertise in the fields of AI and Big Data. The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague will continue to support and promote Pakistani businesses on the global stage, strengthening our trade ties with the Netherlands and Europe."

The AI & Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024 brought together top tech companies from across the world, offering an excellent opportunity for Pakistani IT firms to showcase their innovations and foster international partnerships.

Inauguration

Mian Abuzar Shad President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce cutting the robin on the inauguration of three-day Pakistan Energy Expo



CCP conducts Phase II Merger Review Hearing for PTCL-Telenor Acquisition

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) continued its comprehensive Phase II Merger Review of PTCL's acquisition of 100 percent shareholding in Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited and Orion Towers (Private) Limited. The CCP's bench was comprised of Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Members Mr. Salman Amin and Mr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh.

As part of its detailed review, the CCP is undertaking an in-depth analysis of the telecommunications sector, focusing on significant market power concentration, competitive dynamics, and the potential impact

of proposed merger. The process has remained inclusive, ensuring all stakeholders have ample opportunity to present their submissions.

In the recent hearing, Mr. Asif Inam, Chief Operating Officer of Transworld Associates accompanied by its Legal Counsel Ms. Rabia Kiyani, urged the CCP to implement both preventive and corrective remedies, drawing on international practices from the UK, UAE, and KSA to safeguard competition through structural and behavioural remedies. Telenor Pakistan was represented by Ms. Advokat Anette Aarsset, Vice President, accompanied by Counsel Mr. Shabbir Harianawala, who defended the transaction's merits.

Mobilink Bank wins 'Digital Nations Video Creativity Award'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has achieved a significant milestone on the global stage by winning the prestigious 'Digital Nations Video Creativity Award' at the high-profile M360 APAC event held in Seoul, organized by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA). The accolade was received by Hande Asik, Group Director of Communications and Strategy at VEON, for the Bank's groundbreaking campaign, The Invisible Heirs. The campaign shines a spotlight on the deeply rooted issue of women's inheritance rights in Pakistan, breaking new ground in raising awareness and driving social change on this critical issue.

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO Mobilink Bank, expressed, "This award underscores our commitment to leveraging technology as a catalyst for meaningful social change. The Invisible Heirs campaign signifies our dedication to



creating enduring, transformative impact in the communities we serve. As the world undergoes rapid digital transformation, our focus extends far beyond traditional financial solutions. We are laying the

groundwork for sustainable, long-term growth, ensuring that technology becomes a powerful tool for empowering individuals, uplifting communities, and driving progress."

Three-Day Pakistan Energy Expo inaugurated by LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The three-day Pakistan Energy Expo was formally inaugurated by Mian Abuzar Shad, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce (LCCI), who cut the ribbon to open the expo.

The exhibition arranged stalls from 52 local and international companies exhibiting a wide ranging energy solutions.

Talking to media, Shad emphasized the rising importance of energy worldwide and discussed Pakistan's building energy costs, which have led to a sizeable reduction in demand. He said that many people were turning to alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power, which will be continuing growth in the future.

"The government is required to promote alternative energy sources," Shad said, highlighting that electricity is less costly in countries like Bangladesh and India. He also highlighted that providing power to industries at the rate of nine cents per unit would keep the wheels of industry turning.

He stated that the government has made considerable progress in controlling inflation, stabilizing the dollar, and reducing petroleum prices. However, he pointed out Pakistan's tax collection methods is required simplification, as all citizen are contributing but the system is complex.

Discussing the capacity payments, Shad revealed Rs2,111 billion is being paid, with an additional Rs1,500 billion being disbursed.

US Consul General, Karachi, Strikes Gong at PSX

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Consul General of United States of America in Karachi, Mr. Scott Urbom, struck the gong at a gong ceremony held at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to open the trading day. The Consul General and his team were earlier welcomed at the Exchange by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX; Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX; Board members PSX, and senior management of PSX. The guests at the ceremony also included business leaders from US based companies functioning in Pakistan.

Welcoming the guests at the gong ceremony, Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX, stated, "We warmly welcome Mr. Scott Urbom, the US Consul General in Karachi and his team to the Stock Exchange. We are

also very pleased to have the leading representatives of US based companies functioning in Pakistan, here with us today."

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX, giving an overview of the national economy from a macro perspective, talked about the vital role played by the Exchange in terms of capital formation & wealth creation and expressed that it was a matter of pride for the Exchange to have the US Consul General and his team visit PSX at the gong ceremony today, signifying the dynamic economic and business relationship between Pakistan and the United States.

She added, "We look forward to more US based companies in Pakistan opting to list at PSX, increased investment from the US in Pakistan, and enhanced bilateral trade between



Pakistan & US with greater export avenues being explored between the two markets for mutual benefit of both our economies."

Mr. Scott Urbom, the US Consul General in Karachi, added, "American businesses in Pakistan play a crucial role as corporate citizens,

contributing significantly to local economies and communities. They are among the largest employers in the country, providing substantial tax revenues and engaging in impactful social responsibility initiatives. Our goal is to continue to strengthen this economic partnership, fostering equitable and sustainable growth that benefits both of our countries."

The PSX Chairperson, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar; Board members PSX, and Acting CEO PSX, Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, thanked the US Consul General in Karachi, Mr. Scott Urbom, and his team for their visit. She hoped for greater cooperation between Pakistan and the US in the economic, financial, and investment sectors. On their part, the US team greatly appreciated being hosted by PSX and for having had the chance to visit Pakistan's national stock exchange.

Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launches high-performance, fuel-efficient NH-850 tractor

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launched its latest product the New Holland NH-850. The 85-horsepower engine tractor is designed to set new standards in modern farming. The exclusive launch event, hosted at Pearl Continental, Lahore, was graced by the chief guest, Director General Strategic Project of Green Initiatives (Pvt) Limited, Maj General Shahid Nazir. Congratulating Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, Maj General Nazir said, "I congratulate Al-Ghazi Tractors for introducing this new variant of 85hp tractors and I can assure you this will become high in demand in coming days and months because of that a lot of land will be developed. I congratulate the team, for producing this machine with a lot of innovation, Al-Ghazi Tractors will continue the journey of bringing more machines of this kind into the field so that we can serve our farmer community."

The event was well attended by government officials, corporate clients, dealers, vendors, and Al-Ghazi personnel alike.

Among the prominent participants, the CEO Al-Ghazi, Sakib Eltaff, and the Chairman of the Board at Al-Ghazi, Robert McAllister were also present.

During the opening remarks, CEO Al-Ghazi Sakib Eltaff emphasized Al-Ghazi's longstanding commitment to advancing the agricultural sector in Pakistan. He stated, "It is an honor and a privilege to introduce the NH-850, a tractor that sets new standards for performance, efficiency, and durability."

Through a video message, Mr Vincent De Lassagne, Vice President for CNH Agriculture Africa, Middle East & Central Asia, said, "The New Holland NH-850 has been engineered in collaboration with the AGTL Engineering team and our technical experts at CNH. The NH-850 will deliver a powerful, robust and efficient tractor and is designed with Pakistani farmers in mind. The tractor offers extraordinary capacity, supporting both commercial and farming applications. We are confident that this tractor will make a significant positive impact on the agriculture landscape of Pakistan, enhancing productivity and driving growth."

Pakistan Cricket Board announces match officials for three test match series against Pakistan V/S England

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: West Indies' Sir Richie Richardson, who is a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control teams for the three ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 fixtures between England and hosts Pakistan.

Both teams are scheduled to play three-match Test series in Multan and Rawalpindi from 7 to 28 October. The first Test match will be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 7 to 11 October, while the second Test match will be played at the same venue from 15 to 19 October. The third Test match will commence on 24 October and will take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



Dharmasena and Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula Saikat – both ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will perform duties as on-field umpires. New Zealand's Christopher Gaffaney, also part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will be the third umpire, while Pakistan's Asif Yaqoob (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will act as fourth umpire.

For the second Test, Kumar Dharmasena will be joined by Christopher Gaffaney for on-field umpires' duties, while Sharfuddoula Saikat will perform duties of the third umpire. Pakistan's Rashid Riaz, also part of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, will be the fourth umpire.

For third Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Christopher Gaffaney and Sharfuddoula Saikat will perform the duties of as on-field umpires, while Kumar Dharmasena will serve as a third umpire. Pakistan's Faisal Aafreedi – part of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, will be the fourth umpire.

61 Per Cent increase in Home international Series Rights for 2024-26

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: TransGroup FZE, pursuant to a public bidding process submitted the highest bid to attain series partnership rights for the upcoming international men's and women's home series from October 2024 to December 2026.

The successful bid boasted an increase in value of 61 per cent from the previous rights cycle.

From October 2024 to December 2026, Pakistan is set to host 59 men's international matches, including nine Tests, 26 ODIs and 24 T20Is, besides the ICC Champions Trophy next year in Pakistan in February-March 2025.

Chief Operating Officer PCB, Salman Naseer:

The awarding of series partnership rights for two years is a great news for Pakistan fans as we look forward to host bilateral and tri-series in the next 26 months. The enhanced value for these rights signifies the growth of the Pakistan Cricket brand. We appreciate our partnership with TransGroup FZE and thank them for their continued support to Pakistan cricket.

TransGroup FZE Chief Operating Officer Rao Usman Hashim Khan:

It is an honour to have continued our ever-strong bond with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) by partnering with them exclusively on the series partnership/sponsorship rights till 2026. TransGroup takes great pride in always standing with the PCB and delivering maximum commercial value to Pakistan Cricket. We look forward to working closely with the PCB to deliver exceptional cricket experiences for fans nationwide and globally

Faheem Ashraf to lead Pakistan in Hong Kong Cricket Sixes

Sports Desk

LAHORE:

Faheem Ashraf will lead the seven-member Pakistan squad that will feature in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2024 at the Kowloon Cricket Club in Hong Kong. The eight-team tournament will be played from 1st to 3rd November.



Pakistan, since the inception of the tournament in 1993, have won the tournament four times, while it has remained runner-up of the event for five times, which include qualifying for the final of the last edition held in 2017.

Former Test wicketkeeper-batter Saleem Yousuf will travel with the side as manager.

Pakistan squad:

Faheem Ashraf (captain), Aamer Yamin, Asif Ali, Danish Aziz, Hussain Talat, Muhammad Akhlaq (wk) and Shahab Khan.

2 more Matches decided in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament Ties

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricants.

Scores in Brief:

Ibne Insha Cricket Club beat Muhammad Hussain Gymkhana by 4 Wickets at Asghar Ali Shah Stadium.

Muhammed Hussain Gymkhana 96 all out in 34.2 overs. Syed Monis 29, Muhammad Arsalan 26. Naveed Hasan (mf) 4/13, M. Zuhair (sla) 3/8, Hassan 2/18.

Ibne Insha CC 102/6 in 18 overs. Wazeer-ul-Hasan 29, Hassan 28. Uzair Ali 2/19, Areeb Buksh 2/26.

In the 2nd Match New United Gymkhana beat Hamdam Cricket Club by 121 runs at Young Fighter Ground. New United Gymkhana 268/6 in 40 overs. Umair Junaid 74 2x4 not out, Tahseen Ahmed 59 8x4, Imran Khan 26, Harris Ali Khan 26, Taha Ahmed Ansari 25, Najeebullah 24. Masoom Ali 2/60.

Hamdam c.e 147 all out in 26.5 overs. Syed Sheraz 38, Farhan Mohsin 34, Abu Bakar Ansari 25. Anas Khan. (Sla) 4/34, Sameed Amir (ob) 4/38.

Golf Tournament

LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab Pakistan Navy Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood briefing media about 10th CNS Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament.



Pakistan to host Cross Country Athletics C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to host the Cross Country Athletics Championship in November this year, marking the country's debut in organizing this prestigious event.

According to Chairman South Asia Athletics Major Gen (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi the championship will be held on November 24 in Pakistan.

He said the venue of the championship will be announced in a few days. The government has also issued NOC to organize the championship, he said.

Sahi said there are two men's categories in the championship including men's senior and under-20 competitions.

Seven nations will compete in the event including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan, he said.

Consortium of TransGroup and ARY awarded int'l broadcast rights for Pakistan v England Test Series

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) today confirms that the consortium of Trans-Group and ARY has been awarded international broadcast rights for the three-match Test series between England and hosts Pakistan starting later next week in Multan and Rawalpindi.

The rights were awarded following a transparent tender process.

Meanwhile, the PCB confirms the star-studded commentary panel for the Test series set to begin on 7 October at



the Multan Cricket Stadium. Former England Test captains David Gower, Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain will return

to Pakistan as broadcasters for this series, having previously covered the three Tests between Pakistan and England

in December 2022. They will be joined by Test cricketer Ian Ward as the voices from England. The Pakistani voices include former Test captains Aamir Sohail and Ramiz Raja, Test cricketer Bazid Khan and former Pakistan women's team captain Urooj Mumtaz. Zainab Abbas will serve as the series presenter.

The three Tests will be beamed all around the globe through 28 full High-Definition cameras, including the buggy cam, drone cam and complete Hawk-Eye review system.

The series also sees PCB's

PitchSide Studio make a return, which will be hosted by presenter Zainab Abbas, providing viewers an access to insights during pre- and post-match shows.

The series will be live broadcast in Pakistan region on A-Sports, Ten Sports and PTV Sports, while it will be live-streamed on Tamasha. BBC Sport (United Kingdom) will be radio partners for the series. For UK region, Sky Sports will broadcast the series, while other broadcast details of remaining regions will be announced in due course.

Mohammad Faizan shines with bat and ball on the opening day of President's Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: An all-round performance by Mohammad Faizan led State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to a nine-wicket win over Higher Education Commission (HEC) in the opening round match of the President's Cup (one-day tournament) on Thursday.

In the other group A match, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), on the back of an unbeaten century from Mohammad Arif, defeated Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) by eight wickets.

In group B matches, Ghani Glass defeated Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited by 19 runs on DLS, while Pakistan Television (PTV) overcame Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) by 31 runs on DLS.

Group A: At the Diamond Club Ground in Islamabad, after being put into bat, HEC were bowled out for 111 in 38 overs. HEC's captain Aaliyan Mahmood top-scored for his side with 24 off 49 balls, which included one four.

SBP's Mohammad Faizan ended up with match figures of 10-2-24-5, while Saqib Khan

grabbed three wickets and Kashif Bhatti took two wickets.

In turn, Faizan shined with the bat, returning undefeated on 84 off 43 balls, which included 11 fours and four sixes to take his side home in the 12th over with nine wickets in hand.

In the second group A match of the day, WAPDA defeated KRL by eight wickets at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. After being put into bat, KRL were all out for 238 in 50 overs, with opening batter Maaz Sadaqat top-scoring for the side with a 92-ball 74, hitting seven fours and three sixes.

For WAPDA, Ali Raza and Mohammad Zeeshan grabbed three wickets apiece, while Nageebullah bagged two wickets.

In reply, Mohammad Arif struck an unbeaten 100 off 115 balls, which included nine fours and three sixes to help his side achieve the target in 38.5 overs for the loss of two wickets. Captain Ifkhar Ahmed returned unbeaten on 56 off 44 balls, including six fours and two sixes.

Group B: At the Saeed Sports City Bedian in Lahore, Ghani Glass defeated SNGPL by 19 runs on DLS after light ended the game with

Ghani Glass scoring 273 for three in 45 overs. Chasing 307 to win, Tayyab Tahir scored an unbeaten 128 off 138 balls, which included 12 fours and three sixes and knitted a 180-run partnership for the third wicket with Hussain Talat (79, 89b, 5x4s, 2x6s). Saad Nasim, coming to bat at number five, scored an unbeaten 29-ball 36, laced with four fours and a six.

Earlier, after being asked to bat first, SNGPL scored 306 for eight in their allotted 50 overs. Opening batter Haseebullah scored 128 off 130 balls, smashing 11 fours and four sixes. Omair Bin Yousuf was the other notable run-getter, scoring 82 off 70 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six.

For Ghani Glass, Ubaid Shah bagged four wickets for 48 runs in 10 overs, while captain Shadab Khan took two wickets.

In the other group B fixture, PTV beat OGDCL by 31 runs on DLS at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad. Opting to bat first, PTV on the back of Amad Butt's 105, scored 320 for eight in 50 overs. Amad's innings included eight fours and five sixes, while Faheem Ashraf scored 88 off 81 balls, hitting eight fours and four sixes. For OGDCL, Muhammad



Umar picked three wickets, while Asif Afridi grabbed two wickets.

In turn, OGDCL were 250 for seven in 45 overs when bat light stopped play and the match did not resume further. For the losing team, Abbas Ali (72, 80b, 3x4s, 3x6s) and captain Adil Amin (62, 73b, 4x4s, 1x6) scored half-centuries.

For the winning side, Faisal Akram, Faheem and Israr Hussain grabbed two wickets apiece.

The second round matches of the President's Cup will take place on Saturday, 5 October.

Scores in brief:

Group A SBP beat HEC by nine wickets

at the Diamond Club Ground, Islamabad

HEC 111 all out, 38 overs (Aaliyan Mahmood 24; Muhammad Faizan 5-24, Saqib Khan 3-21)

SBP 113-1, 11.5 overs (Mohammad Faizan 84 not out) WAPDA beat KRL by eight wickets at the Abbottabad Cricket

Stadium KRL 238 all out, 50 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 74, Naseerullah Khan 36, Rohail Nazir 33 not out; Mohammad Zeeshan 3-54, Ali Raza 3-59, Nageebullah 2-41) WAPDA 239-2, 38.5 overs (Mohammad Arif 100 not out, Ifkhar Ahmed 56 not out, Muhammad Akhlaq 45, Bismillah Khan 30)

Group B Ghani Glass beat SNGPL by 19 runs (DLS) at the Saeed Sports City Bedian, Lahore

SNGPL 306-8, 50 overs (Haseebullah 128, Omair Bin Yousuf 82; Ubaid Shah 4-48, Shadab Khan 2-65)

Ghani Glass 273-3, 45 overs (Tayyab Tahir 128 not out, Hussain Talat 79, Saad Nasim 36 not out)

PTV beat OGDCL by 31 runs (DLS) at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

PTV 320-8, 50 overs (Amad Butt 105, Faheem Ashraf 88, Jahandad Khan 51 not out; Muhammad Umar 3-74, Asif Afridi 2-30)

OGDCL 250-7, 45 overs (Abbas Ali 72, Adil Amin 62; Faheem Ashraf 2-45, Faisal Akram 2-46, Israr Hussain 2-51).

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and his Malaysian counterpart Tengku Zafrul Aziz discuss strengthening trade, focusing on rice, halal meat exports, and business cooperation.



Photo: PID

Meeting of Minister for Commerce of Pakistan with his Malaysian Counterpart

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, held a meeting with H. E. Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade & Industry (MITI).

This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields.

The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two

nations.

Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides. The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality.

Moreover, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high quality rice and mangoes all over the world.

He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Govern-

ment of Pakistan had removed Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices.

He encouraged that Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan for importing rice.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia.

The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malay-

sian market.

He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows.

Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistani businessmen in procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses.

Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited

Pakistan for participation in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

This meeting marks a significant step towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations.

Pakistan & Russia Agreed To Increase Trade Relations

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW—RUSSIA—OCTOBER 03: In Moscow, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Mr. Alexey Overchuk and Russian Ministers were called on by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan in Kremlin.

In this meeting both the delegations of Pakistan and Russia held a detail discussion on agreement of international Road Transport while Tapi Gas, bilateral trade, communications, proposed rail track and other projects were also came reviewed.

Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexey Overchuk appreciated Pakistan's interest in the North-South International Transport Corridor and said that it would help Eurasia and North South countries to have the best trade corridor. In the meeting between the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem



Khan and the Russian Deputy Prime Minister the increase in bilateral cooperation, the volume of trade between the two countries and the proposed trade route of Pakistan, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia were also discussed. Deputy Prime Minister of

Russia welcomed the holding of the 3-day Business and Trade Investment Forum in Moscow and expressed his best wishes towards Pakistan.

He called it a great success that 70 major companies from Pakistan under the leadership of Federal Minister Abdul

Aleem Khan have taken participation in this Forum to enhance two-way trade and declared a milestone in this regard. In his conversation, Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan wants to increase trade relations with Russia and we will encourage busi-

ness enterprises from Russia to come forward and invest in Pakistan.

He said that his 3-day visit has been useful in all respects while in particular, encouraging results are expected from the meetings with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and the business community, here.

He offered thanks to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers of Russia and expressed that such Forums will continue to be held in the future so that the confidence of the business community on both sides could increase and we can move forward with meaningful engagements. Apart from Pakistan Ambassador to Russia Mr. Khalid Jmali, Russian Minister of Transport Mr. Roman Starovoyt and Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Alexey Gruzdev were also present who briefed Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan about the role of their Departments.

SECP issues survey on adoption of IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is considering to adopt IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards in a phase-wise manner in Pakistan and has initiated public consultation on the criteria and timelines for the adoption of these standards.

The IFRS-S1, 'General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information' and IFRS-S2, 'Climate-related Disclosures', are issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board (hereinafter referred as "standards") and recommended for adoption in Pakistan by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan.

IFRS-S1 requires disclosure of information about



sustainability-related risks and opportunities that could reasonably be expected to affect the entity's cash flows, its access to finance or cost of capital. IFRS-S2 sets out the requirements

for identifying, measuring and disclosing information about climate-related risks and opportunities.

The standards shall be implemented on companies in a phased manner on the

basis of criteria comprising of total assets, turnover and number of employees. As per the proposal, first phase shall start from the annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

The second and third phase shall start from January 2026 and 2027 respectively.

Requirement of obtaining assurance on sustainability reporting from the auditor of the company shall start from the second year of the reporting, as applicable.

Adoption of these standards is an important milestone in the ESG regulatory roadmap of SECP and represents SECP's commitment to align capital markets with global best practices, enhance transparency through standardized sustainability reporting, improve risk management and risk mitigation practices, allow more informed decision making by stakeholders and promote a culture of integrating sustainable business practices into business strategies.

Govt to deploy Rangers for security in Islamabad Red Zone



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal government considering over deployment of Rangers for security in Islamabad's red zone, citing sources

Paramilitary rangers will be deployed in the capital city until conclusion of the upcoming SCO summit.

Pakistan will host two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit meeting in Islamabad this month scheduled to take place on October 15-16.

Sources said that the paramilitary force personnel will be deployed outside all key government buildings

for security.

The Rangers personnel will also be deployed at all internal roads of the Islamabad red zone, sources added.

The Red Zone in Islamabad houses the highest executive, judicial and legislative authority buildings of the country and also houses foreign embassies and missions.

A security plan for the upcoming SCO summit was approved on Wednesday at a meeting chaired by the interior minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Speaking at the meeting, the interior minister said that several heads of states and governments will attend the meeting.

Lawyer who misbehaved with CJP Isa in court arrested

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lawyer Mustafain Kazmi has been arrested for contempt of court following a heated exchange with Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

The arrest comes after Kazmi, a lawyer affiliated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, issued threats to the Supreme Court's larger bench during a hearing on the Article 63-A review case.

During the hearing, Kazmi became agitated and threatened the five-judge larger bench with serious consequences if a decision was made



against the PTI.

He stated that the five-member bench was unconstitutional, and warned that 500 lawyers were waiting outside, questioning how the bench would dare to rule against the PTI.

Israel targets U. N. chief for 'unilateralism': Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine condemns the systematic Israeli targeting of Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and considering him an undesirable person, and stresses that undesirable persons are human rights violators and Israeli war criminals, not the head of the most important international institution concerned with human rights, international peace and security.

The Ministry considers these practices to be organized state terrorism practiced by Israel, the illegal occupying power, against international organizations and figures, and international figures such as the Secre-

tary-General of the United Nations, and all workers in international law institutions, special rapporteurs, international committees and investigation committees, to undermine their work, and an attempt to dissuade the international system from performing its role and carrying out its tasks in accordance with international principles and charters, and to silence their voice, which contradicts Israeli criminal policies and practices.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on all countries and international institutions to reject this position of Israel, the illegal occupying power, and to consider it a state outside international law, and to impose sanctions on it for targeting individuals and institutions of international law.

Govt pledges zero tolerance for those taking law into their hands

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz emphasized the strict enforcement of law in Punjab, pledging zero tolerance for those undermining the law.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Himmat Card, she highlighted her government's commitment to the welfare of special persons in the province.

The Himmat Card, which will be operational from October 15, aims to benefit 65,000 special individuals, helping them integrate into mainstream society.

The initiative is supported by the Bank of Punjab, and Maryam Nawaz expressed gratitude to all involved in making this project a reality.

During her speech, Maryam Nawaz criticized the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), urging them to focus on public welfare instead of contributing in destabilizing the country.

She highlighted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has always focus on development, citing infrastructure projects like motorways, roads, and metros as examples of their contributions to the country's

