

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
پی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے کہ جس نے میری امت کے ستر ہزار ایسات لاکھ (راوی) کو ان میں سے کسی ایک کو اور میں تک تھا) آدمی اس طرح غلام ہوں گے کہ بعض بعض کو پکڑے ہوئے ہوں گے اور اس طرح ان میں سے اگلے پچھلے سب جنت میں داخل ہو جائیں گے اور ان کے چہرے پودوں کی مانند پانچویں طرح روشن ہوں گے۔
(صحیح بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6543)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



No elections before reforms in Bangladesh: Muhammad Yunus

In a major development, Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus has refused to give a timeframe for elections before electoral reforms in the country. The Nobel Peace Prize winner was appointed the country's "chief advisor" after the student-led uprising that toppled ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in August.



King Charles to skip major event amid cancer recovery

King Charles will reportedly miss huge event amid his cancer treatment. Charles, who is known for his commitment to environmental issues, will not attend the COP29 climate summit next month. The event was expected to see King Charles participating in the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference. However, an insider has revealed to Mirror that government did not ask him to attend due to his health issues.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a Federal Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Gory tale of 2014-like sit-in not to be allowed to repeat at any cost: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, calling the recent protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf a replica of the 2014 sit-in by the party, vowed that "gory tale" would not be allowed to repeat at any cost.

"Such incidents are a replica of 2014-15 incidents when a sit-in was staged for months and was not called off despite the announcement of the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan without bothering about its

impact on the country's image and national economy... We will not allow it to be repeated. We will not tolerate it at any rate, at any cost. This is my promise. I will not let it happen," the prime minister in his opening remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

The prime minister drew cabinet members' attention to an attack that took place near Karachi airport killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, despite the government's all-out efforts to ensure

their security.

He apprised the meeting of his telephonic conversation with the Chinese ambassador in Islamabad and also a condolatory visit to the Chinese embassy where he reiterated his government's assurance to leave no stone unturned to make the security of Chinese national "unreachable."

Referring to the PTI protest, the prime minister said that the allegations were hurled against the government and attempts were made to create chaos at a time when the Chinese Premier

was about to pay a bilateral visit and a Saudi delegation was also scheduled to visit Pakistan and MoUs and agreements worth \$2 billion are expected to be signed.

The cabinet meeting offered Fateha for the security personnel martyred in different terrorist incidents.

The prime minister thanked China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE for their support in obtaining the IMF loan facility and also mentioned last week's "successful" visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim

when two sides agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat and rice to Malaysia.

Thanking the IMF chief for her support in approving the IMF facility for Pakistan, the prime minister said that she was also appreciative of the reforms introduced by the incumbent and the caretaker governments.

He mentioned the martyrdom of a lieutenant colonel and other security personnel, and said the government knew where the terrorists were being funded from.

Naqvi to review SCO summit preparations and beautification of Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired an important meeting at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to review preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

The meeting also focused on the beautification efforts underway in Islamabad and other development projects.

During the session, Minister Naqvi emphasized the need for extensive beautification of key areas, particularly the Red Zone and VIP routes.

He directed that attractive landscaping be implemented along major roads and instructed that the entire city be adorned with vibrant flowers and decorative



lights in preparation for the international event.

Minister Naqvi highlighted the importance of completing renovation

work on the Jinnah Convention Center, assigning the task of finishing the project promptly.

He stressed the significance of

hosting the SCO Summit, noting it as a reflection of the government's successful foreign policy efforts.

"Special attention must be given to the beautification and cleanliness of Islamabad, with a focus on VIP routes and the Red Zone," said Naqvi.

Minister Naqvi instructed the Commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to work together to enhance coordination in boundary areas and to focus on eliminating dengue breeding grounds through joint operations.

The Interior Minister further emphasized that surveillance should be intensified around areas where dengue cases have been reported.

Chief Commissioner of Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, provided a detailed briefing on the progress of preparations for the SCO Summit, ensuring that all necessary arrangements were on track.

President urges businesses to invest in Stock Exchange



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to improve the country's economy, President Asif Ali Zardari has called for providing a business-friendly environment by further rationalizing the interest rate, providing cost-effective energy, and supporting export-oriented industries. He urged the business community to invest in the country's stock exchange, besides focusing on industries that support small and medium enterprises and provide jobs to people.

The President expressed these views while addressing the 12th Federation of Pakistan Chambers and Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Excellence Awards ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The ceremony was attended by members of the business community, and senior government officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that high interest rates were not beneficial for the country's economy

and businesses. He said that he would ask the government to consider reducing the policy rate to boost business activities. He stated that a comprehensive approach was required to steer the country out of its economic challenges.

Recalling his previous tenure, the President highlighted that despite security challenges and the war on terror, his economic policy of supporting export-oriented industries and providing cost-effective energy led to an increase in the country's exports.

The President appreciated FPCCI for awarding Excellence Awards to the country's top businesses to inspire healthy competition. He urged FPCCI to provide its valuable input to help develop policies that promote exports and stimulate domestic industries.

President FPCCI, Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh, said that economic challenges were being transformed into opportunities.

Group Leader FPCCI, Dr Gohar Ejaz, said that the country's economy was improving. He added that the business community was making efforts to enhance the country's exports.

The President also distributed the 12th FPCCI Excellence Awards among members of the business community for their outstanding performance and contributions to the economy.

Concrete strategy in place to meet future energy demands: Awais

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday said that concrete strategy has been put into place to meet the future energy's demands of the country.

"As energy always plays a key role in economy of the country so generation, transmission and distribution system of energy sector is being revamped on modern lines," he said while addressing a function here at National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

He said the environment friendly renewable energy was also being promoted in the country adding that around 17,000 megawatts (MW) were going to be added to the system by 2034. Generation, transmission and distribution were all part of the power sector but in the past the generation part has not been added in healthy manner means at least cost methodology. However, he said we were committed to adding generation on least cost methodology basis in the future.

He went on to say that in next three years, three DISCOs would be privatized while two DISCOs with Rs 150 billion loss would be concessional model reforms.

Regarding transmission system, the minister said that earlier National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) board was not working but now a senior advisor of LUMS was heading it. The NTDC would be bifurcated into three entities, he added.

Fazl reaches conditional agreement with govt over constitutional amendment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has finalized its preparations for constitutional amendments, and separate sessions of the National Assembly and Senate have been scheduled for October 18. Meanwhile, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has conditionally agreed to the proposed amendments.

Sources say the government has completed all its groundwork regarding the constitutional amendments. Separate sessions of the National Assembly and Senate has been decided for October 18,

and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has prepared the summary for the session.

The National Assembly and Senate sessions will be convened separately, and crucial constitutional amendments will be introduced in both houses.

Sources further report that Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has conditionally agreed to the proposed amendments. The JUI-F leader has suggested the formation of a five or six-member constitutional bench instead of referring the matter to the full Constitutional Court.

Single-day strike may cause Rs190 bln loss to national economy: Aurangzeb

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that a single-day strike might cause cumulative losses of around Rs 190 billion to the national economy.

Addressing a press briefing,

the minister said that the Ministry of Finance's Economic Wing had formally calculated the adverse impact, taking in account losses in gross domestic product, tax revenue, law enforcement costs, business and export losses, foreign direct investment flow, and information technology.

He said the social sector had also been affected, with hospitals, construction workers, street vendors, and taxi drivers adversely impacted.

Approximately 0.8 million people in Islamabad did suffer for over the last 2-3 days, he added.

Currently, Pakistan's total

GDP stood at Rs 124 trillion, with Q2 estimates at Rs 32 trillion on that basis the Economic Wing estimated losses, he said. The government was focusing from stability towards growth side, he added.

On the economic front, the minister highlighted that macro-economic stability had begun to

take hold, with currency stability and \$10.7 billion in reserves following the International Monetary Fund tranche.

He said inflation has dropped to 6.9%, a 44-month low, with all three elements - headline inflation, core inflation, and average inflation - now in single digits.

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CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Chairs 17th Cabinet Meeting

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over 17th meeting of the provincial cabinet in which the largest historical program of collective weddings in Punjab was approved. The project of group marriage of 3000 girls from poor families was approved across Punjab. Rs. 1 lakh as wed money will be given to the bride through ATM card. 13 items including furniture, clothes, dinner sets will be gifted. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to increase the scope of collective marriages. The Cabinet approved allotment of one lakh acres of land to landless farmers on lease for three and five years for the purpose of temporary cultivation across Punjab.

In the meeting, e-bus service scheme was approved in Punjab, under which 27 buses will arrive in the first phase. 1.2 MW solar panels will be installed in the parking lot of e-buses for charging purpose. 680 e-buses will



be functional across Punjab by the end of the current year. The Chief Minister sought the 'Electric Taxi Service Plan' in Lahore. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered strict monitoring of flour and chicken prices across the province.

It was informed in the briefing that one lakh 70 thousand farmers in Punjab received Kisan cards. Kisan

cards were issued to 2 lakh 67 thousand farmers. 11 lakh farmers applied for obtaining Kisan card. 12 lakh applications were received for Green Tractor Scheme. Scrutiny of seven lakh applicants for green tractors has been completed. Approval was granted to transfer funds to the Housing Department to construct 839 houses of New Pakistan Housing Scheme in Raiwind,

Chiniot and Sargodha. Age relaxation of five years has been approved for promotion to the posts of Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector. The annual repair of helicopter of Government of Punjab was approved. The Cabinet approved the transfer of land at Sheikhpura for oil storage and other purposes to Pakistan State Oil.

Agreement between Board of Revenue and Punjab Bank was approved for collection of tax on transfer of immovable property through e-stamping system. The nomination of the Minister of Agriculture and Technical Member for representation in the Federal Seed Board was approved. Re-appointment of Board of Directors of Punjab Health Initiatives Management Company and appointment of new directors on vacant posts was approved. The release of funds of 1.7 billion rupees was approved for purchasing equipment and furniture for the revamping of tertiary care hospitals.

Minhaj University Lahore inaugurated "Seafood Festival 2024"



Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid

LAHORE: Minhaj University Lahore inaugurated its "Seafood Festival 2024", with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sajid Mehmood Shahzad leading the ceremony. Organized by the Center of Research and Innovation in Maritime Affairs, the festival commenced with a poster exhibition by students from the School of Zoology and Botany, highlighting the importance of the ocean, marine life, and pollution.

During his address, Prof. Dr. Sajid Mehmood Shahzad emphasized that the festival aims to promote awareness of various sectors related to the sea, including marine, cuisine, culture, and economy, while also educating students on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. The inauguration saw the participation of Registrar Dr. Khurram Shahzad, Director of Finance Abdul Rehman, Director CRIMA, Dr. Muhammad Ishfaq, faculty, and many students.

The three-day festival will run until October 10, featuring seminars, cooking, art competitions, speeches, documentaries, music, and drama performances on maritime themes.

A sharp rise in electricity bills is a burden on traders: Vohra



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: As long as there are IPPs in Pakistan, electricity can never be cheap, said Chief Executive Pakistan Silk and Rayon Mills Association Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra against the increase in electricity bills held at a local hotel. Speaking to the media after the meeting, he said, "It is hardly anywhere in the world that so many duties and taxes are collected on the use of a basic and essential facility. Due to the increase in electricity bills, traders are greatly affected." Worried. Rising electricity bills are nothing short of a disaster for poor people. Electricity bills have made the poor and the rich cry tears of blood. Due to the high cost of electricity, the businessmen's back has broken. On which the owners of small factories have started to spread their missionaries. Due to which almost 50 lakh workers of the silk industry have become unemployed. In such a situation, the poor people were already seeking relief from the swamp of inflation, but now seeing the electricity bill, it has become more difficult for these people to live. The government should be aware and formulate policies along with the businessmen to improve the economy of Pakistan and the poor. The head office of this organization is in Karachi while the provincial offices of this association are present in all four provinces. In the silk industry, there are many workers working in shuttleless loom, air jet loom, manual loom. Half of them have become unemployed. will In this meeting, the officials of Pakistan Silk Andrian Mills Association, Haji Aziz, Qazi, Haji Mian Naeem, Haji Qaiser Gulzar, Sheikh Babar, Frayad Ali, and Vidigar were present.

Faisalabad Dominican priest gives magnificent sermon after 23rd Annual Pilgrimage

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: (Holy Rosary Church Warispura) At the closing ceremony of the 23rd Annual Pilgrimage to Holy Mary, the head of the Dominican Congregation, Very Reverend Father Pascal Paulus (OP) gave a magnificent lecture to the believers in honor of the Holy Mother and special prayers were also requested in this worship. In the ceremony, Father Pascal Poulos gave trophies to the position holders school children who participated in the quiz. 10,000 rupees was awarded to the first runner-up in the art exhibition, 5000 rupees to the second runner-up and 3000 rupees to the third runner-up. At the end, Father Pascal Poulos (OP) conducted the Holy Eucharist service and assisted by Rev. Fr. Tawfiq Younis (OP) Parish Priest, Father Patrick Peter, Father Irfan Christ, Deacon Dilshad and Deacon Waqqas Gabriel.

PML-N chief Malik Hamid Akbar Khan to distribute 'Himmat Cards' in six Tehs

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) ticket holder, Malik Hamid Akbar Khan, stated that Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is committed to genuine public service. He expressed these views as the chief guest at a ceremony held for the distribution of "Himmat Cards" at Government MC Boys High School. Accompanying him were PML-N District President Saleem Shahzad, Social Welfare Officer Muhammad Zubair, women leader Khalida Rana, and others. While addressing the ceremony, Malik Hamid Akbar Khan mentioned that today "Himmat Cards" are being distributed among people with special needs. Through these cards, individuals with disabilities will be provided a quarterly sum of PKR 10,500 along with other relevant facilities. He further mentioned that "Himmat Cards" are currently being distributed across three tehsils of the district. Social Welfare Officer Muhammad Zubair, during a briefing to the attendees, informed that the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the district administration of Attock, has established camp sites in six tehsils. In the first phase, 183 cards will be distributed in Tehsil Attock at Government MC Boys High School, 196 cards in Tehsil Fateh Jang at Government Boys High School No. 1, and 213 cards in Tehsil Jand at the Government Technical Training Institute (TEVTA). A total of 592 cards will be distributed in the first phase. Muhammad Zubair further explained that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched the "Himmat Card" for individuals with disabilities, ensuring that their rights are delivered to their doorstep. Through the "Himmat Card", all disabled individuals will receive a quarterly allowance of PKR 10,500.



Dangerous

KARACHI: An open drain on Jamshed Road may cause any accident.



Photo: Online

Growers to be incentivised during Rabi crops for better yield, says Murad Shah

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of the agriculture and irrigation departments said that he has allocated Rs8 billion in the budget for the development of the agriculture sector through Benazir Hari Card.

"The Rabi season is starting; therefore, the growers be incentivised so that they could grow wheat as a bumper crop apart from other Rabi crops."

The meeting was held here at CM House on Tuesday. It was attended by Minister P&D Nasir Shah, Minister Agriculture Mohammad Bux Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Buriro, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi and Secretary



to CM Raheem Shaikh. Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro and Secretary Food Khalid Shaikh attended the meeting through a video link.

The CM said that Rs 8.00 billion has been allocated to support growers, particularly the small ones through the Benazir Hari Card.

Mr Shah said that during the 2022 floods, Sindh had 4 million acres of standing kharif crop, and the crop was damaged even more, covering 3.6 million acres. He added that the total loss during the floods amounted to Rs. 421 billion. "We are working to revitalize the agriculture sector and introduce new crops to reduce reliance on imported agricultural products," he said.

The CM decided that the agriculture department would guide the growers to grow those crops which could be exported. "We are exporting rice and mostly import pulses," he said adding that pulses have a vast market domestically and even for export.

From Sindh to Syria

Saher Shah Rizvi's Tribute to the Women of Karbala Honored in Syria

Ramesh Raja

Pakistani artist Saher Shah Rizvi has made history. Her series of paintings, dedicated to the women of Karbala, has been permanently displayed in the holy shrines of Syeda Zainab, Syeda Ume Kulsoom, and Syeda Sakeena in Damascus, Syria. This is the first time any artwork has been exhibited in these sacred sites.

Saher, known as the "Girl with Golden Fingers," was honored at a ceremony held on October 1st, 2024, at the Shrine of Syeda Zainab. Mr. Mohsin Al Harb, Manager of the Haram of Syeda Zainab, praised her work, saying, "We have never displayed any artwork before, but these paintings will remain in the shrine forever." Syrian government officials awarded

Saher for her remarkable contribution. Born in Badin, Sindh, Saher's art highlights the strength and resilience of the women of Karbala, particularly Syeda Zainab, who she describes as "a symbol of resistance and hope." Her paintings serve as a tribute to the pivotal role women played in the story of Karbala.

This isn't Saher's first major achievement. Recently, she held an exhibition titled Hundred Heroes at the Arts Council of Pakistan in Karachi, which celebrated Pakistan's forgotten heroes and heroines. The exhibition earned widespread acclaim. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she started a campaign to honor these unsung heroes, streaming her art sessions live. Millions tuned in to watch.

Saher graduated with distinction from the Centre of Excellence in Arts and Design, Jamshoro (now SABS).

Her art has been displayed in countries including the USA, Italy, Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Dubai, Kosovo, and Iran. Over her career, she has received numerous national and international awards, inspiring many young artists and writers with her work.

With 11 years of experience as a professional artist, Saher has also worked as a lecturer in fine arts and spent a decade as a media host and director on Pakistani TV channels. She currently resides and works in Karachi, where her paintings continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Saher's journey has not been without challenges. After losing her brother, who was a pillar of support in her artistic endeavors, she transformed her grief into a source of creativity. Her series From Pain to Paintings reflects her resilience and artistic brilliance.

"Art," she says, "is a way to preserve history and inspire future generations."

As her work now graces the walls of these sacred shrines, Saher has not only paid homage to the women of Karbala but has also brought great pride to Pakistan. Her achievements should be recognized.

The Government of Pakistan should honor Saher Shah Rizvi with a national civil award for her extraordinary contributions to art and culture. Her work, both in Pakistan and internationally, deserves greater promotion. She is a true cultural ambassador, and her art inspires millions.

(The author, Engr. Ramesh Raja, PMP, is a Civil Engineer, visionary planner, and literary enthusiast with a passion for art and recreation. He can be reached at engineer.raja@gmail.com.)

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:45 am
Zohr	11:55 am
Asr	4:02 pm
Maghrib	5:43 pm
Isha	7:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

AIOU Launches 'English Access Scholarship' Program to Empower Students

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prioritizing women's education is top priority for the Government, as women are a vital part of this society, and the education and training of women is the mission of the Higher Education Commission. These thoughts were expressed by the Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, while addressing an Opening Ceremony of the English Access Scholarship Program at Allama Iqbal Open University. He further mentioned that the enrolment ratio of female students in Pakistan's universities is 52%, and we are continuing our efforts to increase this number. During this occasion, the Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, stated that education is the only path for the development and prosperity; without education, no nation has a future. He encouraged students to pay special attention to their education to secure a wonderful future. Dr. Nasir thanked the US Embassy and the English Department, AIOU for their support in teaching English to Pakistani children. He added that learning English



will bring many benefits, giving students opportunities for higher education and job prospects in various countries. The Regional English Language Officer at the US Embassy, Jerrold Frank, said that Pakistan is the only country among 80 nations where 27,000 students have received this scholarship. He noted that due to the efforts of Allama Iqbal Open University,

250 new students have been enrolled from three districts of Pakistan (Mianwali, Bhakkar, and Attock). He mentioned that under this program, students will not only gain proficiency in English but also can develop critical thinking, digital literacy, and an understanding of world cultures. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Abdul

Aziz Sahir emphasized that English is a major global language and the language of international communication. He advised students to learn English with full attention so that they can master the language and become capable of reading, speaking, and writing well in it. During the event, students shared their thoughts about the English Access Program. They also

presented traditional dances of Attock, Mianwali, and Bhakkar. The Chairman of the English Department, Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, and the program coordinator, Dr. Amjad Khan, explained that this program is a gateway to a brilliant future, equipping students with communication skills, critical thinking, and collaboration skills needed in a globalized world.

AKUH Clifton Medical Services sets new standard with SHC License

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital's (AKUH) Clifton Medical Services (CMS) formally received the Sindh Healthcare Commission License on Friday, 4 October 2024. The recognition underscores AKUH's commitment to enforcing the Sindh Service Delivery Standards (SSDS) and delivering healthcare services that meet global standards. CMS is AKUH's flagship outpatient medical center in Clifton, Karachi and is also JCI and CAP accredited.

The event was attended by key figures from AKUH and Sindh Healthcare Commission including the CEOs of both organizations and their teams. Dr. Farhat Abbas, CEO of AKU Health System, emphasized the importance of SHC certification, stating, "Today's milestone is another reminder of our mission to ensure quality is at the centre of our healthcare delivery. We are proud of our team's commitment towards excellence and compassionate care."

At the event, the Sindh Healthcare Commission CEO, Dr. Ahsan Qavi Siddiqi stressed on the importance of introducing system-based policies and procedures that ensure the highest standards of quality and patient safety.

This license not only reaffirms AKUH's mission to offer the highest quality of service but also represents a step forward in enhancing healthcare delivery for every community and geography we serve.

Amazing View

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of Sunbeams through dark clouds during sunset in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IIUI organizes seminar on 'society, state and nationhood in 21st century'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate of Students' Affairs (DSA) of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized a lecture titled "Society, State, and Nationhood in the 21st Century" organized by the Students Advisor Office at the male Campus of the International Islamic University, Islamabad.

On this occasion, Chief Guest of the seminar, Brigadier (Retired) Tahir Mehmood, a distinguished figure renowned for his contributions as an author and freelance contributor to the national print media, briefed the students of the university as per the theme of the seminar.

During his presentation,



Brigadier (Retired) Tahir Mehmood shed light on the relationship between society, state, and the concept of nationhood within the context of Pakistan and shared history of the sub-continent. In addition he also shared the historical foundations of Pakistani nationhood before and after the creation of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion Guest of the seminar, Brigadier (IIUI), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar appreciated the organizers for arranging the seminar for youth of the university and hoped that in future such seminars would be organized to further foster the ambitions of the students studying at campus.

The seminar was also graced by Director General, International Institute of Islamic Economics, (IIIE), IIUI Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashed, Dr. Hafiz Ghufuran Ahmed Students Advisor (male), Deputy Students Advisor Dr. Masood ur Rehman Khattak, senior faculty members while a large number of students attended the seminar.

Dr. Hafiz Ghufuran Ahmed thanked the speaker, IIUI leadership and students for participation in the event. He vowed that the Directorate of Students Affairs will be eager to work for more activities of dialogue and counselling as well.

Later, Brigadier Rtd. Tahir Mehmood also called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, President IIUI.

Pakistan Post to celebrate World Post Day

Asad Hadhmi

RAWALPINDI: World Post Day will be celebrated today on October 9 across the world including Pakistan. Pakistan Post has decided to organize various programs to highlight the importance of this day and the services of the institution.



In addition to the flag hoisting ceremony at Rawalpindi GPO at 10 am, there will be an exhibition of stamps. Postmaster General North Punjab Muhammad Zaheer will be the chief guest. All officers including Deputy Postmaster General Arshad Khan, Chief Postmaster Asma Noreen will participate. The decision to celebrate World Post Day was made on October 9, 1969 by the Universal Postal Congress at a meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. The purpose of celebrating the day is to create awareness about the role of this institution in the daily lives of people as well as its role in global socio-economic development. It encourages the member states of the Universal Postal Union to organize their national activities to celebrate the event, including the introduction or promotion of new postal products and services.

Whistleblower protection act needed to protect vulnerable Pakistanians: SSDO

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Civil society organizations, legal experts, and concerned citizens have called for immediate and robust legislation to protect whistleblowers in Pakistan, urging the government to enact a comprehensive Whistleblower Protection Act. This act is crucial for safeguarding individuals who expose corruption, fraud, and misconduct in both public and private sectors, and to foster a culture of accountability and transparency.

Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director of the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), stated, "Whistleblowers are essential to holding institutions accountable and ensuring transparency. The lack of protection for these courageous individuals is a significant barrier to rooting out corruption and malpractice in Pakistan. We strongly urge the government to introduce and enact legislation that will ensure the safety and security of whistleblowers."

SSDO in collaboration with the Civil society organizations have planned a series of advocacy efforts, including consultations with parliamentarians, legal experts, and human rights activists, to build support for the proposed legislation. These efforts aim to ensure that the law is comprehensive, effective, and in line with international best practices.

The Government of Pakistan is urged to take immediate action by drafting and passing the Whistleblower Protection Act to safeguard the rights of those who expose wrongdoings and to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance.

ISSI launches book "Critical Issues Facing South Asia, Politics, Security, & Non-Traditional Challenges"

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of a new ISSI book, titled Critical Issues Facing South Asia: Politics, Security, and Non-Traditional Challenges. The book contains research articles by young researchers, prepared under the ISSI's NextGen program. Ambassador Jilil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as chief guest. Other speakers included Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson, Department of Strategic Studies, QAU, Islamabad; and Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of CISS AJK.

In his special remarks on the

occasion, Ambassador Jilil Abbas Jilani congratulated the ISSI on this initiative and appreciated the authors for producing excellent research work, full of innovative ideas. He noted that the subjects forming part of the book included myriad dimensions of Pakistan-India relations and a number of cross-cutting regional issues, which were very relevant and had currency in discussions among diplomatic as well as political circles. In the context of terrorism, for instance, he underlined that Pakistan was not alone in suffering from state-sponsored terrorism, other South Asian states including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal were also victims of terrorism inflicted on their lands from the common neighbor. He also highlighted

the salience of nuclear issues between Pakistan and India and, recalling the firing of a nuclear-capable missile from India in March 2022, stressed that it could have resulted in a larger conflagration if Pakistan had not reacted with tremendous restraint.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that engagement with the NextGen scholars was part of the ISSI's new vision. The Institute recognizes the youth as one of the key stakeholders and seeks to proactively draw the next generation of experts into the policy discourse with new ideas and fresh perspectives. This is important to help them develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the intricate issues at hand, enabling the next generation to

make informed and insightful evaluations and suggest innovative approaches for addressing long-standing challenges in South Asia.

Dr. Shabana Fayyaz commended the research publication for it was solely an indigenized effort, offering local perspective based on local understanding of the context. She added that emerging technologies had been feeding insecurities of adversaries against one another and causing greater threat perceptions.

Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja argued that the compilation is significant for its topic, freshness of the perspective it offers, and the actionable recommendations it brings forth. Innovative thoughts that young minds have produced on critical issues have the potential



to turnaround geopolitical landscape of a most populous, yet least connected region like South Asia. Earlier, Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director ISC, introduced the book. He commended the over-

whelming response that the Institute received from young researchers, academicians and writers upon its call for chapters a year ago. He added that while this book launch was the

final outcome of the NextGen program 2023-24, ISC plans to further enhance its engagement with young scholars through a number of similar initiatives that are to follow.

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Blocking UNRWA work in occupied Palestine would be 'catastrophic'

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday he has sent an urgent letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, warning him that the draft Israeli legislation to prevent the U. N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) from carrying out its humanitarian operations in the occupied Palestinian territory would be a "catastrophe."

"Such a measure would suffocate efforts to ease human suffering and tensions in Gaza, and indeed, the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory. It would be a catastrophe in what is already an unmitigated disaster," he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York.

In July the Israeli parliament gave preliminary approval to a bill that declares UNRWA a terrorist organization and proposes to sever relations with the body. Israeli leaders have accused UNRWA of collaborating with Hamas in Gaza.

"That's why I have written directly to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express profound concern about draft legislation that could prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," the UN chief said.

In its campaign against the UN, Israel last week declared the UN chief persona non grata, banning his entry into that country.

The development comes as the Gaza war enters "an atrocious, abominable second year" and amid the threat of wider escalation in the region.

Operationally, the legislation – if passed by the Knesset – would likely deal a terrible blow to the international humanitarian response there, he said. He explained that as UNRWA's activities are integral to that response, it is not feasible to isolate one UN agency from the others.

"It would effectively end coordination to protect UN convoys, offices and shelters serving hundreds of thousands of people," he said. Delivery of food, shelter and healthcare "would grind to a halt" without UNRWA, while 600,000 children "would lose the only entity that is able to re-start education, risking the fate of an entire generation."

Furthermore, many health, education and social services would also end in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Supplies are running low and Israeli authorities are only allowing a single, unsafe road for aid from the Kerem Shalom crossing, where humanitarians face active hostilities and violent, armed looting, fueled by desperation and the collapse of public order and safety.

The Secretary-General has warned for months that the conflict risks spreading.

"The Middle East is a powder keg with many parties holding the match," he said, referring to rising violence in the West Bank and attacks in Lebanon that are threatening the entire region.

A Chief Minister who likes to disappear...

The Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, is a maverick – unpredictable, agile, fiery, and cunning. Unlike any other chief minister in Pakistan's history, he has the unique distinction of disappearing from the scene while in office, leaving the people of his province, the administration, and the federal government bewildered and speculating about his well-being and whereabouts.

His latest disappearance was followed by a raid on the KP House, a property of the KP government, by police, rangers, and contingents of Punjab police. This led to the Chief Minister going into hiding, and later escaping through arduous means to return to the safety of his province.

The story that the Chief Minister later narrated after his latest disappearance was akin to an American adventure movie, where the hero outwits an entire force of police, rangers, and other law enforcement agencies. He described how he frequently changed hiding places, climbed dangerous mountains in the dark, traveled miles to reach the road, succeeded in hitchhiking, and eventually reached the safety of his province.

The mystery surrounding his disappearance fueled a flurry of conspiracy theories, suspicions, and doubts. After being incommunicado for over 24 hours, he reappeared in the KP Assembly, delivering a fiery speech that showcased his defiance of what he termed the federal government's tyranny. He vowed to continue his politics of agitation, asserting that the army and all of Pakistan were his, that he had the constitutional right to travel freely and express himself, and that he would fight any infringement on these rights.

Is this an ideal situation? Can a chief minister, elected by over 41 million

people, be reduced to the status of a fugitive, running for his life? What kind of message does this subhuman treatment of an elected official send to the people of the country? Does it suggest that the federal and provincial governments are at war with each other? Does it imply that the people's mandate holds no value when faced with the brute force of the federal government? Is it now up to the federal government to decide whether people from other provinces can access the federal capital?

What impact does this treatment have on the people of KP, who elected this chief minister? How will members of the KP Assembly view this situation, and how will it affect the chief minister's ability to govern? How will the provincial administration interpret this event, and what will be the impact on relations between the province and the federation? Most importantly, what mental setback will this incident cause for the people of the province?

The mysterious disappearance and subsequent reappearance of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in such a dramatic and unprecedented manner reflect deeper tensions between federal and provincial dynamics in Pakistan. The situation raises fundamental questions about governance, constitutional rights, and the balance of power between the center and the provinces.

Gandapur's vanishing act, and the way it was handled, suggests a dangerous precedent where a provincial leader, responsible for the welfare of millions, feels the need to evade law enforcement like a fugitive. This scenario paints an unsettling

picture of a breakdown in communication and trust between the provincial government and the federation. His narrative of survival, moving through treacherous terrains and evading capture, adds a dramatic flair to the event, reminiscent of an action movie, but with real political implications.

The response of the Federal Interior Minister, who deflected responsibility back onto the media, exacerbates the already tense atmosphere. It highlights a failure in leadership at the federal level, where the duty to ensure law and order is sidelined in favor of political posturing. The fact that such an incident occurred without clear communication from either side reflects poorly on both the federal and provincial administrations. It raises legitimate concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and the growing authoritarianism in the political system.

The conspiracy theories and speculations around Gandapur's disappearance demonstrate the fragility of public trust in institutions. In a time when transparency is crucial, the lack of clarity has only deepened mistrust. His fiery reappearance in the KP Assembly, with bold claims about the defiance of federal tyranny and his constitutional rights, resonates with many in the province who already feel marginalized by the federal government.

The raid on the KP House, involving police forces from another province, crosses a delicate boundary. It sends the message that provincial autonomy is not respected and that the federal government can unilaterally impose its will, even on an elected chief minister. The symbolism

here is potent: a chief minister, elected by millions, being forced into hiding, reduced to a fugitive status, and fleeing for his life. This not only undermines the dignity of the office but also signals to the people of KP that their elected leaders are powerless in the face of federal might.

What does this mean for inter-provincial relations? This incident has set a dangerous tone, suggesting that the federal government is willing to override provincial rights and the democratic mandate of the people. It reflects a broader struggle between the center and the periphery, where provinces like KP may feel increasingly alienated and disempowered.

The political fallout from this episode could be significant. Within KP, this treatment of their chief minister might galvanize anti-federal sentiment and deepen existing frustrations. It could also weaken the authority of the chief minister, who may now be seen as vulnerable to federal intimidation. On a larger scale, it could further strain relations between the provinces and the federation, leading to a cycle of retaliation and conflict.

Ultimately, this situation underscores the fragility of Pakistan's federal system, where political power struggles often take precedence over governance. The treatment of an elected leader like a criminal sends shockwaves through the political landscape, undermining the very foundations of democracy. The challenge now is how both sides can de-escalate tensions and work toward restoring trust, not only between the federal and provincial governments but also among the people they serve.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Southern Link Road: A Troubling Development in Peshawar Valley's Future

The Southern Link Road, a highly anticipated infrastructure project in the Peshawar Valley, is rapidly emerging as a developmental misstep with potentially disastrous consequences. Stretching for about 42 kilometers, this two-lane corridor is designed to connect the National Highway (GT Road) to the historic Khyber Pass at Torkham via Bara Bazar. As a part of the broader Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project, which is financed by the World Bank, the road aims to enhance trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and further the objectives of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. Despite these ambitious goals, the Southern Link Road is marred by significant flaws in its scope, design, and implementation, raising grave concerns about its environmental, cultural, and economic impact.

In addition to environmental concerns, the Southern Link Road poses a significant threat to the cultural heritage of the Khalil Mohmand tribe, a prominent and historic tribe in the Peshawar region. The tribe's connection to the land spans centuries, and their cultural practices, traditions, and way of life are closely tied to the region's geography and environment. The road's alignment is set to disrupt areas of great cultural and historical significance to the Khalil Mohmand tribe, including their ancestral lands and sites that have been preserved for generations. The construction of the road threatens to erase these cultural landmarks, which would represent an irreparable loss to the tribe's heritage and identity. Local community leaders have expressed deep concern over the potential destruction of these sites, warning that it could

lead to the erosion of the tribe's cultural fabric.

The imposition of Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act further exacerbates these concerns, as it allows the government to forcibly acquire land for public purposes, often without adequate compensation or consultation with affected communities. This has led to widespread anxiety among the residents of the affected villages, many of whom fear they will lose their homes and livelihoods. The imposition of Section 4 has adversely affected the fate of IDPS who have faced the wrath of militancy in 2008 and somehow they have found solace by migrating to these low-lying areas of Sheikhan and Badabher. Now displacing for the second time would account for nothing less than the extinction of these families.

Moreover, the project has sparked widespread discontent among local communities, who feel marginalized in the planning process. Despite the significant impact the road will have on their lives, many residents claim they were not adequately consulted or informed about the project's details. In a recent Kuli Kacheri organized by the district administration, it was found that over 70% of the affected population was unaware of the full scope of the project, leading to growing resentment and opposition.

The design and engineering of the Southern Link Road are also fraught with issues that could undermine its success. One of the most glaring problems is the road's alignment, which has been criticized for being vague and poorly planned. The current design seems to run over many houses, orchards, graveyards, and even mosques, raising doubts about whether a ground survey was ever conducted for its finalization or if it was merely chalked out on a Google map as

part of a photographic survey. This lack of foresight could lead to unforeseen challenges during construction, driving up costs and causing delays.

The economic and social consequences of the Southern Link Road are equally troubling. The acquisition of land for the project has already halted the sale purchase of land in the area, disrupting their livelihoods and exacerbating economic hardship in the region. The loss of agricultural land, estimated at over 2,500 acres, is expected to reduce local food production by nearly 30%, leading to higher food prices and increased poverty. The economic fallout could be severe, particularly for smallholder farmers who rely on this land for their survival. Moreover, the displacement of communities and the loss of cultural heritage could lead to social unrest, further destabilizing the region. Without a clear alignment with the broader goals of the KPEC project, the Southern Link Road risks becoming an expensive and ineffective infrastructure piece, creating more problems than it solves.

Given these serious concerns, it is crucial to consider alternative approaches to the Southern Link Road project. One potential solution is to re-evaluate the road's alignment and design to minimize its impact on the environment and local communities. This could involve rerouting the road away from agricultural land and culturally significant areas, as well as implementing stringent environmental safeguards to protect local ecosystems. Additionally, there is a need for greater transparency and community engagement in the project's planning and implementation. By involving local communities in the decision-making process, the project can better address their concerns and ensure that their voices are heard. This would not only help to mitigate the negative impact of the road but also build trust and support among local stakeholders.

The writer a Ph. D Scholar in UET Peahawar

Global Shift from Traditional to Non-Traditional Security

The world of today presents the transition from traditional to non-traditional security paradigms representing a significant evolution in the understanding of security in the contemporary global landscape. This shift has been driven by various factors, including globalization, environmental degradation, and the emergence of new threats that challenge the conventional military-centric view of security as suggested by earlier theorists.

For this reason, defining traditional and non-traditional security is now a vital component while understanding the dynamics of international arena. Traditional security typically focuses on state-centric threats, primarily military in nature. It emphasizes the protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty against any kind of external aggression, often framed within the context of power dynamics between states as portrayed by the realist school of thought. Historically, this approach has dominated international relations, particularly during the Cold War era.

In contrast, Non-Traditional Security (NTS) encompasses a broader spectrum of threats that arise from all non-military sources. These include environmental issues such as climate change which is one of the most evitable adverse consequence of human activity. Moreover, resource scarcity leading to conflicts over water and food is disturbing world peace. Health crises like spread of infectious diseases and pandemics are directly threatening public health and indirectly, leading to economic instability. Transnational crimes namely drug trafficking, human smuggling, and terrorism that transcend national borders are still a major threat to the world after a quarter of the twenty first century. Societal instabilities lead

to issues like irregular migration and economic disparities that can destabilize societies paving way for civil conflict of interests. The NTS framework simply recognizes that security is not solely about military might but also involves the well-being of individuals and communities.

Factors driving this shift:

End of the Cold War marks the beginning of the dissolution of bipolar power structures that ultimately led to a re-evaluation of security concepts. Analysts began to argue that traditional military threats were no longer sufficient to address emerging global challenges. Globalization has increased interdependence among nations which has made it clear that many threats are transnational in nature, requiring cooperative responses rather than unilateral actions. Human Security Paradigm depicts the idea that the focus has shifted towards human security, emphasizing the protection of individuals' rights and

well-being as central to national security strategies. This approach advocates for addressing root causes of insecurity, such as poverty and inequality. Non-traditional security threats possess several characteristics that define them in a comprehensive manner. Being transnational in nature, these threats often originate beyond national borders and require international cooperation for effective management. Unlike traditional security threats, which are primarily military, considering the socio-political dynamics, non-traditional threats are often rooted in political instability or socioeconomic disparities. Complex interdependencies lead to the interconnectedness of issues meaning that addressing one threat often involves tackling others simultaneously; for example, climate change impacts food security, which can lead to migration crises.

To be continued



Analysis

Hamna Obaid

PRCS and King Salman Relief sign MoU to enhance humanitarian cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A landmark ceremony for signing agreements under the joint collaboration program of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) took place at a local hotel, signifying a pivotal moment in the delivery of humanitarian services in Pakistan. The event was graced by the presence of Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, H. E. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, KSRelief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez, Hon. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Director General National Commission for Human Development Nasir ud din Mashhood Ahmad, representative from National Disaster Management Authority among others.

During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and KSRelief. The agreement, focused on strengthening



humanitarian efforts, capacity building, and enhancing collaboration in training and research, marks a significant step forward in the relationship between the two organizations. Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, and KSRelief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari highlighted the significance of the day for the people of Pakistan, as it coincided with the remembrance of the devastating October 8, 2005 earthquake. He expressed his gratitude to KSRelief for their firm support during the reconstruction phase and acknowledged that today's agreement brings renewed hope

to millions in need.

H. E. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, also addressed the gathering, expressing his heartfelt sentiments on the occasion. He remarked, "The bond between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is deeply rooted in a shared history, faith, and unwavering brotherhood. It is a relationship built on trust, mutual respect, and solidarity, especially in times of need. Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan in moments of crisis, whether in the wake of natural disasters or to provide vital humanitarian support."

He concluded his remarks by expressing optimism for the future of the joint cooperation program between the two countries.

KSRelief Assistant Supervisor General, Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Beez expressed profound appreciation for government of Pakistan for trust and support, noting that the agreements signed today will open new avenues for deepening bilateral cooperation and humanitarian collaboration between the two countries.

Joint Call on the Foreign Secretary by African Envoys



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch received 14 Envoys from the African Continent at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today.

This underscores the Foreign Ministry's determination to further strengthen ties with Africa in line with the Government's Engage Africa Policy. Pakistan has 19 diplomatic Missions in the continent, while 14 African Missions are based in Islamabad.

On the occasion a special tree plantation ceremony took place under the theme of Pakistan-Africa Friendship. The plantation held in the lawn of the Ministry was followed by a Joint Call on the Foreign Secretary by the Envoys who outlined their priorities and salient aspects of bilateral relations.

Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch dilated upon the growing trajectory of ties between Pakistan and Africa and appreciated the valuable contributions of the Islamabad based African Envoys. She reaffirmed the keenness of Pakistan for increased cooperation in diverse fields especially trade, investment and high level political ties. The volume of trade has increased 75% in the last 4 years with tremendous scope for further enhancement.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune, and Dean of African Diplomatic Corps thanked the Foreign Secretary for the opportunity of having these discussions and expressed gratitude for the unprecedented plantation event.

Riphah International University's Delegation Visits IMU Malaysia

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University's delegation received a warm welcome during their visit to IMU University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The team, including Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat (DVC Academics), Prof. Dr. Gen (R) Azhar Rashid (Dean FHMS), Prof. Dr. Rehan Ahmed Khan (Dean RIA), and Prof. Dr. Rahila Yasmin (Dean RARE), met with IMU's leadership, including Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asma Ismael, Group Managing Director Prof. Gerry George, and Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Er Hui Meng. The visit focused on discussions about the upcoming Joint IMEC-ICME Hybrid Conference 2025, and a special token of appreciation was given to Prof. Dr. Asma Ismael. The delegation also visited the Pakistan High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, where Deputy Ambassador Rajeel Mohsin and his team assured full support for the IMEC-ICME 2025 conference. The trip coincided with the start of IMEC 2024 at IMU's Bukit Jalil campus, where Riphah International University's booth became a focal point for delegates, sharing details about the IMEC-ICME 2025 and distributing souvenirs. The opening ceremony showcased Malaysia's rich culture, with engaging plenaries, symposiums, and discussions, including a session chaired by Prof. Dr. Rehan Ahmed Khan on the integration of One Health in medical education.



Youth awareness, proactive role in raising education on mercury hazards crucial: MNA Dr Shazia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at a roundtable on implementation of Minamata Convention highlighted the urgent need to engage youth in education and awareness campaigns to sensitize general public and policy makers on hazardous impacts of mercury used in cosmetics and other commercial products.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a roundtable/stakeholder meeting on implementation of Minamata Convention, Mercury Containing Skin Whitening Creams and Policy, Legislative and Regulatory situation in Pakistan.

Dr Razia Safdar, Senior Policy Advisor, Centre of Health Policy Innovation, SDPI said the roundtable was convened to discuss the presence of mercury in our everyday use cosmetics particularly skin whitening creams.

She informed that Pakistan is among the biggest producers and exporters of mercury containing skin whitening (MSW) creams, whereas the country is party to Minamata Convention to contain mercury usage.

SDPI is the pioneer institution to take up hazardous impacts of mercury



in cosmetics particularly skin whitening creams as its study found 24,000-26,000 ppm (parts per million) of mercury in different samples of local and international whitening creams, she said.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI in his opening remarks aid the Minamata Convention and negative effects of mercury has been very close to the SDPI's research agenda.

Late, SDPI Research Fellow, Dr Mahmood Khawaja did his pioneer study on mercury usage in cosmetics and dental amalgams which has been

continued by Dr Razia Safdar, he added. Khawaja Khurram Naeem, Director Customs Intelligence, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said Pakistan Customs ensures import and exports, ban on contraband items and other related matters enshrined in the law.

Sana Khokhar, Deputy Manager, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) said there is lack of research and development and technology to contain usage of mercury in cosmetics.

In her remarks, Director General, Pak-EPA, Farzana Altaf Shah said the use of mercury creams among

adolescent girls is increasing which is alarming and highly hazardous for girls and women health due to its long-term and high impact risks.

Dr Zaigham Abbas, National Focal point for Minamata Convention, Director Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) said the industry releases effluents highly contaminated with mercury that led to the contamination of seafood leading to Minamata Disease first identified at the Minamata Bay, Japan whereas after extensive efforts it has been revived by the Japanese authorities in its original form.

Member National Assembly and former Parliamentary Secretary Health, Dr Shazia Sobia Somroo as guest of honour underlined that the relevant ministries and legislator were unable to grasp the issue that needs to be controlled due to system failures caused by poor implementation of laws enacted by the legislature.

She emphasised the role of youth in spearheading community awareness, education, sensitization and guiding policy making processes at the national level critical to overcome mercury hazards at different tiers of the consumption cycle.

International Conference on Sustainable Health Systems & Resilience Successfully Concludes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The One-Day International Conference on Sustainable Health Systems and Resilience: Challenges and Opportunities concluded on Tuesday at COMSTECH, Islamabad which was organized by the Manhattan Strategy Group, a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization, in collaboration with partner organizations. The conference underscored the essential contributions of public health workers in Pakistan.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Paki-

stan on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination. In his opening remarks, Dr. Bharath commended the organizers for their dedication and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in strengthening Pakistan's health systems. He highlighted the urgent need for resilient health systems amid global health security challenges and climate change.

The conference featured keynote addresses from prominent figures in global health. Dr. Erin Sorrell, a global health practitioner and Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, opened the discussions by highlighting the importance of innova-

tive approaches in combating health crises. Following her, Dr. Hammad Ali, adjunct Associate Professor Brown University and Associate Branch Chief at the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided insights on integrating public health strategies into community health initiatives. The final keynote was delivered by Prof. Dr. Aamer Ikram, former Executive Director, NIH Pakistan, Country Representative, MSG, who addressed the intersection of public health and national security.

Key discussions revolved around the need for robust data integration systems to inform policy decisions and the critical



role of climate resilience in public health planning. Panelists emphasized that without integrating these considera-

tions, Pakistan's health system may struggle to adapt to future challenges.

In conjunction with the

conference, Mr. Shezad Habib launched the Manhattan Strategy Group platform in Pakistan. As the president and founder of the group, Mr. Habib highlighted the contribution and explained that this initiative aims to enhance the organization's focus on healthcare issues and foster partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and private organizations. Mr. Salik Malik, Vice President of International Development at MSG conducted the proceedings of the conference.

The conference attracted over 150 attendees, including health professionals, government officials, academic researchers, and representatives from inter-

national organizations. This diverse gathering marked a pivotal moment for stakeholders invested in the future of healthcare in Pakistan and beyond. Attendees participated in workshops and networking sessions designed to cultivate partnerships and facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders.

The conference concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to prioritize investment in health system resilience and sustainability. Organizers emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration and dialogue, stating that the insights gained from the conference should inform future policy and programmatic efforts.

1857, Again!

Today's TikTok youth might even don't have any idea what signifies 1857... am saying it because I worked as a Lecturer in a collage in Islamabad, and there I meet with some underrated minds, whom only desire for getting the Degrees for moving abroad, even they mocked me for being a patriot. However, I believe I must have some dear, gentle readers who possess in heart and mind the responsibility and concern for the land on which they born. Pakistan a hard country, Pakistan in dilemma, Pakistan a tough land, the senseless writers writing such meaningless blogs, in order to ramble already wandered souls.

This all is a master-planing of West to entangle East in their nasty thread, and on top our institutions, our top leaders, even our society started to appreciate this alien's agenda, or turned their allies. I travelled to different countries, let's say Egypt, Qatar, and Azerbaijan etc., they speak their native language, as a tourist I communicated with them in sign language since they turned me down if I talk English. However here in my beloved Pakistan, if a person is talking in Urdu, that is supposed to be our official language, he or she would be thought as an illiterate, a villager, similarly if a woman is half naked she is considered modern, being naked is modern then why African forest people



are not considered modern? They are also naked.

Our language, our culture, our traditional values all are sweeping, and yes, it is what Indie Studies call Kal Yug, when king behave like robbers, that's what's happening, can't you see? Or you too will let this land divide once again, and this time on the pretext of carefully crafted

Regional Differences not Religion. Am saying this because, I have heard all this from the mouths of troublemakers, who live and eat from my country but talk bad of it. The slaves of west.

Moreover, you call this independence, but in name. Since, independent nations never dwell as of us. Independence or freedom is a mental phenomenon, where a person can think irrespective of terror, where the nation has their own ideology, not a replication, imitation or alarm of other. A person born among us akin to Bahadur Shah Zafar who tried to tell us the meaning of Independence, and the sense of Nation, some walked with him, many left him, akin to the Nawabs and Rajas back in 1857,



and once again history repeated itself. Again it's 1857, again Bahadur Shah Zafar jailed and

again we have failed. On documents we got independence on 1947, however Paki-

stan will be free on the day when our minds will get independence from the influence of West.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
85,663.97	84,910.29	
Day's High	Day's Low	
85,824.27	84,897.98	
Index Value	Change	
26,521,453,018	+753.68	
Percentage	Time	
+0.89%	8 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,190.61	-113.01	
Percentage	Time	
-1.36%	8 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
41,950.11	-4.13	
Percentage	Time	
-0.0098%	8 Oct, 1:21 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,937.54	-395.20	
Percentage	Time	
-1.00%	8 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.75	189.17
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.63	908.13
Malaysian Ringgit	63.6	64.2
New Zealand \$	174.21	176.21
Norwegians Krone	26.26	26.56
Omani Riyal	716.67	725.17
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Swiss Franc	324.09	326.89
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.1
UK Pound Sterling	361.00	364.5
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

Pak Sovereign Wealth Fund & Financial Investment: Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the investment sector there has been major development according to which Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund will be established by heavy investment in the financial sector. In this regard, Alvarez Marsal Middle East group will float financial investment in Pakistan and there will be huge investment in financial sector. Former Governor of State Bank, Dr. Raza Baqir, along with the financial team called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and held a detail briefing in which Dr. Raza Baqir informed about the details of the establishment of Sovereign Wealth Fund. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Government is extending all possible support and facilities for investment while joint business projects are being starting with China, Russia, Central Asian states and other countries. He added that the present Government taking long-lasting measures to improve the financial performance of Pakistan and stable the economy. He indicated that in stock exchange another record has been achieved which is also proof of the improvement.



Briefing the high-level meeting, Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director of Sovereign Wealth Fund Abdalla EIEbiary and Senior Associate Amine Yaaqoubi told that the objective of this fund is to increase investment in the private sector while the GCC and Gulf countries are also participating in this Sovereign Fund. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that

projects like Coastal Highway, Beach Resorts and Green City can be started in Karachi for which the Board of Investment and the Ministries of Privatization will provide full support to this institution. In the meeting, the proposal of

75% and 25% partnership between the Alvarez Marsal Group and the Government also came under discussion. Participant threw light on the independent financial advisor and other aspects of this Pak Sovereign Wealth Fund.

Achievement

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal in the event of Innovation Lab on Achieving \$100 Billion Exports Target organized by MoPDSI here on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

UBG Federal Core Committee pledges to tackle community concerns at all levels

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pattern-in -Chief United Business Group (UBG) and former caretaker provincial minister SM Tanveer has said that Pakistan's economy is on the path of improvement despite challenges like, inflation, higher interest rates and IPPs issue, however it is incumbent upon the government to take steps to reduce the price of electricity and bring the interest rate to single digit.

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group here in Islamabad on Tuesday. Member National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, President UBG Sindh Khalid Tawab, President UBG Balochistan Eng. PCCI Ijaz Zaki, Moomin Ali Malik, Mian Zahid Hussain (Karachi), Ahmed Chinoy (Karachi), Abdul Sami Khan, Hanif Gohar (Karachi), Mian Zafar Iqbal (Faisalabad), Johar Ali Rakhhi (Gilgit Balistan), Haji Afzal, Jawad Hussain, Kazmi (Peshawar), Zubair Malik, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Tariq Javed, Ahsan Bakhtawari (Islamabad) including Central Committee members from across the country participated in the meeting.

In his address S. M. Tanveer said that the business community of Pakistan understands that the economy is improving



with the efforts of the government, but we still need to do a lot of work. He said that focus on the agriculture and health sectors is need of the hour and that we have to take necessary steps to save water which is being wasted 37 million acre feet annually.

President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the business community has played a very active role at all levels, our basic problems are known to all, due to the joint efforts of the business community on the issue of IPPs, hopefully this issue will be resolved in near future.

Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that business community is the biggest stakeholder of country's economy. Pakistan needs political stability the most at this time. As the federal capital, everyone is watching this city and every small or big activity that takes place here is noticed in every capital of the world.

Member National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that he represents the business community in the National Assembly. The issue of IPPs has been taken up by the business community in an exemplary manner, so he congratulates the leadership of all chambers including Pattern in Chief SM Tanveer, President FPCCI for the achievement. President UBG Sindh Khalid Tawab, Former President FPCCI, President UBG Balochistan Engineer Daru Khan, Former President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari expressed his gratitude for his appointment as Core Committee member by vowing to continue his endeavors for the betterment of the community.

The Core Committee also extended warm greetings to newly elected ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi by hoping that he will serve the community in the best possible way.

Kanwal and Hamza wins prestigious Meta AI Accelerator in Singapore



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kanwal Mehreen and Hamza Farooq, along with their research team at Traversaal.ai, have won the prestigious Meta AI Accelerator Competition 2024 in Singapore. The team secured a 100,000 USD grant for their innovative project, emerging victorious among competitors from 13 countries in the APAC region.

Traversaal.ai's winning product focuses on building state-of-the-art language models for 2.5 billion non-English speakers, starting with Urdu. This initiative addresses a critical gap in AI technology, potentially transforming access to digital resources and services

for a significant portion of the global population.

The initial competition held in Pakistan attracted 112 submissions, from which three teams, including Traversaal.ai, were selected to present their final pitches to a panel of judges on August 13, 2024, at NICAT. Traversaal.ai's success marks a historic moment for Pakistan, as it's the first time the country has won a competition of this magnitude on such a prominent global stage in the field of AI.

This achievement not only highlights the growing tech talent in Pakistan but also underscores the country's potential to contribute significantly to global advancements in artificial intelligence and language technology.

Pakistan govt debt reaches record high of Rs 70.36 tn

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's central government debt has surged to an all-time high of Rs 70,362 billion, marking the highest level in the country's history.

According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), federal debt increased by Rs 1,448 billion in just the first two months of the current fiscal year, with Rs 739 billion added in August alone.

As per the issued state-

ment, the federal government's debt rose by a staggering Rs 6,392 billion between September 2023 and August 2024.

As of August 2024, domestic debt accounted for Rs 48,339 billion, while external debt stood at Rs 22,023 billion.

This significant rise in government borrowing has raised concerns about the country's fiscal health and debt sustainability as Pakistan continues to grapple with economic challenges.

PTA opposes for export of live animals

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: It is unveiled from newspapers that Government is considering for the export of live animals from Pakistan for which the Chairman, Pakistan Tanners Association, Mr. Hamid Arshad Zahur along with his Central Executive Committee strongly opposed to this contemplation being made by the Government, which is ultimately severely detrimental to Leather Sector of Pakistan being vital export oriented value added industry of the country and contributing significantly to country's GDP.

He also shared with media that the Industry is already facing scarcity of raw materials (hides & skins) which is importing from abroad which is around 35%-40% out of total requirement of the Industry while the decision for export of live animals would be impacted to increase drastically the country's import bill to the unbearable extent by the country & Industry as well.

The Chairman, PTA, Mr. Hamid Arshad Zahur "Strongly Appealed" to the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif & Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain to take notice for immediate withdrawal of consideration/decision for export of live animals from Pakistan to save the leather sector of Pakistan from further deterioration to provide level playing with the common cause to achieve the desired milestones for exports which is by virtue of Government support/patronage & cooperation.

PSQCA's Leadership Crisis

Three years without a head, substandard products flood markets amid rampant corruption

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), responsible for regulating the quality of products in the country, has been exposed as a toothless institution, marred by corruption, inefficiency, and an alarming lack of leadership. For over three years, this critical agency has been functioning without a permanent Director General, allowing substandard and harmful products to freely penetrate the market under the fake PSQCA logo, wreaking havoc on public health and the national economy.

As PSQCA falters, the public is left to face a market flooded with unsafe, low-quality goods that carry counterfeit PSQCA certifications. Sources reveal that the authority has lost its grip due to rampant corruption, with its officials issuing certifications from the comfort of their desks rather than conducting field inspections. The situation is so dire that PSQCA, once a beacon of consumer protection, has become an enabler of market deception, costing the government millions in lost revenues from marking and license fees.

The rot runs deep: field operations and inspections, meant to ensure

quality control and collect marking fees from factories, have ground to a halt due to alleged staffing shortages. Yet, insiders claim the real issue is an entrenched culture of bribery and inefficiency. Instead of cracking down on violators, PSQCA officials issue clean bills of health to products without ever stepping foot in the field.

What's worse, brands whose trademarks were seized by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for large-scale tax evasion, and whose PSQCA licenses were revoked, continue to churn out fake products through third parties. Despite their illegal status, these brands remain on store shelves, a testa-

ment to PSQCA's negligence.

A brief attempt to restore order was made when PSQCA initiated action against violators some time ago, but sources suggest political interference and internal corruption quickly derailed the effort. Without a permanent Director General for over three years, the organization lacks the decisive leadership needed to clean house and restore its integrity. PSQCA's absence in the field has been so blatant that some factories continue to use revoked licenses to operate openly, contributing to national revenue losses in the billions.

The lack of leadership has created

a fertile environment for corruption to flourish. Many insiders attribute this to political interference, which has turned the appointment of a new Director General into a prolonged bureaucratic tug-of-war. Without a strong, independent leader to steer the ship, PSQCA's once reliable teams are now shadows of their former selves, allowing non-standard products to flood markets unchecked.

This failure has not only eroded consumer trust but also severely damaged Pakistan's international reputation. Without an active, functioning PSQCA, local and foreign buyers are left questioning the quality of Paki-

stani goods. Worse still, this lapse in oversight poses severe health and safety risks to the general public, who remain vulnerable to substandard, potentially dangerous products.

In the absence of decisive leadership, the very foundations of PSQCA have crumbled, and its capacity to enforce quality standards has been critically undermined. Pakistan's public deserves better than an agency bogged down by corruption and bureaucratic lethargy while rogue factories continue to endanger lives and drain the economy.

Will anyone step up to fill the void, or will PSQCA remain a silent spectator as substandard products reign supreme?

13 sports schemes approved in the meeting

Secretary Sports Punjab chairs a Departmental Development Scrutiny Committee meeting

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over a Departmental Development Scrutiny Committee meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Tuesday.

As many as 13 sports schemes were approved in the meeting. P&D Assistant Chief M Imran, Director Admin Dr. M Kaleem, Additional Secretary Sports Mian Usman Ali, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza and officers of Finance and P&D Department also participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that a sports complex will be built at the cost of Rs 52 million in Olympic star Arshad Nadeem's village 101/115 at Mian Channu. "The Punjab International Swimming Complex will also be



upgraded," he added.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that the modern squash complex will be completed in phase 2 at a cost of Rs 499 million. "As many as six courts are being

built in the modern squash complex, with a seating capacity of 700 people," Secretary Sports Punjab added.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that all possible measures are being taken for

the development of sports culture across the province. "Old sports schemes are being restored and new ones are being constructed under Punjab Chief Minister's 'Khelta Punjab' initiative," he elaborated.

First Test Match of 2nd Day

Pakistan Vs England played at Multan Cricket Stadium

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Joy Root and Zac Crowley rescue England in a psychologically difficult Test session. On the second day of the Multan Test against Pakistan, England opened their first innings in what was the last session of the day. The closing moments are always heavy in Test matches and when the opener returns to the pavilion with a total of 4 in response to 556 runs, so there are fears, but the other opener, Zac Crowley, and likely candidate for the most Test runs for England, Joe Root, have really saved their team for now.

England scored 96 runs for one wicket at the end of the second day of the first Test of the 3-Test series at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. There was a game of 20 overs. Zac Crowley was unbeaten on 64 and Joe Root on 32. Oli Pope fell victim to Naseem Shah at zero, Aamir Jamal took a brilliant catch while flying. No other bowler including Shaheen could take a wicket.

England still need 460 more runs to match Pakistan's first innings score of 556 with 9 wickets remaining.

Pakistan cricket team was bowled out for 556 runs in the first innings of the Multan cricket test match against England. The Pakistani team batted 149 overs and batted for 45 minutes in the last session of the second day. The highlight of the innings was Salman Ali Agha's brilliant century, the English fielders' malaise and the failure of the bowlers along with fatigue.

On the second day of the second cricket test match being played between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium, Pakistan started the innings



with 328 runs and 4 wickets, when the night watchman Naseem Shah became a headache. The English bowlers were helpless. For 90 minutes they were tolerating tail-enders like Naseem Shah in the middle. The English camp finally hunted him down according to the plan. The long-leg fielder was placed behind Naseem Shah ahead of the wicket-keeper in the circle and pacer Braden-Cross caught him. But he pitched a close shot, which he went to play and the catch was caught by Brooke standing behind him on the left side.

Naseem Shah was dismissed after scoring a career best 33 runs off 77 balls. This was Braden Cross's first debut wicket. Before the lunch break, England got the most important wicket of Pakistan's wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan played 12 balls and returned to the pavilion. Chris Woakes took a catch

on Jack Leach's ball. Pakistan's score at that time was 393 runs for 6 wickets.

When Salman Ali Agha Saud came to support Shakeel, the English bowlers again felt helpless. Here Chris Woakes caught one of them but in the replay his feet were hitting outside the boundary line, this chance cost him a lot. After lunch, Pakistan started the innings with 397 runs for 6 wickets. After going to 450 runs, England got the 7th wicket, when the set-beater Saud Shakeel returned to the pavilion after scoring 82 runs off 177 balls. He made the 7th half-century of his career. Joy Root took a brilliant catch at slip off spinner Shoaib Bashir.

England got their 4th wicket of the day and Pakistan's 8th for 14 runs when the score was 464. All-rounder Aamir Jamal, who was playing the Test after a long injury, was declared lbw by Cross for 7 runs. On the 9th wicket, Shaheen

Shah Afridi gave good support to Salman Ali Agha, from here Agha became more aggressive. He scored the 8th half-century of his career. He also completed 1000 career Test runs.

Salman Ali Agha scored a century batting at number 8 in the Multan Test. Salman Ali Agha scored the third century of his Test career. It is the first century after the century against Sri Lanka in 2023. He made this three-figure innings while batting at number 8 in the Test match against England at the Multan Cricket Stadium. In contrast to his partnership of 57 runs for the 7th wicket with Saud Shakeel, he benefited from Shaheen's partnership for the 9th wicket. He has completed the century with the help of 10 fours and 3 sixes on 108 balls.

Even at the tea break, Pakistan advanced the innings by 515 runs from 8 wickets. Shaheen Afridi made a partnership of 85 runs for the 9th wicket. Shaheen made 26 off 49 balls.

Abrar Ahmed scored 3 runs and was caught by Ben Duckitt standing in the slip on the ball of the root in such a way that the ball first hit the wicketkeeper's gloves, then it went through his gloves and hit Duckitt's hand and hit his chest and then it was caught by Duckitt. Duckitt is out of the field in pain. On the first day, Shaan scored 151 and Abdullah Shafiq scored 102 runs.

On behalf of England, spinner Jack Leach took 3 wickets for 160 runs. Other spinners Shoaib Bashir and Joy Root got one wicket each. Gus Atkinson scored 99 runs and Braden Cross took 2, 2 wickets for 74 runs.

There were many plays including Chris Woakes controversial catch attempt, drop catches, drop stumps.

Five Matches decided in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament.

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant double hundred (200) by Obbaiss Ullah, 124 by Syed Imran and deadly bowling by spinner Abdul Nafay 5/31.

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

Baqai Dolphin Cricket Club beat Young Cooperators Cricket Club by 318 runs at Baqai Ground. Baqai Dolphin CC 486/6 in 40 overs. Obbaiss Ullah scored 200 with the help of 27 fours and 8 Sixes, Muhammad Talha 68 6x4 3x6, Shahroz Siddiqui 65 5x4 2x6.

Young Cooperators CC 168/9 in 40 overs. Haseeb Hashmi 55 8x4 2x6. Abdul Nafay (sls) 5/31.

In the 2nd Match Inqilab Cricket Club beat Khatri Sports by 6 wickets at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. Khatri Sports 210 all out in 38.3 overs. Khalid Khan 56 4x4, Afnan Niazi 49. Asghar Khan 3/22, Shakeel Ahmed 2/26, Osama Khalid 2/31.

Inqilab CC 215/4 in 32.3 overs. Mehmood Khan 54 8x4, Sartaj Khan 37, Muhammad Abbas 3/42.

In the 3rd Match Vital Five Cricket Club defeated Qazaffi Gymkhana by 7 wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Qazaffi Gymkhana 163 all out in 30.2 overs. Nadir Ansari 49 9x4. Bilal Ahmed 3/49, Arsalan Hussain 2/13, Muhammad Zeeshan 2/47.

Vital Five CC 165/3 in 27.4 overs. Rahyab 50 6x4, Faizan Hussain 42, Jawed Khan 2/23.

In the fourth Match Khadija Cricket Club beat Qasba Sports by 8 wickets at Afza Ground. Qasba Sports 130 all out in 30.5 overs. Orangaib 26. Hazrat Karam (sla) 5/26.

Khadija CC 133/2 in 20.2 overs. Saleemullah 50 3x4 1x6, Hashir Mehmood 50 5x4.

In the 5th Match Rehbar Sports beat Abu Rehan Cricket Club by 38 runs at Students Ground. Rehbar Sports 253/4 in 40 overs. Syed Imran 124 12x4 6x6, Anas Shah 79 13x4. Muhammad Azlan Khan 2/40.

Abu Rehan CC 215/9 in 40 overs. Muhammad Ali 43, Sameer 30 and Hamza Saleem 27. Anas Shah 2/28, Zunair Ali 2/33, Syed Imran 2/44.

Sam Curran frustrated over missing out on Test recall despite Ben Stokes' injury



Sports Desk

England all-rounder Sam Curran has expressed his frustration over not getting a recall to the Test team despite captain Ben Stokes' injury.

Stokes suffered a hamstring injury while playing for the Northern Superchargers during The Hundred 2024 back in August.

He tore his left hamstring which kept him away from cricket for the rest of the summer season, including the home Test series against Sri Lanka.

Curran, who last played red-ball cricket for England in August 2021, recently shared that he was expecting a call-up to the Test team after Stokes' injury.

"I'll be totally honest when Stokesy [Ben Stokes] got injured, I did probably think that was my way back into the Test team," Sam Curran said while talking to talkSPORT.

"A couple of weeks back, I had a meeting with Keysy [Rob Key, director of cricket] just to get a bit of understanding of where the group is, and how I see myself getting back into the Test side."

The 26-year-old all-rounder revealed that he was disappointed over missing out on a place in the Test squad.

"Being a young player who experienced Test cricket so young, I feel like I had the advantage to know what it's about, to know what winning a Test match is, and the grind and the grit and attitude that you need... so I was a little bit gutted," he stated.

"Selection is selection, but I thought that was my way back into the side at the minute."

Sam Curran has featured in 24 Tests for England from 2018 to 2021, taking 47 wickets and scoring 815 runs.

Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal briefly tops ICC Women's T20I player rankings

Spinner Sadia Iqbal became the first player from Pakistan to top the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's T20I rankings when she briefly overtook long-time number-one England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

However, it didn't last long as Ecclestone recaptured her No.1 ranking slot in the weekly update carried out on Tuesdays, the ICC said in a press release.

Ecclestone had started the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in the top spot — which she had occupied since February 2020. Sadia drew level with her on 757 rating points after taking three for 17 against Sri Lanka in a Group A match on Thursday.



Great Inning and Century

MULTAN: Salam Ali Agha great inning and century against England cricket team in 2nd day of First Cricket Test Match played at Multan International Cricket Stadium.



Pakistan plan to send a football team to Russia for friendly match

KARACHI: In a surprising move, the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is planning to send a football team to Russia for a friendly match this month, after talks between the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and the Russian Football Union for an official friendly match failed to materialise.

What makes this situation more intriguing is that the players are not being selected by the PFF — the official governing body of football in Pakistan. Instead, the PSB is assembling the team from what it refers to as "available resources". A senior PSB official confirmed to this correspondent that Pakistan will honour an invitation from the Russian government for a football match scheduled for October 11, 2024.

"The invitation, issued by Russia's Minister of Sport, was sent through diplomatic channels, formally requesting Pakistan's participation in the friendly match to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations," the official said.

Bangladesh's Mahmudullah Riyad announces T20 retirement

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah Riyad said Tuesday his remaining two T20 matches in India will be his last international appearance in the format, vowing to play out with a "good show".

The 38-year-old Mahmudullah, who quit Tests in 2021, is set to play his 140th T20 match for Bangladesh in the second game in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The tourists need to win in the Indian capital to keep the three-

match series alive, after they lost the opener by seven wickets in Gwalior.

"I am retiring from T20 cricket after the last game of this series," Mahmudullah told reporters.

The final match of the series will be in Hyderabad on Saturday.

"I was pre-decided before coming here. I had a chat with my family and with my coach and captain," Mahmudullah added.

"It is the right time to move on from this format for me and the team as well and concentrate on

the one-day game."

Mahmudullah Riyad has been Bangladesh's warhorse after he made his international debut in 2007 in a one-day international against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

He has played 50 Tests, 232 ODIs and 139 T20 matches for his country with over 10,500 runs across formats as a dependable middle-order batsman and 165 wickets with his off-spin.

"If we can play to our ability (in Delhi), then we could put up a good show", he said.

Mahmudullah said he had "no

regrets" in his 17-year career.

"I have never ever regretted, at any stage at any point of my life, playing for Bangladesh," he said. "I have always been a team man."

The veteran said the T20 team remains in good hands under skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto.

Mahmudullah Riyad's T20 exit comes soon after star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan announced his decision to quit the format last month during the Test series, which the tourists lost 2-0.

India's left-arm quick Arsh-



deep Singh meanwhile said he was making the most of his opportunities in the national team without thinking much about the future.

"My life mantra is to enjoy the present," Arshdeep, who made his India debut in 2022, told reporters.

"I want to do my best in all the formats wherever I get the opportunity."

Arshdeep, who has claimed 86 wickets in 55 T20 internationals, played in India's T20 World Cup triumph in June.

Non-Proliferation Conference 2024

Group photo of Participants of Non-Proliferation Conference 2024 held at Rawalpindi Hosted by Strategic Vision Institute. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza was the chief guest.



Photo: ISPR

Senator Dar graces the signing ceremony for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects by KSrelief

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, graced the signing ceremony, today, held for a series of key reconstruction and rehabilitation projects, to be undertaken by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), marking a significant step in strengthening Pakistan-Saudi humanitarian cooperation. The ceremony was attended by a high-level delegation from KSrelief, led by Eng. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Al-Baiz, Assistant Supervisor General for Operations & Programs, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan.

In his opening remarks, the DPM/FM expressed his



gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz

Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their unwavering support

to Pakistan during times of crisis. He praised KSrelief's vital role in delivering

humanitarian assistance, particularly in response to recent natural disasters in Pakistan, including floods and earthquakes. He underscored that these new initiatives will focus on building and rehabilitating essential infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and housing.

The DPM/FM further noted that the collaboration between KSrelief and Pakistan has intensified over the years, with the humanitarian organization playing a pivotal role in various sectors including healthcare, food aid, and education. He expressed confidence that this new phase of cooperation would further cement the ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and ensure that those most in need receive timely and effective support.

Intellectuals from around the world attend Islamabad Non-Proliferation Conference

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad, hosted Islamabad Non-Proliferation Conference 2024, a two-day international event bringing together a distinguished group of scholars and experts from around the world. The conference aimed at fostering constructive dialogue on global strategic issues and share Pakistan's policy perspectives.

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the Chief Guest. The conference featured keynote addresses delivered by distinguished policymakers and practitioners from Pakistan including General Zubair Mehmood Hayat (Retired), Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Advisor National Command Authority (NCA), and Lt. Gen. Sarfraz Sattar, Advisor, NCA.

Participants included prominent international scholars from Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (MEMO RAS), Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS), Russia, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, US, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), UK, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University), Saint Petersburg State University, Shanghai University, Peking University, University at Albany, State University of New York and University of Birmingham.

This high-level conference not only reinforced Pakistan's commitment to global non-proliferation efforts but also emphasized the importance of strategic dialogue in maintaining regional and international security.

Won't let go focus on ensuring structural reforms, FM tells foreign investors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the government is focused on ensuring that Pakistan stays on the course of structural reforms in core sectors of economy, including energy, SOEs, privatization, taxation and rightsizing of government.

He said that in the past Pakistan has been seen as a single-tranche country but time has come to remove this perception and implement the structural benchmarks agreed under the programme with the IMF to ensure permanence to the macroeconomic stability. He made this observa-



tion while talking to a group of investors led by Barclays, who called on the Minister at Finance Division today. The Minister briefed the delegation on various policy interventions and initiatives implemented during the last 12 months to reform the economy and also gave them an overview of the growth and macroeconomic

stability in key economic indicators, including twin deficits, stable currency, foreign exchange reserves, and inflation that remained "a big story throughout the year".

The Minister said the current macroeconomic stability was an outcome of a successful conclusion of nine-month IMF Stand-by Agree-

ment, initiated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and implemented with discipline, rigour and vigour by the caretaker administration, paving the way for a larger and longer EFF to bring permanence to the macroeconomic stability and implement structural reforms.

He highlighted a positive outcome of the macroeconomic stability for Pakistan was its ability to not only clear the Letters of Credit and Import backlogs by May and June last year, but also clear the payments of profits and dividends close to \$ 2 billion to foreign investors.

He said the new fiscal year had started on a clean slate and noted the continuation

of macroeconomic stability in the first quarter with current account deficit remaining under control due to strong remittances, healthy RDA flows and exports showing positive trends in terms of diversification and a higher delta in IT exports and services as per August figures.

The Minister also referred to credit upgrades by the international credit rating agencies and shared plans to access the international capital markets. He said the government had sent some powerful signals to the local market by scrapping some bank auctions to convey the message that it was under no desperation to borrow and it would only borrow at more palatable rates.

Senator Rubina Khalid visits National Skills University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Emphasis on Collaboration between Benazir Income Support Programme and National Skills University for International-Standard Skills Training of Deserving Individuals

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the National Skills University today, where she was received and welcomed by Vice Chancellor NSU Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar alongside faculty members. During the meeting, Dr. Mukhtar provided a detailed briefing to Senator Rubina Khalid on the various short courses offered by the university.

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of collabora-

tion between the Benazir Income Support Programme and the National Skills University to provide skills training that meets international standards for deserving women and their families. This, she stated, would help them secure better employment opportunities in line with global market trends.

On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid proposed to the Vice Chancellor the enhancement of skills training certifications in collaboration with the government of Germany. She highlighted the high demand for skilled manpower in both local and international markets, stressing that to empower deserving individuals socially and economically, it is essential that their skills are certified to international standards.

Increasing Exports Essential for Pakistan's Economic Development: Jam Kamal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan said Pakistan's economic future depends significantly on a notable increase in exports.

While addressing an event at the Governance Innovation Lab on the theme of "Export-Led Economy," he emphasized that without boosting our exports, the country's economic sovereignty cannot be achieved.

He stressed the need for a comprehensive strategy to raise exports to \$60 billion by the fiscal year 2029, warning that failure to increase exports



would lead to continued reliance on IMF loans and remittances, which is detrimental to

the national economy.

Jam Kamal reported that Pakistan's exports reached

\$30.6 billion in the fiscal year 2024, with a remarkable 54.8% increase in the agricultural sector, bringing exports to \$7.95 billion.

He noted that global factors such as COVID-19, the Ukraine war, and regional tensions have adversely affected exports; however, the government has developed a cohesive strategy to address these challenges.

He mentioned that Pakistan's services sector has also seen significant growth, particularly in IT and telecommunications. In 2023, service exports reached \$7.1 billion, with further increases expected.

Coordinated response crucial for effective disaster management: Romina

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday that Pakistan faces exacerbating risks from natural disasters, many of them caused due to climate change, as demonstrated by the devastating 2005 earthquake, the 2022 floods and 2015 heat wave.

However, building resilience is inevitable to ensure that lives and livelihoods of the people, natural ecosystems, critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and hospitals can withstand these calamities, reducing loss of life and minimizing the economic impact, the PM's climate aide emphasized in her statement in the context of the National Resilience Day.

Every year on October 8, Pakistan commemorates National Resilience



Day to remember the tragic earthquake that struck in 2005, devastating parts of northern Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. This day serves as a reminder of the over 73,000 lives lost and countless others impacted by the 7.6 magnitude earthquake. It also sheds light on Pakistan's ongoing efforts to build resilience against natural

disasters, which are becoming more frequent and intense.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam paid tribute to the victims of both the 2005 earthquake, the floods of 2022 and 2015 heat wave, acknowledging the immense challenges posed by climate change.

She highlighted the role of the various federal and provincial government organisations for implementing policies and plans for disaster resilience building of the country, its people and ecosystems.

"The 8th October day underscores the unprecedented significance of collaboration between local, provincial and national stakeholders to strengthen disaster response systems and improve infrastructure, poverty alleviation, and environmental management," Ms Alam said.