



Wary of PTM's jirga, Naqvi vows strict action against facilitators of banned outfit

Expressing deep concern over the upcoming three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga organised by the recently-proscribed Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warned that anyone found involved in facilitating the banned organisation would be dealt with iron fist.



'Pakistan's first 800GB WDM system' launched for faster connectivity

The PTCL group, Pakistan's top integrated ICT provider, has achieved a major milestone by launching the country's first 800 Gbps per wavelength Super C+L Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) system. This advanced technology enables a data transmission capacity of 64 Tbps per fibre, with the potential to reach up to 96 Tbps, marking a significant step forward for Pakistan's digital infrastructure, according to the company's statement.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

1 soldier martyred, 2 terrorists killed in terrorist attack

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In early hours of 09 October 2024, a group of terrorists tried to attack a Frontier Corps' Post in Zhob District.

The attempt to enter the camp was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, and resultantly two terrorists, including a suicide bomber and HVT Terrorist Umar, Umari, were sent to hell, before they could cause the intended damage.

Terrorist Umar, Umari was involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians, including recent attack on convoy of Deputy Commissioner, Sherani.

However, during intense exchange of fire, Havildar Jamshed Khan (age: 39 years; resident of: Dera Bugti District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to neutralize any other terrorist present in the area.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan,



HAV JAMSHED KHAN SHAHEED 09-10-2024

and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve.

Meanwhile: n 09 October 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Mir Ali in North Waziristan District, on reported presence of Khwarji.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and khwarji, as a result of which, two Khwarji were sent to hell. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from killed Khwarji, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians in the area.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Cabinet body approves independent multiplayer market for power purchase, generation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy on Wednesday approved the establishment of an independent multiplayer market for power generation and purchase to pave the way for a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity.

The committee, in its meeting chaired by Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, principally approved the formation of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) which will be later endorsed by the federal cabinet and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under the Companies Act 2017, according to a PM Office press release.

The ISMO is aimed at gradually doing away with the government's role as a sole buyer of

electricity and turning the electricity market into a multiplayer independent, transparent, and competitive market. It will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies.

Under the ISMO, long-term planning would be made to produce low-cost electricity and its transmission besides reducing the power prices and circular debt.

The ISMO Board will comprise the experts from the power sector. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the circular debt of the power sector.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the priority measures were being taken for the power sector reforms and instructed accelerated actions to reduce power theft and losses besides taking disciplinary action against the employees of the distribution companies involved

in the theft.

The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned to utilise modern technology to bring reforms and curb power theft.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari, Dr Musaddik Malik, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, and other members of the committee attended the meeting.

Fazl condemns violence against jirga in KP



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has condemned the violence against jirga participants in Wana and Khyber.

In a statement, Maulana Fazlur Rehman urged the state to listen to the tribes, warning that violence and firing will only worsen the situation. He described the violence against the tribes in Wana and Khyber as reprehensible and called on the government and the state to avoid escalating the situation.

He emphasized that violence does not resolve movements; rather, it exacerbates them. He advocated for resolving issues through dialogue and negotiation.

He further stated that jirgas, protests, and sit-ins are hallmarks of democracy, questioning the government's excessive apprehension.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed condolences to the families of those killed and called for immediate medical assistance for the injured, offering prayers for their speedy recovery.

Changing economy's DNA must for inclusive, sustainable growth: Finance Minister



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing its reform agenda and meeting structural benchmarks to lend permanence to macroeconomic stability, promote inclusive, sustainable growth and end Pakistan's reliance on external borrowing.

He made it clear that the only way this goal could be successfully achieved, was by changing the DNA of the economy by moving it away from its

usual boom-and-bust cycles and leading it to a sustained export-led growth, encouraging investment and FDI flows into export-oriented sectors and getting access back to the international capital market.

He called the recent signing of a National Fiscal Pact between Federation and the provinces a milestone in achieving harmony in driving the pace of structural reforms and incentivizing the provinces to mobilise greater tax resources, rationalize their development expenditures and improve their governance to meet the development goals.

The minister thanked ADB

for its continued support to Pakistan's development agenda and its assistance provided in key sectors. He said Pakistan looked forward to further deepen its partnership with the ADB through enhanced assistance and support for its reform programme.

On the occasion, Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank, Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank and other ADB officials expressed their appreciation for the bold reforms undertaken by Pakistan for stabilizing its economy and achieving sustainable growth.

Judge suspended for issuing stay order on Monal demolition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has suspended Judge Inamullah, who issued a stay order despite the Supreme Court's decision to demolish the Monal Restaurant.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued the suspension orders, reassigning Inamullah from his position as Senior Civil Judge to OSD (Officer on Special Duty).

Judge Inamullah has been ordered to report to the High Court immediately.

Additionally, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq has initiated an inquiry against the Senior Civil Judge.

Read more: In pictures: Labourers demolish Islamabad's Monal restaurant

The inquiry officer will be Session Judge Kamran Basharat Mufti.

According to court sources, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had summoned Senior Civil Judge Inamullah to the High Court today.

PM lauds security forces for thwarting terrorist attack in Zhob

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the security forces for foiling a terrorist attack on Frontier Corps post in District Zhob.

The prime minister appreciated the security forces for sending two terrorists to hell, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also expressed his grief over Shahadat of Havaladar

Jamshaid Khan and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

The prime minister observed that the Jawans of security forces were acting like bulwark against the scourge of terrorism and the sacrifices of Shuhada would not go in vain.

He also reiterated the resolve to continue the fight against terrorists till complete elimination of terrorism.

Amendment can be passed on 'conscience votes' but consensus would be better: Bilawal



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stated that while his party has no deadline for the proposed constitutional amendment, the government might face one. He expressed hope that the amendment would be passed by October 25.

Speaking to reporters at the Zardari House in Islamabad, Bhutto emphasized the PPP's efforts to achieve consensus among all political parties, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Bilawal acknowledged

the government's option to proceed with a vote based on conscience, but reiterated the PPP's commitment to seeking a broader agreement.

He added that the party would review the draft amendment proposed by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) once it is received. He hinted at the seriousness of recent discussions, referencing a high-level meeting at the President's House involving five key figures.

Bilawal expressed concern over a court order issued on a non-working day, suggesting a lack of transparency. He reiterated the PPP's demand for judicial reforms and equal rights for provinces.

While Maulana Fazlur Rehman had initially agreed to constitutional and judicial reforms, the PPP and JUI-F rejected the government's proposed amendments to Articles 8 and 51 of the constitution, he claimed.

Commissioner Silwat reviews bids for vacant government land in four districts



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A meeting of the Divisional Identification Committee was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Silwat Saeed, in which the issues of auctioning properties owned by the provincial government in the districts of the division were reviewed. The Deputy Commissioners of Singh and Chiniot informed about

the progress regarding the auction of the properties in their districts through video link. The Commissioner completed the report to the Deputy Commissioners of the four districts regarding the auction of the properties owned by the provincial government in two days. He said that the newly proposed rent rates should also be re-checked. All districts should hold District Rent Assessment Committee meetings. Put

numbers outside every shop. He said that the every case will be fully detailed in the meeting again on Saturday. He presented with Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed also presided over the important meeting of the high-level committee established for the maintenance and protection of government land. Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad and assistant commissioners were also present. The commissioner took the

details of the availability of government land from the assistant commissioners. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue was directed to visit Colony Branch Faisalabad and submit a comprehensive report. Geo-tagging should be done. He clarified that there is no room for lack of interest in revenue affairs. Assistant commissioners should have complete command in revenue affairs.

In Khairpur, public criticism of police, drug abuse ratchet higher

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: In the Khairpur district, social evils and drug use are rapidly increasing, with severe criticism of the police's role. Public opinion suggests that police officials are accused of protecting drug trade and other social crimes, particularly from the SHO level up to the SSP office, where rumors of monthly kickbacks are widespread.

The Mill Colony area of Khairpur is at the forefront of these social issues, where despite numerous complaints from residents, authorities have remained silent. This situation has forced citizens to consider relocating.

The silence of the authorities and the alleged corruption within the police system are eroding public trust. Although the SSP of Khairpur is seen as a capable officer, the local police team's conduct is believed to be undermining his efforts.

DC Attock presiding meeting regarding anti-dengue



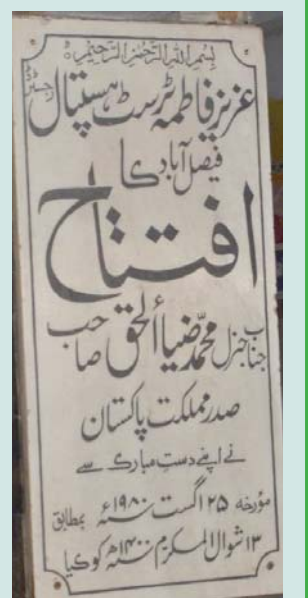
Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has stated that the complete eradication of dengue is possible through active public participation and awareness. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding the anti-dengue campaign at the DC Office Attock. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed, Assistant Commissioners, CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail, District Coordinator IRMNCH Dr. Muhammad Saeed, and officers from various departments, including Education and Health. Dr. Asad Ismail and health department officials provided a detailed briefing to the participants on the anti-dengue campaign. It was informed during the briefing that efforts are underway across the district to eliminate dengue, and all departments are playing their special roles in this regard. In addition, awareness campaigns are also being run to educate the public. During his address at the meeting, the DC Attock emphasized that under the current circumstances, the dengue mosquito is extremely dangerous and life-threatening.

Aziz Fatima Trust Hospital in Faisalabad becomes commercial institution

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Aziz Fatima Trust Hospital was inaugurated on August 25, 1980 by General Zia-ul-Haq, Haji Bashir Ahmed, the owner of Sattar Textiles, Sargodha Road, Faisalabad, and his brother Abdul Ghafo, established this trust hospital to serve the public and provide free treatment, and the land for this trust hospital was provided by the government of Pakistan. In the welcome speech, it was said that Mr. General, only by getting a slip of four visits, free treatment will be given, but later the owners of the trust hospital made it a source of income and started earning crores of rupees per month. Millions of rupees are collected as rent, from twelve crore rupees to fifteen crore rupees are distributed to the poor people in the name of treatment. At that time, in addition to General Sawar Khan, General Mujibur Rahman, representatives of national and local newspapers also participated, including Khaksar, Maqbool Ahmed Lodhi, representative of special newspaper Imrooz, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Waheed and Commissioner Mehboob Ahmed, SSP Irfan Mahmood and others. The personalities were involved. Now this trust hospital has become a commercial institution and it is sucking the blood of the people. The government should immediately take control of this trust hospital and give it the status of a public hospital so that the people can get cheap treatment as well as free medicines. Citizens have demanded from the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Punjab that the income of the last forty-four years should also be taken into account, and this was immediately done by General Zia-ul-Haq of Aziz Fatima Trust Hospital on 25 August 1980. Haji Bashir Ahmed of Faisalabad and his brother Abdul Ghafoor had established this hospital to serve the people and provide free treatment and the land was provided by the government for this trust.



World Post Day

RAWALPINDI: Students hold placards during a ceremony on the eve of World Post Day, at G.P.O office in the city.



Photo: Online

Prophet's biography is a torch for us: Shaheen Moazzam Khakwani

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Chairman Inner Well District 343 Club Mrs. Shaheen Moazzam Khakwani has said that the Prophet's biography is a torch for us, we have to follow it and achieve success in this world and the hereafter. Before, women were oppressed. He gave women their place.

The Holy Prophet paid special attention to the education of women. He expressed these thoughts while speaking as a special guest on the occasion of the Naat-e-Khwani competition in collaboration with Anner Wheel District 343 at Muhammad Bin Qasim



Blind Center yesterday said that the Prophet was sent as a mercy for both

worlds.

Saeeda Kirmani of Qasim Blind Center said that information about the complete biography of the Prophet is provided in the Hazr Institute and the Holy Quran is taught with translation. Recitation competitions are the link of the same.

A large number of students participated in Naat-Khwani and quiz competitions. At the end, prizes were distributed among those who took positions and the institution also gave 50 bed sheets for this purpose from Anner Wheel District 343 Club. A large number of blind students participated in the event

Postmaster General Zaheer says despite changing times, postal services are unquestionable

Asad Hashmi

ISLAMABAD: Postmaster General Northern Punjab Muhammad Zaheer has said that despite the rapid changes of the modern era, the usefulness of postal services is unquestionable in all respects. 5 million employees associated with this organization have connected the entire world. Countries that do not trade with each other also exchange mail. He was addressing the flag hoisting ceremony at Rawalpindi GPO on the occasion of World Post Day. In which Deputy Postmaster General Arshad Khan, Noorul Saba, Chief Postmaster Asma Noorin and other officers, students of schools and customers especially fans of commemorative tickets participated. On this occasion, a cake was cut to mark the



150th anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union.

The Postmaster General said that the rates of Pakistan Post are the cheapest even today. A normal postal envelope of Rs.20 is distributed all over the country. He said that special efforts are being made for the improvement of services. After the digitalization process of the institution is completed, the mail distributed in any post office will be able to be tracked. Deputy Postmaster General Arshad Khan conveyed the message of Director General UPU and informed about the new facilities and said that Pakistan Post has provided postal services to the public through GPOs across the country on Sunday as well. NADRA counters were opened in GPOs. The Postal Museum at GPO also remained a center of public interest.

Diabetes Centre Australia raises funds for Sahiwal centre at Grand Royale Lounge

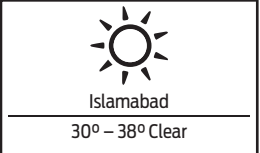
News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre Australia organized a successful Diabetes Awareness & Fundraising Dinner at the Grand Royale Lounge in Granville, Sydney, marking a significant achievement in raising funds to support the construction of The Diabetes Centre (TDC) in Sahiwal.

The evening commenced with a beautiful recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Mustafa Shahid, followed by a warm welcome address from Hafiz Shahid Iqbal, President of TDC Australia Sydney. Mr. Mustafa Chaudhry, Patron of TDC Australia, enlightened the audience on the significance of charity in Islam and its positive impact on the community.

Dr. Asrar Khan, President of TDC Australia, provided an insightful overview of the organization's ongoing projects, highlighting the transformative work being done for diabetes patients. A key highlight of the evening was a powerful awareness lecture delivered by Prof. Dr. H. E. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, whose support greatly enhanced the event's impact. An exciting auction, led by Mr. Hossain Goss, Mr. Hussein Salem, and Mr. Naeem Haq, raised significant contributions for TDC.

Special thanks go to Ms. Sana Zafar and Ms. Sayda Fareeha for their contributions throughout the evening. Attendees were also treated to a mesmerizing classical performance by Ustad Khan Rifaqat Ali Khan, adding a memorable touch to the night.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:45 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 4:01 pm
Maghrib 5:41 pm
Isha 7:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

Shehroze Kashif, 22, conquers 14 Himalines in record-breaking run

City Desk

LAHORE: At just a mention, the name Shehroze Kashif echoes a story of staunch resilience, unyielding dedication, and a source of immense pride for the nation. Today, Pakistan's most esteemed mountaineer, only 22 years of age, has etched his name in history by summiting Shishapangma, standing tall at 8,027 meters.

This incredible feat has not only elevated him to the pinnacle of mountaineering but also crowned him as the youngest Pakistani to conquer all 14 of the world's highest peaks, setting a new benchmark for human endurance and national pride.

Shehroze said, "I knew it would be incredibly difficult, and the risk of losing my life was real. But I kept focusing on one thought—what if I succeeded? With strong faith in Allah, I found the strength to push through. Now, standing here, I realize that this achievement is not just about conquering mountains; it's about conquering fears, doubts, and limitations. For me, it's nothing short of a miracle."

ADB delegation visits bisp one window center in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Executive and Alternate Executive Directors from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) One Window Center in G-7, Islamabad, to review its operations.

Led by Mr. Donald Bobiash, the delegation included Mr. Shigeo Shimizu, Mr. Supak Chaiyawan, Mr. Noor Ahmed, Mr. Shantanu Mitra, and Mr. Llewellyn Roberts.

During the visit, Mr. Naveed Akbar, Director General NSER/CCT at BISP, briefed the team on BISP's core programs, including Benazir Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, Undergraduate Scholarship, the NSER database, Mobile Registration Vehicles, and the payment mech-



anisms.

The delegation also observed the registration process for women beneficiaries, the enrollment of out-of-school

children under Taleemi Wazaif, the Nashonuma Center, and the payment facilities at BISP partner bank counters.

The ADB delegation

commended the efficient operations and the range of services provided to women beneficiaries at the BISP One Window Center.

Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: Constitution Avenue of Federal Capital being decorated in connection with SCO Summit.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DEFIM Chairperson lauds CBD Punjab's commitment to urban growth

City Desk

LAHORE: Brigadier (R) Sitara E Imtiaz Military Babar Alauddin, Chairperson of the Chief Minister's Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection, and Monitoring (DEFIM), paid a visit to the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab). He was warmly welcomed by CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin and COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua.

During the visit, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, provided a comprehensive briefing on the authority's mission, vision, business model, and ongoing projects, highlighting their timelines for completion. Brigadier (R) Babar Alauddin commended the ongoing initiatives and emphasized the importance of CBD NSIT City project. He particularly stressed the timely completion of Walton Road as per directives from Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin,



updated Brigadier (R) Babar Alauddin on key projects such as Route 47 and the Walton Railway Crossing flyover, elaborating on the revenue-sharing model implemented for sustainable

development. The senior management of CBD Punjab, including Executive Director Technical Riaz Hussain, Director Marketing Waseem Siddiq, Director Business Development Ali

Waqar Shah, Director Project Management Asif Iqbal, Director Architecture and Planning Sameer Aftab Sial, Director HR & IT Palwasha Mengal, and Director Finance Mansoor Saeed, also participated in the discussions.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, stated, "CBD Punjab is dedicated to delivering sustainable and innovative projects that align with the region's growth needs. Our focus on modern infrastructure and efficient project execution will not only reshape the economic landscape but also significantly improve the quality of life for our communities."

During the visit, Brigadier (R) Babar Alauddin (R) inspected CBD Route 47, Walton Railway Crossing flyover, and Walton Road, noting the significant improvements underway. He highlighted CBD Punjab's role in addressing the ADA Nullah issue, providing relief to residents along Walton Road. He emphasized that the completion of the Walton Railway Crossing flyover will greatly enhance the area's traffic management.

AIOU holds 70th BASR meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 70th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) at Allama Iqbal Open University was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. The meeting was coordinated and facilitated by BASR Director, Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad. Dr. Arshad presented a report on the implementation of decisions from the previous meeting and introduced the agenda for the current meeting. Deans from the university's four faculties, distinguished scholars, subject specialists, and supervisors participated in the meeting. Fourteen PhD students presented their synopses. One student each from Secondary Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education & Elementary Teacher Education, two from Special Education, three from History, three from Physics, and four from Arabic presented their research proposals. After thorough evaluation by subject specialists, the research topics were approved. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, emphasized that Allama Iqbal Open University is paying special attention to promoting research. He stressed the need to align research with societal needs, so it can contribute to social reform and the socio-economic development of the country. He further added that the research expertise of scholars is enhancing both student learning and the academic standards of the institution.

56th Board of Directors meeting of EHFPRO held

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On October 9, 2024, the 56th Board of Directors meeting of EHFPRO was convened in the Committee Room of the Housing Authority, chaired by Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal, Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority. The board addressed key issues regarding the EHFPRO project, with a focus on technical challenges and identifying solutions. Senior officers from EHFPRO and directors from the Housing Authority provided recommendations to the Director General to address these issues.

Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal emphasized the need to reiterate the project's importance and its potential benefits to federal employees and investors. He directed the team to develop a comprehensive action plan for the rehabilitation of the project within seven days, to be presented at the next board meeting. He further highlighted that this project represents a prime opportunity for secure investment, which will boost the construction sector and benefit over 40 related industries. It will generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal stressed the critical nature of the project and stated that failure will not be tolerated. Moving forward, all factors contributing to project delays will be thoroughly addressed.

Asma Butt, Naeem Pasha call Tehreek-e-Insaaf an anarchist party

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Prominent representative of Art and Culture and female leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N Asma Butt and President of Youth Wing Rawalpindi Division Naeem Pasha termed Tehreek-e-Insaaf as an anarchist



party, and said that holding the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Pakistan is another significant achievement of the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-N. The people of Pakistan are well aware. People have rejected Anarchy Party. This fact has become a headache for Anarchy Party. Tehreek-e-Insaaf is dying at the hands of its unwise leadership. The time is not far when new chapters of development and prosperity will be created under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-N.

Expressing their common statement on the current situation in the country, Asma Butt and Naeem Pasha said that the holding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit Conference (SCO) shows that Pakistan is recognized as a reliable and peaceful state at the international level. The reward of which goes to the current leadership of Muslim League-N. Pakistan Muslim League has completed numerous development projects for the welfare of the nation in every period. Take practical steps instead of rhetoric. The people prospered during the Pakistan Muslim League-N era. But the anarchy party is not in favor of the country's security and development. When the country suffered an economic crisis during their rule, So Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif not only saved the country from this crisis but also set the state on a new path of development. Asma Butt further said that the particular section is the supporter of the Anarchist Party and has staked its future. I would like to tell them that there is still time, Be a part of the development of the country, expose the politicians of anarchy, the pti is on its way to an end. The understanding and loving people of Pakistan are eager to see the country flourish under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-N. People should fully support Mian Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The time is not far when Pakistan will create a new chapter of development and prosperity under the leadership of Muslim League-N.

Virtual University and Bank Alfalah Sign Integrated Payment Gateway

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A significant step towards modernizing e-banking solutions for students was taken as a delegation from Bank Alfalah Ltd visited the Virtual University of Pakistan's Head Office in G-5, Islamabad. The visit marked the signing ceremony of agreements for the Integrated Payment Gateway (IPG) and Payroll systems.

The delegation from Bank Alfalah was warmly received by the Rector of Virtual University, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, and his team. During the cere-

mony, Rector, VU acknowledged the importance of these agreements, highlighting Virtual University's commitment to embracing cutting-edge financial solutions. The new initiatives, particularly concerning IPG and Payroll, will streamline financial transactions and enhance ease for students and staff.

Discussions also focused on several potential collaborative efforts between Bank Alfalah and Virtual University, including the implementation of the 1-Bill system and the introduction of a debit card facility

for students. These cards will not only serve as debit cards but also act as smart student ID cards, benefitting over 150,000 students.

The Virtual University delegation included:

Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, Rector, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan, Director Finance, Prof. Dr. Ather Azim Khan, Registrar, Mr. Ehsan Puri, Director ICT, Dr. Faisal Tehseen Shah, Controller of Exams

Prof. Dr. Mohsin Javed, Dean, Mr. Aamir Hasan Khan, Director P&D, Mr. Muhammad Sajid Gill, Additional Director

Finance

Representing Bank Alfalah Ltd were:

Mr. Husnain Zaigham, Business Head North, Mr. Akmal Khattak, Regional Business Head

Mr. Umair Hassan, Area Manager, Mr. Bilal Munir, Regional Sales Manager, Employee Banking

Mr. Sohaib Malik, Senior Manager, Retail Cash Management, Ms. Maveria Salim, Branch Manager



This partnership is expected to revolutionize the financial infrastructure for the university and its students, enabling seamless, modern, and efficient financial operations.

H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Message on October 7th as Day of Solidarity with Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has taken a pioneering and commendable initiative to declare October 7th as the Day of Solidarity with Palestine.

This initiative could serve as a model for all countries, especially Muslim nations, to establish creative paradigms in order to annually commemorate the memory of the tens of thousands of innocent civilian martyrs in Gaza and Lebanon including women and children, and to recall the memory of the victims of the genocide committed by



the Israeli regime.

This day will shine as a symbol of

freedom, resistance against occupation, resilience and self-determination of the Palestinian nation, and defiance against oppression and tyranny on the global calendar.

Also, this initiative can become a model of integrity in all countries that have not yet engaged in practical condemnation of the Zionist regime's crimes against humanity. Undoubtedly, it's the demand of the lover of Palestinian Cause all around the world to welcome and support this great initiative by recognizing October 7th as the Day of Solidarity with Palestine and to commemorate it annually.

World Mental Health Day: Employees' digital fatigue leads to higher cyber risks



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In observing World Mental Health Day on the 10th of October, Kaspersky warns of the relationship between digital fatigue and increased exposure to cyber risks.

In today's data-driven and digital business environment, office employees are bombarded with a constant feed of notifications, continuous digital interactions and the need to make huge amounts of decisions throughout the day. Even though advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning are helping to improve efficiencies, workers are under significant strain. This can result in digital fatigue that not only negatively impacts an employee's well-being and productivity versus higher rates of burnout, but also risks opening the company to a range of cyberthreats, from phishing to deepfakes, warns Kaspersky.

In fact, a research by Forbes Advisor shows that digital communications make 58% of employees feel like they need to be available more often. This results in 60% of the workforce feeling increased burnout. The constant need to stay online and multitask adds to this high-pressure environment, making employees more prone to mistakes.

"Employees face hundreds of decisions daily, that range from small, routine choices to critical business decisions. Eventually, the brain's ability to make sound judgments declines over time and pressure. The constant influx of emails, messages, and alerts are exacerbating this digital fatigue," says Brandon Muller, Technical Expert for the MEA region at Kaspersky.

Phishing remains one of the most widespread forms of cybercrime. Fatigued employees are more likely to miss the warning signs of a phishing email, especially when they are just one among many in their overflowing inboxes and as phishing campaigns become ever more sophisticated.

Turkish Airlines pilot dies mid-flight



In a shocking incident, a Turkish Airlines pilot died mid-flight before the plane made an emergency landing in New York.

In a statement, a spokesperson of the airline said on Wednesday that the plane took off from the western US coastal city of Seattle on Tuesday evening.

Taking X, the airline's spokesman Yahya Ustun said: "The pilot of our Airbus 350... flight TK204 from Seattle to Istanbul collapsed during the flight."

"After an unsuccessful attempt to give first aid, the flight crew of another pilot and a co-pilot decided to make an emergency landing, but he died before landing."

Ustun further said that the 59-year-old pilot, who had worked for Turkish Airlines since 2007, had passed a medical examination in March, which gave no indication of any health problems.

Talagang Chambers unveiled: Business leaders reiterate demand for establishment of Chakwal Industrial Estate

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business leadership in the opening ceremony of Talagang Chamber of Commerce and Industry has jointly demanded that an industrial estate be established in Chakwal as soon as possible for the development of the region, industry and the trade. Existing dams should be made functional and new dams should be constructed as well.

A 10-year plan for the development of agriculture should be announced and a policy should be formulated at the national level to prevent water wastage. Special Assistant to Prime Minister Rana Ehsan Afzal Khan, Patron in Chief United Business Group (UBG) SM Tanveer, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Vice President FPCCI Zaki Ejaz, senior business leader attended the opening ceremony.

Malik Shabbir Hussain, newly elected president of Tala Gang Chamber of Commerce and Industry and others spoke on the occasion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Rana Ehsan Afzal Khan



said that the establishment of the Chamber in Talagang is welcome step which will give boost to business in the region. He said that the government's efforts are bearing fruit and Pakistan is coming out of difficult times.

He added that the promotion of small and medium industries is among the priorities of the government, the government is working hard in the electricity sector, the nation will get good news soon, the vision of the government regarding privatization is clear.

Addressing the ceremony, Pattern in Chief UBG S. M. Tanveer said that a new era of industrialization has begun under CPEC phase two, Pakistan needs cheap electricity and interest rate reduction, our efforts are solving the IPPs issue. Soon the industry will get electricity at nine cents, people will also get cheap electricity.

He added that there is a need for speedy decision-making for the development of Pakistan, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries is now focusing on the

growth of agriculture sector.

Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that the establishment of Tala Gang Chamber was my dream which by the grace of God has materialized today and certainly it will go a long way in the development of the area.

Former President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the establishment of the Chamber of Commerce in Talagang is a great news for the region. I pay tribute to everyone who has made efforts to establish this important institution. The establishment of the Chamber of Commerce will help local businessmen to connect the business community across the country.

President Talagang Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Shabbir said that the establishment of Chamber was our dream which has been fulfilled with the support of the leadership of UBG.

Vice President FPCCI Zaki Ejaz and Mian Zahid Hussain also addressed the ceremony and congratulated the local business community as well as the senior leadership of UBG for the great job.

SPARC demands strict regulation on Emerging Addictive Nicotine Tobacco Products immediately

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) demands immediate action from the government to regulate Emerging Addictive Nicotine Tobacco Products. These products including: e-cigarettes, Heated Tobacco Products, nicotine pouches, and other flavored tobacco products, and being heavily marketed as stylish, fashionable, and shown as less harmful than conventional cigarettes. The appealing packing, varied flavors, and the targeted advertising via media have gained popularity amongst the youth and pose a great and growing menace to the public health

and their regulation needs to be undertaken without further delay.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, said, "It is a dangerous strategy by the tobacco industry to pass off emerging nicotine products as a safer alternative. We must have very stern policies to regulate these products immediately. The sooner the government acts, the better; otherwise, the long-term health burden of nicotine addiction will far exceed any short-term economic benefits these products may bring in." Nicotine addiction has many grave health risks associated with it; such a growing trend is a peril that Pakistan cannot afford to overlook.

He further said that, "Policy change

and public awareness are key. SPARC is committed to fighting the spread of emerging tobacco products through legal and public health measures. We urge the immediate attention of policymakers and public health officials in taking action to control and restrict these products. It is further important to work with policymakers and public health officials in the course of establishing effective policies that protect our youth and overall public health.

He also mentioned that other countries, being in the same crisis situation, have taken proactive steps in terms of regulation against such products and Pakistan must take a strict action similarly through comprehensive legislation

with a view to restraining the sale and distribution of these harmful products to avoid the public health crisis and save the future generation from the claws of nicotine addiction.

In conclusion, Dr. Khalil Ahmad called for a fundamental shift in policy directions to be made in tobacco control policies, considering the emerging tobacco products. He stressed the need for an integrated policy approach together with the monitoring of the products, ramping up regulatory oversight, and restriction of marketing practices. Such a measure, He argued, would protect public health and further advances in the fight against diseases caused by tobacco.



Collaboration and Positive Mindset are the Way Forward for Public Administration: CASS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, recently hosted a webinar titled 'Positive Public Administration: Lessons for Pakistan,' which explored how the principles of positivity can drive effective governance in the country. The event drew inspiration from the publication of the book 'Pathways to Positive Public Administration,' a seminal volume that explores how the discourse of Positive Public Administration (PPA)

can reshape public governance through optimism, resilience and innovation.

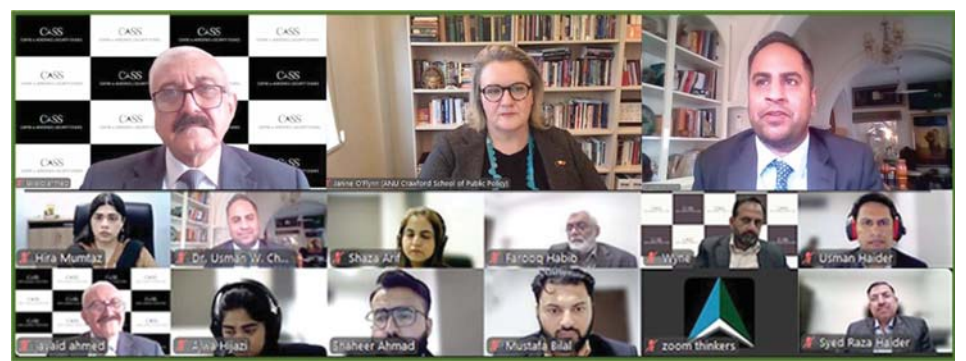
The webinar featured Professor Janine O'Flynn, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University and one of the editors of the book, and Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor on Economic Affairs & National Development at CASS, who contributed a chapter on Pakistan's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic through the lens of PPA.

Professor O'Flynn provided an overview of the emerging PPA

discourse, explaining how its focus on positive, solutions-oriented governance can lead to tangible improvements in public administration. She discussed the evolution of PPA, highlighting its potential to reshape both academic thought and practical public administration approaches. According to her, PPA is not limited to one region or culture but has the potential to be applied in diverse contexts, including Pakistan. She urged that in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, adopting a mindset of posi-

tivity and resilience is crucial for governments and public institutions to respond effectively to the challenges they face.

Dr Usman W. Chohan built on these insights by contextualising PPA within Pakistan's experience, particularly its response to the global COVID-19 Pandemic. He noted that Pakistan had demonstrated immense capability during the Pandemic, successfully balancing public health imperatives with economic considerations. He argued that this example of positive administration offers important lessons



for Pakistan's future governance. Dr Chohan stressed that positivity is not merely an aspirational concept but a necessary approach for tackling the country's challenges, from economic recovery to social development. He pointed out that Pakistan has proven its capacity for success in the most difficult circumstances and that the country can replicate this success in other sectors with the right mindset.

Moreover, Dr Chohan empha-

sised that for Pakistan to continue on this positive trajectory, it is essential for all stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to work in unison. Collaboration and unity, he argued, will be key to building a future where positive public administration can thrive.

President of CASS, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), commended the hard work and intellectual rigour behind the

book Pathways to Positive Public Administration. He agreed that Pakistan has a unique opportunity to apply PPA principles to navigate global challenges and highlighted the need to foster optimism and cooperation in the public sector. He also noted that the face of public administration was evolving rapidly with the advent of emerging technologies, making it crucial for Pakistan to adapt and lead in this transformation.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
85,669.27	85,663.97
Day's High	Day's Low
86,451.42	85,444.30
Index Value	Change
25,588,809,430	+5.30
Percentage	Time
+0.01%	9 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,243.74	+53.13
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	9 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,473.99	+393.62
Percentage	Time
+0.94%	9 Oct, 1:39 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,277.96	+340.42
Percentage	Time
+0.87%	9 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.75	189.00
Bahrain Dinar	732.00	740.00
Canadian Dollar	204.60	207.00
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	303.10	305.85
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.75	908.25
Malaysian Ringgit	63.6	64.2
New Zealand \$	174.21	176.21
Norwegians Krone	26.26	26.56
Omani Riyal	716.75	725.25
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.15	27.46
Swiss Franc	322.20	325.00
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.1
UK Pound Sterling	361.60	365.1
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

Commerce Minister pledges govt support for boosting pharmaceutical exports in key meeting with PPMA

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA), led by its Chairman, met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the challenges facing the sector and seek government support to enhance pharmaceutical exports. The Chairman emphasized that 95% of Pakistan's pharmaceutical production was local, with only 5% imported, indicating a significant opportunity for export growth.

The Chairman highlighted that Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports currently stand at \$341 million, but with government backing, this figure could reach multiple billions of dollars. He proposed the establishment of a Pharma Export Promotion Council as a central



organisation for the development of this innovation-driven sector, modelled on successful examples of neighbouring countries to streamline and enhance the industry's performance.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan acknowledged the immense potential for pharmaceutical exports, particularly in markets across South-West Asia and Central Asia. He encouraged the PPMA to submit a comprehensive proposal to enhance exports, assuring them that the Ministry of Commerce, through the Export Development Fund (EDF), would provide the necessary support.

This meeting marks a critical step towards strengthening Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry and capitalizing on its export potential, aligning with the government's vision for economic growth through industry-driven reforms.

Welcome

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan greets the 129-member Saudi delegation led by H.E. Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, the Kingdom's Investment Minister, upon their arrival at Noor Khan Airbase on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administers oath to Bajaur Chamber of Commerce

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet and executive members of the Bajaur Chamber of Commerce. The newly elected President, Lali Shah, Senior Vice President Shaukat Khan, Vice President Adnan Khan, and the executive members expressed their gratitude to former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali. They acknowledged his exemplary services as both Governor and President of the Federation, which have brought pride to the business community. They also lauded his tireless efforts in supporting various chambers across the province.

During his address, Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated the newly elected cabinet and members, emphasizing the chamber's role in addressing the challenges faced by its region and members. He highlighted the potential of Bajaur, rich in natural resources, and stressed that by properly utilizing and adding value to these resources, the area can achieve significant development, offering



employment opportunities for the local youth.

Furthermore, Haji Ghulam Ali agreed with the chamber's request to initiate Pakistan-Afghanistan trade through Nawapas, which would provide a convenient trade route and boost economic growth. He assured that discussions with the relevant departments will be initiated to move

forward with this proposal.

On this occasion, former provincial minister Malik Meherullah, President of Mohmand Chamber Ameer Muhammad, and President of Peshawar Traders Chamber Ghulam Bilal Javid also congratulated the newly elected cabinet and members, offering their full support and cooperation.

Bank Alfalah Partners with Cancer Foundation Hospital to Support Breast Cancer Patients

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Bank Alfalah, a leading commercial bank in Pakistan, has partnered with Cancer Foundation Hospital, a leading non-profit healthcare institution, to provide life-saving treatment to women battling breast cancer. As part of this collaboration, Bank Alfalah and Roche Pakistan have contributed a total of PKR 10.75 million towards medication expenses and free-of-cost treatment for five breast cancer patients, ensuring they receive comprehensive treatment.

Cancer Foundation Hospital is dedicated to offering affordable, comprehensive cancer care to all, irrespective of financial circumstances.

With its state-of-the-art 100-bed facility, the hospital provides essential cancer services, including diagnostics, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery. Their commitment goes beyond treatment, offering emotional and psychological support to patients making a significant impact in the battle against cancer in Pakistan.

Mehreen Ahmed, Group Head of Retail Banking, said, "At Bank Alfalah, we believe in going beyond business operations to address critical societal issues.

Hafa Shamsie, GM of Roche Pakistan said, "For over 125 years, Roche, as one of the world's leading biotech companies, has been finding innovative solutions for some of the most

complex healthcare issues faced by our populations.

To combat this challenge, Bank Alfalah has launched a series of Pinktober awareness sessions across major cities to educate women about early detection and prevention in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum, Chughtai Lab, and the Samina Alvi Foundation. The first session, featuring medical professionals and representatives from the Samina Alvi Foundation, was scheduled at Bank Alfalah's head office in Karachi on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

In a show of solidarity, Bank Alfalah's Head Office has been illuminated in pink in October to raise awareness for the cause.



PTCL Group launches Pakistan's First 800G Wavelength Division Multiplexing System in Partnership with Huawei

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, Pakistan's top integrated ICT provider, has achieved a major milestone by successfully launching the country's first 800 Gbps per wavelength Super C+L Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) system. This advanced technology enables a data transmission capacity of 64 Tbps per fiber, with the potential to reach up to 96 Tbps, marking a significant step forward for Pakistan's digital infrastructure.

Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, commented: "Our focus is on advancing cutting-edge technology while main-

taining sustainability. This upgrade will improve service quality, lower latency, and enhance the overall user experience for both consumers and enterprises, while reducing our environmental footprint.

Victor Zhou, President of Huawei's Optical Domain, stated: "We are proud to support PTCL in building this high-speed optical network, which will boost Pakistan's digital growth and sustainability efforts. It will strengthen data center connections, reduce carbon emissions, and set the stage for future advancements like F5.5G. This technology investment will underpin Pakistan's digital economy for years to come."

Telenor Pakistan organizes breast cancer awareness session



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan, in collaboration with Shifa Foundation, organized a Breast Cancer Awareness session for its entire workforce at its 345 Campus in Islamabad. A large number of employees from across the country attended the event, which aimed to provide crucial information on breast cancer, including risk factors, prevention strategies, and the importance of early detection to reduce mortality and support patients.

The session underscored a critical issue: the lack of awareness, which often leads to delayed diagnoses, prevailing as a major obstacle in combating breast cancer. Participants were informed about the life-saving benefits of early detection and proactive health measures.

Arej Khan, Chief People Officer of Telenor Pakistan, addressed the gathering and reaffirmed the company's commitment to promoting health awareness. She stated, "At Telenor, we believe that raising awareness about critical health issues is more than a responsibility; it's the foundation for building a healthier community and eventually, society. As a socially responsible organization, we are committed to equipping individuals with crucial knowledge to spread within their families and communities, ensuring that life-saving information reaches those who need it."

Dr. Sana Sayeed, Consultant Radiologist at Shifa International Hospital, delivered an insightful presentation on the pivotal role of screening and early detection of breast cancer in saving lives.

NBP partners with Huawei to establish National Cloud Data Center



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan has signed a MoU with Huawei Technologies Pakistan (PVT) to develop a state-of-the-art National Cloud Data Center. The MoU was formalized during the Huawei Connect 2024 Global Conference. This collaboration aims to strengthen NBP's digital infrastructure by deploying cutting-edge cloud services in a Tier-3 certified data center. Huawei will provide dedicated teams to ensure timely implementation, ongoing operations and maintenance support. Additionally, NBP representatives will receive hands-on training and documentation to ensure smooth project integration.

Mr. Amin Manji, Chief Information Technology Group (ITG), NBP and Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO, Huawei Technologies Pakistan (PVT) signed the MoU. Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President, NBP and Mr. Riaz Hussain, Group Chief, IFRG, accompanied by Mr. David Wang, Executive Director of the Board, Chairman of ICT Infrastructure Managing Board, Huawei Technologies, Mr. Derek Hao, President, Enterprise Business Group (EBG), Huawei ME&CA and Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO, Huawei Technologies Pakistan graced the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President NBP, said, "This partnership is a testament to our commitment to adopting advanced technologies that enhance our operational efficiency." Mr. Amin Manji, SEVP & Group Chief Information Technology Group (ITG) at NBP, added, "Huawei's expertise will be crucial in transforming our data management capabilities and ensuring the reliability of our systems".

New Era

ISLAMABAD: Investment Minister of KSA, Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Alfaleh welcomed by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

High-level Saudi delegation arrives in Pakistan, with 130 investors in tow

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih arrived in Pakistan on Wednesday for a two-day visit.

The delegation includes 130 investors and is expected to lead to significant investments in the country.

This visit comes ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled later this month in Islamabad.

During their visit, agreements worth approximately \$2 billion are expected to be signed between the two nations.

The delegation includes representatives from various sectors, including construction, engineering, financial services, IT, hospitality,

agriculture, food, energy, and petroleum.

Al-Falih will oversee the signing of several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and engage in business-to-business meetings.

He is scheduled to address a business forum in Islamabad, where he will meet with senior leaders from Pakistan's private sector.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif previously indicated that these agreements would cover various sectors as Pakistan seeks to attract foreign investment to stabilize its economy, which has been challenged by high inflation and recent financial adjustments.

The country has also secured commitments for foreign loans, including a \$1.2 billion Saudi Oil Facility for the next year.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima directs PSEB to build capacity



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja has directed the management of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) to build capacity of PSEB and work efficiently to achieve the targets within stipulated time.

She gave this direction while chairing the 61st meeting of Board of Directors of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) held at the committee room of Ministry of IT on Wednesday.

Secretary IT Zarrar Hasham Khan was also present in the meeting. Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) Sajjad Mustafa Syed joined meeting virtually.

Shaza Fatima emphasised upon formulating a proper strategy by PSEB to improve its working, and focus upon its targets.

She said that the present government is committed to increase IT exports.

The meeting also held discussion regarding PSEB working and steps to increase IT exports.

Govt allocates Rs 7.5 bln to bring out of school children back: Ahsan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that federal government is allocating Rs 7.5 billion to enrol back 26.2 million out of school children across the country.

Addressing an International Conference: "Education System Strengthening Challenges and Opportunities – A 20-Year Retrospective" held here at COMSTECH, the minister announced that for this project the federal government would allocate Rs 25 million, while 25 millions would be given by the provinces and 25 millions by the partners.

The one-day conference was organized by Manhattan

Strategy Group (MSG), a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization, with an aim to bring together local and global perspectives to address the critical challenges facing Pakistan's education system.

Speaking at inaugural session of the conference, Ahsan Iqbal said that education is not a sector but a foundation of development and prosperity. It was revealed in the census that literacy rate in Pakistan is 60 percent but for progress and development, we need 90 percent literacy rate in the country. He lamented that with such a huge numbers of out of school children, Pakistan can not progress. He termed education as mandatory tool to run the infrastructure of a country.



Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said in his speech that politics should not interfere in the education system, this is our biggest challenge, a government that makes policies, the new government should continue the same. The quality of education

can be improved, Professor Dr. Mukhtar said adding that negative news about educational institutions is spread on social media, which must be stopped. In the education sector, we have to understand that these are our children, we have to spend on education and health. He also highlighted the importance of

collaboration across sectors to overcome educational challenges.

During the ceremony Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in his address said that we should introduce modern technology in the education system as without it we cannot move forward. He also suggested that educational and technical experts should provide their services collectively, not individually in all sectors.

During the conference, experts discussed the alarming statistics revealing that over 26.2 million children in Pakistan are out of school, with 53% being girls. More than 60% of children aged three to 3-5 do not have access to pre-primary education.

British High Commission allocates over £10 Million for flood response in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission is amongst the earliest development partners to support the regions in Pakistan worst hit by floods.

Monsoon rains have caused extensive damage to the lives, livelihoods and vital infrastructure throughout Pakistan. There have been over 350 deaths, over 650 injuries and damage to over 78,000 homes in Pakistan. UK support is meeting the urgent humanitarian and early recovery needs of the most vulnerable affected families in the 13 worst hit districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh.

Working with Concern Worldwide led consortium and



the World Food Programme (WFP), the UK are supporting over 130,000 affected families (approximately 900,000 individuals) through emergency relief and restoration of infrastructure and livelihoods. The UK foreign secretary, David Lammy's, first speech in his role set out climate, nature and clean energy as top priorities for the UK.

Immediate support includes provision of temporary shelters, essential relief items as well as cash assistance for the affected families. Work has already begun to restore damaged drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, irrigation channels, remove debris, and restore damaged infrastructure. The agricultural industry was particularly affected by the

floods, and the UK are helping to restore people's livelihoods through supporting climate smart agriculture, livestock provision, and vocational skills training.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "Monsoon may be ending, but recovery has only just begun. Once again flooding has resulted in a loss of lives, livelihoods and destruction of infrastructure. We're providing immediate relief and early recovery assistance to families whose lives have been overturned by these floods. But we're also at the forefront of helping Pakistan improve its resilience against climate change, helping to prevent future disasters." Climate change is a priority

for the UK Government. During the devastating floods of 2022, the UK helped over 2.3 million people, dedicating a total of £39 million in UK aid. The British public mobilised and raised £41.5m as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. Support included emergency cash assistance, shelter kits, nutritional support, learning kits and infrastructure repair.

The UK's focus is on improving Pakistan's longer term climate resilience, rather than purely responding to disasters. The UK has already helped 1.5 million people improve their resilience to extreme climate events, and aims to support a further 3 million people in the next 4-5 years.

Hamdard Shura, young speakers pay tribute to Shaheed Hakim Said

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The members of Hamdard Shura Karachi and young speakers of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly paid profound tributes to Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said for his accomplishments and national services during a joint session organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) yesterday at The Arena, Bahria Town Tower, in remembrance of the martyrdom day "October 17" of Shaheed Hakim Said. They declared October 17 as a national day of mourning and reaffirmed their commitment to following the teachings of Shaheed Hakim Said. Ms Sadia Rahid, President - HFP, also attended the program. The title of the joint session was "The thoughts of Shaheed Hakim Said, the words of wisdom and the future architects".

Speaker of Hamdard Shura, Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider, described Shaheed

Hakim Mohammed Said as a gift from Allah to the nation. He praised Shaheed Hakim Said for founding institutions that continue to serve the country in education and healthcare. He said "Shaheed Hakim Said believed in the importance of both education and training. He stands as a patriotic role model for the younger generation and embodied Eastern and Islamic values. His motto, "Love Pakistan, Build Pakistan," should guide our national curriculum. His educational institutions are a testament to his vision, and Madinat al-Hikmah is the fulfillment of his dream—a city of knowledge that, inshallah, will play a vital role in Pakistan's development." Deputy Speaker Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmad Butt described Shaheed Hakim Said as an exceptional physician, researcher, patriotic intellectual, and a national saviour, whose loss is deeply felt. He called for observing Martyrdom Day as a national day of



mourning. He said "Shaheed Hakim Said devoted his life to the education and training of children, often saying

Prof. Dr. Hakim Abdul Hannan said "Although Hakim Said is no longer with us, the younger generation must

remember that he was only a human being created by Allah. His remarkable achievements and the respect he earned as a national figure stemmed from his willpower, sincerity, determination, and courage." He also said "Shaheed Hakim Said possessed two exceptional qualities that distinguished him: a pursuit of perfection and sincerity in action.

Aamir Tausen said that the younger generation should remember that Shaheed Hakim Said taught the importance of a love for books. He also said that those who study regularly tend to be more intelligent and wise. To foster a reading habit among the children of the country, Shaheed Hakim Said launched the monthly Hamdard Naunehal in 1953, which continues to enrich young minds even today.

Young speakers Nabihah Jamal, Naazish Khan, Ayesha Fawad, Ayesha Azeem, Syed Muhammad Shuja, Laiba

and others while paying rich tribute to Shaheed Hakim Said stated that as a reformer, Hakim Said recognized that sustainable national progress can only be achieved by equipping young minds with access to modern sciences, essential technical skills, and building strong character to tackle future challenges.

Members of Karachi Shura, including Prof. Dr. Shaheen Habib, Huma Baig, Musarat Akram, Rizwan Ahmed, Cdre (r) Sadeed Anwar Malik, and Justice (r) Zia Parvez, also shared their memories with Shaheed Hakim Said during the discussion.

Hamdard Pakistan COO Faisal Nadeem, HFP Director Syed Muhammad Arsalan, and Hamdard University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Shahib-ul-Hassan were among the senior administrators and staff from various Hamdard-affiliated organizations and institutions that attended the event.