

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ان کی نیرتے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ان اور میں نے بیان کیا ان سے اسما ٹیل نے، ان سے تم سے اور ان سے جریر رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ جب سے میں نے اسلام قبول کیا نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے (اپنے پاس آئے) یہی نہیں دیکھا اور جب بھی آپ نے مجھے دیکھا تو مسکرائے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6089)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Death Anniversary of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan: A legacy of commitment and struggle

The nation observes the third death anniversary of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, affectionately known as Mohsin-e-Pakistan, a distinguished nuclear scientist whose contributions established Pakistan as the first nuclear power in the Muslim world and the seventh globally. (Details on Page 5)



'King of Clay' Nadal to end stellar career after injury-hit spell

Rafael Nadal will call time on his illustrious but injury-plagued career after next month's Davis Cup Finals, the 22-times Grand Slam champion announced on Thursday, as one of the greatest players in the sport prepares for an emotional farewell. Nadal, who won a record 14 French Open titles, had said previously he expected to retire this year after a hip injury that required surgery limited his appearances in 2023.

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God Hopes

RAWALPINDI: H.E Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, Minister of Investment, KSA, met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), COAS at Rawalpindi.



Photo: ISPR

Saudi investment minister meets COAS General Asim Munir

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: H. E Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at Rawalpindi.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly initiatives to strengthen evergrowing brotherly bilateral cooperation in a variety of sectors.

The COAS expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude for unflinching

support for Pakistan from His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman. Manifestation of one of the largest business delegations visit to Pakistan reaffirms the enduring and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He underscored the deep respect and affection that the people of Pakistan hold for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

COAS further assured the delegation of Pakistan's full support and commitment and conveyed his optimism for the promising outcomes.

Gandapur given authority to talk to Qaumi Jirga



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's major political parties met in the chief minister house for a jirga on Thursday.

Participants included Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Aimal Wali Khan, Amir Muqam and Mohsin Dawar.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also participated in the jirga.

The jirga discussed the recent events in WANA and Khyber as well as the overall security situation in the country.

A jirga will now be set up under CM Gandapur that

will negotiate with the Qaumi Jirga.

In his opening statement, Gandapur said that a jirga was the traditional solution to disputes in the province.

He added that violence was not the answer to any problem and all issues must be resolved through dialogue.

The jirga could be a major development in political stability in the province as Gandapur and Kundi have been continuously at loggerheads over the political situation in the province.

The presence of Naqvi also marks a major step forward, as he had been at odds with Gandapur until very recently over PTI's protest in Islamabad.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to deepen economic cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in key areas such as the economy, agriculture, mining and information technology. Both sides underlined the need to work together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the region as well as for the Islamic World. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), led by Saudi Minister for Investment, Mr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Welcoming the delegation, the President emphasized the long-standing and time-tested relationship between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). He expressed Pakistan's desire to elevate these ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, underscoring that such collaboration would bring the two



brotherly nations further closer. The President reaffirmed Pakistan's deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

The President also praised the

visionary leadership of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. He highly commended the remarkable progress Saudi Arabia was making under Vision 2030 and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's continued support to Pakistan during challenging

times. The President said that he was happy to witness the progress and prosperity of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih said that Saudi Arabia recognised the strategic geographical significance of Pakistan and its potential of natural resources and renewable energy. He informed that Saudi Arabia had planned

to invest in the infrastructure and mining sectors of Pakistan and, in this regard, his delegation would sign 25 agreements in different sectors that would boost economic cooperations between the two brotherly nations.

He expressed the hope that the signing of the agreements would mark a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries. Both sides emphasized to increase collaboration in the areas of Agriculture and Information Technology.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum, Senator Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Commerce, Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Privatization, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Interior, Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. The Saudi Ambassador, Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al Malki was also present in the meeting.

Pakistani Ministers, private sector meet Saudi delegation to strengthen trade and investment ties

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Abdul Aleem Khan, Masadik Masood Malik, and Chaudhry Salik Hussain, along with leaders from the private sector, held a meeting with a Saudi delegation led by Investment Minister H. E. Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih on Thursday.

The meeting focused on enhancing trade and exploring investment opportunities between the two nations.

Prominent Pakistani companies, including Lucky

Cement, Engro, and Arif Habib, presented proposals that were well-received by the Saudi side.

The Saudi Minister emphasized the joint potential and called for focused collaboration, while also confirming Saudi participation in Pakistan's Texpo and Made in Pakistan Exhibition to be organised in Jeddah early next year.

Both sides acknowledged the crucial role of the private sector in driving economic growth and increasing trade volume. The meeting highlighted a shared vision for greater cooperation and mutual prosperity.

Nawaz, Bilawal meet to explore solutions for Pakistan's current situation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Thursday held a meeting with PML-N Supremo and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss the country's current situation and explore solutions to the challenges it faces.

The meeting took place at Punjab House, Islamabad, where Pakistan Muslim League-N President Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed Bilawal Bhutto upon his arrival.

The two leaders expressed opti-

mism about the swift relief for Pakistan and its people, calling it an auspicious sign, while also welcoming the arrival of the Saudi investor delegation and the hosting of the the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the federal capital.



The two leaders agreed that these activities mark a highly positive development for Pakistan's international standing and economic progress.

Nawaz Sharif stated that time has proven the 2006 Charter of Democracy (CoD) to be a historic and timely decision. He credited the charter with stabilizing democracy,

allowing Parliament to complete its term, and uniting political parties against non-democratic forces that promoted sit-ins and unrest.

Nawaz Sharif stated that PPP and PML-N are united in promoting political tolerance, morality, constitution, law and parliamentary supremacy.

He praised the 18th Amendment for strengthening institutions and democracy, and commended Bilawal Bhutto's political efforts, emphasizing collective progress over individual interests.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari praised the historic contributions of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in advancing Pakistan's democracy, emphasizing the need to continue this journey. He commended Nawaz's invaluable experience, vision, and leadership, stating that Pakistan greatly benefits from his political expertise.

Govt asks diplomats to limit movement in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advised foreign diplomats to limit their movement during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad, according to ARY News.

In a letter, the ministry informed diplomats that the SCO summit will take place from October 15 to 16 in Islamabad.

The letter requested that foreign diplomats confine their movements to the red zone and diplomatic enclave and adhere to the traffic plan established by the traffic police during the summit.

A comprehensive security plan for the upcoming SCO summit was approved on Wednesday during a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi.

Continued on Page 8

Federal cabinet approves decision to end contract with 5 IPPs

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved the decision to terminate contracts with five independent power producers.

The approval was granted during a meeting of the cabinet in Islamabad on Thursday in order to bring down the prices of electricity.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the contracts were being terminated with mutual agreement of the government and the companies.

The five IPPs whose contracts will be terminated produce a total of 2,400 megawatts for the national grid.

The IPPs include Hubco (1,200 MW), AES Lal (362 MW), Atlas Power (224 MW), Saba Power (136 MW) and Roshan power plant (450 MW).

PSX holds Gong Ceremony on Listing of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A gong ceremony was held at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to mark the listing of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba ("Burj Modaraba"). Burj Modaraba is the first green energy fund in accordance with Shariah principles to be listed on the Stock Exchange on the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) Board of PSX. The gong was struck by Mr. Muneer Kamal, Chairman, Burj Modaraba; Mr. Saad Zaman, Sponsor Director, Burj Modaraba; other Director(s) and top management of Burj Modaraba, amidst the presence of Mr. Shahid Ali Habib, CEO of Arif Habib Limited (Advisor to the Issue); Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange, and senior management of PSX.

The listing of Burj Modaraba marks a pivotal moment for Pakistan's capital markets and for sustainable energy investments. As Pakistan's first green energy fund, Burj Modaraba serves as a bridge for clean energy project between developers and investors and fosters the growth of renewable energy initiatives across the country.

Burj Modaraba is supported by esteemed partners and investors

such as Meezan Bank Limited, Habib Bank Limited and Arif Habib Corporation Limited, who are committed to promoting the use of renewable energy in Pakistan. AKD Securities serves as the underwriter, with Arif Habib Limited (AHL) as the financial advisor and Usmani & Company Shariah Advisors (Pvt.) Limited as the Shariah advisor.

In the Initial Offering of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba, the Modaraba offered 10,000,000 certificates to the investors, against which applications for a total of 10,244,000 certificates were received. The entire Issue was offered through Fixed Price Mechanism at a Price of Rs 10/- per certificate. The amount to be raised was Rs 100,000,000/-, however subscription for an amount of Rs 102,440,000/- was received. The capital raised is to procure and install Solar Power solutions for Residential clients up to a total capacity of 700 KWp within 6 months of business commencement. The average capacity per residential site is assumed to be 9.86 KWp, resulting in a total of 71 sites for the installation of the entire 700 KWp capacity.

Welcoming the guests at the gong



ceremony, Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO, Pakistan Stock Exchange, stated, "It is an honour for me to welcome you all at the listing of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba. It is a first of its kind of opportunity for Pakistani shareholders. Globally, solar is now a leading energy source, and it will become even more so in the near future. The cost of solar panels and solar plants is reducing sharply because the demand

is increasing which is being met by increasing supplies. I think there cannot be a better and more opportune time than now for such an investment to come for investors."

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Muneer Kamal, Chairman Burj Clean Energy Modaraba, added, "Burj Clean Energy Modaraba is set to transform Pakistan's energy market. We are not just a financial entity; we are a cata-

lyst for holistic energy solutions, positioning ourselves as leaders in energy as a service. Our commitment to ESG-compliant financing fosters responsible energy practices."

Mr. Saad Zaman, Sponsor Director of Burj Modaraba, stated, "At Burj Modaraba, we are more than just a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) provider. We are committed to offering comprehensive energy solutions that

disrupt the market by delivering energy as a service. Our focus on environmentally friendly and ESG-compliant financing will empower renewable energy projects across Pakistan.

Mr. Shahid Ali Habib, CEO of Arif Habib Limited (AHL), expressed his enthusiasm over the strong response to Burj Clean Energy Modaraba's Initial Offering (IO). He highlighted Burj Clean Energy's pivotal role in Pakistan's renewable energy sector, with a focus on solar, wind, and energy efficiency solutions.

Mr. Saad Zaman, Sponsor Director of Burj Modaraba, presented the tombstones to Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX; Mr. Fareed Alam, CEO AKD Securities Limited (Underwriter to the Issue), Mr. Aamir Irshad, Group Head, Corporate, Commercial and Investment Banking (Pre-IPO Investor), and Mr. Muneer Kamal, Chairman, Burj Clean Energy Modaraba presented the tombstones to Mr. Shahid Ali Habib, CEO Arif Habib Limited; Mr. Nasim Beg, CEO Arif Habib Consultancy (Pvt.) Limited, and Mr. Zia Ul Hasan, Group Executive - Operations & Branch Banking, Meezan Bank Limited (Pre-IPO Investor & Banker to the Issue).

'Health Program' field hospital providing medical facilities at doorstep in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Health Program" for field hospitals has been playing a crucial role in providing medical facilities at the doorstep of sick men, women, and children in the six tehsils of Attock district for the past nine months. In these nine months, it has provided medical care to approximately 48,000 men, women, and children. This was stated by District Health Field Coordinator Muhammad Asad during a special conversation with senior journalists while providing medical facilities to the public at their doorstep in People's Colony, Attock city. The District Health Field Coordinator of Attock informed that the field hospitals have a medical officer and a lady doctor present to attend to the patients. Additionally, facili-



ties like a laboratory, X-ray machine, ultrasound, and ECG are available for patient check-ups, along with the provision of three days' worth of free

medicines. Muhammad Asad further shared that the field hospital services are provided at different locations in the city, with medical staff available from morning till evening. In response to a question, Muhammad Asad said that in every tehsil of Attock they visit, around 180 to 200 patients receive medical check-ups at the field hospital. He also mentioned that compared to male patients, more women and children are coming for check-ups, with most women's issues related to maternal and child health. When the media representatives spoke with the public present near the field hospital, they expressed concern about rising inflation and the constant increase in medicine prices. However, they praised the Punjab government's field hospital health program and congratulated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for this commendable initiative.

Breast cancer seminar highlights urgent need for early detection and treatment



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Department of Community Medicine at University Medical and Dental College organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar to raise awareness of this critical health issue. Globally, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes, and every 12 minutes, another life is lost. Pakistan faces an alarming situation, with the highest incidence of breast cancer in South East Asia. Most cases are diagnosed in advanced stages, leading to high mortality rates.

Dr. Rafshan Sadiq, Head Oncologist at PINUM Cancer Hospital, shared alarming statistics, revealing that approximately 90,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed annually in Pakistan, representing 40% of all female cancers. About 50% of women with breast cancer die without receiving treatment, highlighting the dire need for early detection and awareness. Dr. Rafshan also demonstrated the proper technique for self-breast examination, a critical preventive measure.

Prof. Dr. Saira Saleem, Head of Breast Surgery at Madinah Teaching Hospital, presented cases of late-stage breast cancer patients and discussed the breast reconstruction surgeries performed at the hospital. She also announced the launch of the Madinah Breast Cancer Society, which aims to spread awareness and support breast cancer patients, particularly in underserved communities.

The seminar's Chief Guest, Ms. Samina Amjad, founder of the Arfa Kareem Foundation, emphasized the importance of early detection through self-examination. She motivated the students to share this vital information with their families and communities and encouraged them to develop into responsible and contributing members of society.

The event was graced by Principal Prof. Dr. Akram Malik, Vice Principal Prof. Dr. Shirza Nadeem, and Registrar of The University of Faisalabad, Madam Zahida Maqbool. They distributed prizes to the winners of the poster, painting, and video competitions. Prof. Dr. Akram Malik commended the efforts of the MBBS students and faculty members in organizing this impactful seminar.

This seminar was a critical step in raising awareness about breast cancer and promoting early detection efforts within the community.

TCL Electronics Wins Middle East International Business Award 2024

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand has proudly secured the coveted Middle East International Business Award 2024 in the Television category for its trailblazing TCL 115" X955 Max, the world's largest QD-Mini LED TV. This recognition underscores TCL's relentless pursuit of innovation, pushing the limits of display technology and redefining the home entertainment experience.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing, TCL Middle East and Africa, remarked "By merging advanced display technology with an emphasis on user-friendly design, the TCL 115" X955 Max redefines home theater experiences. This product exemplifies TCL's dedication to innovation and quality, positioning it as a strong contender for top industry accolades."

The Middle East International Business Awards celebrates the contributions of exceptional global companies to the Middle East's economic growth and community development. This award is a testament to TCL's continuous efforts to deliver world-class innovation, enhancing lives through premium technology.

Hot, dry weather likely in most parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD, OCT 10 (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country with chances of very hot weather in Sindh.

As per the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave was present in the upper parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, hot and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country.

However, rain-thunderstorm occurred at isolated places in lower Sindh, upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Book Launch

ISSI's New Book Launched, titled "Pakistan's Pathways to Development: Integrating Economy, Environment & Society"

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of its first edited book, Pakistan's Pathways to Development: Integrating Economy, Environment, & Society. The Guest of Honor on the occasion was Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance. Speakers included Mr. Haroon Sharif, Former MoS/Chairman, Bol; Ms. Kosar Bano; Dr. Faisal Bari Associate Professor, LUMS; and Dr. Safdar Sohail, ED, SPRC.

Guest of Honor, Dr. Waqar Masood, congratulated the ISSI for taking the initiative to publish a book that features diverse writers from various disciplines. He also praised each contributor for selecting timely and relevant topics. In his remarks, Dr. Waqar highlighted the significant challenges Pakistan faces on both international and domestic fronts. On the international stage, Dr. Waqar noted that while Pakistan has made progress despite many obstacles, the country is currently confronting unprecedented problems. He emphasized that Pakistan has been under sanctions, limiting its access to international markets compared to regional competitors like Bangladesh.

In his remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General of ISSI, highlighted key insights from the book, focusing on its critical themes of Economy, Environment, and Society. He stated that the authors had emphasized the importance of enhancing Pakistan's economic competitiveness through export promotion, leveraging digital technologies, and aligning economic policies with global geo-economic shifts. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that they had underscored the need for a green transition to ensure sustainable energy security and stressed the significance of addressing educational reforms, poverty alleviation, and youth



empowerment.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, in her opening remarks, highlighted that the book arrives at a pivotal moment, as the global conversation on development increasingly stresses the importance of a holistic, integrated approach. She further stressed that for Pakistan, this shift is especially critical, given the current state of its economy, which faces persistent macroeconomic challenges, sluggish growth, and escalating external debt.

Mr. Haroon Sharif, in his remarks, stated that the biggest challenge Pakistan faces is restructuring the economy towards a more competitive economy that can integrate with the region. The economy of Pakistan for long has been based on the usage of its geopolitical and geo-strategic positioning rather than competitiveness. The world now looks at issues like geopolitics, climate change, pandemics, and global supply chains as all part of economic competi-

tiveness.

Dr. Faisal Bari touched upon the issue of population, the quality of education, out-of-school children, poverty, lack of health, and malnutrition. He was of the view that Pakistan, compared to other countries with the same level of income, has not invested in education and health and thus has achieved growth without development. One of the primary reasons for the failure to address this challenge is the lack of political will, lack of priority, and unstable economic conditions.

Ms. Bano discussed the differentiated impacts of climate crises on men and women, highlighting how gender roles and inequalities exacerbate vulnerabilities among women and girls. She emphasized that women's traditional roles in agriculture, water collection, and household management make them particularly susceptible to increased workloads and limited resources during climate-re-

lated disasters.

Dr. Safdar Sohail stated that the economic phenomenon has the autonomy to impact the social institutions and structures of the society and the growth and decline of the economy impacts social organization and structure likewise. Each society has a social purpose which when challenged by stresses of negative social change impacts social purpose and harmony in any society.

Concluding the event, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, highlighted that since the National Security Policy of 2021, Pakistan has intentionally pivoted towards geo-economics and comprehensive security. Today, the nation not only pursues development but also emphasizes sustainable development and inclusive social progress. Ambassador Mahmood also commended the ISSI team for their diligent efforts in publishing the book.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:46 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 4:00 pm
Maghrib 5:40 pm
Isha 7:03 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208901-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi re-staged the classical theater play "Taleem-e-Balghan 2.0"

City Desk

KARACHI: On the fifteenth day of the 38-day World Culture Festival 2024, organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, the timeless play "Taleem-e-Balghan," written by the acclaimed playwright Khawaja Moinuddin, was presented with a refreshing twist.

The play was directed by Farhan Alam Siddiqui, featuring a talented cast including Owais, Farhan Rahim, Ajnesh Dodeja, Ali Raza, Shehriyar, Hassan, and Asim.

Drama is revolve around traditional madrasa (religious school), the play humorously addresses the theme of adult education through satire.

The audience actively participated in the performance, with a large number of young people in attendance. Throughout the play, the artists' outstanding performances had the audience laughing.

Joint Father-Son Exhibition at PNCA Islamabad celebrates cultural exchange

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) recently hosted the concluding leg of a remarkable father-son art exhibition by internationally acclaimed Sri Lankan abstract artist Mueen Saheed and his son, Bilaal Raji Saheed. Following successful exhibitions at the Lahore Museum and a prominent gallery in Lahore, this exhibition marks the final stop of their highly anticipated three-show tour in Pakistan.

The exhibition has garnered widespread appreciation from the Pakistani public, art enthusiasts, and prominent collectors. Chief guest, Federal Minister for information and Culture Mr Atta Ullah Tarar, expressed his admiration for the thought-provoking artwork and its contribution to cross-cultural dialogue. In his address, he emphasized the importance of such international exhibitions in strengthening artistic and cultural ties between nations. He further invited Mueen Saheed to commemorate the strong friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka by creating a painting at a significant heritage site in Pakistan.

Mueen Saheed, celebrated for his abstract interpretations of cultural

heritage, presented a body of work that explores the ancient cave and rock inscriptions of Sri Lanka. Merging these with elements of the famous Apsara paintings, his pieces resonated deeply with the audience.

Bilaal Raji Saheed, a graduate of the Royal College of Art in London, showcased a series of works that reflected his cultural musings and observations from his Sri Lankan heritage. His distinct artistic voice added an innovative dimension to the exhibition, offering a unique blend of modernity and tradition.

Minister Atta Ullah Tarar, also expressed gratitude to Shaykha Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, for her patronage of the arts and her efforts in fostering cross-cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Qatar. He noted the significance of the Saheeds' exhibition in continuing this trend of cultural collaboration, with hopes for future exchanges both locally and internationally.

The Saheeds' exhibition tour coincided with the prestigious Lahore Biennial, elevating the event's profile this year. In addition to their exhibitions, Mueen and Bilaal presented a series of engaging talks at notable institutions,



including the National College of Arts (NCA) and Punjab University's Faculty of Arts. The exhibition at PNCA will run until October 20, 2024, accompanied by ongoing artist talks and workshops.

Pak-Australia agricultural cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Australian High commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins speaks during 40th years of Australia-Pakistan Agriculture Cooperation, ceremony at Embassy of Australia, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

AIOU and Sheher Saaz Ink MoU to Promote Disaster Awareness

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Allama Iqbal Open University in collaboration with Islamabad Fire Brigade, Rescue 1122, and the welfare organization Sheher Saaz, organized a seminar on International Disaster Day. The event emphasized disaster awareness, showcasing fire extinguishing, injury transport by the Fire Brigade, and a live CPR demonstration by Rescue 1122. During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sheher Saaz and AIOU to launch an awareness campaign about disaster prevention. The university's Registrar, Raja Umar Younas, and Sheher Saaz's Executive Director,



Almas Shakoor, signed the agreement. Speaking at the event, Professor Dr. Syed Amir Shah, Director Administration emphasized that humans, as Allah's vicegerents, achieve true greatness by helping others and find deep satisfaction in serving during difficult times. Almas Shakoor, Executive Director of Sheher Saaz, emphasized their disaster awareness

campaigns in educational institutions, highlighting the importance of preparedness to reduce loss. Sheher Saaz also donated first-aid kits to the university's medical center. Participant Bibi Yasmeen shared a story of rescuing a bird, later linking the act to divine protection when she narrowly averted a kitchen fire.

Dr. Saima Nasir, at the conclusion of the seminar, thanked the participants and extended gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood for his support in organizing the event. She emphasized that ORIC, under the Vice-Chancellor's vision, continues to hold awareness seminars and training workshops for students, with this event being a part of that ongoing effort.

Security Papers Limited (SPL) hosts breast cancer awareness session

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Security Papers Limited (SPL) hosted a breast cancer awareness session at its head office in Karachi, in collaboration with Indus Hospital & Health Network. The event aimed to educate and empower female employees about the importance of breast health and early detection.

The session, led by Dr. Nazia Lodhi Breast & General Surgeon from Indus Hospital & Health Network, provided valuable insights on breast cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Participants were guided on the importance of self-examination and early detection, recognizing signs and symptoms, and understanding risk factors and prevention strategies. The doctor also discussed the latest screening and diagnostic techniques, and navigated medical resources and support services available.

Imran Qureshi, CEO at Security Papers Limited (SPL), commenting on the session, said, "We are proud to have taken this initiative, which aligns with our commitment to the well-being of our employees. Breast cancer awareness is crucial, and we believe that educating our employees will have a positive impact on their lives and the lives of those around them. At Security Papers Limited (SPL), we prioritize our employees' health and safety, and this initiative is a testament to our commitment."

The event was well-received by over 200 female attendees, who appreciated the informative session and Security Papers Limited's (SPL) efforts to promote a healthy work environment.

PSMA (Centre) Capt Faisal Ahmed Mukhtar elected new Chairman

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: A meeting of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (Centre) was held today which was presided over by Mr. Asim Ghani Usman, Senior Vice Chairman.

In a statement, a PSMA spokesman stated that in the meeting, the opinion of the Executive Committee members was taken for the vacant seat of Chairman Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (Centre) through voting.

Out of total nine Executive Committee members, six voted in favour of Mr. Faisal Ahmed Mukhtar. According to majority of votes, Faisal Ahmed Mukhtar was elected as the Chairman of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (Centre) for the period of 2024-26.

Later, a meeting of the general body of the association lauded the decision of the Executive Committee and congratulated the new chairman Faisal Ahmed Mukhtar. The meeting also strongly condemned the arrest of the Resident Director and Finance Manager of Seven Star Sugar Mills, demanding the government to release the arrested persons immediately.

Diabetes Centre marked World Mental Health Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad marked World Mental Health Day with an informative and engaging event centered around the theme, "It's Time to Prioritize Mental Health at Your Workplace." The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and its significant impact on daily work performance.

Dr. Nuzhat Hameed, a board member and consultant in diabetes care, opened the session with a heartfelt message to employees, emphasizing the need for a healthy work environment. She highlighted how mental well-being directly influences productivity and overall job satisfaction, urging everyone to prioritize their mental health.

The session featured a presentation by Dr. Asma founder & CEO from the Hope and Light Foundation, who provided valuable insights into mental health challenges and coping strategies. Her expertise helped attendees understand the various aspects of mental health and its importance in both personal and professional contexts.

Additionally, Ms. Ambreen, a psychiatrist, and Ms. Rida delivered an engaging presentation on fostering a healthy workplace environment. Their insights and practical tips encouraged employees to cultivate a supportive atmosphere, enhancing overall mental well-being.

Clean, Green, and Beautiful Islamabad is our Top Priority: Ahsan Bakhtawari

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Bakhtawari, has stated that the Clean and Green Islamabad is among his top priorities. Addressing an anti-dengue spray and awareness walk event organized at the I-8 merkaz, He emphasized that he will work collaboratively with institutions to make Islamabad a disease-free, clean, and emerge as beautiful city.

The event was attended by District Health Officer Dr. Zaem Zia, DSP Sajjad Bukhari, and officials from the Traders Welfare Associations. Former President ICCI said



that We will not rely solely on government institutions; instead, we will take initiatives under the 'Self-Help' approach to address our issues. He

announced that dengue elimination efforts will be extended to every sector of Islamabad. He also said collective efforts are crucial to tackle

issues rather than relying solely on government institutions. Dengue elimination is a key focus area. Awareness campaigns will be extended

to every sector of Islamabad. Islamabad will be transformed into a model city in terms of health, education, cleanliness, and natural beauty.

District Health Officer Dr. Zaem Zia appreciated Bakhtawari's initiatives, particularly the anti-dengue awareness campaign. He said Ahsan Bakhtawari is an exemplary figure, inspiring society to take action and promote awareness.

He assured that the District Health Department will collaborate with Bakhtawari to combat dengue and other diseases, ensuring citizens' protection and a clean environment. The event marked the beginning of a comprehensive campaign to eradicate dengue from Islamabad.

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Challenges Ahead for Harris Even If She Wins

Though the U. S. President is from the Democratic Party, his party does not hold a majority in either the Senate or House of Representatives. In the Senate, Republicans have 49 seats, while Democrats hold 47 seats; however, four independents caucus with the Democrats, giving them a slim majority. In the House, Republicans control 220 seats, compared to 212 for Democrats, with three vacancies. Despite a thin pseudo majority in the Senate, passing legislation by democrats remains challenging due to tight margins and divisions within both parties. This makes control of both chambers critical for policy decisions into 2025.

This composition might change in the November 2024 U. S. Senate elections where 34 seats are up for grabs, with 23 currently held by Democrats or Independents who caucus with them, making it a challenging cycle for the Democratic Party. Republicans need a net gain of two seats to regain control of the Senate, and they have a strong chance, with forecasts giving them a 67-71% probability of winning. Key vulnerabilities for Democrats include potential retirements or tough re-election battles in states like Michigan, West Virginia, and Montana, which lean Republican.

This cycle presents an uphill battle for Democrats, while Republicans aim to capitalize on these opportunities. If Donald Trump wins the 2024 election, he would likely have more legislative control due to the Republican presence in both the Senate and House, giving him more freedom to advance his policies. This would allow him to push for legislation

that aligns with Republican core values: limited government, lower taxes, deregulation, and free-market capitalism. On social issues, Trump would likely advocate for traditional family values, religious freedom, pro-life policies, and gun rights, while maintaining a strong focus on national defense and assertive foreign policy.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Kamala Harris to sell her policies promoting economic inclusivity, such as raising the minimum wage, expanding healthcare access, gun control, progressive taxation, and education reform, including free community college and student debt relief. On social issues, she struggled to sell her reproductive rights, pushing to codify Roe v. Wade (the landmark 1973 U. S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide), access to affordable healthcare and her support to Ukraine and favors diplomatic engagement in the Middle East.

Donald Trump's campaign, on the other hand, revolves around deregulation, tax cuts, and his "America First" agenda, aiming to bring back manufacturing jobs and lower inflation by reducing foreign dependencies. He emphasizes law and order, strong border security, and minimal government intervention in healthcare. Trump supports state-level abortion restrictions and promotes school choice programs, advocating for charter schools and vouchers. His foreign policy focuses on reducing U. S. involvement

in international conflicts, particularly in Ukraine, and strengthening ties with Israel through the Abraham Accords (a series of agreements brokered by the U. S. starting in 2020, normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab nations), while adopting a tougher stance on Iran.

In U. S. elections, typical Republican "red" states, like Texas, Alabama, and Wyoming, traditionally support conservative candidates, focusing on issues like gun rights, lower taxes, and limited government, providing a solid base of electoral votes in the South and rural West. On the other hand, Democratic "blue" states, such as California, New York, and Illinois, tend to favor progressive policies, with a strong base in urban areas and coastal regions, focusing on healthcare, education, and environmental issues. The key to winning presidential elections often lies in swing states like Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Georgia, which do not consistently favor either party and can shift based on candidates' appeal and local issues. These battleground states are highly contested because their electoral votes can swing the balance in a tight race. Both parties rely on their traditional strongholds, but ultimately, securing a majority in the swing states is essential to reaching the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

Recent surveys indicate that the race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump for the 2024 U. S. presiden-

tial election remains tight, with Harris holding a slight edge in most national polls. For instance, an Ipsos poll shows Harris leading Trump 48% to 44% among likely voters. However, when undecided voters are pushed to make a choice, more lean toward Trump. Other polls, such as one from The Economist/YouGov, also place Harris ahead by about 4-5 points, but the margins are narrow, especially in key battleground states.

Harris is generally favored by voters who consume mainstream and digital media, while Trump finds strong support among conservative media audiences, particularly on issues like inflation and immigration. In contrast, Harris holds an advantage on political extremism. The impact of swing states, where many results are within the margin of error, could be crucial in determining the final outcome, making the race highly competitive.

The last presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump was held on September 10, 2024, hosted by ABC News. The next presidential debate is likely to be scheduled soon. This debate would play a crucial role in shaping public opinion, particularly among undecided voters, as this debate would highlight the candidates positions on critical issues like the economy, healthcare, foreign policy, and social justice. Till that time the American economy is frozen and the entire world is eagerly awaiting the assumption of power by the most powerful person on this planet.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

One in seven children & teens impacted by mental health conditions

Around one in seven children and adolescents aged 10 to 19 are affected by mental health conditions – with anxiety, depression and behavioural disorders among the most common, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report released on Wednesday.

In addition, one-third of mental health conditions emerge before the age of 14 and half before the age of 18.

Published to mark World Mental Health Day, celebrated annually on 10 October, the report seeks to support the transformation of mental health services for children and adolescents.

It underscores the importance of early action as an essential ingredient to enable children and young people realize their full potential. Despite the need for action, access to services remains largely inaccessible.

Most young people experiencing concerning mental health symptoms cannot access care due to systemic barriers such as low service availability, unaffordable costs and stigma preventing them from seeking help.

Further, while public funding and human resources for services is low worldwide in general, those aimed at children and adolescents are particularly unavailable, especially in low and middle-income countries.

"We must take action to ensure that evidence-based and age-appropriate interventions are available and affordable for all," said Dévora Kestel, Director of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use at WHO.

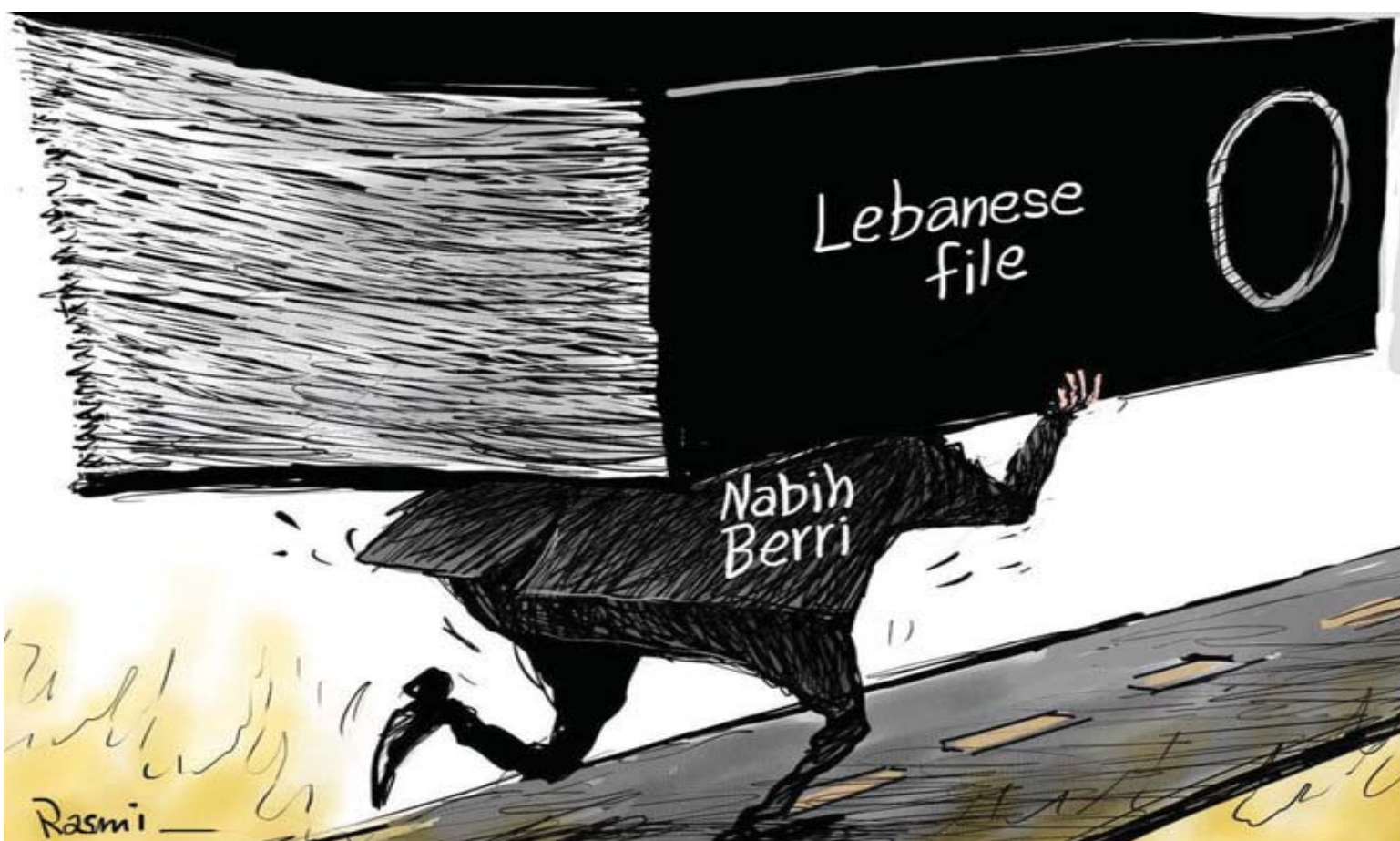
"Every country, regardless of its circumstances, can do something to significantly improve the mental health of its children, young people and their families," she added.

The report stipulates that supporting the mental health of children and teens must be a collective effort. While there is no single best model, it provides examples from around the world that show what can be achieved in different settings.

"Mental health and well-being of children, adolescents and their families cannot be addressed in isolation. We must integrate health, education, social protection and community support systems to build a comprehensive network of mental health services for young people," said Fouzia Shafique, Associate Director of Health at UNICEF. The report also draws attention to the millions of children with mental health conditions worldwide who are institutionalized, despite having existing families, arguing that this practice violates their human rights and leads to poor health and social outcomes.

It calls for the phasing out of institutional care in favour of community-based services that allow children to grow in their families and communities, ensuring continuity in their education, social relationships and overall development.

"It is our collective responsibility to prioritize their mental health as part of overall child and adolescent well-being," said Ms. Shafique.



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

Bangladesh Honors Quaid-i-Azam Legacy Celebrating The Spirit of Wisdom With Heart

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Bangladesh, a country of South Asia, has rich history intertwined with legacy of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Quaid-e-Azam meaning great leader and the creator of Pakistan that is revered for his vision, leadership, unwavering commitment to the ideals of justice and equality. Bangladesh's acknowledgment and celebration of Quaid-e-Azam spirit exemplify a profound respect for his enduring legacy. Bangladesh honouring the legacy of founding father of Pakistan with heartfelt reverence and how this commemoration reflects the shared values and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. Quaid-e-Azam was a towering figure in the history of the Indian subcontinent, leading the movement for an independent Pakistan. His emphasis on unity of Muslims, democracy and social justice resonates deeply with the people of Bangladesh, who have faced their own struggles for independence and self-determination. Bangladesh's recognition of Quaid-e-Azam's legacy is not merely a historical nod but a tribute to the enduring values that he stood for. One of the key aspects of Quaid-e-Azam's legacy that Bangladesh honours his unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy and peace.

Quaid-e-Azam envisioned a Pakistan where all citizens, regardless of their religion or background, would have equal rights and opportunities. Bangladesh, with its diverse population and commitment to democracy, sees Quaid-e-Azam as a beacon of hope and inspiration for upholding these fundamental values in the face of challenges. Moreover, Bangladesh celebrates Quaid's spirit of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. His principles of democracy, equality and peace resonate deeply with the

people of Bangladesh, who strive to uphold these values in their own society.

Pakistan aims to foster trust and collaborations with other nations, ultimately contributing to global peace and prosperity. Transparency in governance and diplomatic affairs is crucial for maintaining public confidence and forging strong relationship with other countries. The government demonstrates its commitment to upholding ethical standards and promoting integrity in all spheres of world. Pakistan's adherence to honesty and fair play is essential for establishing a positive image and building constructive partnership with other nations. Progressive societies are characterized by their commitment to equality, diversity and respect for individual rights.

Bangladesh a country with a rich history and a vibrant culture, aspires to build a democratic and peaceful nation where every individual is treated with dignity and respect. Bangladesh can pave the way towards a more harmonious and equitable future. This means regardless of their background, Bangladesh can create a society where everyone feels valued and respected. Bangladesh Bridge divides and foster a sense of unity among its citizens. This includes the right to freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination. Bangladesh ensures that everyone is able to express themselves freely and participated in public life without fear of persecution.

Bangladesh located in South Asia, is a land of diversity with a history that dates back centuries. The country has seen various civilizations including the ancient Begal region, the Mughal Empire, British colonial rule and its eventual independence in 1971. This rich historical tapestry has shaped Bangladesh into nation with unique identity and cultural heritage. Moreover, the people of Bangladesh hold values of democracy, peace, dignity and respect in high regards. Bangladesh history is mosaic of influences from various empires and civilizations.

The Begal region was known for its advanced urban centers and thriving trade routes as early as the 4th century. The Mughal Empire left a lasting architectural legacy in Bangladesh with structures like the Lalbagh Fort and the Ahsan Manzil. British colonial rule while oppressive in many aspects also brought modern education and administrative systems to the region.

The Liberation War of 1971, which led to the birth of Bangladesh is a poignant chapter in the history that symbolizes the struggle for independence and self-determination. Culturally, Bangladesh is a treasure trove of music, art, literature and dance. The country's traditional folk music, including Baul and Lalon songs, reflects themes of love and social justice. As a young nation Bangladesh, has faced challenges on its path to establishing a robust democracy and maintaining peace. The country has made significant strides in electoral democracy since the restoration of democracy in 1991. Bangladesh promotes political stability and human rights implantations to continue pose the full realizations of democratic ideals.

Bangladesh's celebration of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birthday is not merely a tribute to a historical figure, but a reflection of shared values that transcend borders. As a nation rooted in its own rich history, Bangladesh honors Jinnah's vision of justice and equality, recognizing that his ideals resonate deeply within its own journey. This gesture of remembrance fosters a spirit of unity and mutual respect, reminding us all that the legacies of great leaders can inspire hope and cooperation across nations. In embracing this shared heritage, Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to the principles of leadership and justice, paving the way for a future grounded in solidarity and understanding.

Writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) from International Islamic University, Islamabad-Pakistan. He can be reached at drmsashfaq@gmail.com.

Military and Constitutional Courts: A comparative analysis-I

Pakistan's justice system currently faces significant challenges. The country has struggled with terrorism for decades, with security forces engaged in combat against terrorist groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and the Baloch Liberation Army. The sacrifices made by the Pakistan Army and security forces in this fight are well-documented, showcasing their commitment to defending the country and its people. Despite numerous successful operations against terrorists, a troubling reality remains: many apprehended terrorists benefit from legal loopholes, undermining the efforts of the military and security agencies.

When these individuals are brought before anti-terrorism courts, legal gaps often lead to their release due to lack of evidence. As a result, many return to their extremist groups, continuing to pose a threat to both security forces and civilians. Intelligence-based counter-terrorism operations, such as Operation Rad-ul-Fasaad and Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, have resulted in the arrest of hundreds of terrorists, yet many are subsequently freed by the courts.

The backlog of cases in the judicial system is alarming, with a 121% increase in pending cases reported from 2022 to 2023. Between 2020 and 2023, 6,550 terrorists were charged, but only 11% (774) were convicted, with just 1.5% (104) of those convictions upheld. The Anti-Terrorism Act was intended to alleviate court burdens, allowing each anti-terrorism court to handle one case at a time. However, amendments made in 1999 have led to increased workloads.

Currently, there are 91 anti-terrorism courts across Pakistan—23 in Punjab, 13 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 32 in Sindh, 9 in Balochistan, 10 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 2 in Gilgit-Bal-

tistan, and 2 in Islamabad. According to a 2023 review by NACTA, significant numbers of terrorism cases remain pending, with Balochistan facing the highest proportion at 34%, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 32%, Sindh at 19%, Punjab at 8%, and Gilgit-Baltistan at 7%. Overall, there are 605 cases pending nationwide, including 48 in Punjab, 115 in Sindh, 195 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 208 in Balochistan, and 39 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Between 2020 and 2023, there were 217 convictions in terrorism-related cases, broken down as follows: 152 in Punjab, 33 in Sindh, 14 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10 in Balochistan, 6 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 2 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In contrast, the acquittal rate for those involved in terrorism is notably higher, with 278 terrorists acquitted

due to lack of evidence in various cases. During this period, 1,650 cases remained pending, and charges against 6,550 terrorists were submitted, resulting in 774 convictions and 911 cancellations. A total of 465 terrorists appealed their acquittals, with 104 convicted and 90 acquitted. Anti-terrorism courts are also experiencing trial delays, which can benefit terrorists as their cases remain unresolved. For severe penalties like the death sentence, strong evidence is necessary, and many cases have been dismissed for lack of such evidence. In summary, terrorism cases in Pakistan face delays due to an over-reliance on witness testimonies, evidence, security concerns, and various obstructions. These issues contribute to repeated acquittals in high-profile cases, which facilitate terrorism. This situation highlights the need for establishing military courts under the National Action Plan, as the current judicial system appears unable to effectively prosecute terrorists.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Death Anniversary of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan: A legacy of commitment and struggle

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The nation observes the third death anniversary of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, affectionately known as Mohsin-e-Pakistan, a distinguished nuclear scientist whose contributions established Pakistan as the first nuclear power in the Muslim world and the seventh globally.

Dr. Khan's efforts were pivotal in fortifying Pakistan's defense capabilities, leading to his recognition with prestigious awards, including the Nishan-e-Pakistan, on two occasions.

Dr. Khan's health began to decline just one day before his passing. He was admitted to KRL Hospital in an ambulance at 6:00 AM, where he succumbed to lung failure at 7:04 AM on October 10, 2021, at the age of 85.

In a recent legal development, more than four months posthumously, the Supreme Court addressed a petition filed by Dr. Khan regarding the enforcement of his fundamental rights, including freedom of movement. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, heading a three-judge bench, dismissed the

petition as moot following Dr. Khan's death.

Counsel for Dr. Khan, Advocate Taufiq Asif, argued that the nuclear scientist was not an ordinary individual; his sacrifices for the nation deserved recognition. He highlighted that Dr. Khan faced undue restrictions under the guise of security since 2004 and called for accountability for those responsible for limiting his rights.

Asif expressed disappointment over the lack of public acknowledgment for Dr. Khan's legacy, noting the absence of significant public infrastructure named in his honor. He implored the court to advocate for the vindication of Dr. Khan's contributions as a means to honor his memory.

Chief Justice Bandial remarked, "Great nations recognize and respect their heroes," but advised the counsel to pursue separate legal action if further directives were sought. He recalled that during previous hearings, the court had lauded Dr. Khan's service to the nation.

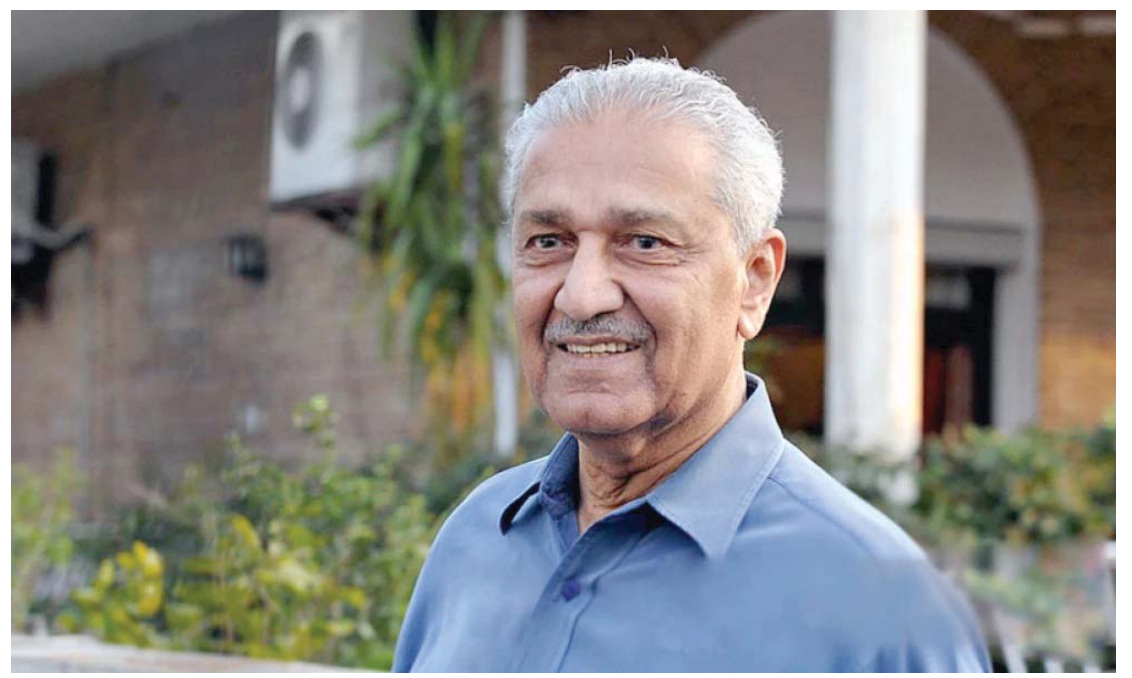
Earlier, on June 23, 2021, the Supreme Court had requested the Attorney General, Khalid Jawed Khan,

to meet with Dr. Khan to address his concerns amid ongoing discussions pertaining to the security measures surrounding him.

Dr. Khan's earlier plea, initially considered by the Lahore High Court, was dismissed on grounds of jurisdiction concerning state security protocols. In a significant 2009 ruling, the Islamabad High Court had acknowledged Dr. Khan's status as a free citizen but imposed restrictions on dissemination of certain details, as requested by both parties involved.

On May 14, 2020, Dr. Khan expressed to the Supreme Court that he had been coerced into signing a consent agreement concerning his habeas corpus petition, which he claimed was not made voluntarily. In his appeal, he asserted the necessity of safeguarding his fundamental rights and requested fair opportunity for his voice to be represented in court.

Dr. Khan emphasized his role as the architect of Pakistan's nuclear program, illustrating how the collective efforts led to Pakistan's nuclear status, enhancing national security. He lamented his



enforced isolation, revealing that even family members living nearby were barred from visiting him, indicating

the extent of restrictions he endured. As we remember Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan today, his legacy serves as both

a symbol of national pride and a reminder of the ongoing struggle for personal liberties.

Fatima Fertilizer given prestigious FPCCI Award by the President of Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Fatima Fertilizer was uniquely recognized as the Best Innovative Agricultural Products Company, by the President of Pakistan, at the 12th Excellence Awards of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), the country's apex trade and industry association.

The award was presented to the company's CEO, Mr. Fawad Ahmed Mukhtar, in recognition of Fatima Fertilizer's groundbreaking contributions to the agriculture industry and its innovative solutions aimed at improving food security in the country and the socio-economic uplift of the farming community.

Fatima Fertilizer's products have consistently proven to increase crop yields by up to 10% across Pakistan. This significant boost in productivity directly contributes to increasing food production, playing a crucial role in addressing the country's food security challenges. The company's commitment to providing innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of farmers has solidified its reputation as the leading provider of agricultural products in Pakistan.



Fawad Ahmed Mukhtar, CEO of Fatima Fertilizer, expressed his gratitude at the award, stating, "We are deeply honored to receive this prestigious award from the FPCCI and given by the President of Pakistan. At Fatima Fertilizer, we are committed to developing pioneering agricultural products that not only increase crop yield but also contribute to protecting the nation's food security. Our goal is to support the farmers

in their journey towards prosperity by pursuing the development of cutting-edge products and services as a constant endeavor".

With a strong focus on modernization and farmer empowerment, Fatima Fertilizer continues to set new benchmarks in the agriculture industry, cementing its position as a trusted partner for farmers and a leader in advancing the nation's food security goals.

CDC-in collaboration with SECP, AMCs and Capital Market entities-organizes "Investor Weekend 2024"

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: With the support and guidance of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Central Depository Company (CDC), in collaboration with leading AMCs and brokerage houses of Pakistan, has organized a 3-day long "Investor Weekend 2024" event at Dolmen Mall Clifton, Karachi from October 11 - 13, 2024. CDC has especially organized this event to mark the World Investor Week 2024, a global initiative organized by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), dedicated to promoting investor education and protection.

The event will be inaugurated by Mr. Abdul Rehman Warrach-Commissioner SECP, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi - Commissioner SECP, Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari - Chairman CDC, Mr. Badiuddin Akber - CEO CDC along with representatives of top asset management



companies, stock brokers companies and other financial institutions. The entire ground floor arena of Dolmen Mall Clifton will showcase Capital market participation led by CDC and SECP along with leading Asset Management Companies and Brokerage Houses, all of whom will share their expert insights and experiences with the public to assist them in making safe and informed investment decisions, thus promoting the investment culture in Pakistan. The participating organizations

include ABL Funds, AKD Securities, Al-Habib Funds, Al-Meezan Investment Management Limited, Atlas Asset Management, Faysal Funds, HBL Asset Management Limited, MCB Funds, Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX), Trust Securities and Brokerage Limited, UBL Funds and WE Financials. CDC has invited masses to attend this 3-day event for learning key information on diverse investment avenues and how to actively participate in the financial market by making smart and informed investments.

IMF 21st program, EFF envision progressive Pakistan through structural reforms in govt: Esther Ruiz

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund (IMF), Resident Representative for Pakistan, Esther Pérez Ruiz on Thursday at an interaction with experts, civil society, and academia said that post Stand-By Arrangement launch in July 2023, the confidence in policymaking has improved with inflation plummeting to its lowest level in three years, international reserves more than doubled, and the economy on the course of improvement.

Pakistan has managed to revive economic and financial stability over the past fiscal year despite challenging external environment and destructive impacts of 2022 floods, she said.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) hosted the IMF Resident Representative for

Pakistan Esther Pérez Ruiz at a discussion on "Raising Pakistani Living Standards and Economic Resilience" following the approval of the 2024 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) here at the SDPI Conference Hall.

Ms. Esther Pérez Ruiz said to achieve the prime objective of a better life for a major chunk of the Pakistani masses, a goal the IMF merrily supports demands Pakistan to shift its development model away from state intervention in economic decisions entailing protectionism, incentives, subsidies, and tax concessions primarily for privileged groups.

Ms. Ruiz underlined that the country needs policies that unclutter the economy, promote competition, reduce trade barriers, and streamline regulatory burden to facilitate the expansion of new and more produc-

tive activities and exports.

She also supported reforms in the public sector to enable more efficient role in generating the resources needed to improve public services, build human capital, and upgrade infrastructure in a more fair and sustainable manner.

She added that the new IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) approved last week by the IMF's Executive Board also envisioned these indigenously developed priorities of the government in its multi-year reform program.

The EFF endorsed the government's commitment to set Pakistan on the track to resilient and inclusive growth through several key pathways to protect real incomes and provide affordable energy, social protection schemes to protect the most vulnerable, advancing energy sector reforms,

reduce the cost of purchasing power agreements, improve tax fairness with wealthier segments of society, along with economic sectors that have remained largely untaxed in the past, expected to contribute more to the national domestic revenue generation and enhanced government revenues that will enable Pakistan to address its priority development needs, reduce Pakistan's indebtedness and potentially reduce other more regressive taxes, she added.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI said the IMF Resident Representative in her opinion built the case on the EFF as a facility to raise Pakistani Living Standards. The special talk was organized to understand the long-term impacts of the EFF and macroeconomic stability measures proposed in the program.

PIDE Unveils Key Book on Pakistan's Auto Industry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) successfully launched its much-anticipated new book, "Driving Backwards: What is Wrong with Pakistan's Automobile Industry?" at an event held at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad today. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of Pakistan's underperforming automobile sector and presents a roadmap for its revival and transition to future.

Dr Usman Qadir, Senior Research Economist at PIDE presented the book's key insights and engaged in discussions about the long-standing challenges facing the sector. He emphasized the need for Pakistan to move beyond protectionist policies and instead focus on integrating its auto industry

into global value chains to boost competitiveness and innovation.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor PIDE in his keynote speech expressed transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) will not only reduce Pakistan's fuel import bill but also help combat worsening air quality in the country. He also highlighted that R & D is the backbone of Global Automobile Industry but completely lacking in Pakistan. He encouraged the students to dream big and be the leaders in the global chain through innovation, entrepreneurship and research.

The book also highlights the pressing issue of the "On Money" culture, which forces consumers to pay black-market premiums due to limited vehicle availability. This phenomenon costs consumers an estimated PKR 30-34 billion annually, estimates PIDE research. The

book reemphasizes that such inefficiencies are the result of flawed policies and emphasized the need for reforms to improve consumer welfare and provide access to affordable, high-quality vehicles.

The book also contains three chapters focusing on Pakistan's quest for EV transition. While economically and environmentally the shift to EVs holds significant importance for Pakistan there are a number of challenges that must be overcome before large scale EV adoption is possible in Pakistan. The PIDE reaffirms that the government must allow equal opportunity for sale of EVs in Pakistan and let the consumer decide the kind of vehicle they want to own.

Pakistan's former ambassador to WTO, Dr. Manoor Ahmed while addressing the book launch event applauded PIDE's research regarding reforming

the automobile industry in Pakistan. He termed Driving Backwards a timely published book to help policy makers for informed decision making in light of recent economic challenges and conditionalities of IMF program. He further emphasized on enhancing the resource allocation efficiency in the country to fully utilized the economic potential of the manufacturing sector. This requires a complete shift and modernization of the policy approach adopted by Pakistan.

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session, during which attendees raised questions about the future of Pakistan's automobile industry, particularly in the context of electric vehicle (EV) adoption and the global shift toward sustainable mobility. The authors reiterated that while Pakistan is lagging in EV adoption, the country has a



unique opportunity to leapfrog into the future if it embraces forward-looking policies that encourage innovation and sustainability.

PIDE urges industry leaders,

policy makers, and entrepreneurs to reconsider the current trajectory of the automobile sector. The book's recommendations call for a transition to electric vehicles, promoting competi-

tiveness through joint ventures, and integrating the industry into global value chains. These steps are crucial for realizing the long-term potential of Pakistan's auto industry.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
85,453.22	85,669.27
Day's High	Day's Low
86,013.46	85,425.74
Index Value	Change
23,281,275,969	-216.05
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	10 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,237.73	-6.01
Percentage	Time
-0.073%	10 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,387.01	-124.99
Percentage	Time
-0.29%	10 Oct, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,380.89	+102.93
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	10 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.75	189.14
Bahrain Dinar	732.20	740.20
Canadian Dollar	204.27	206.67
China Yuan	39.6	40.00
Danish Krone	41.12	41.52
Euro	302.50	305.25
Hong Kong Dollar	35.65	36
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.60	908.10
Malaysian Ringgit	63.55	64.15
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
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	27.15	27.46
Swiss Franc	322.20	324.45
Thai Bhat	8.56	8.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.10
UK Pound Sterling	361.50	365
US Dollar	278.25	279.75

Targeting Chinese was an attack on Pakistan's growth, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Thursday that, despite terrorism, political turmoil, and other serious problems, the economy is stabilising due to good policies.

Success is the only option in the war of economic development; therefore, policymakers are doing their best to revive the economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that while the results of effective policies are evident, speeding up reforms would be preferable.

Speaking to the business community, the seasoned business leader predicted further reductions in inflation and interest rates,

which will support business growth and job creation.

He observed that the State Bank had projected a reduction in the inflation rate to 5 or 6 percent by 2025, but it has now dropped to 6.9 percent, necessitating a drop in interest rates to a single digit.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has controlled the unnecessary imports, which has reduced the trade deficit, but still many items are being imported and smuggled into the country that are not needed.

Stopping unnecessary imports will lead to local production of these items, which will benefit all stakeholders.

The business leader stated that selling many commodities in the local market benefits businessmen more than exporting them. Moreover, the unaffordable prices of electricity pose a threat to Pakistan's exports, despite a recent 17 percent increase.



He advocated for the immediate reduction of electricity prices to nine cents per unit, which is central to economic revival.

Unfortunately, he said, hundreds of containers blocked highways during the recent protests, causing significant losses to the business and transport community.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that such protests and road closures caused significant damage to the economy, negatively impact the country's reputation globally, and undermine the hard-earned economic stability, necessitating the discovery of a solution.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that the Chinese experts had travelled to Pakistan to negotiate a tariff reduction for their IPPs, who hit by the terrorists in Karachi.

It's astonishing how the terrorists managed to obtain all the details of their arrival, he said, adding that we should ensure the security of expatriates working in Pakistan and strictly deal with terrorists, as they aim to obstruct investment and halt the ongoing economic recovery process in the country.

Tech Week Singapore

SINGAPORE: Pakistan High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabia Shafiq in a group photo with the representatives of Pakistan's Tech Companies who participated in Tech Week Singapore on 9-10 October.



RCCI expresses serious concerns over the notices of closure of business centers

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), has expressed serious concerns over the District administration's order to close wedding halls, cafes, restaurants and snooker clubs from October 12 to 16 on the account of security on the occasion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Conference.

RCCI President, Usman Shaikat, said in a statement that Pakistan's economy is going through a difficult period, in such a situation, not only billions of rupees will be lost due to the closure of business activities, on the other hand the government will also lose tax revenue, we demand that the administration withdraw the notices.



President Chamber Usman Shaikat said that there has been a loss of 180 billion rupees due to the closure of business and mobile networks in the twin cities due to the protest last week, which has been admitted by the finance minister himself. The shutdown orders are a complete overreach, we cannot afford any more economic crisis, he added.

Businesswomen pleased with economic stability: Minister of Commerce

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The president of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), Samina Fazil, stated Thursday that businesswomen are very pleased with the stabilization of the economy because the country is moving in the right direction.

She said that we have high expectations for Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, who is making every effort to encourage commercial ventures and strengthen the economy.

After thoroughly discussing with Jam Kamal Khan, she addressed the office bearers and IWCCI members. She said that we have sent the minister recommendations that, if approved, will greatly benefit the businesswomen and the economy.

Samina Fazil said that we have requested the inclusion of women-owned businesses in trade delegations and the provision of subsidies to facilitate their business promotion.

She said that IWCCI has also sent a proposal for subsidies to assist women business owners in attending international trade shows and exhibitions, thereby enhancing their visibility and prospects globally.

The founder president of IWCCI stressed the significance of incorporating women's



viewpoints in national and international trade policies.

She also called for the representation of women as leaders on the boards of various organizations, such as the Export Development Fund.

The businesswomen also asked for a follow-up on the budgetary allocation for women entrepreneurs in the previous fiscal year; additional measures to promote women-led firms; and the allocation of an amenity plot for the IWCCI building.

She also requested that the government assist IWCCI in hosting the Single Country Exhibitions in the African Region through the EDF, to foster trade links and

provide women-owned firms with access to markets.

The minister was informed about the issue of pending women's chambers licenses at the General of Trade Organisations (DGTO) and requested support to strengthen the Women Exporters Network (WEXNET).

According to her, the minister assured all out support and pledged to make sure they attended these gatherings in order to advertise their companies internationally, which will help them get business.

Samina Fazil said that the minister has promised more efforts to mainstream women in the economy.

Saudi delegation's visit a significant milestone in bilateral ties: President ICCI

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has commended the recent visit of a high-level Saudi delegation to Pakistan as a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between the two nations.

Led by Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, the delegation's visit is expected to result in bilateral agreements worth \$2 billion.

Talking to different delegations at ICCI, he termed it a testament to the strong

relationship between the two brotherly nations and said that this development underscores the growing ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Qureshi emphasized the importance of political stability for economic stability, noting that Pakistan is gaining stability, which is a good omen for future progress. This positive trajectory has sparked interest from friendly countries in investments and joint ventures, paving the way for economic betterment.

To foster economic growth, he stressed the need to remove

bureaucratic hurdles for ease of doing business by advocating facilities and resources to support businesses rather than relying on intimidation, harassment, and burdensome taxes on existing taxpayers.

Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said that as President of ICCI, he is committed to carrying forward the legacy of creating business opportunities. The ICCI has been working to explore new business avenues for its members and attract foreign investments by showcasing Pakistan's tourism potential, he concluded.

On this ICCI members



Naeem Siddiqui, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others were also present.

CCP approves joint acquisition of Uch Power by Sapphire Fibres and Mindbridge



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the joint acquisition of Uch Power (Private) Limited and Uch-II Power (Private) Limited by Sapphire Fibres Limited (Acquirer 1) and Mindbridge (Private) Limited (Acquirer 2).

The acquisition, formalized through a Sale and Purchase Agreement with UPLHC-I Limited (Seller 1), UPLHC-II Limited (Seller 2), and International Power Uch Holdings B. V. (Seller 3), will transfer 100 percent of the shares of Uch Power I and Uch-II Power to the acquirers.

The total cost for the acquisition includes a significant investment for both Uch Power I and Uch Power II. Both Sapphire Fibres Limited and Mindbridge Private Limited will equally share ownership, holding a 50% stake in each of the power plants.

Sapphire Fibres, a publicly listed company, operates in textiles manufacturing and power generation through its subsidiary, Sapphire Electric Company. Mindbridge, a private IT services provider, will now enter the power generation sector with this acquisition.

Uch Power and Uch-II Power are active in Pakistan's thermal power sector, with gas-powered plants. The acquisition will increase Sapphire Fibres' market presence in thermal power generation, while Mindbridge will mark its entry into the power generation industry through the proposed transaction.

The CCP's analysis has determined that the relevant product market for this transaction is "Thermal Power Generation - Independent Power Producer" within Pakistan. The acquisition will not lead to market dominance by the Acquirers, ensuring continued competition in the sector.

DG Sports Punjab gives in-depth briefing to the officers about the important issues of sports

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A delegation of senior officers of National Management Course visited different sports facilities at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) on Thursday.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal briefed the officers in detail about the important issues of sports. Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Admin M Kaleem, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and Ata-ur-Rehman were also present on this occasion.

Talking to delegation, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that there are 538 sports facilities in the Punjab province. "Out of 538 sports facilities, 119 are in Lahore division, 85 in Bahawalpur division, 64 in Faisalabad division, 58 in Rawalpindi, 50 in Gujranwala, 42 each in Sargodha and DG Khan divisions, 41 in Sahiwal and 37 sports facilities in Multan division".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the sports clubs were registered for the first time in the history of Punjab province. "A sufficient grant will also be given to sports clubs of the province. More than 120,000 players from different clubs will participate in Khelta Punjab Games," he added.

Elaborating further Director General Sports Punjab



Pervez Iqbal said that for the first time in the history of Punjab province as many as 200 players will be given honorarium from Sports Endowment Fund for one year for the first time. "Punjab Sports Department is

awarding scholarships to top performing 200 players in three categories – Platinum, Gold and Silver. In Platinum category, the athletes will be given a stipend of Rs 70,000, in Gold category Rs 50,000 while Rs 30,000 will be given to athletes in Silver category for one year".

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the prime objective of Sports Endowment Fund is player development across the province. This programme will help a lot in finding several new talented athletes.

The senior officers also asked different questions from DG Sports Punjab about the sports policy and other important sports issues. They asked about the role different sports boards, sports associations and federations, clubs, criteria of selection etc. In response to these queries, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal gave comprehensive replies.

The senior officers of National Management Course, who are taking the course for the promotion from grade 20 to 21, also visited the National Hockey Stadium, NPSC Gymnasium Hall, Punjab Stadium and Punjab International Swimming Complex.

The delegation of National Management Course was comprised of Aqeel Yusuf, Khurram Shahzad, Irfan Anjum, Ibadullah Azam, Shafiqat Ali Khan Niazi, Shoaib Sarwar, Umar Ali Khan, Shahzana Durrani, Shariq Kamal Siddiqui and M Hafeezullah.

9th edition of Friends Cricket League, 2024-25 begin at Lahore.

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 9th edition of Friends Cricket League, 2024-25 begin at Lahore here at Itfaq Cricket Ground Lahore, Where The Director Golden Banaspati an Chief Organizer FCL Cricket League, 2024-25 Muhammad Salman Khan and Ceo Aftab Qarshi, Mohsin Aftab inaugurated. Before start of the League Dua was offered. The Fateha Khawani was also offered for Late Ashiq Hussain Qureshi who played very vital role for the promotion of Veteran Cricket in Pakistan. On this occasion Khawaja Adnan Abid Hussain, Raja Asif Sharif, Mian Hamza, Khawaja Jawad, Sabir Hussain, Ch. Ghazanfar Ali, Mian Yasir, large number of players and Organizers were present. The Inauguration match played between Lahore Lines and Al-Mubarak Senior team which



was won by Lahore Lines by 8 wickets. Al-Mubarak batted first and they

scored 167 all out in 25.3 overs. Imran Shafi, 67, Nadeem Shehzad, 31 were the highest scorers. From Lahore Lines, Nauman Iqbal, Kashif Ali and Tahir Rashid got two wickets each while Captain of Salman Khan, Rai Afzaal, and Zafar Iqbal took one wicket each.

In reply Lahore Lines achieved the target in 18.3 overs due to magnificent batting of Rana Mujahid 94 and Captain of Lahore Lines Salman Khan unbeaten 55.

At the end Salman Khan gave the man of the match award to Rana Mujahid of his brilliant performance. In the 2nd match which was played at Ali Gar Cricket Ground, Model Town, Lahore Friends Stars beat Star Asia by 41 runs. The two matches supervised by Sagheer Ahmed, Irfan Dilshad, Khurram Siddique and Arif Rashid while the scorers were Sajjad Ahmed and Muhammad Ikyan Khan.

Pakistan vs England First Cricket Match of 4th Day

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan In the 147-year history of Test cricket, no team has ever suffered from an innings defeat by scoring 500. No team has ever lost a match by doing so. It didn't happen.

But Pakistan cricket is threatened that it is going to do it, as the shadow of the innings defeat against England at the Multan International Cricket Stadium looms deeper than the shadow of Syria.

This is Pakistan which in a moment takes it from the graveyard of personal bowlers to the pitch of Cape Town or Perth. Now it is something that the pitch on which all the bowlers fail. Every observer is shouting that it is a flat pitch. They do this move, adopting their previous approach of the second innings on this.

For example, for the first time in the history of Pakistan Test cricket, 6 bowlers scored more than 100 runs in an innings. This happened for the first time.

When the Pakistan team came out to bat after losing by 267 runs at the

Multan Cricket Stadium, one hope was that the batsmen knew that it was a flat pitch. In front of them was the experienced bowling of 20 Test matches, which will play the first Test in Asia after 2016. Chris Walks is leading the way.

Opener Abdullah Shafiq, who scored a century in the first innings, was clean bowled for a wicket. Captain Shan Masood did not stop even after getting 2 chances. His easy catches were dropped but failed to capitalize and Crowley was caught on Atkinson's ball. The biggest shock and sorrow to the Pakistani team and the fans was when Babar Azam, going outside the off stump, tampered with the ball as per his habit and was caught by the wicket keeper. Bowler once again was Atkinson, who is playing his 7th Test match of his career.

Now look at Babar Azam, his total of last 15 Test innings is less than Harry Brook's innings of 317 runs alone. He has not scored a fifty in 18 Test innings since December 2022. This is a period of 23 months. How long will he remain like this? The pressure to drop him is increasing.



As soon as Babar got out, the set-beater Saim Ayub played an irresponsible shot and became a victim of Ben Duct and a cross, he scored 25 runs. Pakistan returned to the pavilion at 41 for 4 wickets. Muhammad Rizwan, who suffered zero in the yellow innings, was also in a bad condition. He could make 10. The center of hopes, Saud Shakeel, was bowled by spinner Jill Leach for 29 runs at the hands of wicket keeper Smith, then Pakistan's 6 wickets had returned to the pavilion at 82. It seemed that the match would end at any moment.

From here, Pakistan was rescued by Aamir Jamal and Salman Ali Agha on a temporary basis and took the overs from the 25th over of the innings till the end of the game. When the game ended, Pakistan scored 152 runs for 6 wickets. 115 more runs needed to avoid defeat. Aamir Jamal was playing on 27 and Salman Ali Agha was playing on 41. Both made a partnership of 70 runs. Braden Cross and Gus Atkinson took 2.2 wickets for England.

Earlier, England continued their batting streak from where it stood

at 492 for 3. They scored 166 runs in the first session. Meanwhile, Joy Root scored his sixth career and second double century against Pakistan in the same session. Harry Brooke completed his first career double century. He became the first player to score 2 batsmen double centuries in an innings for England after 1990. The two made a partnership of 409 runs till lunch to form a great partnership against Pakistan.

The score at the lunch break was 658 for 3. After this, Root and Brook broke England's record partnership of 411 runs in 1954. They went on to form the biggest partnership. Pakistan were bowled out for 703. Salman Ali Agha got the wicket of Root, who scored a career best 262 runs, and Salman Ali Agha made a lb. He made the first triple century of 317 runs. He became the partnership of Saim Ayub and Shan Masood. England took the lead by 267 runs. Shaheen, Naseem, Abrar, Aamir Jamal, Salman Agha and Saim Ayub were hit by a hundred plus from Pakistan. Naseem Shah and Saim Ayub took 2 wickets each. While Abrar did not come today due to fever.

Baldia Gym, Korangi Alfalah, Bhagalpur CC, Federal Sports secure victories in Master Oil Inter Club Contest

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Taimoor Tufail 111 and Shahid Naseer unbeaten 101 and deadly bowling by off Spinner Muhammad Shafiq 6/36.

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

Scores in Brief:

Baldia Gymkhana beat Ravi Gymkhana by 81 runs at KCCA Stadium. Baldia Gymkhana 239/6 in allotted 40 overs. Shahid Naseer 101 11x4 2x6 not out, Muhammad Shakir 30 not out, Muzammil 22 and Yar Muhammad 20. Taseer 2/39

Ravi Gymkhana 158 all out in 37 overs. Sohail 41, Kamran 29, Taseer 22. Abdul Ghani 3/27, Muhammad Irfan 2/24.

In the 2nd Match Korangi Al-Falah CC beat Pak Gymkhana by 6 Wickets at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Pak Gymkhana 220 all out in 38.5 overs. Agha Abdul Rehman 67 9x4 1x6, Muhammad Wahaj 32, Wahab Khan 28, Shakir Majeed 22. Muhammad Shafiq (ob) 6/36.

Korangi Al-Falah CC 222/4 in 34 overs. Zain Jilani 78 9x4 3x6 not out, Waseem Hanif 36 not out, Saud Khan 35, Rafiq Ahmed 30. Kashif Khan 2/41

In 3rd Match Bahawalpur CC beat Bright Gymkhana by 4 Wickets at Afza Ground. Bright Gymkhana 224 in 40 overs. Dawood Saeed 51 5x4 2x6, Fahad Ali 29, Abdullah Omar 24. Ameen Kakar 2/20, Abbas 2/36, Ikran Khan 2/54, Fasiullah 2/58.

Bahawalpur CC 227/6 in 29.2 overs. Bakh Aeman 89 9x4 6x6, Abdul Wahab 48, Ikram Khan 39. Salman Ali 2/39.

In the 4th March Federal Sports beat Rangers CC by 26 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Federal Sports 238 all out in 28.3 overs. Taimoor Tufail 111, 11x4 6x6, Saad Nasir 48. Sadiq Khan 3/47, S. M. Jarrar 4/66

Rangers CC 212 all out in 29.1 overs. Imran Ali 58 6x4, Shan Shoaib 33. Saad Nadeem 4/29. Talah Butt 3/60.

Nooh Dastgir shines in Commonwealth Powerlifting C'ships debut

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's acclaimed weightlifter, Nooh Dastgir Butt, made a remarkable international debut at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Classic and Equipped Championships, securing gold in the Ascot event.

The Pride of Performance Award winner and Commonwealth Games gold medalist lifted an impressive 370kg in his maiden powerlifting competition, etching his name in history as Pakistan's first powerlifting gold medalist, said a press release.

It is a historic moment for Pakistan, as Nooh won the gold medal in his very first participation. Nooh is set to compete in the Bench Press and Deadlift categories, where he is favoured to win two additional gold medals and claim the overall championship title in the 120kg+ category.

Pakistani nation is urged to support Nooh with their prayers and well-wishes as he strives to bring home a total of four gold medals.

Bolan Club moves in Federal Football League quarterfinals

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bolan Club has qualified for the quarterfinals of the ongoing Federal Football League organized by the Federal Football Club here at the G-7/4 Football Ground.

Bolan Club outplayed Jinnah Club by 5-4 on penalty kicks.

In the match played, Bolan Club had a lead of 0-1 against Jinnah Club until break.

In the third minute of the first half, Tahir Khan on behalf of Bolan Club gave his team the lead and in the 50th minute, Shahid scored on behalf of Jinnah Club to make the match 1-1. Federal Club will face Zorroz Club on Friday. Besides Chairman Organizing Committee and Falcon Club President Irfan Khan Niazi, Secretary Abdul Waheed and a large number of fans were also present on the occasion.

Novak Djokovic hails Rafael Nadal after retirement

Novak Djokovic told old rival Rafael Nadal that his "legacy will live forever" after the Spanish great announced his retirement from tennis on Thursday.

"Your tenacity, dedication, fighting spirit is going to be taught for decades. Your legacy will live forever," 24-time Grand Slam title winner and fellow former world number one Djokovic wrote on Instagram. Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal clashed 60 times in their careers with the Serb edging their rivalry 31-29.

They met for the first time at the French Open in 2006 when Nadal triumphed while Djokovic won their last clash, also on the courts of Roland Garros, at the Paris Olympics this year.

"Rafa, one post is not enough to express the respect I have for you and what you have done for our sport. You have inspired millions of children to start playing tennis and I think that's probably the greatest achievement anyone can wish for," added Djokovic of Nadal, a 22-time major winner.

Rafael Nadal will play his last tournament at the Davis Cup finals in Malaga in November.

"Only you know what you had to endure to become an icon of tennis and sport in general. Thank you for pushing me to the very limit so many times in our rivalry that has impacted me the most as a player," added Djokovic. "Your passion for representing Spain has always been remarkable. I wish you the best possible farewell in Malaga with the Davis Cup team of Spain. I will be there in person to pay respect to your stellar career."



Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz invites Saudi Arabia to invest in Pakistan's aviation sector

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif invited Saudi Arabia to invest in the aviation sector, especially in the outsourcing of international airports of Pakistan.

Speaking to Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih who called on him at the Prime Minister's House, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that Saudi Arabia stood by Pakistan in every difficult situation, a press statement issued here read.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the Saudi Investment Minister and his delegation to Pakistan. He said that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations are based on decades long brotherly ties and were becoming stronger with each passing day.

Referring to the current visit of Saudi Investment Minister, the prime minister said that this visit was an important milestone in the strengthening of investment ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, setting the stage for greater collabora-

tion in the sectors of mutual interest between the two countries.

He also extended his heartfelt congratulations to Khalid Al-Falih on receiving the prestigious Hilal-e-Pakistan Award, a recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of Pakistan-Saudi relations.

PM Shehbaz also conveyed his warm regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman, acknowledging their leadership and support in enhancing bilateral ties.

The prime minister expressing his pleasure over the productive discussions held at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum said that the dialogue between the Pakistani and Saudi business communities had paved the way for new investments, underscoring Saudi Arabia's commitment to deepening economic cooperation with Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz also recalled his visits to Saudi Arabia,

including the meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Makkah, and his participation in the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.

He emphasised that this visit represents the third high-level Saudi delegation to Pakistan within six months, a testament to the growing momentum in the bilateral relationship. The successful signing of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in April and May further illustrates the deepening ties.

Pak-Saudi Business Forum drives IT Sector collaboration through B2B partnerships

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-Saudi Business Forum, attended by Saudi Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, took place on Thursday, bringing together government officials and business leaders from both nations to explore key areas of collaboration.

Followed by the arrival of a high-level Saudi delegation, consisting of 135 members and led by Minister Al-Falih, in Islamabad on Wednesday. The visit is expected to result in business agreements worth \$2 billion, marking a significant milestone in strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.



The Business Forum spearheaded by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), provided a prime opportunity for businesses

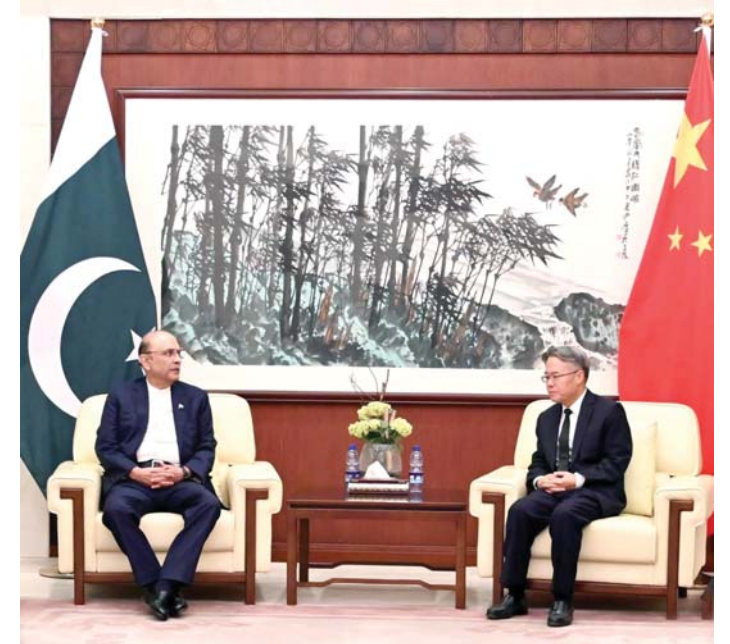
from both countries to engage and collaborate. The Pakistan's IT sector briefing, part of the forum's agenda, was co-chaired by Pakistan's Minister of State

for IT and Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman Alshabanah, General Manager of Information Communications

and Technology at the Saudi Ministry of Investment.

During the briefing, Secretary IT and Telecom, Mr. Zarrar Hasham, presented an in-depth overview of Pakistan's IT landscape, highlighting the country's growing role as a global technology player and showcasing new opportunities for investment and collaboration. Discussions between both sides explored several avenues for enhanced cooperation. Representatives from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) expressed keen interest in Pakistan's rapid IT advancements, stressing the importance of accelerating these developments.

President visits China embassy to condole killing of Chinese citizens



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the Embassy of China here and offered his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan over the tragic killing of Chinese citizens in a terrorist attack in Karachi that took place on October 7, 2024.

Strongly condemning the terrorist attack, the president reiterated the resolve to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice.

He expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Chinese people in this hour of grief, according to a President House

press release.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, President Zardari said that the Chinese government and people had contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and the enemies of both countries could not want to see the growing bilateral partnership.

He stated that such cowardly acts by the hostile elements could not weaken the bonds of friendship between the two time-tested friends.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to ensure the safety and security of the Chinese nationals residing in Pakistan.

President of Pakistan to visit Turkmenistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, will undertake a visit to Turkmenistan to attend the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" to be held in Ashgabat on 10-11 October 2024.

The International Forum is being

held to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher.

At the Forum, President Zardari will underline the importance of the values of peace, unity and development for the region. He is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with the Turkmen leadership on the sidelines of the Forum.

Four Khwarij killed in KP IBOs

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan security forces killed four Khwarij in two intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

"On 9 October 24, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area Janikhel, Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, after an intense exchange of fire, two khwarij were sent to hell," the military's media wing said.

The statement said that in another operation, conducted in

general area Hassan Khel, North Waziristan District on 10 October 24, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location and in the ensuing fire exchange, two more khwarij were gunned down.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as abductions and target killing of innocent civilians.

"Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other khwarij found in the area as security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," the statement said.

Govt asks diplomats to limit movement in Islamabad

Continued from Page 1

Naqvi stated that additional personnel from the Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, and Punjab police will be deployed to ensure the highest level of security for the guests.

The SCO, which includes India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, is a significant economic and security bloc that has become one of the largest trans-regional international organizations.

A public holiday has also been announced in both cities from October 14 to 16.

Women's socio-economic empowerment and access to sanitation: Romina

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that women's socio-economic empowerment and tackling hygiene issues are closely interconnected. Because, improving access to hygiene and sanitation facilities directly impacts women's health, dignity and access to equal economic opportunities for them.

Addressing a high-level hygiene kits distribution event under the 'She Power' initiative, the PM's climate aide Ms Alam said that access to adequate and safe [menstrual] hygiene and sanitation facilities for girls and women has remained mostly a neglected area in the country, especially in rural and low-resource settings of Balochistan province.

"By addressing hygiene challenges in ways that directly improve women's access to education, work, and leadership opportunities, we not only promote women's empowerment but also foster healthier, more equitable communities," she stressed.

The 'She Power' initiative was recently launched in different far-flung parts of Balochistan including recently in Quetta by non-governmental organization Asian Synergies in support with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry and the Chinese government. It aims to improve health and quality of the life



of the province's young women with a focus on health, hygiene, and education. It reflects the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aiming to improve socio-economic conditions in the region.

Addressing the participants of the event, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Samina Mumtaz Zehri termed the initiative a game changer step as it promotes open discussions amongst school girls in Balochistan about their menstruation and hygiene.

New avenues of Pak-KSA Coop: Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership of Saudi Arabia's Investment Minister Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, 130 investors attended Pak Saudi Business Forum held here in Islamabad.

Addressing the Business Conference, Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that mutual relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are eternal and memorable while the historical cooperation of the Saudi Government will have far-reaching effects on Pakistan's economy. Admiring the increase in these contacts between the two countries, he called the Pak Saudi Business Forum an important platform for enhancing Business-to-Business activities. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Ministry of Investment will provide all possible support to the Saudi business community and we will move forward rapidly by increasing mutual trust. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that deep friendly and strong economic relations exist between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia which will increase significantly in the coming days and we will enter in a new era of economic development. He said that geographically, Pakistan can prove to be the Gateway for Saudi Arabia



from South and Central Asia as we have deep water ports and land connections from Asia to Europe which are possible through Pakistan while all these factors in the region can assist in boosting business volume. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan has also gained economic advantage from CPEC and commercial activities can be increased by bringing more improvements in infrastructure. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan described the holding of this Business Conference as beneficial for the business community of both countries in which many Memorandums of Understanding will be signed and bilateral development possible with new agreements. Abdul Aleem Khan welcomed the arrival of Saudi Minister Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh and offered him all possible support which will create new investment opportunities especially in Pakistan.