

JUI-F chief Fazl warns govt against ending talks if 'coercive measures' continue

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has warned the government against ending the consultation process on the constitutional amendments if the "coercive measures" continue following reports that some opposition lawmakers were under extreme duress to vote for the legislation.



Over 1.8 million in war-shattered Gaza face extreme hunger

More than 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing "extremely critical" levels of hunger, with 70 per cent of crop fields destroyed and livelihoods decimated during the ongoing Israeli military offensive, a UN-backed food security assessment released on Thursday has revealed. Figures from the IPC system show that 133,000 people - or 6 per cent of the enclave's population - are already experiencing Phase 5 or "catastrophic" food insecurity.

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Call on

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Mr. Zhang Ming calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to promote SCO's development priorities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming wherein he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work wholeheartedly for promotion of the organization's development priorities for the benefit of all its member states and the wider region.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG), the prime minister stressed that Pakistan stood ready to work with SCO member states to make the organization more effective and stronger.

Recalling Secretary-General Zhang Ming's earlier visit to Pakistan in July 2022, Prime Minister

Shehbaz welcomed him in Islamabad and thanked him for the support extended by the SCO Secretariat to Pakistan in organization of the SCO CHG Meeting.

He also thanked Zhang Ming for his dedication and outstanding services as the outgoing Secretary-General of SCO and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Zhang Ming warmly felicitated the prime minister on the successful organization of the SCO CHG Meeting and its positive outcome.

He appreciated Pakistan's constructive contributions to SCO's work and activities across all domains and expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's leadership role as SCO CHG Chair.

PM terms successful SCO meeting a major diplomatic win for Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday hailed the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government meeting as a major achievement for Pakistan on diplomatic front.

"Pakistan's diplomatic profile further strengthened internationally after successfully hosting this summit," the prime minister said while addressing a banquet organized in honor of senators of the government allied parties here.

Congratulating the political parties' leaders on successful conclusion of the SCO summit in Pakistan, the prime minister said all relevant institutes

worked together as a team in this regard.

He said before the SCO meeting, visit of the Chinese Premier also proved to be very successful.

He specifically mentioned the crucial role of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in making the event successful.

He expressed confidence in the country's ongoing economic recovery and stability, asserting that the government will respond to its political opponents through tangible development and prosperity in the country. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, DPM Ishaq Dar, and government allied parties' senators attended the event.

Hamas leader Sinwar is dead, says Israel foreign minister

Reuters

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Thursday that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has been killed.

"Mass murderer Yahya Sinwar, who was responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7, was killed today by IDF soldiers," Katz said in a statement.

Moreover, members of Israel's security cabinet have been told that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the Oct 7, 2023 attack that triggered the Gaza war, is very likely dead, two officials with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday.

The Israeli military said it was checking the possibility that Sinwar, Israel's most wanted enemy, was among three militants killed during an operation in the Gaza Strip.

There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

In Israel, families of hostages held by



Hamas said they hoped that a ceasefire could be reached that would bring home the captives. In Gaza, residents said they believed the war would go on.

If confirmed, the death of Sinwar would represent a major boost to the Israeli military and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the devastating war in the Palestinian enclave grinds on into a second year.

Israel has carried out relentless airstrikes and ground operations to destroy Hamas.

In northern Gaza on Thursday, Israeli strikes killed 19 Palestinians including children at a school in the Jabalia camp that is sheltering displaced people, a Gaza health ministry official told Reuters.

Sinwar, who was named as Hamas' overall leader following the assassination of political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, was believed to be hiding in the warren of tunnels Hamas has built under Gaza over the past two decades.

If his death is confirmed it could dial up hostilities in the Middle East where the prospect of an even wider conflict has grown. Israel has launched a ground campaign in Lebanon over the past month and is planning a response to an Oct 1 missile attack carried out by Iran, ally of Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Israeli police said in a statement: "Dental images have been submitted to the police forensics lab, and DNA testing is currently in progress." a police statement said.

Naqvi congratulates Prime Minister and Nation on successful SCO Summit



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the nation on the successful Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. He appreciated the exemplary role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Police, and all relevant institutions in making the event a success. He also paid tribute to the Pakistan Army, Islamabad Police, Rangers, and FC for their foolproof arrangements. The Interior Minister specifically praised the Chairman CDA and IG Islamabad Police for their outstanding efforts. He highlighted that the credit for excellent arrangements and landscaping in Islamabad goes to CDA. He stated that the entire team worked tirelessly and delivered remarkable results. The Interior Minister said that the SCO summit has improved Pakistan's image globally, adding that hosting such a major international conference after a long time

Continued on Page 7

NAPHDA violation of financial obligations abandoned 'Low-Cost Housing Project' in Ali Pur: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar Thursday said the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA) failed to fulfill its financial obligations that led to financial constraints causing slow progress of low-cost housing project at Ali Pur Farash.

He said while responding to the query of Member National Assembly (MNA), Aliya Kamran's query pertaining to abandoned and in complete projects of Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the slow pace development of Ali Pur Farash project on behalf of the Interior Minister.

Attaullah Tarar said Ali Pur Farash project was not abandoned by the CDA but rather non-fulfillment of contractual obligations, non-payment by NAPHDA and violation of

the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CDA, NAPHDA and FWO led to halted financial progress.

"It is 66% complete and remaining halted due to financial constraints and unfulfilled contractual obligations," he said.

Cost escalation in Ali Pur Farash project has increased multiple times and the matter should be referred to the committee concerned, he said.

The Speaker National Assembly referred it to the Standing Committee on Interior.

The Minister for Information informed that the Margalla Avenue extension till Bari Imam was the new road development project that would be completed in next two months as swift progress was underway.

He added that the Serena Chowk underpass was conceived by the Minister Interior which was under the original plan to facilitate foreign guests and high profile functions which

would start from Serena Chowk to Jinnah Convention Center would be launched soon.

"A complete plan for U-turns, and underpasses is being prepared and ground breaking would be done soon," he said.

The Jinnah Convention Center, he said was refurbished in mere two months span by CDA which was a great achievement. He lauded Chairman CDA, Ali Randhawa for efficient work during the SCO summit preparations.

Replying another query of MNA, Dr Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto on levy of development charges on E-12 sector allottees, Attaullah Tarar said the penalty imposed by CDA could be paid in installments. However, the plots value has increased manifold from the original land price, he added.

The Minister said that the CDA should consider the financial capacity of the allottees while enforcing the development charges.

Finance Minister briefs US Ambassador on key reforms

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance and Revenue Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has reiterated the government's resolve to carry on with broad-based reforms on taxation, energy and SOE fronts.

He said the government was committed to raising the country's tax to GDP ratio to 13.5 per cent by plugging leakages and bringing untaxed sectors in the net.

He said the government under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved a comprehensive transformation plan for FBR and brought in experts on the Board of PRAL (IT arm of FBR). The Minister was talking to U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome who called on him at the Finance Division



today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation were discussed.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called the macro-economic reforms "work in

progress" and pointed to more serious challenges of climate change and child stunting which threatened to perpetuate inequalities and disrupt the pace of economic growth and stability in Paki-

stan over the medium to long term. He said Pakistan looked forward to building climate resilience through adaptation reforms and averting malnutrition with the technical and financial support of development partners for ensuring holistic development goals.

S. Ambassador Donald Blome appreciated Pakistan's efforts for improving macroeconomic stability and lauded the government for initiating challenging and bold reforms, particularly in the taxation and energy sectors.

He reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in technical and development initiatives, and promoting high-quality US investment for economic growth of Pakistan.

Murad urges universities to prioritise quality education

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a consultative meeting with university representatives, academicians and university & board administrators stressed the importance of universities prioritising quality education, advanced training, and impactful research.

He urged academic institutions to guide the government on pressing social issues in order to effectively address them.

"We have excellent universities across various fields—medical, agricultural, engineering, and general studies—each of which is a valuable asset," Mr Shah said and added that these institutions must work towards the greater good of education, society, and economic growth," remarked the chief minister.

The meeting was held at CM House on Thursday. It was attended by provincial Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Universities and Boards Minister Mohammad Ali Malkani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and other senior officials, along with vice-chancellors from various universities.

The chief minister underlined the crucial role academic research plays in generating new knowledge and solving social and economic challenges. He encouraged universities, particularly medical institutions, to focus their research on common diseases, psychological issues, and pandemics. The findings, he said, should be used to guide government policy and interventions.

Murad Shah said that in today's technological era, all universities must adopt the latest technology for



administering examinations. While some institutions have already implemented digital exam systems, he urged those that have not yet transitioned to do so promptly.

Mr Shah also directed U&B to guide examination boards to prepare proposals, recommendations and phases for conducting digital examinations. "I would like the examination boards should take advantage of the technology in conducting examinations," he suggested.

Murad Shah expressed concern over the growing

intolerance in society, attributing it to various underlying causes. "Our academicians, writers, and poets should play their role in fostering a spirit of humanity through their work," he said and added that their writings should serve as a source of guidance, particularly for the youth, helping to nurture values of tolerance and empathy.

In conclusion, Shah directed the vice-chancellors to submit their recommendations, ensuring that the government could provide the necessary support to further the universities' missions.



One Day International Seminar held in Hazara University Mansehra.

Government's plan to privatize government schools is just plain wrong: Mian Ejaz

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Central leader of National Labor Federation of Pakistan, Mian Ejaz Hussain has rejected the government's decision to privatize government schools and said that the ruling group has become blind in personal interests and is ready to pay any price for it. To run the system, the political leaders are sent to the government by the poor people through votes. If these institutions and the system cannot run the government, then they should resign from their positions. The nation will not forgive those who keep the children of poor people uneducated. By privatizing government schools, millions of teachers will be unemployed and children of the poor will be deprived of education, which will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that all of them want to take over government land and system. The ruling class has already made education expensive and degraded. Even now, plans are being made to fulfill the deficit. Instead of making the institutions stronger and better, preparations are being made to reward the people according to their approval. So far the nation has not gained anything from the privatization of PTCL. Even after years, all government land and systems are occupied by the buyers. The government should be aware. The dreams of privatizing national institutions will cost them dearly.



People's Youth Organization Mardan to host Grand Youth Convention today

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: People's Youth Organization Mardan Division to Host Grand Youth Convention, Under the auspices of the People's Youth Organization Mardan Division, a Grand Youth Convention will be held on Friday, October 18, at 2:00 PM at Elite Shadi Hall in Sher Garh. Addressing a press conference at the Takht Bhai Press Club, People's Party Takht Bhai President Javed Iqbal, People's Youth provincial senior vice-president Imran Khan Mehmud, former divisional president Adnan Zeb, district president Naseer Abbas, and Takht Bhai president Hammad Khan Khattak stated, The People's Youth is the frontline force of the People's Party, and its young members always respond to the party leadership's call. They announced that the Grand Youth Convention will feature, People's Party provincial president Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, PYO provincial president Malik Amjad Awan, General Secretary Ziaullah Jan Khalil, Other party leaders

All necessary arrangements have been made, and youth members are cordially invited to attend and make the convention a success.

AJK Joint Action Committee demands for Implementation of charter

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir People's Joint Action Committee has given the government a deadline of 24 October. If the charter of demand is not approved, they will hold a big long march from 11 May. The government talks about the charter of demand during meetings, but in practice Implementation is not implemented. The government has partially fulfilled the demand for electricity and flour, but due to the reduction in electricity voltage and supply of poor flour, these demands are also incomplete. There was a deadline, but the period of negotiations with the government began. In which we did not see any seriousness. The members of Jammu and Kashmir Joint Action Committee Shaukat Nawaz Mir, Anjam Zaman Awan, Faisal Jameel Kashmiri, Raja Soheb and Mujtaba Bande expressed their views while addressing a crowded press conference in the central house. They said that during the long march of 11 May. At Rawalkot and later on, the electricity tariffs fixed by the representatives of the Government of Pakistan and the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir, which was notified on 13th May 2024, during the negotiations, it was decided that the arrears of the electricity bill would be charged to the new tariff. will be collected in 24 installments but still the contract is being violated. It was agreed with us that commercial bills from 1 to 300 paise will be charged at Rs.10 per unit and above 301 units at Rs.15 per unit. But even today consumers with load more than 5KVA (Swar, Guest Houses, Hotels etc.) are being released on the previous tariff which is a violation of the contract. will go but even today those arrears are being collected from the old boss in violation of every contract. He further said that the mentioned matters should be settled as soon as possible.

2-day Office Automation System course concludes

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 2-day E-filing and Office Automation System course, which was organized to increase the capabilities of Sports Board Punjab officers, concluded at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

The 2-day E-filing and Office Automation System Course was conducted under the direction of Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal. All Directors and Deputy Directors of Sports Board Punjab and Sports Department attended the high-profile course.

PITB's E-filing expert Syed Uzair Laiq trained the officers such as Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed, Attaur Rahman, Tariq Khanzada, Chand Perveen, Assistant Director Kamaluddin, Mohiuddin, Farhat Ehsan, administrators M Wasim and Abdul Qayyum during the course.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, in a statement on Thursday said that the training course will certainly enhance the skills of the participating officers. "The training course has been organized with an aim to train the officers of Sports Board Punjab and Punjab Sports Department for paperless technology as per government policy," he added.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: A student throws a tear gas shell towards riot police during a protest in favor of their demands at 6th Road in the city.



Photo: Online

Sharjeel highlights PPP's resolve for democracy and martyrs' tribute at upcoming rally

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Senior Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, addressed a press conference today at Hattri Bypass, the venue for the October 18th rally. He emphasized that despite receiving persistent threats, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto bravely returned to Pakistan on October 18, marking a historic moment. He recalled that the blast at Karachi's Karsaz on her return led the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to organize this rally in Hyderabad to honor the martyrs.

Memon said, "Tomorrow's rally will be historic. We have already set up 80,000 chairs, and we expect a crowd of millions to attend. The martyrs of PPP are our greatest asset, and this event is a tribute to them."



He further highlighted that continuing the legacy of Shaheed Chairman Bilawal Bhutto is Benazir Bhutto by working towards

constitutional reforms, in line with her manifesto. "The PPP has fulfilled all its promises. One of our major initiatives is the housing scheme, aiming to build 2.1 million houses for flood victims, and the launch of the 'Hari Card' for farmers," he added.

Memon reiterated that the PPP never engaged in coercive politics and welcomed all political parties to collaborate on constitutional amendments. He invited parties like Akhtar Mengal's and PTI to join these reforms, promoting an inclusive democratic approach.

Addressing a query about water distribution, he clarified that the amendment does not address water-related issues. In response to protests by lawyers, he noted that Bilawal Bhutto has engaged with various bar associations, emphasizing that the PPP does not support favoritism in the judiciary.

Municipal Corporation review progress on street repair, rehabilitation

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: In the meeting, the progress on the development schemes of street repair and rehabilitation under the auspices of the Municipal Corporation was reviewed.

A strict directive to speed up the completion of ongoing development schemes related to the provision of municipal services. There will be no compromise on transparency in the construction process of the projects.

Ensuring the provision of quality facilities to the citizens is a priority. Officers of the Municipal Corporation should realize the responsibilities. Be regularly informed about the construction progress



ness of ongoing projects. The Commissioner/Administrator also briefed the Sub-Engineers separately on the ongoing road construction progress under M&R.

Expressing displeasure over

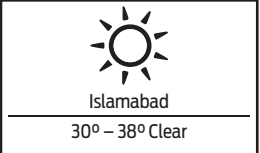
non-commencement of work on certain schemes. Mobilize relevant contractors. Decision to conduct third party audit of completed schemes. The Assistant Commissioner General has been assigned the responsibility of monitoring

the ongoing schemes across the city.

Chief Officer counter check construction progress of Municipal Corporation schemes. There will be no compromise on quality. Also directed to seek feedback from the community.

Public needs schemes are being completed within the limited resources of the Municipal Corporation. Also directed to remove illegal ramps/stands constructed outside houses by citizens in the streets. Highlight the beauty of the streets.

The Commissioner/Administrator also called for a plan for constructing model streets. Providing relief to the people by improving the condition of internal streets is a priority.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:51 am
Zohr	11:53 am
Asr	3:52 pm
Maghrib	5:31 pm
Isha	6:54 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886

41st MID-Career Management Course Officers Visit BISP Headquarters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Amer Ali Ahmad welcomed officers from the 41st Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM) Peshawar during their visit to the BISP headquarters today. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights into the operations of the program and its impact on disadvantaged communities across the country. Secretary BISP briefed the delegation on the core initiatives of BISP, including Benazir Kafalaat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, the Undergraduate Scholarship program, and the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). He explained that the Benazir Income Support Program provides financial assistance to poor families across the country, helping them meet their daily expenses. The program has empowered poor women in Pakistan by ensuring their inclusion in the financial system.



The Secretary also informed the delegation about the introduction of a new payment model to ensure transparent disbursement of funds to deserving women. As part of this model, six new banks are being hired. He added that further improvements, with the support of the State Bank of Pakistan, will allow women beneficiaries of BISP to choose the bank of their preference to receive their quarterly stipends in a transparent and dignified manner.

Later, DG (OM) Dr. Asim Ijaz briefed the participants on the utility of the NSER database, stating that both public and private organizations use this database for various social security projects. He also highlighted that BISP's international development partners recognize the credibility of the database. The visit concluded with a question-and-answer session, where participants expressed their gratitude for the detailed briefing and appreciated BISP's efforts to support underprivileged communities.

Super Moon

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of Super Moon at Constitution Avenue, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

French Defense Attaché Visits NUML to Strengthen Educational Ties



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Defence Attaché of the embassy of France Colonel Jerome and his assistant Major Christian today visited National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and met with Rector NUML Major General(R) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M). The meeting was also attended by the Director General NUML Brig Shahzad Munir and the Head of the French Department Mr. Amir Zaheer.

During the meeting, the two sides explored avenues for promoting and strengthening NUML's relations with French universities, with a focus on academic collaboration and exchange programs.

The engagement underscored NUML's commitment to fostering international partnerships and advancing its mission of global education.

This visit marks an important step in reinforcing NUML's international ties, and the university looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with French institutions in the near future.

Gilgit-Baltistan gets 3rd Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room, 1st in Shigar district

Bureau Report

SHIGAR (GILGIT-BALTISTAN): Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room at the Government Primary Boys School Shigar, making it the third N4HK room in Gilgit-Baltistan, to foster and promote nutrition awareness in the region. The N4HK program is part of Nestlé's global nutritional awareness initiative to ensure that children understand the value of nutrition as they grow older. To date, over 350 teachers have been trained in Hunza, Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar, and Kharmang, with the goal



of positively impacting more than 15,000 children through the N4HK program.

Talking on the occasion, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustain-

ability, Nestlé Pakistan said, "The N4HK program outreach across Pakistan is an endorsement of Nestlé's endeavor to promote healthy nutrition in the country and we are pleased to strengthen our partnership with the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan. So far, the N4HK program has reached out to 360,000 kids, trained more than 2300 teachers and has developed 17 N4HK Rooms with 11 partners from private and public sector across Pakistan."

Wali Ullah Falahi, Deputy Commissioner Shigar, civil society members, and school staff were also present on the occasion.

SCO Summit 2024: An opportunity to foster tourism ties among the member states

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leaders from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states have gathered in Islamabad for the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG), to advance cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, tourism, environment, and socio-cultural linkages, as well as to review the Organization's performance.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 24% area of world and 42% of the world population. Sharing his views on the occasion of SCO Summit 2024, Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana said, "The rich cultural and landscape diversity of this region provides infinite possibilities for the development and promotion of tourism industry". He further said, "Tourism is an important area of cooperation within the SCO framework. As a fertile ground for diverse civilizations, SCO countries possess nearly 150 world most prominent natural and cultural heritage sites besides thousands of other tourist attractions. He stressed that tourism was an important way to promote international cooperation, mutual understanding and socio-economic growth between the member countries.

Mr. Rana stressed on the importance of further efforts to strengthen ties in the area of tourism in the context of cultural and humanitarian interaction and as an important factor in the SCO states' socio-economic development. He said, it was important to upgrade the tourist infrastructure with focus on quality assurance in tourism services, improve air and road connectivity to provide easy access to travelers, promote joint tourist products and routes and simplify the issuance of visas and entry/exit formalities for travelers.

All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association demands restraint in school violence

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Representatives of Apsma said that Parents and teachers should play their role in controlling the situation arising out of riots in educational institutions of Punjab. The government should refrain from using force against children. In order to gain the trust of the public, a transparent inquiry should be conducted and a report should be prepared.

These views were expressed by All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab President Abrar Ahmad Khan, Vice President Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Secretary General North Punjab Muhammad Ejaz Malik, Ifrikhar Hussain Malik, District President Rawalpindi Abrar Ahmed Advocate and Tehsil General Secretary Adnan Nisar. said in his joint statement on the situation arising after the incident of the private educational institution of Lahore. They demanded that all stakeholders show patience and tolerance instead of fueling this fire. They said that some facts about Punjab College have come to light and more is needed. The leaders of Apsma said that the students should not play into the hands of anti-national elements and destroy their homeland. Attacking and vandalizing colleges by students in Rawalpindi is condemnable. Due to the timely safety measures taken by the administration, this dire situation could have been avoided. They said that students are the children of our nation and their protection is our first responsibility. The leaders also demanded that the forces behind these riots be exposed and arrested and legal action taken.

Two Pakistani Startups Join Google's Inaugural AI Academy, helping shape the Future of AI in APAC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two innovative startups from Pakistan are among the 23 chosen from across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) to participate in Google's first-ever AI Academy in the region.

Designed to help startups refine their AI solutions and advance their business growth, the program kicked off this week with an interactive three-day bootcamp in Singapore, bringing together all participating founders from Pakistan and six other countries—Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia. Startups in the program will receive over 170 hours of tailored mentorship from AI and Cloud experts, up to \$350,000 in Google Cloud credits, and opportunities to connect with fellow AI innovators across the APAC region.

"We're excited to kick off Google's first AI Academy in APAC," says Michael Kim, Head of Google for Startups, APAC. "AI has the potential to be an incredible force multiplier, and it's incredible to see these 23 startups harnessing AI's potential to impact some tough challenges, ranging from addressing underserved sectors, like expanding access to financial services and healthcare, to building AI collaborators for lawyers, democratizing influencer marketing with AI-generated avatars. Through this program, we hope to foster a wave of innovation that will have a ripple effect across the entire Asia-Pacific region."

The AI Academy culminates in December with a Graduation Day, where startups will showcase their refined AI solutions to investors, entrepreneurs, and AI industry leaders.

AAOU moot proposes measures for promotion of ODL education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The three-day 37th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities, held at Allama Iqbal Open University, concluded yesterday. A 10-point declaration was issued at the concluding ceremony of the conference to enhance the development of open and distance education system worldwide, particularly in Asia, and to align it with contemporary demands. Delegates from 14 countries attended the conference in person, while education experts and researchers from six other countries participated online. A total of 180 papers were presented across various sessions during the three days.

Key points of the declaration included efforts to achieve sustainable development goals through the



distance education system, aligning distance education with blended learning policies, promoting the positive use of AI, providing faculty training on AI and digital skills, encouraging research and innovation in the distance education system, introducing online courses, and working towards bridging the digital divide.

The closing ceremony was presided over by Executive Director of the Higher Educa-

tion Commission of Pakistan, Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum. In his address, he emphasized that modern technology especially Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT, LLM, AR, and VR are gaining importance in education. However, he noted that the role of teachers remains indispensable, with technology acting as a support tool rather than a replacement. He stressed the need to train faculty members in utilizing these technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University said that this conference had created opportunities for collaboration among open universities in Asian countries. He highlighted the widespread impact of AI on all aspects of life and emphasized the need to work on its positive use in distance education.

Other speakers included

the President of the Asian Association of Open Universities and Rector of Indonesia's Terbuka Open University, Professor Dr. Ojat Darajat; AAOU Secretary-General Dr. Rahmat Budiman; Executive Dean of Holmes Institute, Australia, Hamish Coates; President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, Professor Dr. Peter Scott; and Research Professor at the University of South Africa, Paul Prinsloo.

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Understanding the Complexities of Women's Modesty and Harassment

In today's world, discussions surrounding the harassment of women often bring to light the sensitive subject of how dressing influences societal perceptions and behaviours. This topic is deeply nuanced, involving interpretations of religious texts, biological inclinations, and sociocultural dynamics. While it is vital to emphasise that harassment is never justified, exploring the relationship between modesty and safety can foster a more respectful environment for all. The Quran provides guidance on modesty for both men and women. In Surah Al-Ahzab (33:59), Allah says, "O prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers that they should draw down their shawls over them. That will make it more likely that they are recognised, hence not teased. And Allah is Most-Forgiving, Very-Merciful." This verse clearly interlinks harassment with dress code and highlights the concept of modesty as a protective measure, encouraging women to maintain their dignity while fostering a respectful society. Similarly, the Quran and Sunnah emphasises the importance of modest behaviour for both genders. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught men to lower their gaze, which serves as a fundamental principle to prevent lustful thoughts and reduce the likelihood of harassment (Sahih Bukhari, Book 74, Hadith 7). This principle underlines that while

women have the responsibility to dress modestly, men also share the duty to respect women, regardless of their attire. From a biological perspective, it is acknowledged that men are often more visually stimulated. Studies indicate that certain clothing can trigger innate impulses, leading to potential objectification (Cohen et al., 2017). However, it is crucial to clarify that biology should never serve as an excuse for harassment. Islam teaches that self-control is a fundamental principle, and the onus is on men to manage their impulses, reinforcing the idea that harassment is a failure of moral responsibility. Similarly, psychological research suggests that clothing can significantly affect how women are perceived by men. A study by Morris et al. (2006) found that men often view women dressed in revealing attire as more sexually available. This misinterpretation can lead to unwanted advances and harassment. Such findings underscore the importance of context in social interactions, where a woman's choice of clothing may unintentionally signal something that was not intended. Further emphasising this dynamic, Fredrickson and Roberts (1997) discuss the concept of objectification

in their seminal work on the sexualization of women. Their research indicates that when women are viewed primarily as objects based on their appearance, it can contribute to dehumanisation, thereby fostering an environment where harassment becomes more acceptable. This objectification is exacerbated in media portrayals that emphasise women's bodies over their capabilities or individuality. Moreover, a study by Bargh et al. (2001) highlights the priming effects of sexualized images. Exposure to these cues can lead to increased sexual aggression among some men. This is particularly concerning in social settings where alcohol consumption and party atmospheres blur the lines of consent and appropriate behaviour. In such environments, revealing clothing may inadvertently heighten aggressive behaviour, as societal norms around sexual conduct become more permissive. Furthermore, the objectification of women is a pervasive issue, highlighted in various UN reports that discuss the portrayal of women in media and society. The UN Women report on gender equality states that women are frequently depicted in ways that reduce them to their physical appearances, leading to a culture of objectification and harassment (UN Women, 2018). In this context, it can be argued that the way women dress may influence societal perceptions, but such perspectives should not place blame on women for the actions of others, rather, promoting modest attire can be viewed as a counter-narrative to the hyper-sexualization that often dominates our culture, shifting the focus from physical attributes to personal qualities. Ultimately, the conversation around modesty and harassment requires a balanced approach that recognises the complexities involved. Promoting modesty is not about policing women's choices; it is about fostering mutual respect. By encouraging both men and women to adhere to principles of modesty, we can create an environment where objectification is challenged, and respect prevails. In conclusion, addressing the harassment of women involves understanding the interplay of cultural, psychological, biological, and religious factors. While modest dressing can serve as a preventative measure against objectification, it is essential to remember that harassment is a violation of rights and dignity that can never be justified. Together, we can work toward a society where respect, dignity, and understanding are at the forefront, creating safer spaces for everyone.

The writer is a graduate of London School of Economics in International Relations and Politics



Analysis

Zohaib Tariq

Affordable life

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that as they faced global challenges, including inflation and economic uncertainty, the Government of Pakistan remained committed to making life more affordable for its people.

"From ensuring food security to addressing housing needs, our policies are geared towards creating long-term economic resilience," the prime minister said in a message on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty being observed on October 17.

He said, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 'Pakistan stands united with the global community in reaffirming our commitment to a world where no individual is left behind, where opportunities for success are not limited by one's background or circumstances.'

Eradicating poverty was not just a moral duty but a fundamental cornerstone for achieving sustainable development and ensuring peace and prosperity for all, he added.

The prime minister said that their government had always placed the people at the heart of every policy.

"Through our social safety net initiatives, we have made significant progress in alleviating poverty and ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens are supported. We believe that lifting people out of poverty is not just about immediate relief but about creating sustainable pathways to economic empowerment. Our targeted efforts aim at empowering communities, especially women and children, and giving them the tools they need to build a better future," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He further said that their initiatives such as the PM Youth Business, Agriculture Loans, Digi-Skills – free IT trainings and the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund were transforming lives by providing financial assistance and technical support to millions of families.

Poverty eradication was also at the forefront of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which Pakistan remained fully committed to achieving, he said, adding that they would continue to collaborate with their global partners and work towards these goals with an emphasis on inclusive growth, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

"We are also proud of the progress made in empowering women and ensuring that their contributions are integral to the nation's economic and social fabric," he added.

On the day, the prime minister also extended his deepest appreciation to all those, both in Pakistan and around the world, who were working tirelessly to eradicate poverty.

By coming together with shared purpose and determination, they could create a future where every individual, no matter their circumstances, has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, he observed.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, the prime minister reaffirmed the unwavering dedication to this cause, and invited all sectors of society to join them in building a more prosperous, equitable, and inclusive world.



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

The Babra Massacre: A Tragic Chapter of Pashtun Repression on 12 August 1948

The Babra Massacre was a tragic mass shooting that took place on August 12, 1948, in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan, now known as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Official reports indicate that approximately 15 protesters were killed and around 40 (some say 25) others were injured. However, sources from the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, which was involved in the protest, claim that the number of casualties was significantly higher, with around 600 people killed and 1500 injured.

The incident occurred at Babra ground in Charsadda District and was carried out on the orders of Abdul Qayyum Khan Kashmiri, the then-chief minister of NWFP. It is important to note that he should not be confused with Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan, the first chief minister of the NWFP during British rule. This massacre marked a significant event in the region's political history, particularly in the context of state repression against the Khudai Khidmatgar movement.

The Khudai Khidmatgar was a non-violent Pashtun movement led by Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Bacha Khan, who was a prominent figure in the Indian Independence Movement. Initially, the movement sought to address the socio-political conditions of the Pashtuns under British colonial rule, advocating for reforms. Over time, its focus expanded to include the broader objective of achieving independence for Colonial India from British rule.

Under this new government, the leaders of the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, including Bacha Khan, who opposed the creation of Pakistan, were imprisoned. Dr. Khan Sahib, the deposed chief minister, and other notable

figures from the region were also detained. In July 1948, Ambrose Flux Dundas, the governor of NWFP, issued an ordinance authorizing the provincial government to detain individuals and confiscate property without justification.

On August 12, 1948, supporters of the Khudai Khidmatgar movement organized a protest to demand the release of their leaders and to oppose the new repressive ordinance. The protesters marched from Charsadda to Babra ground. Upon their arrival, Abdul Qayyum Khan ordered the police to open fire on the unarmed demonstrators (because section 144 was imposed). Official reports stated that around 15 protesters were killed and 40 (some say 25) were injured. However, Khudai Khidmatgar sources claimed the death toll was significantly higher, with approximately 600 people killed and 1500 injured.

Some bodies were thrown into the Kabul River nearby, and many of the wounded jumped into the river to save their lives as all the exit routes had been sealed off.

The women rushed to the ground carrying the Holy Quran on their heads to stop the forces but to no avail. The firing stopped only when the police ran out of ammunition. There were hardly any families in the area that had not suffered in terms of their loved ones being killed or wounded.

Two days later, the nation was celebrating the first anniversary of Independence. But in many households in the Frontier, the mourning for the dead continued.

Three weeks later, Chief Minister Qayyum Khan, while delivering a speech in the Provincial Assembly, boasted that had the police not

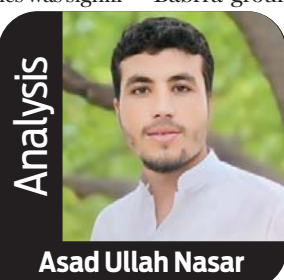
exhausted their stock of ammunition, no one would have been spared, including the four members of the Redshirts (who had not been detained).

Babra Massacre revealed a chilling aspect of the nascent Pakistani state's brutality. Following the mass shooting of Pashtun individuals, the government audaciously demanded that the victims' families be compensated for the ammunition expended during the indiscriminate killings. In a deeply shameful act of capitulation, Bacha Khan was compelled to liquidate his lands to meet this egregious demand from the government. This incident starkly illustrates the callousness with which the authorities treated the lives lost, further exacerbating the tragedy and humiliation experienced by the Pashtun community.

In mid-September 1948, the central government of Pakistan officially banned the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, leading to the widespread arrest of its supporters. The provincial government further escalated its suppression by destroying the movement's headquarters in Sardaryab, located in Charsadda District.

In July 1950, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, then president of the All Pakistan Awami Muslim League (which would later evolve into the Awami League), and future Prime Minister of Pakistan, spoke at a large gathering in Dhaka, East Bengal (now Bangladesh). He remarked, "The barbarous massacre of the Red Shirts (Khudai Khidmatgars) committed at Charsadda in 1948 surpassed the Jallianwala Bagh massacre committed by the British in 1919." His comparison underscored the gravity of the Babra Massacre and its deep impact on the political and social landscape of Pakistan.

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Analysis

Asad Ullah Nasar

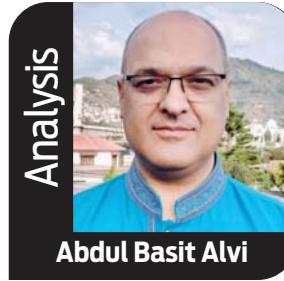
Defeat of Modi's Narrative in IIOJK Elections

The increase in the Governor's powers has drawn widespread criticism from local political parties, civil society organizations, and the general public. Residents of IIOJK believe that these changes undermine the democratic fabric of the region, concentrating decision-making authority in the hands of unelected officials. The lack of local representation in governance exacerbates feelings of alienation among the people of IIOJK, as policies imposed from

New Delhi without local input have led to widespread discontent. There are concerns that the expanded powers could be misused to suppress dissent, stifle opposition, and curtail freedoms, further exacerbating the already tense political climate in the region. The people of IIOJK have long faced the question of their political future, navigating competing narratives of nationalism and identity. Amid ongoing political turmoil, a significant portion of the population is increasingly expressing a desire for self-determination and potential accession to Pakistan. The unresolved status of Kashmir has intensified tensions between India and Pakistan, with the people of IIOJK often at the center of this geopolitical struggle, their voices and aspirations frequently overlooked. Residents of IIOJK seek the right to self-determination. Kashmiris view accession to Pakistan as a viable solution to their aspirations, often citing shared religious and cultural ties, as well as a perceived historical connection. They believe that joining Pakistan would offer a framework for self-determination, allowing them to preserve their identity and manage their affairs more autonomously. The policies of the BJP-led government have intensified feelings of alienation among the people of IIOJK. Reports of human rights violations, heavy-handed security measures, and economic neglect have

fueled discontent. As trust in Indian governance erodes, calls for self-determination and accession to Pakistan are gaining momentum. The youth of IIOJK, who have grown up amid conflict and unrest, are particularly vocal in their demands for change. They are increasingly participating in political discourse, advocating for their rights, and expressing a desire for self-determination. This demographic views their struggle for the future as intrinsically linked to the broader aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The people of IIOJK are dissatisfied with India, Modi, the BJP, and its anti-Kashmiri policies. Modi's narrative of governance and division has resulted in significant backlash, culminating in the BJP's historic defeat in the recent elections in IIOJK, which were held after a decade. According to Indian media, the Indian National Congress has emerged with a clear lead in the region. The recent electoral outcomes have highlighted the importance of political narratives in shaping voter sentiment and behavior. When election results diverge from the established narrative, it is crucial for political leaders and parties to recognize this disconnect. Ignoring it can hinder progress and alienate constituents. The narrative put forth by Modi and his party has failed, and the people of India, particularly those in IIOJK, are fully aware of the BJP's ulterior motives. The residents of IIOJK have distanced themselves from this electoral spectacle and are calling for their right to self-determination. The international community should urge India to comply with UN resolutions regarding the right to self-determination for Kashmiris, rather than engaging in such unsuccessful political maneuvers. The ultimate aspiration of the Kashmiri people is to join Pakistan, and this reality should be acknowledged by both India and the global community.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Al-Shifa Trust's six modern eye centres treat 80% of patients for free

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: On Thursday, al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital said Pakistan's population ranks fifth globally and will double by 2050 if appropriate health interventions are not implemented.

It added that at this rate, the number of people suffering from various eye problems will also rise, resulting in serious issues.

Talking to media men, Major Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that approximately 4% of the world's blind live in Pakistan. Almost 1.8 million people are blind while 21 million people are facing vision loss caused by common eye conditions such as cataracts, refractive errors, and Glaucoma.

He added that the situation is getting serious, therefore, the government must launch an ambitious plan to establish eye hospitals in every tehsil of the country.

He stressed that it should be realized that our population can grow to 500 million by 2050, putting great stress on infrastructure and all services.

Expressing concern over the growing number of eye diseases in Pakistan, he suggested building state-run eye hospitals in every tehsil to provide eye treatment to patients who cannot afford costly private treatment.

Major Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that government intervention is necessary as the private sector alone cannot cope with the problem at this level.

He said the Al-Shifa Trust has treated 27 million patients and conducted seven million eye surgeries in the last 30 years.

He added that the trust treats 2.5 million eye patients annually at its Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Muzaffarabad, Sukkar, and Children's Eye Hospital Rawalpindi, and 80 percent of them are not charged.



The trust also runs one of the best outreach programs to prevent blind-

ness in the country, focusing on remote areas. This program includes school screening, free eye camps, awareness sessions, and primary eye care sessions, he informed.

He said that the private sector lacks resources to cope with increasing numbers of eye patients; therefore, it is time to mobilize resources at the Government level. Al-Shifa can train doctors and paramedics to support such initiatives, he offered.

Maj. Gen. Rehmat Khan said that ignorance and poverty prevent people from visiting doctors, and blindness is rising, especially among poor rural people.

He said eye care facilities were primarily concentrated in big cities. There are no state-run eye care facilities in many districts and towns. It was the need of the hour that every district and tehsil of the country must have a proper and well-equipped state-run hospital.

CPEC catalyzing growth and sustainability in Pakistan, Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has transformed the landscape from the lengths and breadths of Pakistan over the decade. The collective approach to CPEC has significantly changed and uplifted the diverse economic and social sectors at all levels. The collaboration between intellectuals and significant policy inputs has shifted the course of implementation of this game-changing project.

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) along with Pakistan research center at Inner Mongolia College of Arts and Sciences, during the launch ceremony hosted in collaboration with Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Department of Riphah International University. Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, opened the ceremony by sharing the book's aims and objectives, which highlight the decades of transformation that CPEC has done in various areas of Pakistan. She said that the book encompasses eight chapters with diverse viewpoints from intellectuals around Pakistan, including



Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Tang Jun, Pakistan Research Center Inner Magnolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, said the book is offered uniquely by scholars from different regions of Pakistan. He said the book is an intellectual contribution to enhancing understanding about the decade of impacts of CPEC. During the ceremony, Chief Guest Rana Ihsan

Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Implementation and Monitoring, emphasized that CPEC is catalyzing growth. Despite economic stagnation, the Pakistani nation has achieved a moment of stabilization for effectively executing the project.

Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah Bukhari, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University, said there is huge potential for collaboration between

Pakistan and China among universities, incubation centers, research, and youth training. Professor Guo Yaling, Head of the Pakistan Study Centre at Hebei Normal University, remarked the book is a significant representation of scholars from Pakistan and proposed further cooperation between scholars from both sides. Prof. Jin Qiang, Director of The Research Centre for Organisation of Islamic Cooperation at Hebei University, said there should be collaboration between media and language translation of the intellectual work for greater understanding. Prof. Dr. Samina Sabir, Director of Kashmir Institute of Economics, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, discussed the CPEC and its impact on the Kashmir region and shared that there is a need for opening new opportunities for the region to help the locals to uplift the economy. Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, Head of Policy (CPEC) at the Centre of Excellence for CPEC M/o Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, said there is a pressing need for enhanced scholarly collaboration to effectively tackle the challenges for both nations and CPEC.

Industrial enterprises face IT infrastructure, information security issues every month: Kaspersky report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: One in three industrial companies encounter regular network problems, with 45% of businesses experiencing them a few times a month, while only 12% of respondents stated they face such challenges once a year or less. These are the findings highlighted by Kaspersky in its report, which investigated the network and information security challenges faced by geo-distributed companies.

Industrial companies usually operate using a geographically distributed infrastructure with factories, branch offices and other critical facilities located in different sites.

Industrial enterprises with multiple locations regularly face IT infrastructure and information security issues. According to the Kaspersky report titled 'Managing geographically distributed



businesses: challenges and solutions', 49% of manufacturing companies found the effective detection and resolution of cybersecurity incidents was the most challenging task. They also cited monitoring the implementation of security

measures (46%) and building a cohesive security policy (42%) as significant difficulties.

To minimize the possibility of network problems and build reliable comprehensive protection for all assets and processes

in industrial companies, Kaspersky recommends using OT XDR platforms such as Kaspersky Industrial CyberSecurity (KICS), offering centralized asset and risk management, security and compliance audit, and unparalleled scalability, providing industrial networks and automation systems with reliable protection.

To manage corporate network from a single console, organizations can use a specialized solution like Kaspersky SD-WAN.

This product integrates separate communication channels and network functions across companies, and improves application performance, facilitating the construction of reliable networks and maintaining geo-distributed businesses. If companies need advanced protection, they can combine both solutions. The integration of Kaspersky SD-WAN and Kaspersky Industrial.

People reject Modi's rule in state elections: Sardar Attique



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahma Khan has said that the disgraceful defeat of the ruling party BJP in the state elections of Indian Occupied Kashmir has proved that the Kashmiri people have rejected India and the Constitutional amendments. After the abrogation of Article 370, there is no elected local government in the Muslim-majority region for the past five years, but the governor's rule continues. It has paved the way for the establishment of its first elected government. This was the first local elections since 2014. Despite the continuing series of inhumane atrocities and killings on the Kashmiri people by millions of soldiers, after this open failure of efforts to crush the spirit of freedom of the people of Occupied Kashmir, the international community has been in conflict over the issue of Kashmir for eight decades. By giving up indifference, Kashmiris should play a productive role to give them the right to decide their own future according to the resolutions of the United Nations. Also, they completely rejected Modi's policies. Modi's BJP was wiped out despite the use of massive military force in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Occupying forces were fully used to change the results in BJP's favor, mountains were broken on Kashmiris, but Kashmiris rejected the cancellation of special status and despite all the ulterior tactics, they showed their hatred wherever they got an opportunity. expressed. By strongly protesting against India, the Kashmiris sent a solid message to the world that they do not accept any election in the valley that would be against their intentions and aspirations.

IIUI pays tribute to late Prof. Dr. N. B. Jumani, absentia funeral and condolence reference held



ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayers in absentia were offered on Thursday at the New Campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) for Prof. Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani, the former Vice President of the university. A condolence reference was also held to honor his memory, with participants reflecting on his significant contributions to the institution.

President IIUI, Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Vice Presidents, Deans, Faculty members, DGs administrative officers and a large number of employees offered funeral prayers in absentia.

The solemn occasion was marked by heartfelt prayers for eternal peace as the congregation, led by the President, prayed for Dr. Jumani's maghfirah (forgiveness) and high ranks in the afterlife. The dua, following the Namaz-e-Janaza, emphasized the sense of loss felt by the university community at the passing of a man they regarded as a visionary leader.

Prof. Dr. Jumani, aged 58, passed away last Saturday during a surgery and was laid to rest in his native village in Sindh. His sudden death has left a void in the hearts of many, particularly within the academic community.

Following the funeral prayers, a condolence reference was held, where participants shared their memories of late Dr. Jumani's affectionate personality and dedicated vision. Speakers paid glowing tributes to his services, which have greatly contributed to the betterment of IIUI. They praised his pivotal role in driving reforms aimed at advancing the university and improving educational standards.

President of IIUI, while addressing the gathering, expressed deep sorrow, stating, "The university has lost a great asset. His passing is not just a personal loss but a collective grief for all of us who have benefited from his leadership and commitment."

Vice Presidents and other speakers echoed these sentiments, reflecting on how Dr. Jumani's legacy would continue to inspire those he worked with. They particularly lauded his efforts in modernizing the university's programs and his relentless dedication to improving the education sector.

The condolence reference concluded with prayers for his soul, as attendees offered their final respects to the late professor whose contributions, both to the university and the academic field, will be long remembered.

Classera and PTCL Signed an Agreement at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a monumental step towards educational innovation and digital transformation, Eng. Mohammad S. Almadani, CEO of Classera, and Syed Imran Ali, Chief Business Solutions Officer of PTCL, formalised an agreement to officially launch the National e-Taleem Portal at the Pakistan-Saudi Business Forum 2024. The signing took place in the presence of the Saudi Investment Minister HE Eng. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih and the Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, highlighting the significance of this initiative

for both nations.

M/o FE&PT, Classera, and PTCL's collaboration began with the Tele school initiative, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has since evolved as a mobile application offering educational content across six Over-The-Top (OTT) channels, free of charge. The National e-Taleem portal is an evolution of Tele school which provides a more comprehensive approach to digital education.

At the heart of the solutions provided by Classera is HP Classeasy, The combination of HP's technology with Classera's e-learning platform brings an immersive, interactive learning

environment that supports both students and educators. The National e-Taleem Portal includes a Virtual Teachers Training Platform for continuous professional development. The portal promotes blended learning, combining online and offline modules to ensure education continuity, especially in areas with limited internet access, such as AJK and GB. By fostering digital literacy and enhancing teaching methods, the e-Taleem Portal empowers students and educators, bridging the digital divide and improving the overall quality and resilience of Pakistan's public education system.

The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is extending this portal at the national level.

Mohammad Almadani, Chief Executive Officer of Classera, which operates in over 40 countries, said his organization has started e-Taleem to transform education using technology that addresses the national needs and local challenges across Pakistan.

Through the e-Taleem portal, in collaboration with PTCL and HP Classeasy technologies, we aspire to empower every child with the tools they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.



Mayank Dhingra, Senior Education Business Leader, HP, added "Pakistan is at the cusp of massive change in the educa-

tion sector, and we are delighted to be able to support the government in their digital transformation agenda in association with

our partner, Classera. This also aligns with our commitment to accelerate digital equity for 150 million people by 2030"

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
85,585.43	86,205.66
Day's High	Day's Low
86,520.29	85,539.19
Index Value	Change
15,328,927,488	-620.23
Percentage	Time
-0.72%	17 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,385.13	+56.06
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	17 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,240.02	+162.32
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	17 Oct, 2:39 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,911.19	-269.11
Percentage	Time
-0.69%	17 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.75	188.00
Bahrain Dinar	731.30	739.30
Canadian Dollar	201.60	204.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	300.95	303.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.50	907.00
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	170.21	178.21
Norwegians Krone	25.65	25.95
Omani Riyal	715.80	724.30
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	210.75	212.75
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	320.70	323.50
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	361.30	364.8
US Dollar	277.90	279.40

PTCL wins SAMENA LEAD Best Business Strategy & Expansion Award

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd. (PTCL) snared the prestigious Best Business Strategy & Expansion Award at the second edition of the South Asia - Middle East - North Africa Leadership and Excellence Awards in Digital-development (SA-ME-NA LEAD).

The SAMENA Council LEAD Awards celebrate excellence in digital development and ICT innovation across South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. These awards spotlight pioneering achievements in various domains such as 5G adoption, Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) growth, regulatory enablement, and the enhancement of user experiences.

Mr. Bocar A. BA, CEO & Board Member SAMENA Telecommunications Council, presented the awards to 34 LEADs marking 5 areas of achievement, within the region recognising the contributions made by the regulators and the private sector in shaping the digital landscape.

Mr. Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group



CEO PTCL, received the business excellence award at a special ceremony held concurrently with GITEX GLOBAL, the biggest tech & start-up exhibition in the world.

Mr. Bamatraf said, "The vision is to take PTCL Group beyond connectivity and a telecom-only company. We aspire to be a key technology player in Pakistan, a true digital enabler. We believe that the role of telecommunications is evolving towards being an enabler for societies, for people and for governments as it transforms and accelerates the economy to fulfil the vision of the government and communities at large."

PTCL is maintaining the best Net Promoting Score in wireless, while the wireline service has the highest Customer Happiness Index. From customer centric to industry level initiatives, PTCL Group has positioned itself to become a true economic and social enabler in Pakistan. In addition, the Telenor acquisition (subject to regulatory approval) is a strategic step to bring about efficiency, economies of scale and advancements towards a "Digital Pakistan" by transforming the IT ecosystem.

Radiance of life

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Srinagar Highway after open roads in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Govt deserves appreciation for successful hosting of SCO Summit: Ahsan Bakhtawari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and member and member Central Core Committee United Business Group Ahsan Bukhtari, has congratulated the government on successfully hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. This achievement has effectively dismissed impressions of Pakistan's diplomatic isolation and insecurity.

In a statement he said Pakistan has made a significant impression on the global stage by hosting the SCO summit, showcasing its capabilities in organization, diplomacy, and cooperation. The Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and other government and security institutions deserve appreciation for their efforts.



The success of the conference has opened new avenues for cooperation between Pakistan and member countries

in trade, economy, and culture. With its population of 250 million, unique geography, and military strength, Pakistan has reaffirmed its position as a crucial player globally.

He said that The SCO summit's joint declaration highlights cooperation opportunities in sectors like trade, business, agriculture, industry, and energy, which is indeed welcome news. The Prime Minister's mention of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the North-South Corridor during the conference underscores the need for strengthened maritime, land, and air connections with member countries.

To fully implement the joint declaration, the government must work with member countries to develop a coordinated strategy and take concrete actions.

FPCCI strongly rejects baseless accusations levelled against its President

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) strongly rejects the unfounded accusations levelled against its President, Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, by a disgruntled and frustrated member of the previous ruling group, Statements by non-elected and unrelated persons reveal their nefarious motives, these accusations come from a failed leader who suffered a resounding defeat in the recent FPCCI elections after four years of underwhelming and mismanaged leadership.

In the past 10 months, President Atif Ikram Sheikh has achieved milestones that the previous group couldn't match in their entire tenure. Among these historic achievements



of Pakistan, which recognized outstanding achievements across various sectors, elevating FPCCI's stature. Representation at the SCO Heads of States Meeting: A momentous occasion where Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh represented not only the business community of Pakistan but also all SCO member countries before prime ministers and government heads of the SCO. These are achievements that reflect the dedication and dynamic leadership of Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, finally earning FPCCI the respect it deserves within government circles after four years of stagnation. It is important to remind critics that during their tenure, the FPCCI's Capital Office was in shambles, with elected Vice Presidents sidelined and unelected individuals mismanaging affairs.

Misuse of funds and deteriorating management were at their peak. The individual now making false accusations has a history of fraudulent activities and even served time in jail, making him a questionable source of criticism.

Individuals like the one accusing Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh are a negative influence on society—unwilling to accept their failures and the success of others. Rather than engaging in productive work, they focus on spreading false narratives. The business community stands with Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh and will continue to support his visionary leadership. InshAllah, he will remain steadfast against these fabricated claims and continue to serve the business community with unwavering dedication.

TCL Pakistan makes home entertainment easier with free installation for XL TV collection

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand is excited to announce its complimentary installation services for the XL Collection of large-screen televisions. This exclusive offer is available for select TV sizes (75", 85", 98", and 115") in Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, and Multan.

As part of this initiative,

customers can easily request free installation by calling TCL's dedicated helpline. Upon receiving the request, a qualified technician will reach out on the same day to confirm the installation schedule, ensuring a hassle-free experience. Installation will be completed within two days, and customers will be invited to provide feedback through a survey or follow-up call after the service.

NBP commemorates Eid Milad-un-Nabi with great religious passion and enthusiasm



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with devotion at its Head Office in Karachi. A special Mehfil-e-Milad was organized, where renowned Naat Khuwans recited soulful Naats in tribute to the beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The event was graced by Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President & CEO of NBP, who attended as the guest of honor alongside senior executives from the bank. While sharing his thoughts

on the occasion, Mr. Hasnie emphasized the significance of embodying the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in our everyday lives. He highlighted the values of compassion, integrity, and service to humanity, which form the cornerstone of the Prophet's (PBUH) message and are vital for fostering a harmonious society.

At the end of the event, Mr. Hasnie specially thanked the Naat Khuwans and the event's host for their active participation and appreciated NBP's event organizing team.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves rise to \$ 16.11 billion

KARACHI: The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan surged to US\$ 16,111.3 million as of October 11, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$ 11,022 million.

The SBP reserves are at a 30-month high since the March 2022 when the central bank possessed liquid foreign reserves of \$ 11,425.1 billion. The total liquid foreign reserves of the country are also at 29-month high since April 2022 when volume of the total liquid reserves was accounted as \$16,406 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed

that total liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 215 million to \$ 11,022.7 million during the week ended on October 11, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 5,088.6 million during the week under review, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on October 04, 2024, were \$ 16,047 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 10,808 million while \$ 5,239 million were held by commercial banks.

Spin Bowler Sajjid Khan and Beater Salman Ali Agha brilliant played against England in 2nd Cricket Test Match at Multan

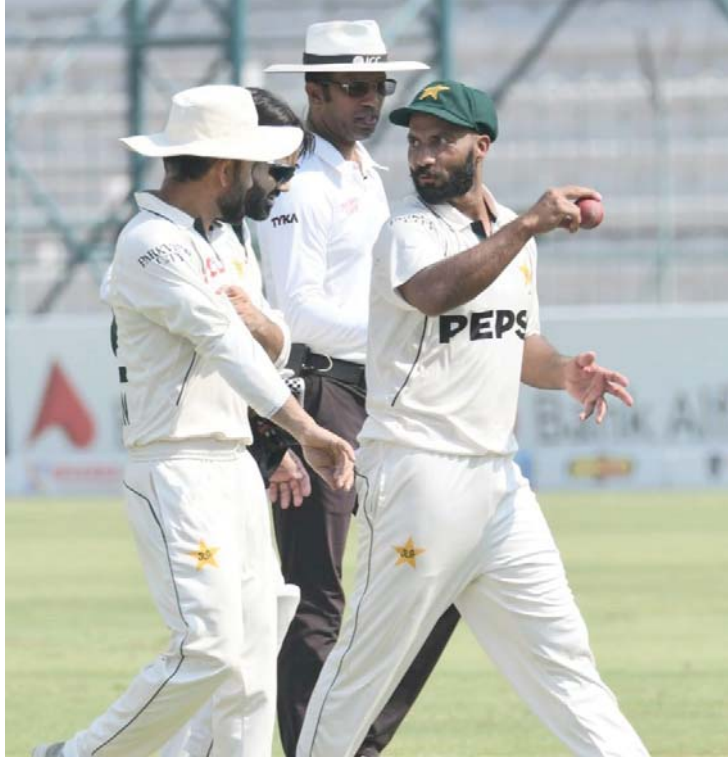
Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan has come close to its first Test victory on home soil for the first time after 11 Test matches after almost 4 years. After 4 consecutive Test failures against England, it has also brightened the chances of avoiding defeat in the current series. On the spin track, the English team is in trouble in front of the bowling. Chasing the tough target of 297 runs, they have lost 2 wickets at the end of the third day and there are 36 runs on the scoreboard. So 261 more runs are required for victory. Pakistan need 8 wickets.

16 wickets fell throughout the day on the third day in Multan Cricket Stadium. 309 runs were scored in 86 overs.

On a bright Thursday morning at the Multan International Cricket Stadium, the English team started the first innings with 239 for 6 wickets. He suffered his first loss of the day and 7th of the innings, with a gain of 9 runs, when Brydon Carse attempted a six off Sajjid Khan and was caught by Saud Shakeel, who took a difficult catch on the boundary line. There were 4 runs, this was Sajjid's 5th wicket in the innings.

With the addition of 8 more runs, Matthew Potts was clean bowled on the beautiful ball of Sajjid Khan so that he was stunned. He could score 6 runs. With the addition of 6 runs, England suffered a big loss on the total score of 262, their wicket keeper Jimmy Smith scored 21 runs and became the partnership of Saim Ayub and Nouman Ali. Thus, Pakistan got 9 wickets of England for 262. Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir scored runs on the last wicket thinking that as much as possible, Pakistan's lead could be reduced. They were very successful in this, the English team succeeded in this and took the total from 262 to 291. Credit goes to Jack Leach, who scored an unbeaten 25 off 25 balls, Shoaib Bashir was the last batsman



to be dismissed, scored 9 runs.

The most successful bowler for Pakistan was Sajjid Khan, he took 7 wickets by giving 111 runs in 26.2 overs. Nauman Ali also played long overs, he took 3 wickets for 101 runs in 28 overs.

England's first innings was all out for 291 runs in 67.2 overs. Pakistan started their second innings with a lead of 75 runs. The Pakistani opening batsmen once again failed to put together a good total and Abdullah Shafiq Shoaib Bashir was bowled out for a total of 9. After being given the benefit of the doubt by the umpire, the English captain took a review which was successful, he could score only 4 runs. Captain Shan Masood failed again like in the first innings, scoring 11 runs with the help of 1 four, he fell victim to Shoaib Bashir, Ollie Pope, standing in the slip, caught the catch.

Saim Ayub was caught out by Ollie Pope for 22 runs. In the Test match in Multan International Cricket Stadium, the rule of the spinners continues. In the first session, the Pakistani bowlers made their mark, but the English bowlers were not far behind. A total of 7 wickets fell in the first session, of which 4 were by England and 3 by Pakistani batsmen. After the lunch break, Jack Leach opened his account in the second innings, while Kamran Ghulam, who set the record in the first innings, scored 26 runs his innings included 5 fours. In the 5th wicket partnership, Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel cautiously moved the scorecard forward. After a partnership of 37 runs, Mohammad Rizwan hit 2 fours on an individual score of 23 and was caught out by Jimmy Smith off the ball of Brydon Carse. By the tea break, Paki-

stan scored 134 runs for 5 wickets. It was a bit of a slow session.

In the last session, the Pakistani team was bowled out for 221 runs around 47 minutes before the end of the game. The highlight of the innings was the valuable partnership of 65 runs for the 9th wicket. Salman Ali Agha and Sajjid Khan did it. Otherwise, at one point, Pakistan were 8 wickets out for 156, which led to 221 runs. With a lead of 75 runs, Pakistan got a lead of 296 runs. Salman Agha scored 63 runs and Sajjid Khan scored 22 runs. Before that, Mohammad Rizwan scored 23 runs. Saud Shakeel scored 31 and Kamran Ghulam scored 26. Shaan Masood scored 11 and Saim Ayub scored 22 while Abdullah Shafiq scored 4 runs.

On behalf of England, Shoaib Bashir took 4 wickets with 66 runs and Jack Leach took 3 wickets with 67 runs. In response to Pakistan's 366 runs, the English team was bowled out for 291 runs this morning. England batted hard for 11 overs in the closing moments of the game and ended the day at 36 runs for 2 wickets. Ben Duckett 0 and Zack Crowley 3 Ollie Pope 21 and Joe Root 12. England need 261 more runs to win and Pakistan need 8 wickets to win. Tomorrow is the third day of play.

In Multan International Cricket Stadium, Sajjid Khan got the honor of the best bowler, Abrar was defeated by 3 runs. Sajjid Khan joined the Multan Test in place of Abrar Ahmed and also dropped his name from the honor board of Multan, Sajjid Khan got this success because of 3 runs.

Sajjid Khan scored 111 runs and took 7 wickets in the first innings of the second Test against England at the Multan International Cricket Stadium. Earlier in December 2022, Abrar Ahmed scored an innings in the debut Test here at the Multan International Cricket Stadium. He took 7 wickets for 114 runs and won the honor of the best individual bowling, which was beaten



by Sajjid Khan today by just 3 runs. Interestingly, Abrar Ahmed also set a record for best bowling in an innings against England at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Now the English team is in the hands of Sajjid Khan. This match started on December 9, 2022 and ended on the fourth day on December 12. Here the English team won the toss

and batted first. Scored 281 runs. The English team was captained by Ben Stokes who is still the captain. Ben Duckett, who played an innings of 30 runs, 63, Zack Crowley scored 19 runs. Ollie Pope played a good innings of 60 runs. At a time when Pakistan's spinner Abrar Ahmed took 7 wickets for 114 runs on debut.

Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Brilliant Century by Sunny Nazeer and deadly bowling by Basit Mamdani

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century 136 by Hanzala Paracha and deadly bowling by Basit Mamdani capturing 5 Wickets for 29 runs.

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

Scores in Brief:

Delhi Boys Cricket Club beat Kamran Cricket Club by 58 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Delhi Boys CC 251/8 in 49 overs. Sunny Nazeer 136 15x4, Hanzala Paracha 49, Farman Yousuf 31. Sheraz Khalil 3/29.

Kamran CC 193 all out in 32 overs. S. M. Zain ul Abiden 57 2x4 1x6, Azhar Ali 33, Noor Alam 32. Musanna Qaim Khani 3/22, Arman Hussain 2/31.



In the 2nd Match Model Cricket Club beat Al-Rehman Cricket Club by 63 runs at Afza Ground. Model c.c 247/8 in 40 overs. Wajid Iqbal 80 8x4 4x6, Muhammad Waqas 62 9x4 1x6, Muhammad Shahrugh 47, Burhan Khan 29. Dilawar Hussain 3/35, S.

M. Abbas 3/53.

Al-Rehman CC 184 all out in 33.2 overs. Saqib Khan 52 5x4 3x6, Muhammad Hammad 31, Junaid Ahmed 30. Adeel Ali 3/19, Muhammad Waqas 3/33.

In the 3rd Match United Gymkhana beat Pak Independent Cricket Club by 30 runs at Student Sports Ground. United Gymkhana 197/9 in 40 overs. Rana Areeb Aftab 78 7x4 3x6, Mohsin Shah 30, Amanullah 26. Muhammad Affan 3/42, Farooq Ahmed 2/22.

Pak Independent CC 167 all out in 28.4 overs. Manzar Ali 66 10x4, Faiz Khan 20. Sohaib Anis 19. Arshman Riaz 4/38, Amanullah 3/35, Bilal Khan 2/30.

In the fourth Match National Gymkhana beat Pak Crescent Cricket Club by 9 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Pak Crescent CC 70 all out in 20.4 overs. Jawwad 20. Basit Mamdani (sla) 5/29, Murtaza Taqi 2/12.

National Gymkhana 71/1 in 15 overs. Soman Kabir 28 not out, Aarish Malik 19 not out, Hammad Alam 19.

Ind vs NZ: India dismissed for their third-lowest Test total

India were bowled out for a paltry 46, their third-lowest Test total and their lowest on home soil, as New Zealand's pace bowlers ran amok in overcast conditions on the second day of the rain-hit opening Test on Thursday.

In conditions more reminiscent of Christchurch than Karnataka, Matt Henry bagged 5-15 while fellow speedster William O'Rourke sparkled in his first game in India with 4-22 to skittle the hosts shortly after lunch.

The 46 runs were the fewest in an innings by any team playing in India, well short of the 62 the Black Caps managed against the hosts at Mumbai three years ago.

India's previous worst total at home was the 75 they made against West Indies in New Delhi in 1987.

After the opening day was washed out, Rohit Sharma raised eyebrows by opting to bat first in a seamer-friendly environment under lights at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and was fortunate to survive a loud appeal for lbw from Henry in the morning.

The skipper did not last long at the crease as Tim Southee castled him with a delivery that nipped back in. The Black Caps then landed two more heavy blows by dismissing Virat Kohli and Sarfaraz Khan for ducks in successive overs.

IUB wins PCB inter-varsity cricket championship



Sports Desk

BAHAWALPUR: The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) won the PCB Interschool Cricket Zonal Championship 2024.

The championship was held under the auspices of the Higher Education Commission and organized by Directorate of Sports the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

The final match was played between the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Bahawalpur, which IUB team won by 434 runs.

Khawaja Farid University of Engineering and Information Technology Rahim Yar Khan and Emerson University Multan also participated in the five-day championship.

Vice Chancellor the Islamia University Prof Dr Muhammad Kamran and Director of Sports Amjad Farooq Warraich congratulated the team.

Teams confirm participation in SA Cross Country C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives have confirmed their participation in the South Asian Cross Country Athletic Championship to be held on November 24 in the Federal Capital.

According to Chairman, South Asia Athletics Maj Gen (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi two men's categories events will be held in the championship, including men's senior and under-20.

He said that seven countries will participate the mega event, including host Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan.

He said that for the first time in the country's history, Pakistan will host the Cross Country Athletics Championship.

Pakistan National Taekwondo team delivered an extraordinary performance

Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Taekwondo team delivered an extraordinary performance at the KASAD 6th Asian Taekwondo Open Championships in Tangerang, Indonesia, held from October 14 to 17. The team brought home a total of 8 medals—3 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze—achieving their best result to date. Pakistan also secured the top team position and won the coveted team trophy. Head Coach Yousef Karami was awarded the Best Coach Award, while Shahzaib Khan was named Best Athlete for achieving the highest score in the event.

Medal details:

Shahzaib Khan (-54 KG) – Gold
Haroon Khan (-58 KG) – Gold
Abubakar Siddique (-58 KG) – Silver
Ikhtasham Ul Haq (-87 KG) – Silver
Hamza Omar Saeed (+87 KG) – Silver
Mazhar Abbas (-80 KG) – Bronze
Manisha Ali (Women +73 KG) – Gold
Maliha Ali (Women -73 KG) – Bronze



Israeli aggression

An earlier Israeli bombardment hit Saftawi district in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.



Photo: AFP

At least 28 dead in Gaza strike on school-turned-shelter

News Desk

CAIRO: At least 28 Palestinians including children were killed on Thursday in an Israeli strike on a shelter in the northern Gaza Strip, a Gaza health ministry official said, while Israel said the attack targeted tens of militants at the site. Dozens were also injured in the strike, said the official, Medhat Abbas, adding: "There is no water to extinguish the fire. There is nothing. This is a massacre." "Civilians and children are being killed, burned under

fire," said Abbas.

The Israeli military said in a statement the strike targeted militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, who operated from within the Abu Hussein School in Jabalia that had been serving as a shelter for displaced people. It said dozens of militants were present inside the compound when the strike took place, and provided the names of at least 12 of them, which Reuters could not immediately verify.

The military said it took precautions to mitigate harm

to civilians and accused Hamas of using them as human shields — a practice Hamas denies.

Hamas said in a statement that allegations there were fighters at the school were "nothing but lies," adding this was "a systematic policy of the enemy to justify its crime."

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office put the number of dead at the school at 28. It said 160 people were wounded in the attack. Earlier on Thursday, Palestinian health officials said at least 11 Palestinians were

killed in two separate Israeli strikes in Gaza City, while several others were killed in central and southern Gaza areas.

Footage circulated by Palestinian media of the Abu Hussein School and which Reuters couldn't immediately verify, showed smoke coming from tents that caught fire, as many displaced people evacuated casualties including children to ambulances.

Residents of Jabalia, in northern Gaza, said Israeli forces blew up clusters of houses firing from the air,

from tanks and by placing bombs in buildings then detonating them remotely.

The area has been a focus for the Israeli military for the past two weeks, which says it is trying to stop Hamas fighters from regrouping for more attacks.

Residents said Israeli forces had effectively isolated Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, and Beit Lahiyah in the far north of the enclave from Gaza City, blocking movement except for those families heeding evacuation orders and leaving the three towns.

FBR waives affidavit requirement for September 2024 sale tax returns

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday waived the affidavit requirement for sales tax returns for the tax period September 2024, filed in October 2024.

This decision comes after trade bodies requested the waiver, and the FBR aims to build confidence among all stakeholders, said a news release.

By doing so, the FBR is providing temporary relief to taxpayers and trade bodies, who had expressed concerns

over the affidavit requirement. Additionally, the board is open to receiving alternative proposals from stakeholders until October 31 to address the issue of falsified sales tax returns.

The FBR may also modify the affidavit's particulars if valid concerns from stakeholders are raised.

FBR also clarified that the said affidavit was only introduced by the board in order to sensitize the authorized representatives/CFOs about existing provisions of Sales Tax Act and that the said affidavit only reiterates the legal obli-

gations of the persons filing return for any tax period and informs them about the criminal liability that they may incur if such returns contain false information.

However, it is again emphasized that no new legal obligation arises out of the "affidavit" and that the registered taxpayers should always be cognizant of the fact that declaration of fake or flying invoices and suppression of sale is a cognizable offence under the sales tax law.

All registered persons need to exercise extreme caution while filing returns in order

to avoid pecuniary and criminal liabilities under section 33 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990.

Meanwhile, during the data-driven analytic exercise of sales tax returns filed by major businesses, it was observed that significant fraudulent practices are being employed by some of their authorized representatives and CFOs and that they are not exercising due diligence. Even the analysis within sectors and sub-sectors shows huge discrepancies.

It is pertinent to mentioned here that such discrepancies could not exist if the author-

ized representative and CFOs of the companies had exercised due diligence.

In this backdrop, it was decided by FBR that CFOs/authorized representatives will submit an affidavit along with sales tax return regarding its correctness.

Since then, a number of representations have been received from various trade bodies including FPCCI that affidavit for CFOs/authorized representatives of the companies about correctness of the sales tax return in terms of section 26 of Sales Tax Act, 1990, has caused hardship.

Key points in constitutional amendments draft

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The draft for a series of constitutional amendments prepared by the Federal Law Minister has emerged, aimed at revising several key clauses within Pakistan's Constitution.

As per the details, the proposed draft addresses various aspects of governance, judicial appointments, and the powers of key officials.

One significant proposal includes amending Clause 4 of Article 48, which states that the advice given by the President, the Cabinet, and the Prime Minister of the country cannot be challenged in any forum.

Another major proposed change is to Article 63A, which pertains to voting procedures within political parties. The government's amendment would allow the votes cast by lawmakers against the instructions of their party's leader to be counted.

After such a vote, the party leader would retain the authority to take action against the dissenting members.

The government has also suggested amending Article 111, allowing provincial assembly discussions on

legal matters to involve not just the Attorney General but also legal advisors, expanding their influence in legislative matters.

One of the more significant reforms concerns the appointment of judges, outlined in a proposed amendment to Article 175A.

The Judicial Commission would be tasked with reviewing the performance of High Court judges, and a new procedure for appointing Supreme Court judges is suggested.

The proposal includes forming a judges' appointment committee composed of two government members — a senator and an MNA proposed by the PM — and two opposition members — nominated by the opposition leader — with additional parliamentary input.

Additionally, the 12-member parliamentary committee — comprised of eight members from National Assembly (NA) and four senators — would have the power to appoint the Chief Justice of Pakistan, selecting from among the three most senior judges.

These reforms also include the provision for in-camera meetings during the appointment of the Chief Justice.

Lahore 'rape' incident: Over 250 arrested during students protests

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Police have arrested over 250 students, in connection with the violent protests erupted against alleged rape of a female student in a private college in Lahore.

As per details, the police officials stated that they have been identifying and apprehending suspects with the help of videos.

According to the police, the number of arrested individuals has reached 250, and further arrests are expected.

Moreover, the police have clarified that not all arrested individuals are students, and some non-student elements have been found to be involved in vandalism and other nefarious activities under the guise of protests. The police have assured that the situation in the city is now under control and has returned to normal.

Yesterday, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz categorically dismissed rumors of an alleged on-campus rape of a Lahore student, terming it a "fabricated story" designed to mislead and instigate students through social media.

Addressing a press conference in

Lahore, Maryam Nawaz said that the incident never occurred, and the rumors were intentionally spread to harm the government's reputation.

Last week, news of the alleged rape went viral on social media, prompting the police to arrest a security guard at the college. The police confirmed that the suspect was in custody and an investigation was underway. However, in a press conference today, CM Maryam Nawaz dismissed the allegations and said "The alleged rape incident was a fabricated story with no basis in reality."

She further accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of fueling the rumors to gain political advantage.

"The girl is not a rape victim, but a victim of bad politics and conspiracy," she added.

Meanwhile, the FIA team initiated action against those spreading false information regarding Lahore college 'rape' case, on social media that caused discomfort in the public order.

Prior to this, Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz also formed a high-level committee to investigate the alleged 'rape' of a female student at a private college.

Pakistan, Mongolia agree to form JMC, inter-parliamentary union to boost ties

Spokesman Report

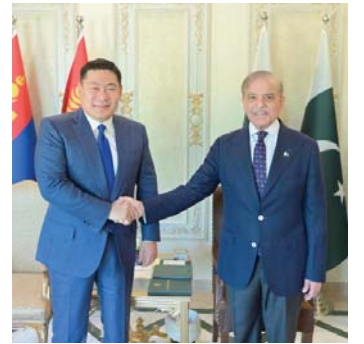
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Mongolia on Thursday agreed to form a Joint Ministerial Commission to enhance cooperation in trade, tourism, agriculture and mining sectors, and an inter-parliamentary union to expand the bilateral parliamentary ties.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Mongolian counterpart Luvsan-namsrain Oyun-Erdene here on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting.

In the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz suggested that both sides should explore new avenues of mutually advantageous cooperation with a particular focus on trade, investment, people-to-people contacts and connections.

He offered the Mongolian side to send civil servants to training institutions in Pakistan and also proposed to declare 2025 as the year of Pakistan-Mongolia Friendship to bolster the brotherly ties among the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene and noted that his visit marked a new chapter in the history of the bilateral relationship, defined



by mutual respect, goodwill and amity.

Felicitating him on his re-election as the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Shehbaz Sharif stated he looked forward to working closely with Oyun-Erdene in the days ahead to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Oyun-Erdene warmly felicitated the prime minister on the successful conduct of the SCO CHG Meeting and appreciated Pakistan's leadership role as SCO CHG Chair. He reciprocated that Mongolia shared Pakistan's desire to build stronger and closer bilateral relations through joint efforts and collaboration.

The Mongolian prime minister also planted a sapling in the lawn of the Prime Minister's House.

Italian Ships conduct exercise with Pakistan Navy



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Italian Navy Aircraft Carrier ITS CAVOUR and Frigate ITS ALPINO visited Karachi from 14 to 16 Oct 24 and conducted bilateral exercise in North Arabian Sea. The exercise was aimed to enhance interoperability and mutual professional skills while conducting joint operations in maritime arena.

During the visit, an Italian delegation led by the Ambassador of Italy

along with Capability Director of the Italian Defence General Staff exchanged views with senior PN officials and local media fraternity. Italian Ambassador expressed her resolve towards enhancement of Pak-Italy Naval and trade collaboration.

Joint exercises in maritime domain with key maritime nations is a manifestation of PN's resolve towards assured maritime order in the region.

International community to stop the Israeli occupation's crimes against Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates calls on the international community and all its legal institutions to stop the occupation's crimes against our people and impose deterrent penalties on the Israeli war criminals who persist in exterminating and displacing our people and committing more massacres, the latest of which was the massacre at Abu Hussein School in Jabalia Camp, and the crime of executing the martyr Hanan Abu Salama (60 years old) while she was harvesting olives with her family on her land in the town of Faqu'ah in Jenin Governorate.

The Ministry considers these crimes and violations to be an extension of the crimes of genocide and extrajudicial killing committed by

the occupation forces and settlers against unarmed civilians of our people, and an expression of an official Israeli policy that treats Palestinian citizens as targets for shooting and training to steal their lives and kill them under instructions from the political level that makes it easy for soldiers to violate the life of any Palestinian as they violate his land and source of livelihood.

The Ministry affirms that all forms of Israeli crimes and violations against our people, which aim to displace them and sever their relationship with their land in order to deepen Israeli control over it, undermine the opportunity to implement the two-state solution, and also affirms that ending the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine is the only way to achieve security and stability in the region.

Naqvi congratulates Prime Minister and Nation on ...

Continued from Page 1

reflects the government's successful foreign policy. He emphasized that it will further enhance Pakistan's economic, political, and diplomatic relations with participating countries strengthen, leading to increased trade and investment opportunities. Interior Minister emphasized that the

successful hosting of the SCO summit was made possible through remarkable inter-ministerial and institutional cooperation.

He stated that all the personnel who were on duty through out the day and night deserve special appreciation. He underscored that Pakistan will reap the benefits of this summit in the coming days.