



India foreign minister's Pakistan visit a 'good beginning', says Nawaz Sharif

The visit of India's foreign minister to Pakistan earlier this week was a "good beginning" that could lead to a thaw in relations between the two rivals, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was quoted as saying by Indian media on Friday.



Pakistan to host a global gathering of lawmakers for justice, peace

National Assembly of Pakistan is set to host the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the Int'l Criminal Court (CAP-ICC) on October 28-29 here. The event will bring together parliamentarians from around the world to engage in open dialogue with their parliamentary peers, experts, academics, government officials, representatives of the Int'l Criminal Court.

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PM reaffirms support to Palestine, Lebanon people; calls for donations to relief fund

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, reaffirming Pakistan's support to the suffering people of Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, urged the countrymen to donate generously to the relief fund, established by the government.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief efforts for dispatching the relief assistance for Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, appealed the people to supplement the government's efforts and particularly the affluent people to donate wholeheartedly for the fund.

He said the locals as well as overseas Pakistanis should send their donations to IBAN: PK11SBPD0000001111114292 or Raast ID: 01111114292 to assist the suffering people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He told the meeting that Pakistan would soon dispatch another 3,000 tents and 12,000 blankets besides eatables and medicines for the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He sought a report from the Pakistan's ambassadors in the neighboring countries of Palestine and Lebanon—Egypt, Oman and Syria—on the required quantity of tents and blankets, also directing them to play their role to accelerate the supply of relief goods.

The prime minister condemned the impediments being created by Israel in the relief efforts and lauded the NGOs supplementing the Government of Pakistan's relief efforts.

In the briefing, it was told that since October 8, 2023, 12 cargoes had been dispatched to Palestine through six chartered, three PAF special flights and another three through the sea route.

The consignments consisted of 3145 tents, 12625 blankets, eatables, milk powder and medicines. Besides, another 3,000 tents and 12,000 blankets were being sent through three flights soon.

The prime minister was informed that two batches of Palestinian medical students had reached in Lahore and Islamabad.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the relevant authorities to make arrangements for Palestinian students to study in other disciplines as well, other than the medicine.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema and Attaullah Tarar, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaulah, SAPM Tariq Fatemi, chairmen of Higher Education Commission, and National Disaster Management Authority and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Humanitarian decision

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding relief efforts in and Palestine by the Government of Pakistan on Friday.



Photo: PID

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

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: 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.

"We have reports as our reconciliation process is not taken seriously. On one side, talks are under way and on the other hand our parliamentarians are harassed and abducted," he told reporters in Islamabad after a meeting with a PTI delegation.



PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, and Sunni Ittehad Council Chairman Hamid Raza were standing alongside Fazl.

Earlier in the day, a BNP-M women

senator also shared her grievances on the floor of the House. She claimed that she was being pressured to vote for the constitutional amendment.

The JUI-F chief has been at the centre of Pakistan's politics over the past few months after the government attempted to present the legislation on the weekend.

"One of JUI-F lawmakers is abducted and his children are at my home, another has been threatened, and another was offered money. If this thing continues and the government uses such tactics, then we will be compelled to stop the process of talks," he said.

Special Parliamentary Committee approves constitutional amendment draft: Khursheed Shah

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Special Parliamentary Committee, Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah Friday claimed that the committee has unanimously approved draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The Parliamentary Special Committee met under the chair of Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah to deliberate on the proposed constitutional amendment draft.

Talking to the media post consultative meeting, Khursheed Shah said that he was unaware of the Supreme Court's recent decision but confirmed that consensus had been reached on the proposal to allow overseas Pakistanis to contest general elections.

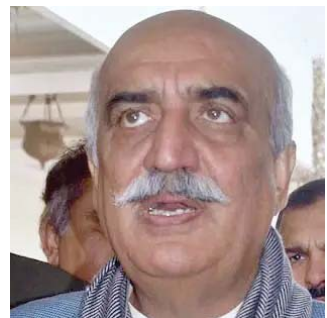
Shah said that the draft approved by

the special committee would be then presented to the federal cabinet.

He also clarified that overseas Pakistanis would be allowed to contest elections, with a requirement to renounce dual nationality within three months.

Khursheed Shah highlighted that PTI was also present at the meeting and raised the point about granting rights to contest elections to the overseas Pakistanis. The committee has recommended to the federal cabinet to include this right in the constitutional amendment draft.

He said the draft was presented point-by-point, and all members unanimously agreed on its clauses. "Though no signatures were made on the bill, all committee members raised their hands in support of the approval," Khursheed Shah said.



Hamas confirms leader Yahya Sinwar killed in Israeli attack

Reuters

Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, architect of the group's cross-border raids in 2023 that became the deadliest day in Israel's history, was killed in combat, Khalil Al-Hayya, deputy Gaza Hamas chief and the group's chief negotiator, said on Friday.

Sinwar's death, which follows Israeli assassinations of other Hamas leaders and commanders, will deal a huge blow to the group which has faced relentless air strikes since it attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies.

It also dragged about 250 people back to Gaza, creating a hostage crisis for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government which has vowed to eliminate Hamas.



LHC forms full bench to hear female student harassment cases

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday constituted a full court bench to hear cases of harassment and alleged rape of female students in educational institutions.

The full court bench will hear these cases on Tuesday.

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum also directed the authorities to take the statement of alleged rape victim of Lahore college.

During the hearing, the Punjab IG Usman Anwer, Punjab Advocate General, and other officers appeared before the court.

Meanwhile, all private and public schools, universities, and colleges in Punjab remained closed today.

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

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, 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.

Continued on Page 8

MIXED PICKLES IN OIL

Tomato Ketchup

APPLE JAM

تدرت نے ذائقہ دیا احمد نے محفوظ کیا!

ISSI hosts Hong Ting Forum: Dialogue in Islamabad in collaboration with Xinhua News Agency

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Xinhua News Agency organised the Hong Ting Forum: Dialogue in Islamabad titled "Understanding China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Chinese-Style Modernization Development Path." The event highlighted China's unique national modernization and the importance of the China Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Participants included notables from the diplomatic community, academia, think tanks and civil society.

During his welcome remarks, Jiang Chao, Bureau Chief Xinhua News Agency, stated that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of both countries, the China Pakistan friendship has stood the test of time. He added that comprehensive reform and

promoting the Chinese style modernization under the 18th CPC Central Committee has led to a new milestone. This has also facilitated strengthening the China Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

Mr. Mudassar Iqbal, Deputy Director Associated Press of Pakistan, commended China's people centered approach to modernization which has resulted in the fruits of growth reaching the people. Pakistan also aspired to follow a similar path to modernization and development.

Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-i-Azam University, stated that the Chinese modernization is rooted in Deng Xiaoping's cardinal principles which included rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, strengthening China's global position, envisioning a new type of the development of Communist Party's own principles.

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Associate Professor Bahria University Islamabad, stated that the China Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains the buckle of the belt in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr. Farrukh Pitafi, Senior Anchorperson, emphasized that storytelling has always been vital in building positive narratives and that the China story has always been a part of Pakistan's national narrative.

Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of China in Pakistan, during his remarks stated that continuous reforms and opening up is an important step in the development path of China. He added that Premier Li Qiang's recent visit to Pakistan marks another significant step in strengthening the China-Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. The leadership of both countries agree on supporting and promoting the Three Initiatives namely the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, in addition to promoting CPEC and



people-to-people relations between both countries. He also added that any attempts to undermine cooperation between both countries by acts of terrorism shall yield no result.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, in his keynote address stated that China has made significant developments to the world including

building the Great Wall, introducing meritocracy and building the great canal system. China's development journey has been marked with the economy growing from \$2.286 trillion in 2005 to \$18 trillion today. He added that the China-Pakistan relationship is a special high priority relation and any attempts to sabotage it are bound to fail. Pakistan can learn

a lot from the Chinese approach to modernization.

Earlier in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir stated that China and Pakistan shared a history of exceptional relations that have matured into a comprehensive, multi-faceted partnership addressing the political, economic, strategic, and cultural aspirations of both nations.

Traffic jam

KARACHI: A view of massive traffic jam at M.A. Jinnah Road due to a religious party protest, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PM seeking constitutional amendment despite not having two-thirds majority: Liaquat Baloch

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Liaquat Baloch, the Central Vice Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan and former Member of the National Assembly, has stated that the government, despite not having a two-thirds majority, is pushing for the approval of a controversial constitutional amendment at the behest of unseen forces. He suggested that the Prime Minister should withdraw from this, considering the greater public interest, to establish a positive legacy in history; otherwise,

history will remember this step in negative terms. He expressed these views during a press conference at the district office of Jamaat-e-Islami in Dar-ul-Salam Colony, Attock. On this occasion, General Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab and former National Assembly candidate Iqbal Khan, District Amir and former National Assembly candidate Sardar Amjad Ali Khan, City Amir and former Punjab Assembly candidate Mian Muhammad Junaid, former Punjab Assembly member Muhammad Waqas Khan, District Information

Secretary Syed Sanauallah Bukhari, former councilor Shahab Rafiq Malik, along with other district officials and workers of Jamaat-e-Islami were present. Liaquat Baloch said that the system of accountability in Pakistan has been rendered ineffective, and the state system has become a protector for corrupt elements, which is a tragic situation. Particularly in areas like Attock, the corruption of billions of rupees identified in Barani University Attock Campus is a disgraceful act and a challenge for the government,

as both past and present governments have surrendered to corrupt mafias. He demanded a high-level investigation into the corruption at the Barani University Attock Campus, and if the complaints are verified, the influential corrupt elements, who are national criminals, should be brought to justice. He also highlighted the illegal gold mining activities along the 150 km stretch of the River Indus in Attock, involving heavy machinery that causes billions of dollars in annual losses to the national treasury.

International Seminar Forensic Evidence Held in Hazara University Mansehra

Kiran Asim

MANSEHRA: Department of Sociology & Department of Law, Hazara University Mansehra Organized Seminar on Admittance of Forensic Evidence as credible witness in Islamic Court

Keynote speech by Dr. Khalil ur Rahman Chairman Sociology explained the importance of Admittance of Forensic Evidence as credible witness in Islamic Court and welcomed the guest speaker and audience and provided best examples from world history and Pakistan and explained the Emerging Trends in Forensic Science and recommended for inclusion in Pakistani courts.

Dr. Mohsin Nawaz Vice Chancellor Hazara University appreciated the event and highlighted the need to organize training for forensic investigation experts, crime investigation teams as well as design relevant curriculum. He highlighted the use of modern



technologies and disciplines to forensic sciences and added that the forensic labs should have facilities for audio-visual analysis, digital forensics, crime/death scene investigation, fingerprints' analysis and forensic photography.

Dr. Kazmi explained that professionals who work in forensic psychology apply their clinical psychology knowledge to the legal system. They may work on both civil and criminal cases, carrying out several tasks.

The International Seminar was attended by a large number of students, lawyers, police officers, medico-legal officers and faculty members of Hazara University. Mr. Iqbal Khan presented a shield to Vice Chancellor Hazara University. Speakers and organizers received shields and certificates presented by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mohsin Nawaz. Deans faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Farhana Kazmi and Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Shah distributed certificates among the participants.

Govt aims to promote medical tourism: Dr Azra Pechuho

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Health Dr Azra Pechuho said that the Sindh government extended its full support to the private sector for promoting medical tourism across the country, aiming to benefit the local healthcare sector and its contribution to the national economy.

Speaking as a chief guest at the inauguration of the 21st Health Asia Exhibition and Conferences on Thursday, the provincial minister said that the government maintained a major share in the country's healthcare sector, providing quality treatment not only to residents but also to overseas Pakistanis and expatriates in different public sector hospitals, mainly in Karachi.

Dr. Abdul Bari, CEO of Indus Health Network, said Pakistani hospitals maintained a good standard of quality treatment for patients, including overseas Pakistanis and foreigners, provided that the security situation of the country improved in major cities.

Arshad Qaim Khani, CEO and Prime Minister of the Health Program, said that quality and affordable treatment is mandatory to promote medical tourism in the country. On the other hand, the government should provide logistics and security facilities for expatriates and foreign visitors.

Project Director Health Asia Exhibition and Conferences Farhan Anis said that the participation of local health experts and foreign delegates at the event will help the healthcare sector address its issues and challenges, elevating its standards to the next level.

He mentioned that various local companies have introduced made-in-Pakistan high-tech equipment, apparatus, and machines to exhibitors and visitors, which showed consistent progress and localization in the healthcare sector.

Faisalabad CPO orders arrest of three accused after shooting of stage actress

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Stage actress Faiza Saleem was shot in Jhang Bazar area of police station A case has been registered in Jhang Bazar police station against three accused Amir Great, Bau Anjum and 1 unknown person.



CPO Kamran Adil has asked for a report from SP Lyallpur Division. CPO Kamran Adil has formed teams to arrest the accused under the leadership of SP Lyallpur Division. Raids are being conducted to arrest the accused who will be arrested soon. Artists will be brought to justice, they are a valuable asset of the country, and effective measures will be taken to prevent such incidents.

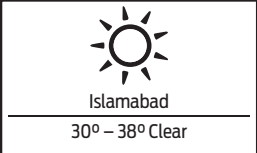
Blind People are Part of our Society: Maryam Khan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan has said that blind people are also a part of our society, we have to hold their



hand and provide them with opportunities to move forward. It is doing education and training and the students are playing their role in the development of the country by getting higher education and under the leadership of the director of the institution Sada Kirmani, it is progressing twice day and night. The administration will continue to support them fully. He expressed these views yesterday while speaking as a special guest on the occasion of International Day of the Blind in the White Cane at Muhammad Bin Qasim Blind Center. On this occasion, Director of Muhammad Bin Qasim Blind Center Sada Kirmani said that our mission is to help blind people. Instead of asking for a rupee, we are teaching to earn a rupee, in which we are 90% successful, and are making the name of the blind center bright and supporting their families by occupying high positions. Our results in all classes are also 100% and in sports, recitation, recitation and speech competitions, our students are among the best. Drivers should respect the white knife on the road. The purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness about the white knife so that the public can recognize it. SOS Foundation Chairperson Dr. Shaista, Mrs. Shamim Akhtar, Mrs. Tahira Najam attended the ceremony. Mrs. Hina Chaghatai, Rana Umair Farooqi, Amar Ansari, Prof. Majid Wittu, Iram Selmi, Nadeem Ahmed, Mrs. Nadeem, Sohail Ahmed and blind persons addressed the ceremony. Blind persons from all over Punjab participated in the ceremony. Along with Sada Kirmani, the students distributed white sticks. The students presented the culture of the four provinces in a beautiful way and received appreciation.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 4:52 am
 Zohr 11:53 am
 Asr 3:52 pm
 Maghrib 5:30 pm
 Isha 6:53 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
 CDA 9208301-04
 Met Office 9250360-6
 RDA 5555864
 TMA 5770886
 Cantonment Board 9270151-3
 Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

Gas supply cut to captive power destructive for textile export

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) North Zone Chairman Abdul Hameed on Friday denounced the government plan to withdraw gas supply to cogeneration captive power and captive power plants, leading to catastrophic consequences not only for the industry but also for the overall economy.

In a letter, written to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Abdul Hameed asked to take immediate cognizance of the aggravated situation and rescue the export industries, as it has invested billions of rupees in co-generation equipment and captive power machines which will be rendered useless if gas supply is withdrawn.

"This will not only lead to colossal financial loss but also waste the valuable resources spent on establishment of these facilities," he added in the letter.

Abdul Hameed said that the withdrawal of gas supply will force the industry to rely on expensive electricity, raising production cost and rendering them uncompetitive in the international market. This will lead to a significant setback for the industry, he added.

Romina urges climate authority to coordinate with stakeholders for unified climate action

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has urged the Pakistan Climate Change Authority (PCCA) to play its role to ratchet up collaboration and cooperation among various federal and provincial governmental organisations for achieving climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals.

Presiding over the 2nd meeting of PCCA held here, the PM's climate aide said, "Driving the Pakistan's long-term sustainability and climate resilience actions is inevitable for ensuring that the country is better prepared to cope with the present and the future exacerbating impacts of climate change in various socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water and energy."

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that the Authority, which has been established at the federal level, has been entrusted with an crucial responsibility of achieving the climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon

development goals by spearheading the country's response to the growing threats of climate change, coordinating efforts across sectors and implementing policies that promote climate resilience through various evidence-based policy measures.

She noted that lack of collaboration and cooperation among federal and provincial government organisations for implementing long-term and short-term national climate change policy measures for coping with the adverse fallouts of climate change has only increased the climate vulnerability of not only various socio-economic sectors but also infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the people.

However, she called upon the PCCA to strengthen its role and pace up efforts to bring together all federal and provincial organisations and national and international non-governmental organisations together through enhanced collaboration and cooperation for implementation of the national climate change policy for protecting the country and its people from aggravating climate risks, particularly floods, heatwaves, sea-level rise,



shifting rainfall patterns and paced glacial melting.

The PM's climate aide also urged the authority to develop national programmes for climate adaptation for reducing the impacts of floods, droughts,

and rising temperatures and mitigation programmes for cutting down greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable practices and renewable energy projects and actionable low-carbon development plans.

During her welcome remarks, Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, stressed upon need for the unified approach at the national level to tackle climate challenges.

Media Talk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Gohar Ali Khan talking with media persons outside Chief of JUI F Maulana Fazlur Rehman residence after the meeting, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

BISP Kafalat: Quarterly assistance amount increased

City Desk

KARACHI: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Rubina Khalid announced an increase in Kafalat quarterly installment for its around 9.3 million beneficiaries.

During her visit to Benazir Nashonuma Center at Sindh Government Hospital PIB Colony in Karachi, Rubina Khalid said that the cash Kafalat assistance amount will be increased by Rs 3000.

Currently, around 9.3 million households enrolled in the BISP are receiving Rs 10,500 per quarter and after the announcement, the amount will be extended to



Rs13,500

Khalid said that 9.3 million families are currently registered with the BISP and this number is expected to reach 10 million by next year.

Earlier, the BISP expanded the bank facilities for house-

holds enrolled in the programme for withdrawing quarterly installments of Rs. 10,500.

In order to distribute payments to its 9.3 million eligible households, the BISP inked agreements with six more banks, as it was previously relying solely on the services of two banks

List of banks to withdraw BISP kafalat installments Beneficiaries of the BISP are served by six banks and 15 clusters. The installment of Rs. 10,500 per quarter can be withdrawn by registered BISP beneficiaries from ATMs operated by Bank Al Falah, Bank of Punjab, Mobilink Microfinance, Telenor Microfinance Bank, Habib Bank Limited, and HBL Microfinance nationwide.

The recipients can take out the quarterly installment from any ATM in Pakistan that belongs to the approved banks.

NADRA Signs e-Payment Gateway Agreement with BOP to Facilitate Digital Payment for Services

City Desk



LAHORE: National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) has taken a significant step towards enhancing its Service Delivery by signing an e-Payment Gateway and Acquiring Agreement with the Bank of Punjab (BOP).

National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) has taken a significant step towards enhancing its Service Delivery by signing an e-Payment Gateway and Acquiring Agreement with the Bank of Punjab (BOP).

Mr. Zafar Masud, President & CEO, BOP emphasized that the initiative aligns with the vision of advancing digital banking services by providing secure and innovative payment solutions for the nation.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Rehman Qamar, Chief Projects Officer, NADRA and Mr. Nofel Daud, Chief Digital Officer, BOP at a ceremony by key officials from both organizations

AI and Precautions

Hiba

As Artificial Intelligence is growing rapidly all over the world, it is playing an essential role in the development of the industries, companies, and even helping humans in every domain. However, people still face struggle using it and the reason is that they are afraid that their personal data will be violated because of the lack of knowledge regarding it. There are some cases where companies' confidential data is violated because of the AI.



In this regard, our government should provide a workshop to educate our people on proper and ethical use of AI. Additionally, strong actions should be taken and the rules must be established to protect the privacy of the companies and people for everyone's benefit.

(Student at Bahria University, Karachi, Pakistan, hibasoomro68@gmail.com)

Call for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Policies to Safeguard Pakistan's Future

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized a seminar titled "Sustainable Tobacco Control Policies: A Way to Healthier Pakistan." The event brought together government officials, public health advocates, civil society members, anti-tobacco activists, and youth leaders to address the growing tobacco epidemic in Pakistan and advocate for comprehensive policy reforms.

In his keynote address, Mr. Musadiq Masood Malik, Minister for Petroleum, emphasized the importance of collective action against tobacco. He stated, "Smoking is causing overall harm rather than any benefit. The fight against smoking will not be easy, but it is crucial. The real fight against smoking is a fight against the mafia." Highlighting the severe health implications, he added,

"Smoking has the deepest connection with cancer, and there is hardly any disease that isn't linked to it. Every year, 150,000 to 200,000 people die from smoking. Why can't we see the faces of our people in those numbers?"

Murtaza Solangi, Former Caretaker Minister of Information and Broadcasting, emphasized the need to acknowledge tobacco as a national issue. "First of all, we have to see it as an issue; this is not even yet seen as an issue," he remarked.

Public Health Advocate Dr. Maheen Malik highlighted the increasing threat posed by emerging nicotine products like e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, which are being marketed aggressively to youth.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, emphasized the deadly toll of tobacco use in Pakistan, explaining, "Tobacco use is costing 166,000 lives

each year, which equates to almost 450 deaths per day." He urged the government to take critical steps to curb tobacco consumption, particularly among the youth.

The seminar was attended by notable experts, including Dr. Mati ur Rehman from the Health Services Academy, who discussed the severe health hazards of tobacco use, explaining how it leads to life-threatening conditions and diseases. Muhammad Sabir, an economist from the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), said that, "Higher tobacco taxes can not only generate significant revenue for the government but also make tobacco products unaffordable for children, thereby protecting them from the dangers of addiction."

The event concluded with a strong call to action for policymakers to implement sustainable tobacco control policies. Discussions centered on raising



taxes on all tobacco products to protect the health of Pakistan's population, especially its youth.

Other key attendees included

Khalida Ahmad, Board Member of SPARC, Senator Sana Jamali, Nisar Ahmad Cheema, Parliamentarian, and prominent Anti-Tobacco Activ-

ists, all of whom voiced their support for enhanced tobacco taxation and the policy change to reduce tobacco consumption.

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US Elections: Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric vs. Economic Extravaganza

As the U. S. presidential election approaches, two pivotal issues dominate the political landscape: the Republican Party's anti-immigrant rhetoric and the Democratic Party's expansive economic policies. The intensification of the Republican stance on immigration has deepened divisions across the country, leaving many Americans anxious about the future. Immigrant communities, in particular, feel targeted, as they are portrayed as threats to national security and cultural values. This rhetoric not only alienates these groups but also raises concerns among a broader base of voters who fear such sentiments undermine America's diversity. According to a 2023 Pew Research Center survey, nearly 60% of Americans believe that immigrants strengthen the country due to their hard work and talent, while only 36% agree with the sentiment that immigrants are a burden. These figures reflect how divisive and polarizing the immigration debate has become.

Integration into society and the broader economic implications, further complicating the voting calculus for many.

Multinational corporations such as Amazon, Walmart, and Kroger rely heavily on a disciplined and affordable immigrant workforce. Immigrants have become a permanent and indispensable part of the U. S. economic fabric, particularly in labor-intensive industries like retail, logistics, and manufacturing. In addition to these sectors, immigrants play critical roles in blue-collar and menial jobs—positions that many American-born workers are often unwilling to fill, such as construction, agricultural labor, food service, and cleaning services. They also support civic services in roles like sanitation, transportation, and caregiving, which are vital to maintaining the nation's infrastructure and public well-being.

This immigrant workforce not only fills these essential roles but also contributes billions to the U. S. economy. According to the American Immigration Council, immigrant workers make up more than 17% of the U. S. labor force, generating substantial tax revenue and driving consumer spending. Any threat to this workforce through anti-immigrant policies risks destabilizing key sectors, which depend on their labor to function efficiently. From farms to factories, construction sites to hospitals, immigrants perform hard, physically demanding jobs that sustain critical industries and civic services. This connection between

economic vitality and immigration underscores how intertwined these issues are in the 2024 election. Voter turnout among immigrant communities surged in 2020, and a Latino Decisions poll predicts that these communities will again play a decisive role in 2024, particularly in swing states like Arizona and Michigan.

As Americans face this complex political landscape, they are caught between two difficult choices. On one hand, Trump's inflammatory anti-immigrant rhetoric threatens social cohesion, while on the other, Harris's expansionary economic policies have contributed to inflation and rising costs. A recent CNN Poll revealed that 51% of voters are dissatisfied with the current economic trajectory, while 48% express concern over social division caused by immigration policies. This split highlights the challenge facing voters as they grapple with both social and economic instability.

Real wages, adjusted for inflation, have failed to keep pace with rising costs, leaving many Americans feeling financially strained. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real wages for American workers fell by 2-3% in 2023, exacerbating financial pressures. In response, the Biden-Harris administration introduced stimulus packages, such as the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, to stimulate economic recovery. However, a Harvard-Harris poll found that 58% of Americans believe that the government's economic policies are contributing to higher infla-

tion, suggesting a growing disillusionment with the Democratic Party's approach.

Despite these challenges, Kamala Harris has made ambitious promises to support middle-class families, workers, and first-time homebuyers. Yet, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, only 42% of Americans believe Harris has a solid plan to manage inflation, casting doubt on her leadership. Her inability to present a clear strategy to curb inflation and address wage stagnation, housing affordability, and government spending has raised significant concerns among voters. Meanwhile, Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric may alienate key voting blocs, with a Pew Research Center survey showing that 54% of Americans oppose his immigration policies.

Both candidates face mounting criticism, and their shortcomings on these pivotal issues are likely to play a decisive role in shaping the election's outcome. American voters, however, are far from passive. They understand that campaign rhetoric rarely translates into effective governance. A Gallup poll from mid-2024 shows that 64% of voters believe that campaign promises, whether on immigration or economic recovery, will largely be forgotten once either Trump or Harris assumes power. This skepticism suggests that voters are carefully weighing their options, knowing that whoever wins will need to confront the realities of governing in a deeply divided and economically strained nation.

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



Qamar Bashir

A global trade hub surging amid geopolitical tensions

The Canton Fair, a key hub for global trade, is once again drawing the world's top merchants to Guangzhou in China.

Running from October 15 to November 4, the 136th edition of this renowned event signals China's continued ambition to be at the center of international commerce.

By October 9, more than 125,000 overseas buyers from 203 countries and regions had already pre-registered. This year's fair is set to attract a record-breaking number of global players.

A staggering 223 companies from the world's top 250 retailers, alongside numerous major corporations, have confirmed their participation – up 24 percent from the spring edition held earlier this year. For the first time, more than 300 large purchasing companies are expected to attend, a milestone that underscores the expanding global interest in China's vast market and its manufacturing power, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

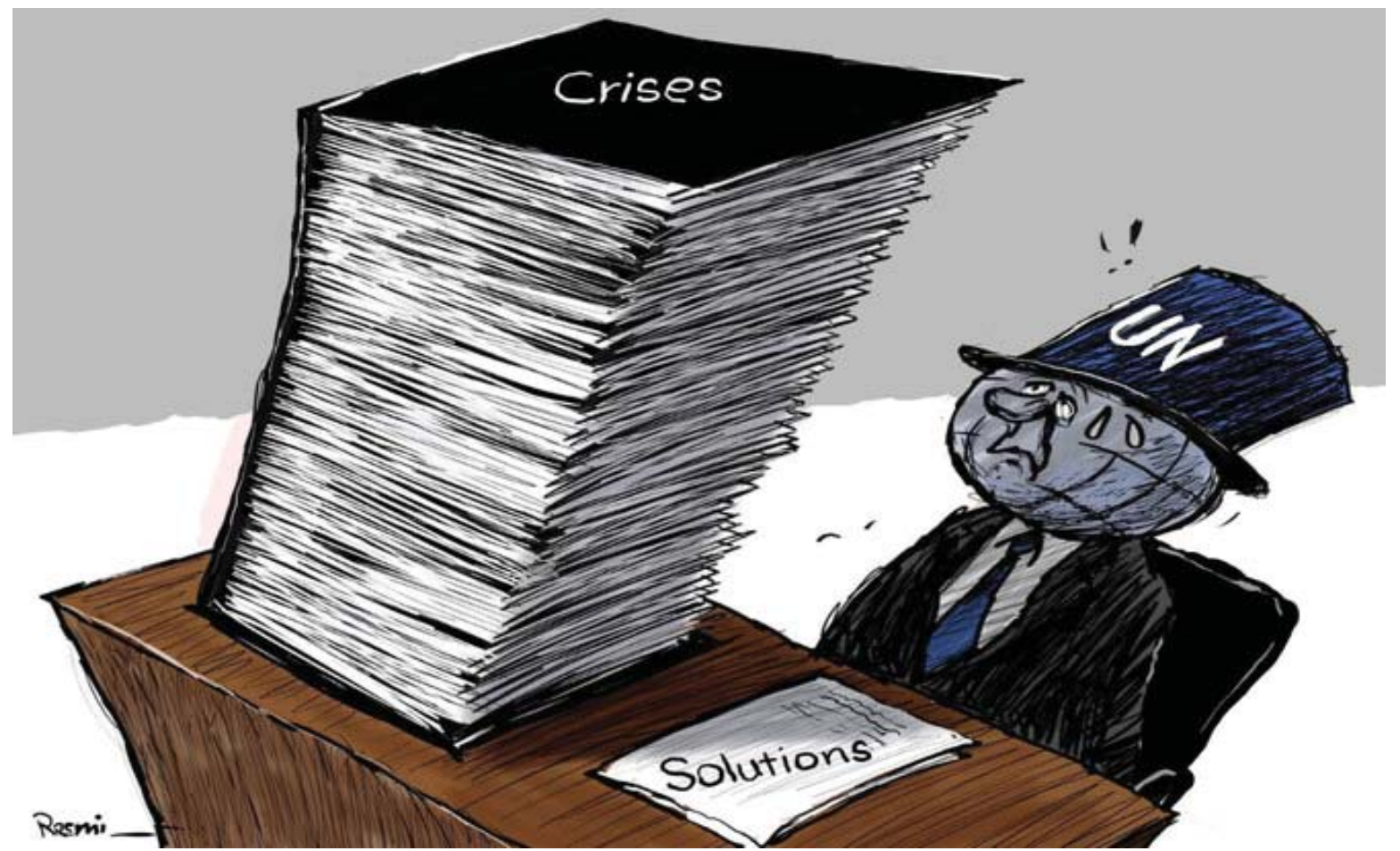
The Canton Fair is a testament to China's ongoing commitment to opening its doors to the global market, offering a space where the world's businesses can meet, mingle, and make deals.

Established in 1957, the Canton Fair has a rich history of bringing the world to China, acting as a gateway for foreign companies looking to tap into one of the fastest-growing markets. Over the decades, it has evolved into a crucial meeting point where business is not just transactional – it is personal. It is a place where trade and culture intersect, creating an atmosphere that transcends mere economics.

This fair is not just about business – it is about building relationships. Each edition tells a story of global collaboration, where companies from around the world come together to explore opportunities in China's dynamic market. In an era where trade is often riddled with tensions and uncertainties, the Canton Fair stands as a beacon of mutual benefit, reminding us that open markets and cooperative ventures can create success stories that span continents.

The Canton Fair unfolds across an astonishing 1.55 million square meters, a colossal marketplace of ideas and innovation. With 74,000 booths, this edition centers on advanced manufacturing, interior design, and the elusive search for better living. What sets this fair apart is the digital presence – about 48,000 businesses are participating online, a staggering 60 percent increase from the last session in April.

High-tech manufacturing, the lifeblood of modern economies, is well-represented, with more than 8,000 companies from this sector attending – up by 40 percent compared to the last fair. The Canton Fair is not simply an exhibition; it is a mirror of China's industrial ambition and a nod to the future of global trade. This gathering reveals the pulse of a world in transition, where tradition meets technological advancement in a grand, sprawling showcase of human ingenuity. In a world marked by geopolitical upheavals and economic uncertainties, the 136th Canton Fair stands as a beacon of stability.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

First CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues Held in Astana

The recent CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, held on 28 August 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan, marked a significant step towards strengthening regional cooperation. This high-level event brought together ministers and senior officials from across the Asian region to discuss pressing environmental challenges, including climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, pollution control, the development of a green and sustainable economy, access to clean water, and other shared environmental concerns. The Conference culminated in a high-level statement stressing the importance of collaborative action.

Member States pledged to engage in constructive and forward-looking joint action. Their key initiatives generally fall under seven main areas: climate adaptation, mitigation and finance; regional cooperation and institutional frameworks; knowledge sharing, technology exchange and environmental governance; biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and pollution control; green development and the transition to clean energy; development of regional environmental monitoring and early warning systems; adherence to multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues provided a platform for Member States to share their diverse perspectives and reaffirm their commitment to addressing shared environmental challenges through cooperation and dialogue. Azerbaijan emphasized building trust and understanding among CICA Member States to promote a sustainable and resilient

future. Bangladesh stressed the importance of regional cooperation in ecosystem service valuation and environmental risk management, proposing a common platform for air pollution monitoring. China advocated for deeper collaboration in green and low-carbon development and called for consolidating consensus on a shared future for Asia. India focused on coordinated international efforts to tackle pollution and encouraged sharing best practices, innovative technologies and policy frameworks. Iran proposed creating a joint platform for knowledge exchange and a center to combat sand and dust storms. Mongolia supported a binding international agreement on plastic pollution and closer collaboration to address desertification and climate change. Pakistan highlighted the urgency of transitioning to cleaner energy

and developing robust disaster management systems. Israel emphasized leveraging its expertise in water management and renewable energy to foster sustainable development and environmental education. Russia supported regular interaction on environmental issues within CICA and expressed its readiness to collaborate on projects aimed at preserving unique ecosystems.

Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to environmental and climate-related risks, driven by rapid industrialization, population growth, urbanization, and underdeveloped regulatory frameworks. The impacts of climate change are becoming more apparent each year, with rising global temperatures intensifying the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as typhoons, floods, droughts, and heatwaves. Countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan face significant risks from sea-level rise and

increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, threatening agriculture, water security, and economic stability. The devastating floods in Pakistan underscore the region's vulnerability to climate-induced disasters. Air pollution also poses a critical public health challenge, particularly in highly urbanized and industrial areas. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that air pollution contributes to around 6.7 million premature deaths annually in Asia, with countries like India, China, and Bangladesh experiencing hazardous levels of particulate matter (PM2.5), which lead to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (WHO, 2024).

Water scarcity and biodiversity loss further exacerbate Asia's environmental vulnerabilities. Over-extraction, pollution, and climate variability severely threaten water security in South Asia, where countries like India, Pakistan, and China face disputes over river management and water allocation. A World Bank report suggests that water scarcity could significantly reduce GDP growth in the region by 2050. Meanwhile, accelerated biodiversity loss, driven by habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and overexploitation of natural resources, poses additional challenges. Asia is also highly prone to natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, and floods.

The future of environmental sustainability in Asia depends on enhanced cooperation, innovative financing, and strong governance frameworks. The commitments made by CICA Member States at the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues lay a strong foundation for regional action. By fostering deeper collaboration and leveraging regional strengths, Asian countries can collectively tackle the pressing environmental issues they face and work toward a safer and more sustainable future.

The author is expert on the environmental dimension of the CICA Secretariat.

A Call to Action: How Pakistan can combat climate change together-I

To address the impact of climate change on Pakistan, it is crucial for the government to invest in climate-smart infrastructure that mitigates the risks associated with flooding and other natural disasters. The devastating floods of 2022, which left millions displaced and caused significant damage to infrastructure, have highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change. The country's geographical diversity, including glaciers, rivers, and arid regions, coupled with rapid population growth, make it susceptible to extreme climate events. It is critical for Pakistan to act quickly to mitigate these risks.

Pakistan's Climate Challenge
 Pakistan's climate vulnerability has been evident for years, especially given its geography and dependency on agriculture. The northern regions are home to glaciers that are rapidly melting due to rising global temperatures, leading to an increased risk of floods. In contrast, the southern parts, including Sindh and Punjab, experience prolonged droughts, intense heatwaves, and erratic monsoons. These climate extremes not only threaten the lives of millions but also affect the country's agriculture, economy, and overall development.

Poor urban planning, deforestation, and inadequate drainage systems only worsen the situation. Developed countries like the United States have faced climate-related disasters but have more resources to recover. Pakistan, with limited resources, is struggling to cope. The key to addressing this lies in infrastructure improvements and sustainable environmental practices.

Investing in Climate-Smart Infrastructure
 To reduce climate vulnerabilities, the government must prioritize infrastructure investment. Specifically, areas most at risk of flooding need

attention. For cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Sukkur, flood defense systems, including levees and embankments, are essential. Coastal areas are especially at risk due to rising sea levels, and protective barriers should be constructed to mitigate the effects.

Dams and reservoirs are another important tool in managing floodwaters and water resources. While the construction of dams has been controversial, particularly regarding displacement and environmental concerns, it remains an effective solution for flood control and sustainable water use. Any new dams, however, should be constructed with a focus on minimizing negative environmental impacts.

The Role of Wetlands and Soil Conservation
 Pakistan's wetlands, vital for flood control, have diminished significantly due to industrialization and poor land management. Wetlands serve as natural flood absorbers, reducing the risk of major flooding events. Their restoration is essential for mitigating the impact of floods, especially in flood-prone areas such as Sindh. These areas are critical not only for flood prevention but also for biodiversity and ecosystem support.

Soil conservation plays a key role in reducing erosion and managing water flow, particularly in agricultural regions. With Pakistan's agricultural sector highly vulnerable to climate change, the introduction of soil-friendly farming practices, such as crop rotation and organic farming, can improve water retention and increase crop yields. This will not only help manage water resources better but also reduce the risk of soil erosion during floods.

To be concluded

Overseas Pakistanis can flood Pakistan with dollars: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that Pakistan is gaining the confidence of the international community due to the efforts of the government and the army chief.



He said successfully holding the SCO conference will open new avenues for Pakistan's economic development. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Army Chief's efforts to restore the confidence of the people and the business community have been very well received by the stakeholders. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government and the army chief's

efforts have reduced the smuggling of dollars and commodities and stopped the flight of capital from the country. He observed that IPPs are being controlled, contracts with five IPPs have been canceled, which will save billions of rupees, and negotiations are underway with other IPPs. The business leader said that the tax net is expanding, the economy is

recovering, the rupee is stable, and foreign investors are investing in Pakistan. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and the Army Chief had accepted the challenge of restoring the country's reputation and economy at a time when the economy was destroyed, jobs were lost, electricity bills were more than the people's income, and many were fleeing the country. Pakistan's status in the international community was at the lowest ebb. Still, the army chief did not limit his plan to statements and speeches. Still, it took practical steps in the form of SIFC, which is being welcomed across the country and abroad. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Army Chief is not ignorant of economic matters, but his grip on these issues is strong. He is not unrelated to the problems of the common

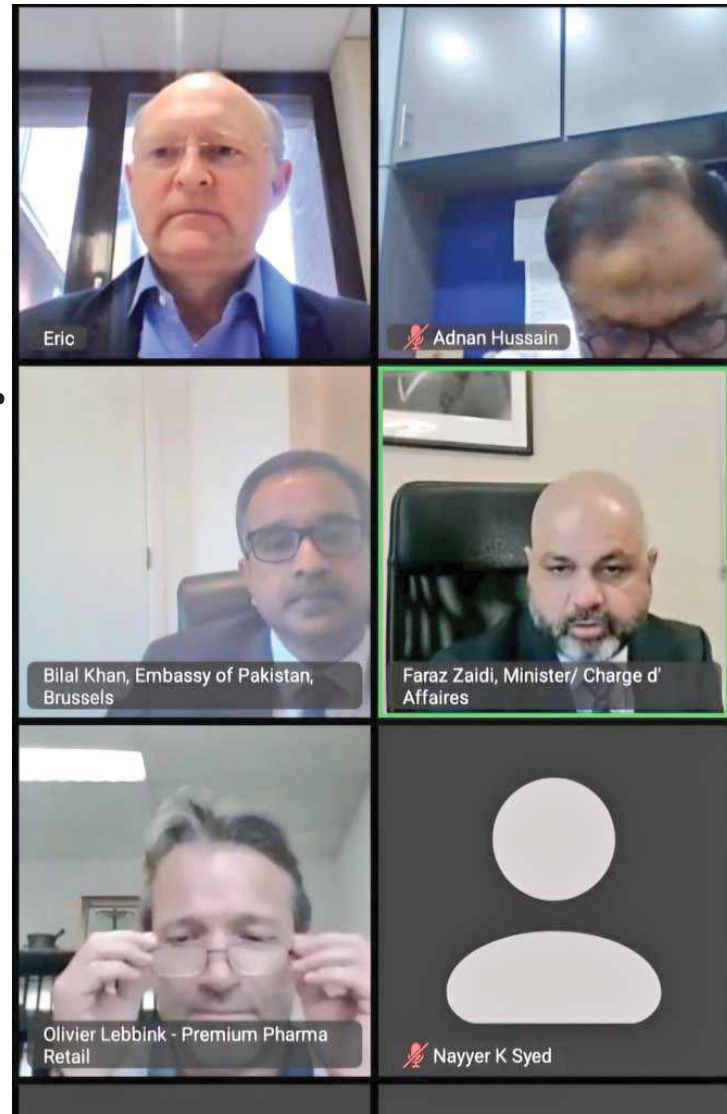
man. He is cooperating with the government and the finance minister in every possible way, due to which the state of the country has started to change. Now, the importers' LCs are being opened, and the menace of under and over-invoicing is being eliminated. Investors are getting a reasonable rate on the dollar. Soldiers are sacrificing their lives, and the law and order situation is improving in major cities. Mian Zahid Hussain said that many investors who want to correct their sales and income tax returns need to be allowed to get their tax affairs fixed. Suppose the government takes steps to protect the capital of overseas Pakistanis from the property mafia, provide them with adequate opportunities and incentives to invest in other sectors and protect them from cheaters. In that case, they can flood Pakistan with dollars.

Embassy of Pakistan hosts webinar on "Opportunities for Pakistan in the Pharmaceutical Sector of Belgium"

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), successfully organized a webinar titled "Opportunities for Pakistan in the Pharmaceutical Sector of Belgium." The event attracted significant participation from leading Pakistani pharmaceutical companies, with over 35 CEOs and directors attending the session. The Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) of the Embassy, Mr. Faraz Zaidi, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of enhancing Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports to Belgium, highlighting the sector's untapped potential. Mr. Zaidi underscored the Embassy's commitment to fostering stronger trade relations between the two countries, particularly in high-value sectors such as pharmaceuticals. Mr. Bilal Khan, Trade and Invest-

ment Attaché, provided insights into the current state of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Belgium. He discussed key trends and opportunities for Pakistani pharmaceutical exporters and urged stakeholders to leverage Belgium's position as a hub for pharmaceutical innovation in Europe. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Faraz Zaidi remarked, "Belgium presents a promising opportunity for Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector to expand its footprint in Europe. This webinar is part of our continued efforts to facilitate Pakistani businesses in accessing international markets and strengthening our trade ties with Belgium." The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where participants engaged with the speakers to explore specific opportunities and challenges related to the Belgian market. The Embassy reaffirmed its commitment to providing ongoing support



to pharmaceutical companies seeking to expand into Belgium. This collaborative effort between the Embassy of Pakistan and TDAP reflects the Government of Pakistan's broader agenda to diversify exports and promote high-growth sectors in international markets.

Imran Qureshi Unveils Four Unique Exhibitions

City Desk

LAHORE: Internationally acclaimed artist and recipient of the Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Imran Qureshi, has unveiled a series of four captivating exhibitions, titled Water Bodies, as part of the Lahore Biennale 2024. These exhibitions are showcased at three key stations of the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train, including the historic Shalimar Garden, offering the public a unique and accessible encounter with contemporary art. The Lahore Biennale has cemented its reputation as a vital platform for contemporary art in the region, featuring

an impressive range of artistic expressions from around the world. This year's theme, Of Mountains and Seas, curated by John Tain, explores the intersection of ecology, sustainability, and artistic innovation, reflecting on the need to envision alternative futures. Imran Qureshi's contribution, Water Bodies, consists of four intricately conceived works inspired by the proliferation of blue PVC water tanks that now define Lahore's skyline, especially from an aerial perspective. These tanks, emblematic of the city's rapid urbanization, serve as both the focal point and the metaphor for the ecological concerns Qureshi addresses.



Through these pieces, he draws attention to the harmful impact of storing water in plastic tanks, emphasizing that the practice poses risks to both health and the environment. Qureshi's signature use of color is prominent in these works, with blue symbolizing the omnipresent tanks and orange representing rust and the toxicity creeping into the city's ecosystem due to plastic pollution. Orange also subtly references the Orange Line, where much of the artwork is installed, marking a historic moment as this becomes the first public art to be permanently displayed at the Lahore Metro.

Finally, in the historic Shalimar Gardens, Qureshi has constructed a life-sized water tank containing discarded Multani crockery fragments, adorned with floral motifs inspired by decorative vases. This piece, which he developed after extensive research in Multan, merges art and nature, offering a striking contrast to the adjacent landscape of neighboring rooftops containing these blue tanks that are visible from within the Shalimar Gardens, while evoking a sense of beauty in an otherwise utilitarian object. Water Bodies is now open for public viewing and will remain on display as a permanent fixture at these locations.

First Algerian novel in Urdu by Dr. Fadila Melhag Published by Allama Iqbal University

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: For the first time in the history of cultural relations between Algeria and Pakistan, Allama Muhammad Iqbal Open University in Islamabad publishes the first Algerian novel in Urdu by the great Algerian writer Dr. Fadila Melhag, in a second edition titled (When Life Desires You), with an introduction by the university chairman, Professor Nasir Mahmood.

The novel (When Life Desires You), a joint translation by Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi, Head of the Department of Language and Literature at Allama Iqbal Open University-Islamabad, and Dr. Lubna Farah, Director of the Translation Department at the National University of Modern Languages-Islamabad. As a reminder, this novel was published in 2023 in a first edition by the "Pen League of Karachi", along with two short story collections titled "Outside the Field of discovery", "For Display unprintable" translated by Dr. Lubna Farah. - Fadila Melhag's novel in Urdu, historical precedent and a pioneering step: The initiative to publish this pioneering literary work, as Professor Nasir Mahmood, chairman of Allama Iqbal Open University, says in the introduction to the novel:

"- A desire to enhance cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Algeria, which has enjoyed good historical relations since the fifties, when Pakistan was one of the countries that supported the glorious revolution of November 1, 1954, and supported the Algerian interim government in 1958. - A conviction in the necessity of openness and communication with various foreign cultures and literatures, especially Arabic literature, which has historically developed within the culture-Islamic civilization, a common denominator with the culture of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which has long and strong historical relations with the entire Arab nation. - And a belief that translation is a bridge of dialogue, understanding and rapprochement between peoples, cultures and civilizations, a language of fruitful interaction and joint cooperation between nations, which helps to formulate an open, cooperative, integrated and tolerant world." In this context, Professor Nasser Mahmoud adds, "The translation and publication of Dr. Fadila Melhag's literary works in Pakistan represents a historical precedent and a pioneering step in introducing Algerian literature in Pakistan and all of South Asia. It is considered a valuable achievement that encourages the translation and publication of Arabic literary works in Urdu, as well as the translation and publication of Pakistani literary works in Arabic.

The novel (When Life Desires You) is worthy of reading and study by a brilliant writer who deserves admiration and appreciation. It is a distinguished creative experience in presenting the issue of illegal "secret" immigration to the north in its current manifestations, with its complex ideological, economic, historical and cultural dimensions." - A brilliant academic and professional career: Dr. Fadila Melhag is distinguished by her high and diverse education, abundant intellectual production and creativity in multiple literary genres (poetry, novels and stories). She holds a PhD in law along with national and foreign certificates in the judiciary, law, diplomacy, information technology and foreign languages. As well as a certificate in training experts from the Council of Europe, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Arab States. She also held high responsibilities in the judiciary sector, including: President of the Court, Advisor, President of a Chamber in the Judicial Council, holding the title of "Judge Researcher", and has extensive experience in training judges and executives. Dr. Fadila Melhag has published several books in legal studies, political science and literature (novel, poetry, story). Her books have been published in Algeria, Egypt, France and Pakistan and have been translated into several languages: French, English, Spanish and Urdu. This year, Dr. Fadila Melhag received the Genius Award from the Ministry of Culture and Arts in Algeria.

'You guys at wrong rally,' Harris hits back at hecklers



Addressing a campaign rally in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice President Kamala Harris hit back at hecklers in a combative tone saying: "You guys are at the wrong rally." When speaking about the appointment of three Supreme Court justices by Republican ex-resident Donald Trump, who helped vote to overturn Roe v Wade, Harris was interrupted by hecklers as they began to shout, according to The Hill. "Oh, you guys are at the wrong rally, No, I think you meant to go to the smaller one down the street," responded Harris, rousing an enthusiastic applause from the supporters. Notably, Harris was engaged in conducting three campaign events in Wisconsin on the same day, in hope of strengthening her voter base in "blue wall" states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In addition to visiting La Crosse, the Democratic nominee also made a stop in Milwaukee and planned another campaign event later on Thursday in Green Bay. According to the Decision Desk HQ and The Hill's polling averages in Wisconsin, Trump holds a slim lead over Harris, with less than 1 percentage point difference separating the two candidates. Trump's victory in Wisconsin during the 2016 election was historic, marking the first time a Republican had carried the state in over 30 years. However, in 2020 President Joe Biden narrowly reclaimed the state, winning by a margin of less than 1 percentage point. The current tight race in Wisconsin indicates its continued role as a pivotal battleground in the upcoming election.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
85,250.09	85,585.43
Day's High	Day's Low
85,773.82	85,120.90
Index Value	Change
11,039,929,870	-335.34
Percentage	Time
-0.39%	18 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,358.25	-26.88
Percentage	Time
-0.32%	18 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,290.77	+51.72
Percentage	Time
+0.12%	18 Oct, 2:41 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,981.75	+70.56
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	18 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	187.50
Bahrain Dinar	730.70	738.70
Canadian Dollar	201.65	204.05
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	896.87	906.37
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	170.21	178.21
Norwegians Krone	25.65	25.95
Omani Riyal	715.20	723.70
Qatari Riyal	76.24	76.94
Saudi Riyal	73.55	74.10
Singapore Dollar	210.75	212.75
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	318.90	321.70
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	360.40	363.9
US Dollar	277.75	279.25

PTCL Group's initiative 'Ba-Ikhtiyar' attend global start-up event in Dubai

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecommunications and ICT provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) showcased its transformative Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Ba-Ikhtiyar, at Expand North Star – the world's largest start-up and investor connector event, held as a part of GITEX 2024 in Dubai. The event provided a platform to highlight the success of Ba-Ikhtiyar participants while promoting the initiative globally.

Two outstanding women entrepreneurs of the Ba-Ikhtiyar program, Farhat ul Ain and Marriam Hussain, represented the program at the event. These skilled individuals, who began as local embroidery artists in the humble suburbs of Hariipur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have transformed into tech-enabled entrepreneurs through the training and support provided by Ba-Ikhtiyar program.

Speaking about their experience, Marriam Hussain said, "I am deeply grateful to PTCL Group for providing us with this opportunity. The experience of being a part of such an important global platform has been life-changing and we look forward to newer avenues of growth



for our enterprises. We met different people, gained exposure, and received appreciation for our work, encouraging us to dream bigger."

Ba-Ikhtiyar is a women empowerment initiative launched by PTCL Group in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

(PPAF). It aims to equip small-scale female entrepreneurs with essential digital tools and skills to grow their enterprises. Participants receive smartphones with pre-loaded SIM cards from PTCL Group.

The program also includes financial manage-

ment training from U Microfinance Bank, empowering participants to manage their business finances efficiently. PTCL & Ufone 4G provided them with handsets and mobile connectivity to cover their data and voice needs.

Sharing his thoughts, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "Ba-Ikhtiyar program mirrors our commitment to fostering digital inclusion and leveraging our digital resources to empower underserved social segments. The initiative enables women to become financially independent and facilitates their participation in Pakistan's growing digital economy. It lays a strong foundation for a sustainable future by ensuring that women play an active role in improving the country's socio-economic progress. I am immensely proud of these young entrepreneurs, who have shown resilience and commitment to be the future business leaders."

The PTCL Group exhibit was a key feature of the Pakistan enclosure at Expand North Star. It received immense footfall, with Marriam and Farhat's story of their evolution from local artisans to digital entrepreneurs on the back of digital and financial technology inspiring profuse commendation.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Monsoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting Chamber's shield to Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). SVP Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, VP Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, former Presidents Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Akram Farid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, VP FPCCI Tariq Jadoon, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail, Karim Aziz Malik Incharge Capital Office, ICCI executives Malik Mohsin Khalid, Chaudhry Waseem, ICCI member Naem Siddiqui and Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza are also present.



FPCCI President visits ICCI: Says Country's economy heads on right direction

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) has said that Federation is resolute to resolve the challenges being faced by the business community by providing it the congenial atmosphere for the ease of doing business.

He said this while addressing a big gathering of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ICCI) Council Members, Executive Members, Members during his visit to the Chamber to extend greetings to the newly elected office bearers.

Talking about the key decisions adopted by the Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCO) summit, he said that he adeptly advocated the business community at the mega event and that next phase of China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can be

the real game-changers for the national economy.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi while welcoming the distinguished guest made mention of his vision to uplift the performance of the Chamber by constituting a Think Tank at the pattern of the FPCCI and its digitalization. He said that promotion of entrepreneurship, skills development and result oriented exchanges will remain the focus of his attention for the broader benefit of the business fraternity.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik by mentioning the challenges facing the community expressed optimism that FPCCI and ICCI unitedly will be able to overcome them.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari described FPCCI President as the pride of the business community.

Former President Khalid Javaid hailed the FPCCI President for effectively representing the community at the SCO summit.

Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui in his vote of thanks said that the business community despite all odds will continue to play its role for the prosperity of the country.

Vice President Nasir Mehmood effectively performed as the stage secretary.

A large number of business leaders including, Tariq Jadoon, VP FPCCI, Karim Aziz Malik, Incharge Capital Office, Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination, Former Presidents ICCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javaid, Ejaz Abbasi, Shaukat Masood, Zahid Maqbool, Muhammad Ahmed, Executive Members Ishaq Sial, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Aftab Gujjar, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Waseem Chaudhry, Irfan Chaudhry, Tahir Ayub and members were present on the occasion.

Women in Law Session Focuses on Competition Law and Regulatory Practices

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in collaboration with Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan, held a dedicated session titled 'Competition Law & Practice'.

This session provided a platform for lawyers to interact with Regulator and discuss on matters pertaining to legal fraternity that is into practice of Competition Law. The participants included senior officials from the CCP, office bearers of IHCBA, WIL and a large number of female lawyers.

In his keynote address, Mr. Salman Amin (Member, CCP) underscored the CCP's commitment for promoting open and fair competition in the economy. Emphasizing the significance, he highlighted economic benefits for economy and consumers. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of compliance regime with least intervention needed from the regulator. Later, Ms.



Kishwar Khan (DG, CCP) sensitized the participants on key components of Competition Law, including those related to the Mergers & Acquisitions, exemption criteria, prohibited agreements and abuse of dominance.

Later in her remarks, Ms. Nadia Usman Chaudhary (Founder, Women in Law (WIL) Initiative Pakistan) outlined WIL's mission of advocating for gender equality within the legal profession. Ms. Sibah Farooq (Chairperson Committee on Legal

Awareness, IHCBA) provided an insightful retrospective of Competition Law in Pakistan, highlighting significant CCP orders including that were upheld by apex court also.

The session featured a dynamic panel discussion moderated by Ms. Maryam Zafar (Director, CCP), with contributions from Ms. Shazia Ashraf (Director, CCP), Barrister Zainab N. Khan, and Barrister Zainab Janjua, followed by an interactive Q&A session with senior CCP officials.

Concluding the event, Mr. Riasat Ali Azad (President, IHCBA) praised the collaboration and acknowledged the session's significant role in enhancing the legal fraternity's understanding of Competition Law and its significance in having a competitive economy. He also lauded the CCP's efforts in ensuring market fairness through robust enforcement. Towards the end, certificate distribution ceremony was jointly held by the CCP and office bearers of IHCBA and WIL.

PPL/ BME Meeting focuses on sustainable growth of mining projects

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The 49th Annual Management Committee meeting of Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME) was held on October 17, 2024 in Quetta and attended by the joint venture (JV) partners, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and the Government of Balochistan (GoB).

MD & CEO PPL Mr. Imran Abbasi along with senior PPL officials participated in the meeting, while the Government of Balochistan was represented by the Secretary Mines & Minerals Development Department Mr. Saïdal Khan Luni, Addi-

tional Secretary Industries and CEO of Balochistan Mineral Resources Limited.

The discussions focused on enhancing operational efficiency and fostering sustainable growth for BME. The JV partners explored strategies to optimize resource extraction, improve infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of BME's mining projects.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to maximizing the potential of BME, improving operational efficiency and contributing to the socio-economic development of the region through responsible mining practices.

Pakistan Auto Parts Show 2024 will be started on 25 October

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Auto Parts Show (PAPS) 2024 is set to take place from October 25th to 27th at the Lahore International Expo Centre. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever, featuring a remarkable lineup of 150 exhibitors from around the globe.

Among them there will be 44 international exhibitors. Attendees can expect to see cutting-edge technology and innovations from companies hailing from China, Turkey and Germany.

These industry leaders will showcase their latest products and advancements, reflecting the dynamic evolution of the auto parts sector.

The Chief Organizer of PAPS 2024, Syed Nabeel Hashmi stated, "We are excited to host this year's event, which promises to be a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and showcasing cutting-edge technology. We invite industry professionals and enthusiasts from different countries to join us and explore the future of the automotive parts industry."

CEO Devsinc Usman Asif Drives IT Vision for Pakistan in Key Talks with UAE Ambassador at GITEX 2024



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Faisal Niaz Tirmazi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE and Usman Asif, CEO of Devsinc, Pakistan's fast-growing IT company, engaged in a discussion on the sidelines of GITEX Global 2024. The high-profile discourse featured the rapid IT landscape in the Middle East and the role of Pakistan's tech sector in this growth story. Keynotes of the conversation included strategic alliances between UAE and Pakistan to work

together in contributing to the global digital economy through IT-friendly efforts.

Faisal Tirmazi on the collaboration added, "The success of IT startups in the Gulf region is tied to an ecosystem that fosters innovation, and that requires continued backing from both public and private sectors—something which we are confident about moving forward." He further emphasized on building meaningful IT partnerships across the region, particularly in the UAE, which has become a global tech destination.

PAAPAM Appeals to Finance Minister for Withdrawal of Affidavit Requirement

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) representing over 300 SME engineering companies in the country has formally requested the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, to withdraw the recent requirement for member firms to submit an affidavit concerning the declaration of information on purchases and returns.

In a letter addressed to the Finance Minister PAAPAM Chairman Mr. Usman Aslam Malik expressed the association's concerns over the legal implications of the affidavit which includes potential penalties such as arrest and imprisonment for misdeclarations. The affidavit was met with apprehension among PAAPAM's member firms, which contribute to the formal economy by supplying parts to Pakistan's automotive 2-3 wheeler, truck, bus and tractor industries.

Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Shehryar Qadir added, "In light of the recent affidavit requirement, we urge the Ministry of Finance to reconsider this policy.

PAAPAM looks forward to a favorable response from the Ministry of Finance to ensure a streamlined and business-friendly regulatory framework for the industry.

Gold prices up by Rs.3,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD, OCT 18 (APP):The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,000 and was sold at Rs.280,900 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.277,900 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.2,572 to Rs.240,826 from Rs.238,254 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.220,758 from Rs. 218,400, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

President Zardari congratulates Team Pakistan on Test win against England

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday congratulated the Pakistan cricket team on winning the Test match against England at Multan Stadium.

The president lauded the spectacular performance of the Pakistani players, particularly the spinners who paved the way to the victory, according to a President House press release.

He expressed the hope that the Green Shirts would keep up displaying the fabulous game in the future as well.



We are back': PM lauds Team Pakistan for winning first home Test after long

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the Pakistan cricket team for winning the first home Test match against England after a long haul.

Pakistan defeated England at the Multan Cricket Stadium and leveled the three-match series 1-1. The Green Shirts beat England by 152 runs in the second Test.

"Well done, Team Pakistan for winning the first home Test after a long haul with a historic win against England," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

He also appreciated the "spectacular



performances by Sajid Khan and Noman Ali for claiming nine and eleven wickets respectively.

"Remarkable team effort at display," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked.

Pakistani Spinners Numan Ali and Sajjid Khan Crush England Team Batting

Pakistan win 2nd Cricket Test Match against England in Multan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistani Spinners Numan Ali and Sajjid Khan Crush England Team Batting.

Pakistan Win 2nd Cricket Test Match Against England in Multan Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan has beaten England by 152 runs to level the 3-match series 1-1.

It was a bright morning for Pakistan cricket, a morning brighter than the golden rays of the sun on the green of the Multan International Cricket Stadium. Why not? And the sword of retirement from the team, maybe forever. Since Shan Masood became the captain, he lost 6 Tests, could not win even one. Under his captaincy, Pakistan lost to Bangladesh for the first time in history. Not only a Test, but also a Test series. Now they have a chance to win and save the series, as the third Test match is going to be decided.

Harkar has beaten England again at Multan International Cricket Stadium.

When England started the innings on the fourth morning of the match at the Multan International Cricket Stadium on Friday, they were 3 for 36. The target of 297 runs was tough, there were spinners in front and the pitch would help them. That was all England expected. That they were invincible but there was also the fear that the spin track would not allow them to run.

Shaun Masood's 1st win in 7th test in almost a year. As captain lost all 6 matches. Question is will he survive. No guarantees. What a bright morning for Pakistan cricket

Babar Azam, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi were sent home. The spin track was made. A new selection committee came under the leadership of Aqib Javed. New decisions were made.

Pakistan won a Test match at home for the first time since February 2021.



Pakistan won the first Test after 11 consecutive Tests.

Pakistan won for the first time after 7 defeats and 4 draws at home ground.

Won a Test match after 19 years at Multan International Cricket Stadium. Meanwhile, they played a draw against South Africa. Failed against England. Last time they beat England by 22 runs in 2005. Overall, this is Pakistan at Multan International Cricket Stadium. It is the fourth success.

What happened on the fourth day of the match on Friday?

The English camp had high hopes from Joy Root and Harry Brook, but the English batsmen appeared to be in fear of the spinners. With a run added, Ollie Pope caught Sajid Khan off his ball. They returned to 22. After an increase of

18 runs, experienced batsman Joy Root was LB for 18 runs. After the next increase of 23 runs, Harry Brook was the victim of Noman Ali for 16 runs. Both batsmen challenged the LB decisions in the review but England were all out for 78. After that, the innings could not be sustained and after one hour and 43 minutes of play, the entire team was bowled out for 144 runs in 33.3 overs. Jamie Smith 6, Braden Carrs 27, Ben Stokes 37 and Matthew Potts scored 9 runs.

On behalf of Pakistan, Noman Ali took 8 wickets by giving only 46 runs in 16.3 overs. Noman Ali took 11 wickets in the match. Pakistan won by 152 runs, thus the series was tied at 1-1. Decisive test match. It will be played in Rawalpindi from October 24.

Bowlers propel New Zealand into Women's T20 World Cup final

A Sports

DUBAI: A disciplined bowling performance, led by Eden Carson powered New Zealand to edge past West Indies by eight runs and qualify for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 final.

Set to chase a modest 129, the former champions only managed to amass 120/8 in the allotted 20 overs despite Deandra Dottin's brisk knock.

West Indies had a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost two quick wickets, Qiana Joseph (12) and Shemaine Campbelle (3), inside five overs with just 20 runs on the board.

Following the slump, returning Stafanie Taylor joined skipper Hayley Matthews and together they raised a cautious 21-run partnership until the former was cleaned up by Carson on 13 as West Indies slipped to 41/3 in 8.5 overs.

Coming out to bat at No.5, Dottin took the reigns of West Indies' run chase with a counter-attacking knock.

She smashed three sixes on her way to top score for West Indies with a 22-ball 33.

Dottin had kept West Indies on track, courtesy of her sixth-wicket partnership with Afy Fletcher but her untimely dismissal diminished the 2016 champions' hopes.

West Indies slipped further



to 97/7 when Fran Jonas struck in the next over, dismissing Chedeau Nation for a duck.

Fletcher was then supported by Zaid James, who had glimmered a ray of hope by hitting Suzie Bates for a four on the first delivery of the final over, bringing the equation down to 11 off five.

James, however, failed to continue and was cleaned up by Bates on the third delivery without adding further runs and walked back in disgust after playing a fighting 14-run knock from eight balls.

Fletcher got the strike on the penultimate delivery with West Indies needing 10 but managed only one and remained unbeaten 17 on 15.

Carson was the pick of the bowlers for New Zealand, courtesy of her three wickets, followed by Amelia Kerr with two scalps. Fran Jonas, Lea Tahuu and Bates, on the other hand, made one scalp each.

New Zealand had a steady

start to their innings, courtesy of a cautious 48-run opening stand between Suzie Bates and Georgia Plimmer.

The duo frustrated the former champions until Karishma Ramharack provided them with a much-needed breakthrough in the ninth over by bowling Bates, who made 26 off 28.

Plimmer then put together a brief partnership with Amelia Kerr, which yielded 17 runs before both perished in successive overs to leave New Zealand reeling at 69/3 in 12.1 overs.

Georgia Plimmer remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with a grafting 33 off 31 balls with the help of three fours and a six.

Skipper Devine was then joined by Brooke Halliday, who gave a minor push to New Zealand's scoring rate with a brisk cameo. She made 18 off nine deliveries before falling victim to Dottin in the 15th over.

Halliday shared a crucial 27-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Devine, who followed suit in the next over, departing for a run-a-ball 12.

Deandra Dottin then posed a double blow to New Zealand in the next over, dismissing Maddy Green (3) and Rosemary Mair (2) to bring the total down to 104/7 in 16.4 overs.

Wicketkeeper batter Isabelle Gaze then offered some resistance at the backend with a fighting knock. She remained unbeaten with a 14-ball 20.

Dottin was the standout bowler for the West Indies, returning brilliant bowling figures of 4/22, followed by Afy Fletcher with two wickets, while Ramharack and Aaliyah Alleyne shared two wickets between them.

New Zealand will now face South Africa in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 final, scheduled at the same venue on Sunday.

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament begins from Sunday

Junaid Khalil Nanitalwala will be the chief Guest. Nadeem Omar will preside the Ceremony

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee announced the first Phase of RCAA Talent Hunt Programme begins with Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

The inaugural Match of the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament will be played between Zone-VII Whites vs Zone-III Blues on Sunday 20th October at KCCA Stadium.

On this occasion Junaid Khalil Nanitalwala, Group Managing Director Medicam Group of Companies will be the Chief Guest, while Nadeem Omar, President Regional Cricket Association Karachi will preside over the ceremony.

Selected Players of Zone-VII Whites and Zone-III Blues are advised to report for Scrutiny at 8.30 am, While Other Zonal Selected Players are also advised to report their Zonal Officials on Sunday 20th October at KCCA Stadium at 12.30 pm for Scrutiny.

The tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies after the year 2013. In which 16 Zonal teams two from each Zone and Three teams of Zone-I and Zone-VII are participating in the event.

All the matches of the tournament will be played on PCB One Day Tournament Rules with 40 overs basis, and a bowler can not bowl more than 8 overs.

Virat Kohli becomes slowest Indian batter to score 9000 Test runs

A Sports



BENGALURU: India's star batter Virat Kohli on Friday, became only the fourth Indian batter to accumulate 9000 runs in Test cricket.

The right-handed batter achieved the milestone, courtesy of his 31st half-century during the ongoing rain-hit opening Test against New Zealand.

Consequently, Virat Kohli joined an illustrious list of Indian batters, featuring the likes of batting great Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and Sunil Gavaskar.

The 35-year-old, however, is the slowest of them all, taking 197 innings.

Indian Batters To Score 9000 Runs in Tests

Rahul Dravid - 176 innings in 2006
Sachin Tendulkar - 179 innings in 2004
Sunil Gavaskar - 192 innings in 1985
Virat Kohli - 196 innings in 2024*

Meanwhile, Kohli played a pivotal role in leading India's fight-back against New Zealand in the rain-hit fixture, which earlier saw them succumb to their lowest Test total at home in the first innings.

India got to 231/3 at Stumps, trailing New Zealand by 125 runs after Glenn Phillips dismissed Virat Kohli on the final delivery of the day.

The home side got off to a steady start as Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Rohit Sharma added 72 runs for the first wicket.

The opening stand lasted when Ajaz Patel got Jaiswal stumped on an anchoring 35, which featured six boundaries.

Rohit, known for his aggressive strokeplay, soon raced to his half-century in 59 balls but failed to convert it into a big knock as he too, fell victim to Patel.

He struck eight fours and a six on his way to a 63-ball 52.

India's batting maestro Virat Kohli was then joined by young Sarfaraz Khan and the duo unleashed the demolition of New Zealand bowlers with a marathon stand, which yielded 136 runs.

For New Zealand, Ajaz Patel bagged two wickets while Phillips had one to his name.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand resumed their first innings at 180/3 with Rachin Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell, unbeaten on 22 and 14 respectively.

The duo, however, could add 13 runs to their overnight partnership as Mohammed Siraj got rid of Mitchell, who managed 18.

The visitors lost three more wickets in quick succession and had slipped to 233/7 but an astounding eighth-wicket partnership between Rachin Ravindra and Tim Southee set New Zealand to amass a massive total.

The pair frustrated Indian bowlers and added 147 runs for the eighth wicket until Siraj finally sent Southee packing after a defiant 65 with the help of five fours and four sixes.

Meanwhile, Rachin Ravindra was the last man to be dismissed as New Zealand were booked on 402.

Ravindra remained the top-scorer for the BlackCaps with a sensible 134, peppered with 13 fours and four sixes.

Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav bagged three wickets each, followed by Siraj with two, while Jasprit Bumrah and Ravichandran Ashwin shared two between them.

Pakistan likely to unveil white-ball squads against Australia next week

KARACHI: Pakistan's squads for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia is expected to be announced next week, with sources indicating that Mohammad Rizwan is being considered for the captaincy.

Sources indicate that while the selection committee is of the view that Rizwan should be assigned to lead the side, a final decision in this regard will be made by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi after consultation with selectors and other officials.

Fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain, who last played a One-Day International (ODI) in 2023, is also likely to make a comeback. Hasnain impressed selectors with standout performances in the recent Champions Cup and President's Cup.

All-rounder Aamir Jamal and wicketkeeper-hatsman Haseebullah are also under consideration for inclusion in the squad for the white-ball series in Australia.

Both sides will play the second ODI match on November 8 at Adelaide Oval and the third on November 10 at Perth Stadium.

After the conclusion of the ODI matches, the Green Shirts will take on the Kangaroos in three T20 matches from November 14 to 18. First T20 will be played on November 14 at The Gabba, Brisbane, second on November 16 at SCG, Sydney, and the third and final match on November 18 at Bellerive Oval, Hobart.

Preserving the Underwater

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf delivering a talk on 'Preserving the Underwater; the secure and sustainable use of the underwater' during the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium in Italy.



Photo: Online

Naval Chief visited Italy and attended Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited Italy and attended the Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS). He delivered a talk on 'Preserving the Underwater: The Secure and Sustainable Use of the Underwater'. The Naval Chief also held meetings with naval leaders from various countries.

The Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium (TRSS) took place in Venice, Italy. The event aimed to address the growing importance of

the underwater environment from different perspectives, highlighting challenges and opportunities, and facilitating a fruitful debate within the maritime community.

During his talk, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf emphasized that the preservation of underwater ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine resources are critical to ensuring global biodiversity and economic stability. "Through a combination of stringent international regulations, innovative technologies, and effective conser-

vation strategies, we can secure a sustainable future for under-

water environments while balancing human and environmental needs," the Naval Chief added. Referring to the forthcoming AMAN Dialogue, concurrent with the Pakistan Navy's multinational exercise AMAN in 2025, Admiral Naveed Ashraf said that it will provide an opportunity for participating Chiefs of Navies and Coast Guards to promote a shared understanding of maritime security issues, including the protection of underwater resources for future genera-

tions.

On the sidelines of TRSS, the Naval Chief also interacted with naval leaders from various countries. He had meetings with the First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Ben Key; Chief of Naval Operations of the U.S. Navy, Admiral Lisa Franchetti; Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, Admiral Chonlathit Navanukroh; Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Admiral Akira Saito; Advisor to the Ministry of Defence of Italy, Professor Andrea Margelletti; and

Managing Director of MBDA Italy, Mr. Giovanni Soccodato.

Later, the Chief of the Naval Staff visited the Headquarters of the Secretary General of Defence of Italy and met with Secretary General of Defence Dr. Luisa Riccardi, Director of Naval Armament Vice Admiral Giuseppe Abbamonte, and Deputy Chief of Defence Vice Admiral Giacinto Ottaviani. During these meetings, matters of mutual interest, emerging shared security challenges in the maritime domain, and bilateral naval collaboration were discussed.

Election Act amendment cannot nullify decision on reserved seats: SC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amendments to election laws cannot overturn the Supreme Court's ruling in the reserved seats case, the apex court clarified on Friday, a major blow to the ruling coalition ahead of its plans to bring judicial reforms.

"The amendments made in the Elections Act after the release of our short order will have no bearing and the commission is bound to implement the judgment passed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in its letter and spirit, without seeking any further clarification," the top court said.

It was another clarifica-

tion from the Supreme Court regarding the allocation of reserved seats to Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf."

The clarification was made at the request of the Election Commission of Pakistan. According to the majority opinion of the eight judges, the amendment cannot invalidate the decision.

On July 12, a full bench of 13 judges determined that the opposition party, PTI, was entitled to reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in both the national and provincial assemblies.

The decision posed a significant challenge to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's



ruling coalition and could potentially position the PTI as the largest party in Parliament.

The top court also recognized the PTI as a parliamentary party. The majority judgment indicated that 39 out of the 80 members of the

confirming that they had contested the February 8 general elections as candidates of specific political parties.

On Friday, judges stated that the application of the amendment to the Election Act would not be retroactive, and the country's top electoral authority "is obligated" to implement the court's decision "without seeking further clarification."

SC judges remarked that they had already issued a clarification prior to the detailed decision, and the reason for allowing a request for clarification was to "prevent any difficulties in executing the short order."

CM orders inquiry into Rawardi March incident, observes Karsaz tragedy loss

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday categorically stated that the stance taken by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP)-led government on the incident of Dr Shah Nawaz Kumbhar has never been witnessed before in this country; "even then Section 144 was violated by those who call themselves 'rawadari' or tolerant to protest the incident."

He said this while speaking to the media after laying a floral wreath at the Memorial of the Martyrs of the Karsaz incident. He was accompanied by provincial ministers Nasir Shah and Jam Ikram Dharejo, MPAs Mukesh Chawla, Imdad Pitafi and others.

To a question, the CM said that the Sindh government, taking a clear stand disclosed the initial report of Dr Shah Nawaz incident. "Had the government not prepared a genuine report of the murder within a day, the people



would not have been able to learn the facts of the tragic incident," he said and added this was a manifestation of his government's commitment and sincerity.

"We included the names of senior police officers in the FIR and removed them from their postings and brought

them under investigation, even though some people, instead of appreciating the government and its efforts, are playing their politics," he said.

Murad Shah revealed that Section 144 was imposed against protests and demonstrations on the day the Rawadri March was scheduled as a religious

party had given a call to counter the protest. "This was a serious situation and to avoid any untoward incident the Sindh government requested the organisers of the 'Rawadari March' to postpone their protest but they preferred to violate Section 144," he said.

"This [Dr Shah Nawaz] was an unfortunate incident, and no such incident has ever happened on this land [Sindh]," the CM said and added, "Sindh is the land of Sufis, who believed and preached that humanity is the beautiful, loveable, valuable, and respectable creation of the Almighty Allah; therefore, bloodshed under any pretext is forbidden in Islam as well as in all religions."

"We would not allow anybody or the mob to take the law into their own hands," he said and went on to say that we have an established investigation system and judiciary to decide the veracity of the allegation," he said.

PM lauds Pakistan Navy's operation to seize 1.3 tons of narcotics

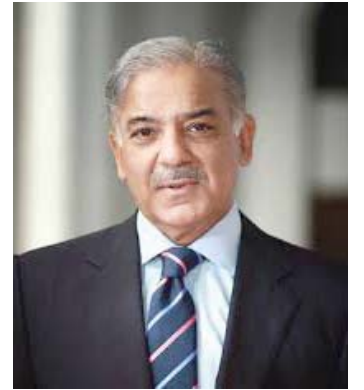
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the Pakistan Navy for successfully carrying out an operation in the North Arabian Sea in which 1.3 tons of narcotics were seized.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the vibrant leadership of the Pakistan Navy led to the seizure of huge quantity of narcotics in the operation.

He said that foiling the attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of narcotics was laudable.

"The whole nation feels proud of the officials of the Pakistan Navy. The elimination of narcotics was essential for the welfare of humanity," he remarked.



Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated that the government was determined to extend all possible facilities to the Pakistan Navy in its mission to purge country of narcotics.

Bilawal warns against taking 'unfavourable path' if further compelled to make changes

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stressed the need for representation from all provinces in judicial decisions, urging that he should not be forced into legislation.

"If compelled, I will have to pursue an unwanted path," he said while addressing a party rally in Hyderabad on Friday. "I will make a final appeal to [JUI-F chief] Maulana Fazlur Rehman and ask him to come along with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf."

TV footage showed a large number of people gathered for the rally. The Sindh-ruling party observed the 17th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy.

"We want all provinces to be represented in judicial decisions.



Our demand is legitimate, and you must accept it. The people of Pakistan stand with us."

Bilawal added he has been meeting with Fazl and others for the past two months and plans to visit Islamabad Friday night for a meeting with the JUI-F chief. "I promise to return from Islamabad with a constitutional bench."

Punjab CM approves new price control mechanism

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The first meeting of the new institution for price control was held here under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which proposals for setting prices under the production, availability and other issues of wheat and other commodities were considered.

In the meeting, emphasis was focused on increasing local cultivation of tomatoes, onions and other commodities in every city. After which Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz approved the new price control mechanism as per international standards.

The CM directed to keep a close watch on the fluctuations and market



dynamics of wheat and flour prices, take decisions keeping in mind the interests of farmers and people. Officers should be appointed in SMU based on merit only.

Four killed, two injured in Kurram clash

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Violence has erupted once again in Kurram District, with ongoing gunfire reported between rival factions in Shingak area, resulting in four deaths and two injured.

Yesterday, motorcycle-riding assailants opened fire on people working in fields in the Shingak border area, resulting in two deaths and three injuries. Local residents chased the attackers, reportedly killing two of them.

Parachinar DHQ medical superintendent Dr Syed Meer Hasan confirmed that two bodies and five injured individuals were brought to the hospital yesterday for medical treatment.

He mentioned that clashes in Kurram occur monthly, often resulting in significant casualties. However, there has been a recent trend of casualties being brought to the hospital every few days due to

gunfire.

Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mahsud labeled the incident as an act of terrorism and stated that an investigation is underway, indicating that certain groups are involved in the violence.

In the meantime, tribal elders have warned that the ongoing closure of main and link roads could result in a significant humanitarian crisis due to severe shortages of food, medicine, and fuel in Kurram District.

In light of the escalating violence, members of a Grand Jirga, including tribal leaders from Hangu, Orakzai, and Kohat, have criticized the government for its inaction.

They stated that despite repeated ceasefire agreements, no significant measures have been taken to enforce these accords. The leaders emphasized the need for government intervention where agreements are violated, asserting that without such actions, these accords hold no value.

LHC forms full bench to hear female student harassment cases

Continued from Page 1

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. Read more: Punjab CM forms

committee to probe 'rape incident' at private college

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.