

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہر گناہی سے بچنے پر جو کہ گناہی کی باتیں اگر چھوٹی ہوں ہیں، لوگوں کے عیب تلاش کرنے کے پیچھے نہ پڑو، آپس میں حسرت کرو، کسی کی پیٹھ پیچھے برائی نہ کرو، بغض نہ رکھو، بلکہ اللہ کے بندے آپس میں بھائی بھائی بن کر رہو۔
(کنز العمال: حدیث نمبر 6064)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari welcomes third child

Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, the eldest daughter of former President Asif Ali Zardari and the late Benazir Bhutto, has announced the birth of her third child on Instagram. Her new son was born on October 10, 2024. Bakhtawar is the first granddaughter of former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She was born on January 25, 1990, in Karachi.



Pakistan requests additional \$2b from IMF to tackle climate change challenges

The government of Pakistan is seeking an additional \$2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address the country's climate change challenges. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb will present this request during the annual IMF meetings scheduled for later this month. This move follows Pakistan's earlier request for climate financing, which was not approved by the IMF.

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Selection Process

(L to R) Senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi. Photos via Supreme Court



Special Parliamentary Committee formed for next CJP's appointment

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq notified on Monday a 12-member committee, including PTI lawmakers, for the nomination of the next chief justice of Pakistan. This new way of process emerged with

President Asif Ali Zardari's assent to the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Members were selected "as per nominations by the respective parliamentary leaders based on their strength in Parliament," said a notification from the NA Secretariat. Here are members of the

committee: PML-N MNA Khawaja Asif, PML-N MNA Ahsan Iqbal, PML-N MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, PPP MNA Raja Pervez Ashraf, PPP MNA Syed Naveed Qamar, MQM-P Rana Ansar, SIC MNA Gohar Ali Khan, SIC MNA Sahibzada Muhammad

Hamid Raza, PPP Senator

Farooq Hamid Naek, PML-N Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, SIC Senator Syed Ali Zafar, and JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza.

An in-camera meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee would be held on Tuesday (today) at 4pm in the Constitution Room, Parlia-

ment House in Islamabad.

The committee will consider the names of the most senior judges, including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi, for the new chief justice position. The committee will make its decision based on a two-thirds majority vote.

26th constitutional amendment to safeguard country's future: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the 26th constitutional amendment passed by the parliament would prove to be a milestone in the country's history besides safeguarding its future. "This is a historic day. The 26th constitutional amendment is not just an amendment but another magnificent example of national solidarity and unity. Today a new dawn will usher in and a new sun will rise which will brighten the whole country," the prime minister said addressing the National Assembly after the House passed the legislation in the early hours of Monday. Earlier Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill

in the National Assembly which was passed by a two-thirds majority after its passage by the Senate with the similar required majority.

Under the amendment, the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will select the new Chief Justice from a panel of the three most senior judges. This committee, consisting of eight members from the National Assembly and four from the Senate, will propose the name to the Prime Minister, who will then forward it to the President for final approval.

Besides, a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, led by the Chief Justice and including three senior judges, two members each from the National Assembly and



Senate, the federal minister for law and justice, the attorney general and a legal expert with at least 15 years of Supreme Court experience, will oversee judicial appointments.

The prime minister, who earlier went to the seats of the parties'

Ijazul Haq, Professor Sajid Mir and others and expressed gratitude for their support to make such an amendment in the constitution that would "strengthen and safeguard the country's future."

Prime Minister Shehbaz wished the PTI would have joined the legislation process but he said that despite their absence, the parliament gave a message that the political parties and their leaders set aside their personal interests and went ahead to pass the amendment "which will become a milestone in the country's history."

Later, the prime minister signed the advice to be sent to the President of Pakistan for his endorsement of the 26th constitutional amendment after its passage by both houses of the parliament.

President Zardari greenlights 26th Constitutional Amendment



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development for Pakistani politics, the 26th Constitutional Amendment was officially enacted today following its passage through both houses of Parliament. President Asif Ali Zardari granted his assent to the amendment on Monday.

This marks the second consecutive "working weekend" for the ruling coalition, which successfully advanced the long-awaited 'Constitutional Package' with a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the National Assembly.

The 26th Amendment introduces several reforms focused primarily on the judiciary. Key changes include the removal of the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, the establishment of a three-year term for the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), and the authority granted to the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court.

The ceremony initially scheduled for 6:00am at the President's House was postponed to around noon on Monday.

The 26th Amendment is now officially part of the Constitution.

PM felicitates Prabowo Subianto on swearing in as Indonesia president



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated Prabowo Subianto on taking the oath as the

eighth President of Indonesia. Taking to X, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia had enjoyed fraternal ties, rooted in shared values and mutual respect.

"I look forward to working closely with President Subianto to enhance our bilateral cooperation across all fields of mutual interest as well as to promote regional and global peace and security," the prime minister said.

Enactment of 26th constitutional amendment victory of democracy: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Monday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a victory for democracy, one that will be etched in history.

"The approval of the 26th constitutional amendment



marks a significant milestone

Continued on Page 8

Karachi bar association reacts to 26th constitutional amendment

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: The Bar Association in Karachi criticized the recently approved 26th constitutional amendments, calling it a 'dark day in the history of Pakistan's democracy'.

The Karachi Bar Association strongly condemned the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, criticizing the process and its implications for the judiciary.

According to a statement by the association, while Parliament holds the authority to amend the Constitution,

the lack of transparency in the procedure raises serious concerns among the citizens.

The association warned that this day will be remembered as a dark moment in the country's democratic history.

One of the major objections raised by the bar association is that the amendment appears 'clip the wings of the judiciary.'

The bar association further stressed that the formation of judicial benches by a commission with a political majority, as proposed in the amendment, undermines the impartiality of judicial appointments.

Visit of UN Disarmament Fellows to Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Participants of the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, who are on a visit to Pakistan from 20-23 October 2024, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. They were briefed by Director General (Arms Control and Disarmament) Ambassador Tahir Andrabi, on Pakistan's stance on arms control, disarmament, and non-prolif-

eration. He also emphasized the importance of unrestricted access to dual-use technologies for peaceful socio-economic applications.

The United Nations Disarmament Fellows, belonging to 25 countries, are visiting Pakistan as part of their international study tour. The visit, which has been organized by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), aims

to familiarize international diplomats with Pakistan's policies and institutional frameworks in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

During their visit, the fellows will tour the Pakistan Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security (PCENS), the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH), the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in Wah Cantt, the Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) in Taxila,

the National Centre for Physics (NCP), and the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS).

At PCENS, the participants will receive detailed briefings on Pakistan's nuclear safety and security architecture, regulatory frameworks, and the safeguards adopted in line with international standards, which have been recognized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). At PINSTECH, they will observe the Pakistan Atomic Research

Reactor and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in health, industry, agriculture, food security, and power generation.

Established in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is a prestigious programme of UNODA and offers valuable training and exposure to young professionals. Pakistan is hosting the international study tour for the UN Disarmament Fellows for the second time.

Murad directs expedited approval of Rs75.6bn development schemes for Karachi

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Planning and Development Department to expedite the approval process for 162 development schemes, amounting to Rs75.639 billion, as part of Karachi's Rs187.3 billion development portfolio.

These schemes, which have an allocation of Rs14.8 billion for the current financial year 2024-25, are targeted for completion by the next fiscal year. Therefore, there is an urgency to start work on these projects without delay.

This he said while presiding over a meeting at CM House on Monday. The meeting was held at CM House on Monday. It was attended by Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Home Zia Lanjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary Energy Musadik Khan, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch.

Minister P&D Nasir Shah gave a



detailed briefing to the chief minister about the Rs187.3 billion development portfolio of the city.

The development portfolio includes Rs76.952 billion allocated for 988 schemes launched under the provincial Annual Development Program (ADP), Rs103.051 billion for six major

projects under Foreign Project Assistance (FPA), and Rs7.30 billion from District ADP. Out of the total schemes, 87 important projects, each costing Rs500 million or more, are part of ADP 2024-25.

The CM was told that out of the 988 schemes, 346 are fully funded

and expected to be completed by June 2025. It was pointed out that work is currently in progress on 826 of these schemes, worth Rs269.243 billion, with Rs62.149 billion allocated for this year.

During the discussion, it was revealed that there were 162 schemes amounting to Rs75.639 billion with an allocation of Rs14.803 billion for 2024-25 that were yet to be approved. The CM directed Minister P&D Nasir Shah to expedite the approval of the schemes so that work could be started on them.

The CM was told that there were six Foreign Funded projects of Rs403.981 billion against which Rs103.05 billion have been allocated and Rs363.636 billion was thrown forward.

The CM said that 255 schemes worth Rs14498.684 million, carrying Rs50 million cost by each scheme and are likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year have been provided funds in a single tranche.

NAPA presents 'Haveli' in Khairpur

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: The National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), through its Outreach Theater, presented the stage play "Haveli," written by renowned storyteller Dr. Ejaz Samoon and directed by Habdar Jagirani, at the Khairpur Arts Council last night. The play was warmly received by the people of Khairpur, with a large audience attending and praising the performance. The lead role in the play was performed by the well-known stage actor Ashiq Dayo, while the role of Ishrat Begum was portrayed by the famous stage and TV actress Ramsha Shehzadi. Other actors in the play included Hashim Bhatti, Jabbar Lal, Sarfaraz Qazi, and others.

The story of the play revolved around love, relationships, and the greed for property, highlighting the weakening of bonds. The audience applauded the heartfelt dialogues with enthusiastic clapping. The president of the Khairpur Arts Council, Mukhtiar Malik, speaking about the play "Haveli," said that in a society filled with hatred, love is the eternal emotion that can save society from chaos. This play "Haveli" conveyed a powerful message to the public.

Hafeez Mangnejo stated that the activities of the Khairpur Arts Council have provided the people of Khairpur with a rich recreational environment, for which the entire administration deserves praise. Ali Roshan Shaikh mentioned that the Khairpur Arts Council, like the Larkana Arts Council and other councils, is playing its part effectively. The Khairpur Arts Council has, in a short period, enriched the taste of the people of Khairpur, and now families are coming to watch stage plays, which is a sign of its success.

26th constitutional amendment will not benefit people: Dr. Rubina Akhtar

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf's candidate for Constituency NA-148, Dr. Rubina Akhtar, said that it would have been better to pass the 26th constitutional amendment after discussion in the parliament. Not through discussion, but through meetings and meals and making friends with each other, which is an unconstitutional act, because the government only cares about itself, they are being mocked by saying that it is the benefit of the people, people in the society. Wealth and honor are not safe, the wave of terrorism has spread throughout the country, but the government is in the process of extending its power, he expressed these views while addressing a corner meeting in constituency NA 148 in Basti grewala, on this occasion. He also gave awareness about dengue in women, men and children.

Vice Chancellor seeks to develop knowledge based economy: 'We need to feed our own people'

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan took over the duties of Vice Chancellor after the retirement of Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan. He received his PhD degree from Cambridge University. They have introduced two high-yielding genetically modified sugarcane varieties, namely insect resistance transgenic sugarcane (CABB-IRS) and herbicide resistance transgenic sugarcane (CABB-HTS). He pioneered plant chloroplast genetic engineering approach in UK, Finland and Pakistan. He introduced green fluorescent protein (GFP) into plant chloroplasts and his research results have been published in Nature Biotechnology and The Plant Journal. In monocots in rice and sugarcane, plastid transformation takes place.

One-man commission discusses security of religious places of minorities in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The meeting was held under the chairmanship of one-man commission for minority lights Dr. Shoaib Siddiq. Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed and RPO Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan participated through video link. In the meeting, apart from discussing the security issues of the places of worship of minorities, the head of the one-man commission said that the implementation of the 5% quota reserved for the minority community in government jobs should be ensured. Said to hand over the government occupied land. He said that a report should be submitted on the provision of scholarships to minority students in educational institutions. He said that at least one minority center should be established in every district and the requests and complaints related to minorities should reach the relevant forum so that they can be dealt with quickly. He said that the divisional district and police administration should hold monthly meetings with the local minorities in the respective division and district.

What led to killing of four women in Karachi's Lyari?

KARACHI: Shedding light on the gruesome murders in Karachi's Lyari neighbourhood, police have revealed more details that led to the death of four women from a family, The News reported on Monday.

Confirming the arrest of suspect Bilal, District City senior superintendent of police (SSP) Arif Aziz — while speaking at a press conference along with Investigation SSP Tauheed Memon — said that the suspect, a divorcee, was reportedly in love with another woman whose family demanded that he provide a separate house before marriage.

The development comes as the suspect had earlier confessed to "confessed to killing his mother, sister, niece, and sister-in-law".

Providing details of the incident, SSP Aziz on Sunday said that the police talked to all the family members, adding that Bilal took time to respond, and that he had cuts on his hands, claiming that they were from broken glass.

The officer said Bilal's explanations were not convincing, adding that given the gravity of the situation, the police eventually detained him, who later admitted to the crime.

SSP Aziz further disclosed that the suspect had asked his family for the house they were living in, but they refused, saying that it was inherited property and could not be transferred to his name.

Bilal purchased knives from Napier Road 12 days before the incident and began frequenting the house. On the night of the murders, after his father had left to drop off his elder sister, Bilal carried out the killings, then he hid his gloves, blood-stained clothes and other items, added the officer.

The SSP said that it appears that Bilal acted alone, but the investigation is ongoing, and if others are found to be involved, they would also be brought into the inquiry. He added that the three-month-old girl has been handed over to her father and Bilal's elder brother Sameer.

The officer said that Bilal had claimed that the breakdown of his marriage as well as his family's liberal attitudes had led him to commit the horrific crime.

Police said that based on the suspect's identification, the murder weapon and blood-stained clothes have been recovered from the sea near the Native Jetty Bridge.

Meanwhile, police have registered a first information report (FIR) — No 279/24 — at the Baghdadi police station on the complaint of the head of the family, Muhammad Farooq who's also the suspect's father.

Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: JI Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing a press conference in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy to both worlds: Muhammad Yasin

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Vice President of Institute of Cost Management and Accounts International Pakistan Muhammad Yasin and Chairman of Strategic Board Zia Al-Mustafa Awan have said that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy to both worlds. You have to beautify your world and the hereafter by following the paths given by Allah and the Messenger Addressing the annual Seerat Nabawi conference organized by A. International Multan Branch Council as a special guest, Vice Chancellor Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran and Emerson University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ramzan said that you Allah Almighty had given him unique abilities. He



enlightened the hearts of people by teaching the Qur'an and Sunnah. We have to promote love and brotherhood.

This is the life of the Prophet. On this occasion, Mehwish, Chief Executive of Quran Academy and Chairperson

of BZU Commerce Department, Prof. Dr. Rehana Kausar said that today the truth of the Ummah of Rasool Kareem Give evidence and leave the path of indecency and study the Prophet's biography.

There is good in this world and the hereafter. Today there is a storm of misbehavior in social media. Are we obeying the orders of Allah and the Messenger today? Today, if we want to get rid of the problems, then we have to implement Nizam Mustafa from the ceremony, ICMA Multan Branch Council Chairman Muhammad Sajjad Ahir said that today's students have to give up all evils including lying, five times prayer and recitation of Quran. We have to make recitation our slogan, only then we can give proof of being a true ummah.

Management of Multan Institute of Cardiology illegally charging to deserving patients. Dr Masood

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Pakistan Medical Association Punjab Vice President Dr. Rizwan Sharif. President of Pakistan Medical Association South Punjab Prof. Dr. Masood ul Rauf Haraj, Dr. Zulqarnain Haider and other office bearers while addressing the press conference.

The only hope of the patients of some districts of Balochistan, including Multan, Southern Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Cardiology Hospital has reached the brink of destruction due to the policies of the executive director and the management of the patients and doctors. There is a severe shortage of heart valves, pacemakers and



ECG machines in the cardiology hospital at the moment, it has also been revealed that heart surgery is being done in the government hospital by paying lakhs of rupees. While the management officers, especially Executive Director Cardiology Dr. Mujtabi Siddiqui, instead of solving

the problems, are giving long surgery dates to patients and changing doctors who raise their voices.

In this regard, President of Pakistan Medical Association Professor Dr. Masood Al Rauf Haraj, Vice President of PMA Punjab Dr. Rizwan Sharif and other officials while holding a

press conference at Press Club Multan further said instead of 3 to 4 lakh rupees, the patients coming to the cardiology hospital are forced to take private category, and no receipt is given, while Dr. Yasir Khakwani and Dr. Rizwan Arshad, specialists in cardiac surgery of Multan, were trans-

ferred by the hospital administration as a target of retaliation for pointing out the problems.

While Dr. Yasir Khakwani was performing modern heart surgeries for free at Cardiology Institute, now patients are being called to government hospitals and private hospitals and surgeries are being done for lakhs of rupees..

PMA Multan wants from Chief Minister Punjab, Health Minister Punjab and other top officials to take notice of the matter, immediately to bring the transferred doctors back to cardiology institute and demands an inquiry of the operation of heart patients in government hospitals for millions of rupees.

Uzbek envoy for strengthening bilateral ties through diplomacy, trade & cultural exchange



Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan His Excellency, Mr Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ today.



Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Cultural presenting shield to Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov



Exclusive Interview of H.E Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan at Planet FM 87.6, Radio Pakistan, Islamabad



During their visit, the Ambassadors met with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar S.I., to discuss potential academic and research collaborations and exchanges between institutions of higher education in both countries. The Vice-Chancellor briefed them on the academic and research achievements and contributions of the university that have led it to be ranked as the top university in Pakistan and 315th globally. Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ishtiaq Ali Director Academics and Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman Director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University.



Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz met with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan Obek Arif Usmanov in which matters about mutual interests were discussed.



The outgoing Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Oybek Usmanov, meeting President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Ambassador of Uzbekistan Obek Arif Usmanov called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

Naveed Ahmed Khan

Former Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov, the, has proven himself to be a steadfast friend of Pakistan throughout his diplomatic career. With a long and distinguished service record. He has been appointed to Islamabad twice, first from 2006 to November 2011, and again in December 2020, following his approval by the Senate of Uzbekistan. Before becoming an ambassador, he started his diplomatic mission in Pakistan in 1998 as the Consul General of Uzbekistan in Karachi.

During his initial tenure, Mr. Usmanov witnessed significant political upheavals in Pakistan, including the return of exiled political leaders, the judiciary movement against then-President General Pervez Musharraf, the tragic assassination of Benazir Bhutto, and the transition to democratic governance. His extensive experience during this critical period endowed him with invaluable insights into Pakistan's socio-political landscape, which has undoubtedly enriched his diplomatic acumen.

Mr. Usmanov's second appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Pakistan further solidified his role as a key figure in fostering strong bilateral relations between the two nations. His multilingual proficiency in English, Russian, Persian, and Pashto allows him to navigate a wide range of cultural and linguistic settings, making him a highly respected figure in both diplomatic and journalistic circles. In addition to his diplomatic career, Mr. Usmanov has a background in media, having served as Senior Editor of the Publishing House for Asian Countries and Head of the Broadcasting Section at Uzbekistan's State TV and Radio Company. His contributions to journalism have earned him admiration in Islamabad's press community.

Beyond diplomacy, Mr. Usmanov has actively promoted trade, tourism, and cultural exchange between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He has fostered stronger economic ties by engaging with the Pakistani business community and visiting numerous chambers of commerce, industries, and educational institutions. His efforts to promote Uzbekistan's tourism and heritage have been well-received, with his organization of photo exhibitions highlighting the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections between the two nations. Additionally, his military and academic background, including an MA from Tashkent State University, further distinguishes his extensive qualifications in the fields of international relations and diplomacy.

Ambassador Usmanov's multifaceted career and deep personal commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations reflect his dedication to fostering long-lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships between the two nations.

Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov's return to Islamabad marks not only the continuation of his diplomatic journey but also a renewed chapter in Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations. His leadership has been pivotal in forging stronger ties between the two nations, characterized by enhanced cooperation in trade, culture, and political diplomacy. As Uzbekistan looks to deepen its engagement in South Asia, Mr. Usmanov's second tenure is strategically important for promoting regional stability, economic partnerships, and cultural collaboration. His vision for elevating bilateral relations is aligned with Uzbekistan's broader foreign policy goals, particularly in fostering stronger connections within the Muslim world and exploring new avenues for collab-

oration in education, technology, and infrastructure development. His close involvement with Pakistan's business and academic communities further cements his role as a bridge between the two countries, helping to lay the foundation for a long-term partnership that extends beyond diplomacy into the heart of civil society.

This renewed focus on Pakistan, alongside his wealth of experience and understanding of the region, positions Ambassador Usmanov as a key player in navigating the evolving geopolitical landscape and strengthening Uzbekistan's diplomatic footprint in South Asia, especially in Pakistan.

Before back to the motherland H. E. Oybek Usmanov met President H. E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting, President Zardari praised Ambassador Usmanov for his efforts in strengthening Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations and enhancing cooperation between the two nations.

In this meeting Ambassador Usmanov expressed gratitude for the support he received during his tenure and reiterated his country's commitment to further deepening ties with Pakistan. The meeting marked a warm farewell to the ambassador, acknowledging his significant contributions to bilateral relations.

Daily The Spokesman extends its warmest wishes to Ambassador Usmanov for his continued success in Pakistan and all his future endeavors, as he continues to strengthen the bonds between our nations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Usmanov called on Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja here on Wednesday.

Interview with Asfand Yar, an accomplished English language teacher and digital marketing expert

Sir Asfand Yar's English teaching course is unique because of its comprehensive and balanced approach, which sets it apart from other spoken English programs in the Market

Tahir Amin Malik



Asfand Yar, an accomplished English Language Teacher, and Digital Media Marketing Expert, said in an interview that he holds a Bachelor's Degree (BA) from the University of the Punjab, Lahore (PU). In addition to his degree, he has also completed four specialized certificates, significantly contributing to his skill set. Two of these certificates were in Spoken English. The first, from Punjab Computer College, was a milestone as he topped the course. The second was from Premier Skills College, and he earned an A+ Grade and achieved 1st and 2nd positions in three of the four competitions held during the course. The other two certificates were in IT, which he completed at KICS UET, Lahore. The first was an extensive program covering web development and design, graphic design, and Android App development and design, which he passed with flying colors. The second and most recent one is in Digital Media Marketing. He was honored to receive the Best Student Award among almost 50 students, which was a proud moment. These diverse educational experiences have shaped his professional journey and prepared him for various challenges in English teaching, communication, and technology.

Talking about his experience, he said that he had gained a wide range of experience over the past 12 years, all related to the English language, and he has taught BBA and B. Ed students,



assisting them with their assignments and preparation for exams. In addition to this, he has been involved in content creation, writing engaging posts for Facebook and WhatsApp statuses, and crafting personalized birthday messages in English. Moreover, he has experience teaching English online via Zoom classes for 1.5 years. He has also served as a customer support representative at Ibex, dealing with Walmart customers from America for three months. Thus, continuous involvement in various forms of English language work has helped him refine his skills and contribute meaningfully to teaching and content creation.

He emphasized that the standout feature of his English teaching course is its comprehensive and balanced approach, setting it apart from other spoken English programs available in the Market. While the other courses primarily focus on tenses, particularly active and passive voice, his course goes beyond that. He has covered tenses and the full range of grammar, including parts of speech and commonly used out-of-tense structures, often overlooked by other courses.

Emphasizing the importance of practice, he said his course includes numerous exercises to reinforce learning because, as the saying goes, "practice makes perfect." This combination ensures that students understand the theory and develop the prac-



tical skills needed for fluency. In his opinion, his English Course is equally beneficial for students pursuing careers within Pakistan and abroad. The course is designed to cover the essential basics of the English language, with a strong focus on real-time practice exercises; this practical approach ensures that learners gain the skills needed to communicate effectively in various contexts, whether they are working locally or internationally. He said the course equips students with a solid foundation in English, making it valuable for anyone looking to enhance his language proficiency for career or educational purposes.

Lastly, he disclosed his future goal: to teach as many students as possible and help them overcome their struggles with the English language. He added that to achieve this, he established an online institution called "ABC Learn English," where "ABC" stands for "Anybody can." He said it reflects his belief that anyone, regardless of age or background, can learn and master English. He said he aspires to make language learning accessible and effective for everyone, empowering students to gain confidence in their communication skills and succeed in their personal and professional lives.

Sir ASFAND YAR
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Importance of Lifestyle Choices in Breast Cancer Risk - study

Tanzeela Jaffar

‘How committed are you to breast cancer?’ This is a question that many people ask, and there are also other forms—such as “Are you deeply concerned about breast cancer?” As such, increasing public awareness about this disease will have enormous implications for public health. As scientists who study human behavior, we can extract the log from our eyes. That is if we are able so to know breast cancer’s unseen causes in day-to-day living. We have the ability to modify our lives, and a new study has revealed the link between our everyday routines and breast cancer incidence. Every decision we make, from what we eat to how we move, has the potential to influence our health outcomes. Let’s investigate how factors like weight, food, and exercise relate to breast cancer risk and find practical lessons you can adopt to improve health.

The Importance of Lifestyle Choices in Breast Cancer Risks

When it comes to breast cancer risk, people in some circles say that certain behaviors stand out. Besides the officially recognized risk factors of gender and age for females under 50, what you drink and how much physical activity (or sedentary time) are also significant contributors to one’s chances of getting this deadly disease.

Equally important is diet. Balanced intake of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains has been related to lower risks

for a number of cancers. On the other hand, diets high in processed foods and sugars may raise tooth sensitivities over time with very little hope of any countermeasures.

The Role of Obesity

Obese women are at high risk of contracting breast cancer. Fat in the body can lead to hormonal imbalances, especially raises in the levels of estrogen. This hormone represents a significant factor in certain types of breast cancer.

Obesity can compound the chances of getting post-menopausal breast cancer because the body’s fat tissue throws off more estrogen, which feeds tumor growth.

In addition, obesity involves chronic inflammation. It is frequently complicated with insulin resistance as well. These two factors together create a favorable environment for cancer development.

Healthy weight isn’t merely a question of vanity. It is a question of decreasing the risk of sickness. Modest changes in lifestyle may work wonders in terms of health in the long run concerning breast cancer and other related diseases. With this understanding, people can use their knowledge to strengthen their choice rather than leave it to chance.

Dietary Influences

Diet is seen as an important factor in determining breast cancer risk. Some studies have found that certain foods may reduce the risk of developing this disease. Fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods provide us not only pleasure and nourishment but health.

In sharp contrast, high levels of

processed foods and red meats have been linked with an increased incidence of breast cancer. These combinations often come decked out in an unnatural state and contain additives that can act as endocrine disruptors or even carcinogens.

More to this, some studies even point out the possibility of dairy products being involved. Because of the hormones they contain, women must remember to consider this point when they choose what goes into their mouths.

Exercise as a Protective Factor

Regular exercise helps to lower breast cancer risk. Keeping active physically helps to keep off the pounds and normalize hormone levels, too. These are unique factors since it is this increased mass of extra fat (the body’s biggest laboratory for estrogen production) that may promote the growth of certain types of breast tumors.

Research shows that active women have lower rates of breast cancer than their sedentary sisters. Modest activities like walking and gardening pay off.

Exercise also increases the immune response. When the body does not have in it so much pollution as to ease cancer occurrence.

Everyday exercise not only supports physical health but also contributes to mental health. The stress-reducing effects of exercise can further protect against various diseases, including breast cancer.

Conclusion

It is, thus very apparent that lifestyle factors have a linking effect on the risk of breast cancer. A healthy diet and regular exercise can significantly reduce the risk that the patient will contract this disease.

Obesity is one of the greatest risk factors for breast cancer. Inconsistent study findings suggest that excess body fat may provoke the initiation of hormonal changes that enhance the possibility of tumor development. Moreover, additional body weight or obesity post menopause increases the risk even higher due to estrogen which is more substantial in fat tissue.

Moreover, diet plays an important role. A diet that is very rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins has been shown to have an inverse association with breast cancer cases. On the other hand, diets that contain processed foods and sugars tend to be associated with a higher risk of cancer.

Exercise is yet another protective factor for breast cancer. Besides preventing unhealthy weight gain, regular exercise also levels hormones. Scientists have proven research that exercising women are less likely to have many types of cancers, including breast cancer.

This helps individuals take control of seeking healthier lifestyles by making responsible choices. Knowing what obesity, dietary habits, and physical activity do to your body can set people off to overcome these risk factors, effectively preventing the onset of breast cancer. Making these lifestyle choices not only proves to improve the well-being of the individual but also facilitates and promotes a better health condition within the community having this widespread condition.

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

Tale Of Devastations: A struggling nation in the search of stability - II

Health sector in Pakistan is another nightmare for an average Pakistani. Government health infrastructure is either insufficient or non-existent, particularly in rural areas. The government facilities are inadequate in respect of population ratio. Also, there is no concept of free treatment except in very few major cities where in-door facilities are funded. Private health sector has no government’s control and operates in gross-freedom mode. With marginal, quality-less services and without fear of accountability, the private health sector in Pakistan functions as mafia and looters. Government has no policy and control to monitor their rates, quality and performance consequently, human life is the least priority for private sector health facilities in Pakistan. The World Health Organization’s recent ranking placed Pakistan at 124th out of 169 countries, emphasizing on an immediate revision of the national health system. The ever increasing trend of diabetes, hypertension, heart, liver and kidney diseases set an alarm for the government to treat the matter more seriously and improve health facilities up to required standards. According to a research paper published by Umar Bacha and Naveed Munir in 2022, Pakistan is facing a double burden of malnutrition with record high prevalence rates of chronic diseases. Pakistan spends only a marginal of its GDP (1.2%) versus the recommended 5% by the World Health Organization. On average, there are eight hospitals per district, with people load per hospital being 165,512. They also highlighted poor data management in the country, and lack of a consistent local registry on all-cause of mortality. With continuous inter-



Amjad Mehmood

national support, Pakistan has still failed to eradicate polio from the country as around 20 cases reported in 2024 alone. The Pakistani health system demands immediate and serious attention from the government to overcome the increasing threats of dread diseases across the country. “Justice” has lost its literal meaning in Pakistan and the public is earnestly losing faith in the justice system. The most common definition of justice is to treat individuals in an equitable and fair manner. Contrary to this Pakistani offers two parallel justice systems which serve separately by gauging the social status of individuals in terms of richness, poverty, influence, authority or futility. “Might is right” is attributed as a common slogan for the Pakistani justice system. According to the World Justice Project report, Pakistan is ranked 130th across 142 countries in 2023 and stood at 5th rank out of total 06 in regional justice ranking leaving behind Afghanistan. From lower to supreme judiciary, justice itself seems to be lost in the search for justice. The irony reaches to peak, when judges are divided due to their affiliation with one or other political party instead of standing with justice. The government is all set to pass 26th constitutional amendment which has nothing to do with the common man but to serve the vested interests of ruling elites. Our justice system seems on death bed with a throbbing pulse. The most important factor in transforming to a welfare state is a stable and powerful economy. Few weeks earlier, Pakistan secured a \$7 billion loan deal from the IMF. The government is beating drums on this triumph and cursing the previous government for their poor performance and deteriorating country’s economy. In all this

Hidden Agendas behind Protests - II

Engagement with the SCO allows Pakistan to balance its relationships with major powers like China and Russia while maintaining strategic autonomy. This multilateral approach can help Islamabad navigate complex geopolitical challenges. The SCO’s emphasis on economic cooperation can enhance trade relations among member states, providing Pakistan with access to new markets and investment opportunities, especially in agriculture, energy, and technology. By fostering economic ties within the SCO framework, Pakistan can diversify its trade partnerships and reduce reliance on traditional markets, engaging in initiatives that promote collaboration across various sectors. Increased cooperation in areas like energy resources, transportation, and infrastructure development can foster greater economic stability and growth for Pakistan and its neighboring countries. The SCO can act as a platform for Pakistan to engage in development projects with other member states. Collaborative initiatives in fields such as water management, agriculture, and technology transfer can bolster Pakistan’s capacity for sustainable development and enhance the living standards of its citizens. A key objective of the SCO is to promote regional security and combat terrorism. For Pakistan, which has faced significant challenges related to extremism and terrorism, participation in the SCO offers an opportunity to collaborate with member states on intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism operations, and the adoption of best practices in security governance. The SCO has shown a strong interest in the situation in Afghanistan, especially following the Taliban’s return to power. Pakistan’s participation in

the SCO can enhance its role as a mediator in Afghan affairs, promoting stability in the region. A stable Afghanistan is crucial for Pakistan’s own security and economic interests, making SCO membership particularly significant. The SCO focuses on cooperative security mechanisms and peacekeeping initiatives, allowing Pakistan to contribute to and benefit from collective efforts to maintain regional peace and stability while addressing shared threats. This SCO summit was especially important for Pakistan—not only because it was hosted by the country, but also due to the current challenges Pakistan faces. The financial crises and terrorism issues are critical concerns that require international cooperation. Those who impose restrictions on securing such international support for Pakistan cannot genuinely be considered its well-wishers. A major problem in Pakistan is that some leaders exploit the populace as “human shields.” In the political arena, the ethical responsibilities of leaders are paramount. Unfortunately, some politicians resort to manipulative tactics, using their constituents as shields to deflect attention from their own wrongdoing. The term “human shield” traditionally refers to using civilians to protect military targets from attack. In a political context, it describes the tactic of placing vulnerable communities in precarious situations to deter criticism or scrutiny. The people of Pakistan and AJK are increasingly discerning between good and bad leaders and are no longer easily deceived. There is a pressing need for strict action against those elements and groups that spread hate and chaos for their own interests and the agendas of our adversaries.



Abdul Basit Alvi

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
86,057.51	85,250.09
Day's High	Day's Low
86,172.79	85,349.32
Index Value	Change
12,911,958,961	+807.42
Percentage	Time
+0.95%	21 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,318.24	-40.01
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	21 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,949.99	-325.92
Percentage	Time
-0.75%	21 Oct, 12:45 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,954.60	-27.15
Percentage	Time
-0.070%	21 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.35	187.60
Bahrain Dinar	730.70	738.70
Canadian Dollar	201.75	204.15
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	300.85	303.60
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	25.55	25.85
Omani Riyal	715.3	723.8
Qatari Riyal	76.29	76.99
Saudi Riyal	73.55	74.10
Singapore Dollar	210.9	212.9
Swedish Korona	26.51	26.81
Swiss Franc	318.90	321.70
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.3	75.95
UK Pound Sterling	360.50	364
US Dollar	277.85	279.35

PM and COAS lauded for well-run SCO conference, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

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 Monday that the constitutional changes will be an essential milestone in the development and stability of the country.

He said it would end the politics of anarchy and stop their facilitators, which would ensure rapid development and peace.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the anarchic conspiracies will end, and the country's economy and reputation will be restored. This is the achievement of the present government, for which the Prime Minister, the Army Chief, and the entire national leadership deserve



compliments.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the conspiracy

to push Pakistan into diplomatic isolation has failed, but the characters of this conspiracy will not rest.

The business leader said it would be better for harmful elements to stop destabilizing the country by spreading chaos and joining the national mainstream.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that on the one hand, those who spread political chaos during the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have failed, and on the other hand, those who dreamed of destabilizing Pakistan through terrorism have remained unsuccessful, for which the law enforcement agencies deserve applause.

The group trying to seize power by deceiving the people and spreading chaos is failing repeatedly, but its madness is not diminishing. Sometimes, the country's integrity is played, occasionally, a Bangladesh-style revolution is attempted,

and at times, very harmful rumours are spread, but they fail because the radical group lacks the support of the people as they have understood the conspiracy.

He said the government should expose these heinous characters playing with the country's integrity and act against them.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that under a plan, a fake incident of rape was made viral on social media a day before the central meeting of SCO. Through it, students all over the country were provoked to stage bloody riots, which is condemnable.

All the characters involved in this conspiracy should be punished. This group wants to send a message to the world that Pakistan is a hotbed of terrorism and a very unsafe country where peace cannot be established and where women are dangerous, but this conspiracy has also failed.

Team Al Meraaj Marketing congratulates

KARACHI: Kashan Siddiqui, CEO of Al Meraaj Marketing, along with his team, visited ABAD House to extend congratulations to the newly elected office bearers of the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD).



OPPO A3 Pre-Orders Kickoff with a Fun Picnic Experience and Exciting Offers!

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, the global leader in smart devices, has introduced OPPO A3, designed to bring premium style, exceptional durability, and powerful performance into your everyday life. The OPPO A3 is now available for pre-order in Pakistan starting from October 19th.

OPPO announced the pre-order for OPPO A3 in a fun-filled picnic hosted by OPPO PK Ollie, where OPPO fans gathered in an interactive and vibrant atmosphere. Guests were treated to delicious food, games, and engaging activities while experiencing the OPPO A3 firsthand. It provided a unique oppor-



tunity for fans to interact with the brand, fostering a closer connection. Attendees praised the OPPO A3 for its sophisticated design, luxurious feel, seamless performance, and impressive durability, making the event a memorable experience for everyone.

International Chefs Day Celebration at Pearl-Continental Hotel

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the occasion of International Chefs Day, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Muzaffarabad hosted a vibrant celebration with a variety of activities involving the entire kitchen team. Chefs and members from other departments enthusiastically participated, showcasing teamwork and culinary skills. Mr. Aamir Ayyub, Hotel Manager of Pearl-Continental Hotel, Muzaffarabad, commended the kitchen team, especially the chefs, for their dedication and creativity in delivering culinary masterpieces to guests on a daily basis. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, adding a sweet touch to the celebration.

Pearl-Continental Hotel, Muzaffarabad, renowned as the crown jewel of the city, is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes. Spread over 226 kanals of elevated land, the



resort offers stunning, unobstructed views of Muzaffarabad city, the flowing rivers, and majestic mountain ranges that stretch to Makra Top and Pir Chinasi. Known as

one of Pakistan's most beautiful resorts, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Muzaffarabad continues to be a favourite destination for those seeking both luxury and natural

beauty. Book your memorable stay today through the PC Mobile App and earn exclusive rewards when booking rooms or making reservations at our restaurants.

Huawei Technologies Pakistan, State Bank of Pakistan finalize first batch of training for its employees

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Huawei Technologies Pakistan and National Institute of Banking and Finance Pakistan, based on the MoU signed in September 2024, successfully completed the first batch of training for State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) employees for their digital enablement.

The MoU outlines the framework for a collaboration between the two organizations, aiming to enhance the capacity of SBP's staff in digital and related areas. Based on this MOU, Huawei intends to digitally empower the banking and governance systems of Pakistan and improve overall efficiency.

The first one-week training program, conducted at the NIBAF Pakistan Campus at



Karachi, focused on Datacom certification. The certification distribution ceremony was attended by Mr. Asim Iqbal, Chief Technology Officer, Executive Director ITG-SBP and Ahmed Bilal Masud, the Deputy CEO for Huawei Technologies Pakistan. The participants received their certificates and engaged in a

broader discussion on strategies to enable and empower the banking governance sector of Pakistan. Mr. Asim Iqbal appreciated the efforts of Huawei and stressed upon further training to improve the capability of the Human Resource across his organization.

"Huawei feels proud to be partnering with the State Bank

and this is the first of many more steps to follow in the future. The banking sector has digitally evolved globally and we, as industry leaders, are proud to be strategically partnering with the SBP to enhance the capability and ultimately benefit the regular citizens of Pakistan. As our motto goes, we are here to build a Fully Connected, Intelligent Pakistan, and this is one of the many steps within that roadmap" said Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud, the deputy CEO for Huawei Technologies Pakistan.

The partnership is expected to provide technical training on technology such as Datacom, Cloud, Big Data, Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence spanning over the next 3 years, helping significantly improve the overall workforce in the Pakistan Banking sector.

Naseem Shah returns as the Face of the Transformer-Inspired TECNO SPARK 30 Pro

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TECNO is set to make waves in the tech world with the launch of the new SPARK 30 Pro-Transformer Edition. This exclusive version of the SPARK 30 Pro is designed for fans who appreciate cutting-edge technology and iconic pop culture collaborations. It combines TECNO's signature high-performance technology with bold, futuristic design elements reminiscent of the beloved Transformers characters.

Naseem Shah, the celebrated cricketer and national pride, has been chosen as the brand ambassador for the new TECNO SPARK 30 Pro - Transformer Edition. Just as Naseem has continually pushed the limits on the cricket field, TECNO is dedicated to breaking barriers in technology and design. This collaboration highlights TECNO's commitment to connecting with a diverse



and dynamic audience by partnering with individuals who embody the values of hard work, determination, and excellence.

TECNO's emphasis on user-friendly technology and sleek design makes the Transformer Edition SPARK 30 Pro a must-have for those looking for innovation with a nostalgic touch, all while staying within budget. Priced at just 45,999 PKR, this smartphone offers exceptional value without compromising on style or performance.

LCCI organizes awareness session on smog mitigation

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Monday organized an insightful awareness session on smog mitigation, which brought together key stakeholders including government officials and industry representatives to address the pressing issue of smog.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad presided over the session while Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry in their addresses presented doable suggestions to get rid of the menace of smog which is denting every sector.

Opening the session, the LCCI President underscored

the importance of fostering a sense of environmental responsibility among industry members regarding compliance with government regulations aimed at reducing smog. He said that with the onset of winter, the region faces recurring SMOG challenges from November to February, significantly impacting air quality and public health.

He said that smog has become a common problem in Punjab, leading to both environmental and health issues. He said that although the industrial sector contributes less than 20 percent to the smog problem, the LCCI is committed to play its part in mitigation efforts.

Ahsan Bakhtawari visits chamber, congratulates new leadership, assures cooperation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Member of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group Ahsan Bakhtawari, visited the Chamber House Islamabad to congratulate its newly elected office bearers.

During the meeting, he felicitated President Nasser Mansoor Qureshi, Senior Vice President Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, and Vice President Nasser Chudhry, wishing them success in their tenure. A large number of business community members attended the gathering.

He assured the new leadership of his full cooperation and support, emphasizing his commitment to the Chamber's growth. The meeting discussed various key issues, including, Ongoing ICCI projects, Business community concerns, Construction work on markets and all Other vital matters.

Addressing the gathering, Ahsan Bakhtawari said, "Islamabad Chamber is the hub of the city's business community. My visit aimed to assure the new leadership of my continued support for improving this platform. He highlighted the Chamber's effectiveness in resolving issues and its influential voice in government and institutional forums.

President ICCI Nasser Mansoor Qureshi thanked Ahsan Bakhtawari for his commendable services, praising his leadership during the past two years. Qureshi assured that the new team would follow in Bakhtawari's footsteps, working collectively to address business community concerns.

Uzbekistan Parliamentary Elections

Overview

Uzbekistan prepares for parliamentary elections amidst political reform

Naveed Ahmed Khan

The Central election commission (CEC) of Uzbekistan on 21 August approved all five registered political parties in the country to participate in the elections scheduled for 27 October 2024. The voters will elect deputies to the Legislative (lower) chamber of the Oliy Majlis (parliament), as well as regional, district and city kengashes (councils).

The ballot papers for the elections of deputies of the Legislative chamber will list the candidates' names and symbols of the parties in the order in which the parties submitted documents:

Liberal-democratic party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP);

Milliy tiklanish (National revival) democratic party;

Ecological party of Uzbekistan; People's democratic party of Uzbekistan; Adolat (Justice) social-democratic party.

Not the parties should nominate their candidates for the deputy seats. The nomination begins 65 days and ends 45 days before the election date.

As the nation gears up for these elections, questions surrounding the role and influence of political parties within Uzbekistan's controlled political framework are at the forefront. Since the transition from Islam Karimov's long-standing governance, political parties have seen a gradual increase in activity, a change credited to reforms instituted by the current administration following the 2016 leadership



change. These measures aim to foster political engagement, though the overall landscape remains largely non-democratic.

Despite the government's assertions of reform, and the introduction of a mixed electoral system intended to enliven party activities, public enthusiasm for political parties appears limited. Historically viewed as extensions of state authority, these parties may struggle to gain genuine traction without substantial political freedoms and a truly open public discourse.

The last major electoral milestone occurred on December 22, 2019, when citizens voted for deputies to the Legislative Chamber of the

Oliy Majlis and local councils. Following the elections, a repeat voting process was deemed necessary in 25 constituencies where no candidate secured more than 50% of the votes. This second round took place on January 5, 2020.

In this repeat voting, approximately 62.8% of the 3,147,079 registered voters participated, indicating a growing engagement in the political process despite a restrictive environment. Voter turnout during this phase offers a glimpse into the evolving political awareness among citizens.

The final results of the elections were announced on December 25, 2019, with 125

candidates validated by the Central Election Commission. The breakdown of elected representatives was as follows:

- Liberal-Democratic Party: 53 seats
 - Milliy Tiklanish: 36 seats
 - Adolat: 24 seats
 - People's Democratic Party: 22 seats
 - Ecological Party: 15 seats
- Among the 150 deputies, women comprised 32% of the members and 26% were previous deputies, showcasing a diverse representation. Age demographics revealed that 65% of the deputies fall between 30 and 50 years old, while 6% are fewer than 30.

According to the revised Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Cabinet of Ministers," adopted in December 2019, the political party securing the most seats will have the authority to nominate a candidate for the Prime Minister position. This legal provision suggests that the Liberal-Democratic Party, which garnered the largest number of seats in the previous election, is poised to exercise this right.

As Uzbekistan heads toward its parliamentary elections, the international community will be closely monitoring developments to assess the depth and authenticity of political reforms amid ongoing state control.

New Election System in Uzbekistan

Creation of platforms for the emergence of new public politicians

Gulchekhra Malikova

The formation of a free society and state is impossible without the formation of stable electoral legal culture. It is a generally accepted fact that elections are the basis of people's power. It is generally accepted that the existence of free elections in the country is one of the principles of a democratic regime of government and a republican form of government.

In accordance with clause 1 of Article 9 of the Convention on Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the CIS Member States: "Genuine elections ensure the identification of the freely expressed will of the people and its direct implementation."

Over the past few years, significant changes have taken place in the political system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which have affected all spheres of socio-political life. One of these changes is the innovation of the electoral legislation. This means changing the electoral system of the Republic of Uzbekistan from majority to majority-proportional one (sometimes it is called mixed) in elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The mixed electoral system, in which two classical electoral formulas (majority and proportional) are linked, is also used in a number of other states on different continents, from the states of the European Union (Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Italy, etc.) to the states of the Far East (Japan, etc.)

What is the purpose of the transition to majority-proportional electoral system?

Firstly, this system facilitates more complete accounting of votes and reflects the real political situation in the country more accurately.

Secondly, the representation of the regions of Uzbekistan in the lower house of parliament will become more balanced.

Thirdly, a change in the format of relations between parties and candidates, since parties will have to focus on the search for candidates who are really famous, authoritative and able to work actively with voters.

Fourthly, a platform is created for the emergence of new public politicians.

Mixed electoral systems are divided into three types:

- 1) with the dominance of proportional representation (proportional-majority);
- 2) with the dominance of the majority system (majority-proportional);
- 3) balanced systems, in which proportional and majority systems are used on an equal footing.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the legislation enshrines the transition to the balanced system. Thus, Part 2 of Article 67 of the Elec-



toral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes that seventy-five deputies of the Legislative Chamber are elected in single-mandate electoral district, seventy-five - on the basis of the party list in proportion to the number of votes cast for political parties in a single electoral district. Usually, under such systems, on election day, the voter is given a separate ballot in which he votes specifically for the candidate, and a separate ballot in which he votes for the party. Although each state has its own practice. For example, in Germany, the precinct election commission issues one ballot, in which candidates of a single-mandate electoral district are placed on the one hand, and land lists are placed on the other hand, in Russia voters are given two ballots at polling stations.

Part 3 of Article 31 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates that "the ballot paper shall contain the surname, first name, patronymic of the candidate in alphabetical order, indicating the year of birth and the political party that nominated him/her as a candidate", which characterizes the elections to the Legislative Chamber in single-mandate electoral districts.

Part 4 of Article 31 of the Electoral Code establishes that "the ballot paper for the election of deputies of the Legislative Chamber in a single electoral district shall include the name and symbols of the political parties participating in them sequentially in accordance with the procedure in which they were allowed to participate in the elections." This means that two types of ballots will be produced in the elections to the Legislative Chamber. This norm is a serious test for political parties and implies painstaking work on the development of their political program in order to eliminate delinquency and determine the clarity of party lines.

It should be noted that Art.401 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan enshrines the norm on the registration and publication of the party list by the Central Election Commission, as well as single-mandate candidates. The idea of registering and publishing lists of candidates running in a single electoral district is correct. The voter will form his own idea of the party, based on the candidates nominated by the parties in their party lists. At the same time, it is necessary to resolve the most important issue—the methodology for distributing mandates within the list.

The changes concerning the issue of detecting the election results are not less interesting. Candidates for deputy from a single-mandate electoral district are determined by the winner-take-all system. Thus, according to Part 5 of Article 96 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the candidate who has received the largest number of votes becomes the winner. This system is very effective, except for cases when two or more candidates have received the same number of votes. The winner-take-all system is used as the only one for elections of

any chamber of parliament (or both chambers) in 43 countries, including the United States and a number of states—members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

With regard to political parties elected in a single electoral district, Art.961 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan established a seven percent threshold. Thus, a political party receives a parliamentary mandate only if it received seven percent of the votes of voters who took part in the voting in a single electoral district.

Why did the legislator establish this threshold? What is the reason for its existence? In the legal literature containing various opinions on this issue, the following grounds for its introduction are noted:

- 1) The threshold is introduced to reduce

the participation in the distribution of seats in parliament of parties that received support from voters at the level of "noise", error or accident that occurred at polling stations, which made up about 2 percent of the total number of citizens' votes. This value is considered acceptable due to the instability of the group of voters, the high share of accident and a number of other factors that affect the elections

2) The threshold is used to avoid excessive factional fragmentation within parliament, which could lead to its decentralization and paralysis of its work.

3) The threshold is introduced to exclude negative activity and the influence of small parties on the adoption of important decisions, including in the formation of the government. This effect lies in the fact that small parties form factions that have significant weight in making the final decision, which actually puts them in a dominant position over large parties. Ultimately, this resulted in the political crisis in Israel in 2019–2022, when five snap elections to the Knesset were held for 3.5 years.

4) The threshold is also introduced in order to provide parties participating in the distribution of mandates with the opportunity to have efficient fractions for the most fruitful implementation of their functions.

What is this threshold in foreign countries? In the Netherlands, it is 0.67%, Russia – 5%, Kazakhstan – 7%, Egypt and Liechtenstein – 8%, Turkey – 10%. Along with this, there is a number of countries where there is no threshold at all: we see this in Portugal, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, Sweden and some other countries.

Conclusion

Through its own mechanics, socio-political life has influenced the structure of inter-party competition, and inter-party competition, in turn, is a factor in reforming the intra-party system. All this together is a determinant of changes in the electoral system. We have something to strive for. We are confident that the upcoming elections to the representative bodies of state power of the Republic of Uzbekistan will set us the task of developing and supplementing the sphere of electoral law with new ideas prompted by practice and experts.

Chief Researcher, Institute of Legislation and Legal Policy under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Law, Professor



Pakistan and England Cricket Teams training session schedule and security arrangements in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and England Cricket Teams Training Session Schedule in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium On 22nd, 23rd October Pakistan and England cricket teams had a full practice session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani and SSP Investigation reviewed the security arrangements in Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium SSP Investigation briefed the CPO on all security arrangements

The CPO gave instructions to the officers and personnel regarding security duty During Pakistan and England Cricket Teams Training Session and During 3rd Match.

3200 officers of Rawalpindi Police are performing security duties while 370 officers are performing traffic duties while City Police Officer Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani said that

The route of the cricket teams is being monitored by CCTV cameras, snipers have been deployed on the roofs along the route and on the sides.

Special teams of Elite Force, Dolphin Force and District Police are carrying out patrol duties

All resources are being utilized to ensure foolproof security arrangements for cricket match

The third Test between Pakistan and England will play on Thursday 24 October to 28 October

Pakistan and England Cricket Teams Players Practiced bowling and batting the cricket teams of Pakistan and England did a lot of physical exercise at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, while the players of the England cricket team also played football at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium for some time

22 October England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, a player or member of support staff from both sides will be available for pre-match media conferences.

23 October England and Pakistan men's cricket teams will hold training sessions at the Rawalpindi Cricket

Stadium from 1000. Afterwards, a player or member of support staff from both sides will be available for pre-match media conferences.

24 October - The toss will take place at 0930, with the first ball to be bowled at 1000. After the day's play, star performers from either side are expected to hold their media conferences.

Playing hours (Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday)

1st session - 1000-1200

2nd session - 1240-1440

3rd session - 1500-1700

On Friday:

1st session 1000-1230

2nd session 1330-1500

3rd session 1520-1720

Pakistan Shaheens Cricket Team to Comfortable Win against Oman

Imran Usmani

MUSCAT: Pakistan Shaheens beat Oman by 74 runs to register their first win of the tournament in the seventh match of the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup on Monday afternoon at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Muscat, Oman. Chasing a total of 185-5, Oman were restricted to 111-7 in the allotted 20 overs.

Earlier, after opting to bat first, the Shaheens were helped to a mammoth total by Qasim Akram (48), Rohail Nazir (41 not out) and Arafat Minhas (31 not out). At the start of the innings, Oman's Muzahir Raza jolted the Shaheens twice as he removed the opening pair of Mohammad Haris and Yasir Khan for three runs each to leave the Shaheens 13-2 in 2.4 overs.

Qasim Akram, the top scorer for Shaheens stitched a valuable 72-run third-wicket partnership with Omair Bin Yousuf (25, 21b, 3x4s) to steer the Shaheens to 79-2 at the halfway mark before Omair departed in the following over.

Qasim smoked three towering sixes and two fours during his 38-ball stay on



the crease and was denied a half-century when Samay

Shrivastava castled him with the scorecard reading 106-4 in 13.3 overs. Abdul Samad scored a 12-ball 20, which included two fours and one six.

With 116-5 on the board in 14.5 overs, Rohail Nazir, playing his first match of the tournament after being named a replacement for Haseebullah earlier, joined forces with Arafat Minhas as the duo put on a belligerent 69-run unbeaten stand for sixth wicket to propel the Shaheens to highest innings total so far - 185-5.

Rohail, in his player of the match performance, blazed his way to 41 off just 20 balls hitting three fours and two sixes while Arafat chipped in with a quick-fire 31 off 15 balls with the help of two fours and as many sixes. The duo ransacked 38 runs of the last two overs sending the Oman fielders on leather chase.

Apart from Muzahir's two wickets, Samay, Sufyan Mehmood and Wasim Ali picked up one wicket each.

In turn, Oman only managed a modest 34-1 in the power-play as Qasim Akram drew first bowled for Shaheens as he pinned Aamir Kaleem for 11. Oman batters were further

kept in check as they lost Karan Sonavale and skipper Jatinder Singh (24, 29b, 2x4s, 1x6) in the seventh and ninth over, respectively as their team struggled to keep the required rate under control.

Wasim Ali (28, 31b, 2x4s) top scored for Oman as they only managed 57 runs in the last 10 overs finishing 111-7 in 20 overs. Zaman Khan picked up 2-17 while Arafat Minhas, Mohammad Imran, Qasim Akram, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Sufyan Moqim picked up one wicket each.

Pakistan Shaheens will face UAE in the third match on Wednesday, 23 October at 2pm PKT.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan Shaheens beat Oman by 74 runs at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, Muscat

Pakistan Shaheens 185-5, 20 overs (Qasim Akram 48, Rohail Nazir 41 not out, Arafat Minhas 31 not out, Omair Bin Yousuf 25; Muzahir Raza 2-29)

Oman 111-7, 20 overs (Wasim Ali 28, Jatinder Singh 24; Zaman Khan 2-17)

Player of the match - Rohail Nazir (Pakistan Shaheens)

PCB announces free entry on first day of third Pakistan-England Test

A Sports

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced free entry for spectators on the first day of the upcoming third Test match between Pakistan and England.

The series is currently levelled 1-1 and the deciding third match will be played from 24 October to 28 October at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The cricket board announced the decision through its social media accounts with a post stating "FREE entry for fans to Premium Enclosures on the first day of the third #PAKvENG Test in Rawalpindi."

For the unversed, Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat by an innings and 47 runs in the series opener, consequently, the home side made an array of changes including dropping their star batter Babar Azam and ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.



Experienced wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed and Naseem Shah were the other two key players dropped from the national team's squad for the

remainder of the series. Domestic performer Kamran Ghulam made his long-awaited debut, while spin bowlers Sajid Khan, Noman

Ali and Zahid Mahmood made their return to the Test side.

The changes proved fruitful as Kamran scored a century on his debut, while Sajid and Noman shared 20 wickets to steer Pakistan to their first Test victory at home since February 2021.

Squads:

Pakistan: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood.

England: Ben Stokes (c), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.

Former Pakistan captain appointed as head coach of Bangla Tigers



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise Bangla Tigers appointed former Pakistan captain Younis Khan as their head coach ahead of the upcoming eighth edition of the tournament.

Bangla Tigers announced the high-profile appointment through posts on their official social media accounts.

"New Head Coach Alert! Bangla Tigers is honored to introduce Legend Younis Khan as the Head Coach for Abu Dhabi T10 Season 8," the franchise posted.

"Amidst the desert storm, The Bench Boss is ready to bring a sense of calm to the dressing room. Gear up for an exciting season ahead!"

Younis Khan is considered a legend in Pakistan cricket, having led the country to their only ICC T20 World Cup title in 2009. He is also the only Pakistani batter to cross the 10,000-run barrier in Test cricket.

The former captain has also worked with the Pakistan cricket team as a batting consultant for a brief period in 2020.

The eighth edition of the Abu Dhabi T10 League will be played from November 21 to December 2.

The upcoming edition will include two new teams: Bolts Ajman and UP Nawabs. They will join the existing eight teams: New York Strikers, Deccan Gladiators, Northern Warriors, Morrisville Samp Army, Delhi Bulls, Bangla Tigers, Team Abu Dhabi, and Chennai Braves.

Basit Ali slams Sufiyan Mugeem for behaviour in India clash

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan batter Basit Ali did not mince his words while criticizing young spinner Sufiyan Mugeem over sledging Indian batter Abhishek Sharma during the ongoing ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024.

Pakistan Shaheens kicked off their Emerging Asia Cup campaign against India A on Saturday, during which Sufiyan got involved in a heated exchange with Abhishek.

The incident occurred on the first ball of Sufiyan's spell when he ended Abhishek's entertaining knock of 35 off 22, courtesy of a brilliant catch by Qasim Akram.

The young left-arm spinner gave a fiery send-off to Abhishek, signalling for silence with a finger on his lips. Abhishek lunged toward the Pakistan A bowler; however, the on-field umpires intervened to calm the situation down.

Basit Ali took to his official YouTube channel and expressed his displeasure over the actions of the young spinner. The former batter highlighted the importance of maintaining discipline on the field.

"The cricket was top-class, but one thing that really upset me was the incident involving Sufiyan Mugeem and Abhishek Sharma," said Basit.

"If I were sitting in the dugout or the team manager, I would have told Sufiyan, 'Son, pick up your things and go back.' You haven't even played proper cricket for Pakistan yet. You should not be behaving like this."

It's worth noting that Pakistan Shaheens closely lost the match by seven runs as they failed to chase the target of 184. They managed to accumulate 176/7 in the allotted 20 overs.

Champions Trophy 2025: ICC 'satisfied' over PCB arrangements for mega event

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has expressed satisfaction over the detailed briefing of arrangements presented by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials for the Champions Trophy 2025, sources told Geo News Monday.

The preparations were laid out in an ICC meeting in which PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi was also present.

PCB officials assured the ICC board members that upgradation of stadiums, that are slated to host the event, is on track and all the remaining work will be completed within the stipulated time, the sources added.

Naqvi also invited the ICC board members to Pakistan to review the preparations for the mega event to be hosted next year and also extended an invitation once the tournament commences.

The event is set to kick start from February 19 to March 9, 2025, in Pakistan, though the cricketing nation has faced obstacles in hosting including uncertainty of the Indian cricket team participating in the tournament.

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament begins

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-III Blues by 215 runs in the opening match of the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium. On this occasion the Chief Guest Zahid Hussain Bhatti, Executive Director, Medicam Group of Companies inaugurated the Tournament in a colourful ceremony in the presence of Hundreds of Young Cricketers and their Families On this occasion he announced the full cooperation to the Regional Cricket Association Kara-

chi for the promotion of Cricket in Karachi. He was speaking on the opening Ceremony of the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium on Sunday. Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee in his speech rich tribute paid to Mr Nadeem Omar, President Regional Cricket Association Karachi for their valuable services rendered in Cricket activities in Karachi. He also tribute paid to Azam Coordinator for their valuable services for of Cricket in Kara chi. M. Touseef Siddiqui Tournament Secretary thanks

to Mr. Junaid Khalil Nanitalwala, Group Managing Director Medicam Group of Companies to sponsor the RCAA Telent Hunt Programme after a gap 11 years. He also thanks to Javed Akhtar Kiani of Medical Group for their cooperation. Mr. Arif Waheed, Secretary Zone-I also spoke on the occasion. Earlier Zone-VII Whites defeated Zone-III Blues by 215 runs. The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century by Hassan Ahmed 106. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.



Scores in Brief: Zone-VII Whites 289 allout in 39 overs. Hassan Ahmed 106 9x4, Majeed-

ullah 36, M. Abdul Rehman 30, Riaz Ahmed 29, Amanullah 24, Qasim Syed Mustufa (mf) 4/50,

Zayan Noor 2/40, Muhammad Asad 2/55. Zone-III Blues 74 allout in 18 overs. Ameer

Muawiya 23. Muhammad Uzair (mf) 4/24, Muhammad Hunain (sls) 3/14.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, inaugurates DataFest 2024, an event organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Monday.



Photo: PID

Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pak Navy Promoted to the Rank of Rear Admiral

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Rear Admiral Shahzad Iqbal was commissioned in Operations Branch in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done B. Sc. in Naval Sciences from University of Karachi and Gunnery Officer Command Course from China.

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS SAIF, Commander Jinnah Naval Base, Ormara, and Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron. He also served as Senior Staff Officer (Operations & Plans) at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Director Foreign Military



Collaboration, Director Naval Operational Plans and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

DPM and Foreign Minister visits Samoa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Spokesman Report

SAMOA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will lead the Pakistan delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), being held from 21 to 26 October 2024 in Samoa.

At the CHOGM, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign



Minister will present Pakistan's perspectives on key global issues and challenges with focus on climate change, economic development, and strengthening international cooperation within the Commonwealth community. In his keynote address at the Commonwealth Business Forum on "Transforming our Workforce", he will highlight Pakistan's emphasis on youth

empowerment, skill development, and digital transformation.

The Deputy Prime Minister will also engage with Heads of delegations of other Commonwealth Member States.

Pakistan's participation at CHOGM 2024 reflects its continued commitment to the Commonwealth and its relations with Small Islands Pacific Countries

Govt committed to strengthening IT & Telecom Sector: Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that innovations in data networks, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and 5G are pivotal for our economic growth and addressing challenges like healthcare, education, and sustainable development.

She said regional cooperation is essential for enhancing our digital infrastructure and developing inclusive, secure, and sustainable technologies.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima was addressing SANOG-42 Conference here on Monday.

She said present government is committed to strengthening IT and Telecom sector through several initiatives.



"We've launched IT Parks in Islamabad and Karachi and support over 1,300 startups through our National Incubation Centers. Our Digital

Pakistan Policy aims to boost e-governance, cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship."

She said the telecom sector has significantly contributed to our economy.

She said upcoming 5G spectrum auction in early 2025, along with policies like the National Fiberization Policy and Spectrum Sharing, will further propel growth.

She said Pakistan made remarkable strides in cybersecurity, ranking among the top-tier nations in the ITU 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index.

This advancement reflects our strong commitment across all cybersecurity pillars, positioning us alongside leading countries in cybersecurity readiness.

Our IT sector is thriving, with exports already exceeding \$3 billion.

Initiatives like local Chromebook manufacturing by Google and Islamabad's transformation into a Model Digital City are testament to our vibrant IT landscape, she said.

"We continue to focus on training young people, particularly in cybersecurity, to ensure a skilled workforce for the future."

Our comprehensive policies aim to enhance access, affordability, and innovation, ensuring continued growth and global competitiveness. We seek to strengthen partnerships across South Asia, leveraging SANOG's experience for policy alignment and capacity building. Our focus remains on optimizing Internet Exchange Points and enhancing network resilience. We invite international partnerships and investments to further our IT sector's growth, she said.

Photo exhibition on Kashmir's plight inaugurated at Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: A photo exhibition marking Kashmir Black Day was inaugurated today at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, shedding light on India's human rights violations in the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The event was inaugurated by Chargé d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to raising awareness about the plight of the Kashmiri people.

The exhibition, which will run for a week, showcases photographic evidence of the ongoing atrocities faced by the people of Kashmir. Through a compelling visual narrative, it portrays the harsh realities of life under occupation, documenting incidents of extrajudicial killings,



arbitrary arrests, and suppression of fundamental freedoms. The material draws on reports from the United Nations, international non-govern-

mental organizations (INGOs), human rights volunteers, and global media outlets, emphasizing the persistent and brutal nature of the

occupation.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Zaidi paid tribute to the resilience of the Kashmiri people, who continue their struggle for self-determination despite decades of oppression. He stressed the significance of October 27, a date remembered as the day when Indian forces illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, initiating an era of violence and repression that continues to this day.

"India's occupation of Kashmir has resulted in countless human rights violations, with the people of IIOJK suffering immense hardships. Their spirit, however, remains unbroken in the face of injustice," said Mr. Zaidi. "The international community must intervene to stop the bloodshed and end the suffering of these defenceless people."

SC rejects PTI's petition to form larger bench in intra-party election case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed a review petition challenging its January 13 ruling on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party elections, upholding the original decision.

A three-judge special bench, headed by the Chief Justice and including Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Munib Akhtar, heard the petition. The PTI had requested the formation of a larger bench to review the case.

PTI's lawyer Hamid Khan argued that the matter should be referred to the Judges Committee to form a larger bench, suggesting the current

three-judge bench was not suitable to hear the case, citing a previous 13-judge bench decision in the Sunni Ittehad Council case.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked that this was a review petition and the court needed to examine the law, noting that review petitions typically raise questions about the legal standing of court decisions. The Chief Justice questioned why this point wasn't raised earlier.

Hamid Khan responded by urging the court to review a specific paragraph from the Sunni Ittehad Council and Election Commission case decisions. The Chief Justice responded that the court would not review that decision, as it was a separate matter.

Adiala Jail extends ban on meetings 'indefinitely'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Sources within the jail confirmed that the ban on visits will remain in effect until further notice. The Punjab government extended the suspension. The decision to restrict visits was made due to security concerns.

According to sources, the ban applies to all prisoners, including

political prisoners. The indefinite suspension remains in place due to ongoing security concerns.

The Punjab government initially imposed a ban on all types of visits to Adiala Jail from October 4 to October 18. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan is incarcerated in Adiala Jail along with his wife, Bushra Begum, and his sisters Aleema and Uzma Khan.

Maryam Nawaz shares update on 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that the construction of houses has started across Punjab under the Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar programme.

Chairing a special meeting to have a detailed briefing on 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme, Maryam Nawaz said that in a record period of only two months, the people who got the first installment in Lahore, Kasur, and other districts have started construction of their houses.

"I express prayers and best wishes for the lucky citizens who are building the houses under Apni Chhat, Apna

Ghar programme," she added.

Maryam Nawaz directed the authorities concerned to ensure the release of second installment of loan under the program as per schedule.

"We are trying our best so that no one is deprived of a rightful loan. In each district, Assistant Commissioner has been appointed as a Focal Person for the convenience of applicants," the chief minister said.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that she will monitor all the process of the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme herself via dashboard."

She directed the Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin to monitor the programme in the field.

Enactment of 26th constitutional amendment victory of...

Continued from Page 1

in Pakistan's history; a new dawn has begun," the information minister stated.

Tarar extended congratulations to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ameer Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the members of the federal cabinet, all coalition parties, and the entire nation on the successful passage of the amendment.

He emphasized that the amendment would bring greater stability to Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework. "Extensive consultations were held to ensure as much consensus as possible on the amendment," Tarar added.

The minister noted that the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation for constitutional thought in Pakistan. "History will confirm that this constitutional amendment is in the best interest of the people," he asserted.