



PTI rejects Justice Afridi's nomination as CJP, vows protest movement

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has rejected the nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), vowing to launch a protest movement against the Special Parliamentary Committee's decision.



Radio Pakistan pensioners' issue to be resolved soon: NA told

Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on Tuesday assured the National Assembly that the issue concerning Radio Pakistan's pensioners will be resolved in the coming weeks. Responding to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that out of the total 3,296 pensioners, 3,185 have already been paid their dues, while the remaining 109 retirees will receive their pensions soon.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal C meeting on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

26th constitutional amendment a milestone for country: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the parliament with a two-thirds majority would prove to be a milestone for the country's political and economic stability and public welfare. The prime minister, addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the new legislation

would surely bring ease for the common man who had to suffer owing to inordinate delays in seeking justice. Besides, he said the 26th constitutional amendment, passed following an in-depth consultation among the ruling coalition and opposition parties, was also an accomplishment of the vision of the Charter of Democracy signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

PM seeks report on surge in polio cases

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday sought a report on the growing number of polio cases in the country and directed the authorities concerned to immediately formulate a comprehensive strategy on the matter.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, expressed his concern over the surge in polio cases and called a meeting to discuss the situation.

Discussing the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill recently passed by the parliament, the prime minister said the legislation was inevitable for judicial reforms and improvement of judicial system.

Expressing his gratitude to the political parties and leadership for their support, he said the amendment was also the accomplishment of the vision of Charter of Democracy, signed in 2006.

The prime minister also thanked for the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government and appreciated the performance of the

departments involved. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the cabinet approved the appointment of Lt. General (retd) Moazzam Ijaz, Engineer Fahim Iqbal and Asim Shahryar in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission Board as private members.

The body approved the law ministry as a transmitting and receiving agency of applications under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) 1959.

It was told that Pakistan had ratified the Convention on the Recovery Abroad 1956 in 1959 and an ordinance in this regard was also promulgated the same year.

The federal cabinet also approved the appointment of Dr Shafia Arshad as Chairperson of National Council for Tibb and Dr Rizwan Asif, Muhammad Khurshid Alam, Ikramullah, Moinuddin and Dr Attaullah as its members.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Health, the cabinet also approved the restructuring of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan.

Special Parliamentary Committee recommends Justice Yahya Afridi for CJP slot

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Special Parliamentary Committee on Tuesday recommended Justice Yahya Afridi's name to be the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP).

Incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa is set to retire on October 25, 2024 and will be replaced by Justice Yahya Afridi, who is third in the seniority list.

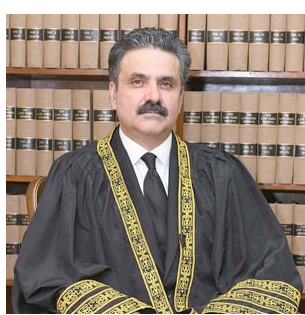
The Special Parliamentary Committee, formed after the 26th constitutional amendment, held its meeting with nine out of 12 members in attendance to deliberate the three names for a top judge slot.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Khawaja Asif,

Ahsan Iqbal, and Shaista Pervaiz; Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Farooq H Naek, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and Syed Naveed Qamar; Rana Ansar of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and Senator Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) attended the meeting. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Barrister Ali Zafar, and SIC chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza abstained from the meeting.

The committee also deliberated on the names of Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar.

How CJP is appointed after 26th constitutional amendment? The constitutional amendment to Article 175A paved the



way for key changes to how judges are appointed, shifting more authority to a 12-member parliamentary committee - comprised of eight members from the National Assembly (NA) and four senators - to appoint the CJP, selecting from among the three most senior judges.

After amendment to clause 3 of

Article 175A, the top judge is now appointed on the recommendation of the Special Parliamentary Committee from amongst the three most senior SC judges, rather than the president designating the most senior judge of the Supreme Court as the CJP.

After finalising the name, the prime minister conveys the nominee's name to the president for appointment after receiving it from the committee established for the same purpose.

Justice Yahya Afridi was born on January 23, 1965, in Dera Ghazi Khan. He received his early education at Aitchison College, Lahore, and later graduated from Government College, Lahore. He furthered his legal studies, earning an LL.M from Jesus

College, Cambridge University. He commenced his legal practice in 1990, eventually joining the Supreme Court bar in 2004. His judicial career began with his appointment as an additional judge of the Peshawar High Court in 2010, becoming a permanent judge in 2012.

He rose to the position of Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court in 2016. Justice Afridi's appointment to the Supreme Court followed in 2018.

Since then, he has participated in larger benches hearing significant cases, including those related to reserved seats and the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto presidential reference. He has also written dissenting notes in several key judgments.

Majority's judgement on reserved seats lost sight of basics: CJP Isa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has expressed hope that judges in the majority would reflect on their "mistakes and make necessary corrections" in the reserved seats verdict, saying that the judgement lacked sight of basic.

"I do hope and expect that my distinguished colleagues in the



majority will reflect and correct their mistakes and ensure that Pakistan is governed in accordance with the Constitution of

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," he said in his dissenting note on the case that awarded Imran Khan's PTI more seats in Parliament.

In July, a full-court bench of the Supreme Court set aside orders of the Peshawar High Court and ECP taking away reserved seats from the Sunni Ittehad Council. The court ruled that the PTI should be consid-

ered a political party and given reserved seats.

The ECP sought guidance from the SC on the statement that in absence of a valid organizational structure of PTI, who would confirm the political affiliation of the returned candidates (MNAs and MPAs) on behalf of PTI, who have filed their statements in light of the SC's July 12 order.

In a clarification on September

14, the SC disposed of the ECP's petition and stated that the electoral authority's request for clarification "is merely a delaying tactic." The apex court noted that the ECP's failure to perform the SC order might have consequences.

Then in its detailed order, the apex court said that election authorities denying major political party recognition infringes upon the electorate's rights.

Barrister Gohar refuses to attend parliamentary committee meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Barrister Gohar, has refused to participate in the ongoing parliamentary committee meetings concerning the appointment of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

As per the details, negotiations between PTI and the government,

held in the Speaker's Chamber, ended in failure, leading Barrister Gohar to publicly state that the PTI does not recognize the recently passed constitutional amendment or the legitimacy of the committee.

Gohar emphasized that PTI's political committee has made a final decision, and the party will issue show-cause notices to those members who disappeared during the constitutional amendment

voting process.

On the other hand, Kamran Murtaza confirmed PTI's refusal to participate in the proceedings of voting for the constitutional amendments. Earlier in the day, a parliamentary meeting to appoint the new Chief Justice was adjourned. The committee, chaired by Special Secretary Legislation Mushtaq Ahmed, had decided to form a four-member delegation



to approach the Sunni Ittehad Council for further discussions.

The Minister of Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar, highlighted the democratic nature of the process, emphasizing the committee's commitment to inclusive dialogue.

Despite PTI's boycott, the committee will reconvene later at 8:30pm, with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq being urged to persuade PTI to reconsider its stance.

Info Minister brushes aside Opposition Leader's allegations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday brushed aside the Opposition Leader's allegations of forced polling during the 26th Constitutional Amendment and exhorted him to manage Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s internal conflict within his party.

He was addressing the sixth meeting of the 10th National Assembly session that commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired the proceedings.

Tarar while responding to Opposition Omar Ayub Khan said the 26th Constitutional Amendment was not done in haste but rather it took two and a half months.

"The Constitutional Amendment Bill was delayed on the request of Maulana



Fazal Ur Rehman who demanded to hold it after the SCO summit. It was a consensus-based document with the input of all political parties," he said.

The minister while deriding the Opposition Leader's accusations underlined the fact the two clauses of the Amendment Draft were removed on the objections of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members and agreement was met on the Constitutional Amendment.

Bilawal Bhutto has proved himself to be a great statesman and politician: Murad

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated approximately Rs6 billion worth of major infrastructure and energy projects across the city during a five-hour visit saying that these initiatives are aimed at enhancing the city's recreational facilities, road infrastructure, and energy sustainability.

Accompanied by his cabinet members Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and Waqar Mahdi, the chief minister left CM House and inaugurated two road projects, two solarisation projects, and a football ground at Manzoor Colony, the constituencies of MNA Asad Alam Niazi, Saeed Ghani, and Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed.

Road Infrastructure Upgrades: The CM inaugurated three crucial road projects in Districts West and Central. The reconstruction of Mirza Adam Road, a 1.6 km dual carriageway,

was completed for Rs 901 million. This road, which connects Sher Shah Chowk to Mirza Adam Khan Road, includes a stormwater drainage system to prevent flooding.

The Café Piyala Road, a 4.05 km dual carriageway linking Sakhi Hassan to Rashid Minhas Road, was constructed for Rs 9.753 million. This route provides easier access to important healthcare facilities, such as Cardio Hospital and Mamji Hospital.

Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan Road, another significant project, now offers a 6.1 km main dual track and a 4.35 km dual service track, constructed for Rs 3,367,735 million. This road will ease traffic flow through North Nazimabad and North Karachi, providing a vital alternative to Shahrah-e-Sher Shah Suri.

Solarization of Key Public Buildings: In a move towards sustainable energy, the CM inaugurated solar energy projects at Dow University Hospital, Ojha Campus, and Central



Jail Karachi. Dow University Hospital has been provided with 2.32 MW of solar power, part of a Rs 290 million project that is expected to generate significant savings over the next 25 years. Twelve key hospital buildings, including the OT ward and digital library, have been equipped with solar panels.

Talking about the passage of the

26th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, the Chief Minister credited Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his role and expressed hope that he would be the next Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has proved himself to be a great and youngest statesman and politician and mentioned the importance of judicial reforms and the efforts made by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto in this regard.

The Chief Minister also commented on a judge's remarks about law and order in Sindh, expressing his surprise and pointing out that other provinces also face similar or worse law and order situations. He claimed that comparatively, Sindh has a better law & order situation than the other provinces.

Those who spoke on the occasion include provincial ministers Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed and PPP provincial Secretary General Waqar Mahdi.

Pink Ribbon Day Celebrated at Women University Multan



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Directorate of Student Affairs, The Women University Multan joined the global community in observing Pink Ribbon Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer and promoting early detection. To mark this significant occasion, the university organized a meaningful walk, variety stalls, fund raising activities bringing together students, faculty, and staff in a collective effort to support the cause. The event aimed to highlight the importance of early diagnosis and regular check-ups to combat this widespread disease. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha along with Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan, Director Student Affairs Dr. Adeela Saeed visited all the stalls. Addressing the students, VC Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha underscored the significance of Pink Ribbon Day and encouraged everyone to prioritize their health. She emphasized that awareness and education are vital tools in the fight against breast cancer. Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan said Women University Multan annually arrange awareness drives about breast cancer in the university premises, Dr. Mamoon said that such types of campaigns help organizations to properly deliver messages to masses. She said there is a cure for every disease, if we want to avoid cancer we need to change our lifestyle accordingly. She emphasized the students to increase their immunity power with the help of adding more fruits and vegetables in your food. Director Student Affairs Dr. Adeela Saeed said breast cancer awareness is a global cause, and Women University active participation in Pink Ribbon Day demonstrates its unwavering commitment to health and wellness, leaving an indelible mark in the fight against this prevalent disease. The students with poetry and skits and pink dress competition tried to deliver the message about the disease and the rights of women. The event was attended by a large number of students and faculty members.

CM has given clear instructions for successful polio campaign

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Divisional Commissioner Bilal Ahmad Memon has said that Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah have given clear instructions that during the 7-day anti-polio campaign starting from October 28, the polio campaign should be brought to successful with the mutual cooperation of political and local government representatives of all districts.

He expressed these views today at the Divisional Task Force Polio review meeting at Shahbaz Building. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abdin Memon, DHO Hyderabad Dr. Lala Jaffer, Director Primary School Education, representatives from World Health Organization, Deputy Commissioners and DHOs of all districts of the division Hyderabad participated in the meeting through video link.

In the meeting, representatives of the World Health Organization and all deputy commissioners of the division discussed problems encountered during the previous polio campaign and the plan for the new campaign to start, briefed on security situation, refusal and unavailable cases, non-availability of lady health workers, polio virus environmental samples. A briefing was given on environmental samples, quality micro plan, training of polio teams, migration of families and other issues.

Speaking in the meeting, Commissioner Hyderabad directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of all districts of the division to finalize the security of the polio workers during the polio campaign and formulate a security plan.

He said that the seven-day polio campaign is starting from October 28, in which the total target is 2.3 million, 82 thousand 877 in the Hyderabad division. All district administration should play their role.

He said that performance of various districts of the division is much better than before while micro plans have been improving in Dadu, Badin, Jamshoro, Sujawal and Hyderabad to cover up refusals cases.

Pora Sawaiyanin

LAHORE: A vendor preparing traditional Vermicelli locally called as Pora Sawaiyanin the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

Saraiki leaders condemn exclusion of Saraiki province from 26th Constitution

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Saraiki Parties strongly condemn the exclusion of the Saraiki province bill from the 26th constitutional amendment. After the approval of the Saraiki province bill by the Senate, keeping the issue pending is an unconstitutional act. We will soon call for protests. These views were expressed by the Chairman of the Saraiki Democratic Party, Rana Muhammad Faraz Noon, and the Chairman of the Saraiki Nation-

al Council, Zahoor Dhareja, during a joint press conference at Jhok Saraikistan, Multan. On this occasion, Saraiki leaders Dr. Zafar Hans, Rana Iqbal Noon, Khawaja Shoaib-ul-Hasan, Rana Mazhar, Malik Sajjad, Professor Parvez Qadir Khan, Rana Umar, Hashim Chaman, Syed Ijaz Gillani, and others were present. The Saraiki leaders stated that the Saraiki province is not only a necessity for the millions of people in the Saraiki region but also for Pakistan.

If the rulers do not stop their

policy of marginalizing the people of the Saraiki region, we will take to the streets. There will be protests, rallies, sit-ins, and long marches across the region. They said, where have the promises and claims of Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hasan gone? The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) ignored the issue of the Saraiki province during the 18th Amendment, and now, during the 26th Amendment, they have deceived the Saraiki region again. If the PPP

had wanted, the Saraiki province bill could have been included in this amendment.

Saraiki leaders have stated that millions of people from the Saraiki region are protesting because the Senate passed the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, sidelining the bill for the Saraiki province that was previously passed by the Senate. They asked Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, on behalf of millions of people from the region, about the current status of the constitutional bill



for the Saraiki province that was passed during his tenure as Prime Minister. They also mentioned that Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hasan used to say, "We will live for the Saraikistan province and die for the Saraikistan province," and questioned why he is now silent. They also directed

questions at Senator Aon Abbas Bappi and other leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) about why the promise of creating a province within 100 days has not been fulfilled, and why they are now hesitant to even discuss the issue of the province.

these people are facing hard-

ships only for the sake of power, but if politicians from the Saraiki region, including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were in jail for demanding the Saraiki province, he would have gained not only the respect of the Saraiki region but also recognition worldwide.

Five-Day Free Plastic Surgery Camp for Cleft Lip and Palate will be held

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Speaking at the monthly meeting and Charter Night ceremony of the Multan Crescent Lions Club, President Sheikh Muhammad Zahid announced that the annual five-day free plastic surgery camp for individuals with cleft lip and palate will be held from November 5 to November 10. The camp will be organized by the Multan Crescent Lions Club at Alkhidmat Hospital, near Chowk Nag Shah, Muzaffargarh Road. All patients attending the camp will receive free medical facilities along with full arrangements for accommodation and meals.

Chairperson of the Cleft Lip and Palate Project, Mian Javed Iqbal, stated that over 160,000 children worldwide are born with congenital cleft lip and palate defects each year. In Pakistan alone, more than 9,000 children are



born annually with these conditions. Unfortunately, many of these children suffer lifelong challenges due to a lack of effective treatment facilities and awareness of timely medical intervention.

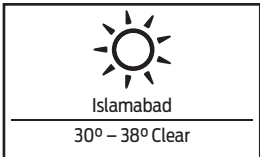
During the meeting, members

discussed the arrangements for the camp, and it was decided that members of the Leo Clubs will take responsibility for administrative and informational duties. The meeting was attended by senior vice president Professor Azam Hussain, vice president Sheikh Faheem

Sattar, Usman Khan, former head of Lions Clubs International Pakistan Muhammad Afzal Supra, former district governor Muhammad Azam Chaudhary, Farrukh Umar Chaudhary, Mix Zone B chairperson Chaudhary Altaf Shahid, Professor Hameed

Raza Siddiqui, Najam-ul-Islam, Abdul Mohsin Shaheen, Imran Khalid, Syed Ijaz Shah, Chaudhary Waheed, Parvez Ahmad Sulhary, Chaudhary Zulfikar Ali, Saeedullah Khan, Ahmed Chughtai, Sohail Imran Siddiqui, Dr. Basit Ramzan, Haji Umar Bhutta,

Ahmad Saeed, Professor Amjad Ramay, Iftikhar Nadeem Qadri, Ghulam Abbas, Shakeel Bukhari, Ali Sakhnwar, Amjad Shah, Dr. Zarina Saqib Zaidi, Ihtisham-ul-Haq, Rao Jamsheed Ali, Chaudhary Farooq, Haji Saleem, and other members.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:55 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:47 pm
Maghrib 5:26 pm
Isha 6:49 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

ICT admin nabs thirteen accused for violating Dengue SOPs

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to combat the spread of Dengue in the Federal Capital, the district administration is actively conducting operations and arrested thirteen accused over violations of Dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs).

According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar in an operation on Tuesday arrested eight individuals for failing to follow dengue SOPs. Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner (AC) City held four persons and sealed a tyre shop. AC Nilore also arrested a person on report of larva breeding.

On the occasion, District Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for strict action against anyone violating dengue prevention guidelines. The DC reiterated that effective prevention measures are essential in controlling the outbreak.

Empowering Rural Women

PODA's 17th Annual Leadership Training Conference kicks off in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the first day of PODA's 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference, women from over 132 districts nationwide, including the four provinces and the regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK, united to advocate for the recognition of women as "farmers." The fundamental focus of Tuesday's proceedings was to bring the issues facing rural women to the forefront, ensuring that they can benefit from government policies and services. Lok Virsa collaborated with PODA to organize the 3-day conference on its premises.

Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, called for the empowerment of women to address climate change challenges while praising their contributions in agriculture, the economy, and other fields. Ms. Alam urged all provincial governments to take steps toward empowering women and improving healthcare, particularly focusing on the

rights of girls and women in rural areas. She commended the resilience of rural women in the face of challenges, emphasizing that their participation in decision-making processes and empowerment will positively impact the overall plight of women across the country.

While welcoming the women leaders, Ms. Sameena Nazir, Executive Director of PODA, informed them that women make up around 60 percent of the agricultural labor force in Pakistan. However, research indicates that if these women had equal access to productive resources as men, they could increase farm yields by 20 to 30 percent, leading to a rise in total agricultural output in the country by 2.5 to 4 percent. This improvement could help reduce hunger and poverty while enhancing the quality of life for women, who are the backbone of the agricultural sector, she said.

In a message, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif commended the women participants for highlighting the progress and development of rural women. He emphasized that rural women play a crucial role in ensuring



food security, maintaining agricultural sustainability, protecting the environment, and significantly contributing to the health and education sectors.

Director General of Population Welfare, Punjab, Ms. Saman Rai, appre-

ciated PODA for its efforts in organizing an impactful gathering where women could come together to share their experiences, strengthen their leadership skills, and advocate for their rights in the agricultural sector.

Ms. Rai also visited the stalls and praised PODA for providing training to women in olive production, thereby creating opportunities for their economic empowerment.

Other prominent speakers included: Ms. Rahila Hameed Durrani, Minister for Women Development, Balochistan; MPA Uzma Kardar, CM-Punjab's Focal Person for Polio; MPA Advocate Kanwal Liaquat, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment Protection and Climate Change and Member of the Women Protection Authority, Punjab; Ms. Farah Naz Akber, Parliamentary Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division; Dilshad Bano, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development of Gilgit-Baltistan; Ms. Samina Fazil, President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Akeela Naz, representing women farmers of South Punjab.

Women from all provinces showcased their folk songs and dances, highlighting the strength of diversity that is a hallmark of Pakistan as a federation.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), Singapore Mr. Jia Rong Low called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Rector NUML Leads Successful Delegation to Turkish Universities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) briefed Heads of Departments and Directors of NUML about the university's recent delegation visit to Turkey, underscoring the significant strides made in international collaboration with Turkish universities. The delegation, led by Rector NUML, visited Düzce University, Sakarya University, and Istanbul University, culminating in the signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at fostering academic and research cooperation.

In his briefing, Rector



NUML highlighted the strategic importance of these partnerships, stating, "These MoUs open new avenues for both our students and faculty, providing them with global opportunities."

At Düzce University, the MoUs include student and faculty exchange programs,

summer camp teacher training, joint conferences, and research collaborations. The most significant highlight is the opportunity for faculty members from NUML's Urdu and English departments to teach at Düzce University, fully funded by the host country.

Sakarya University

welcomed collaboration in academic and faculty exchange programs, and joint research with detailed discussions on cyber security.

During the visit to Istanbul University, MoUs signed on joint conferences, research partnerships, and faculty exchanges, with NUML planning to send Urdu professors to Istanbul University.

Rector NUML emphasized the need for swift implementation of these MoUs, ensuring that the benefits reach students and faculty alike. He remarked, "These partnerships not only strengthen our academic ties but also provide students with study abroad opportunities through Erasmus and other programs."

Chairperson BISP meets country director of population council Dr. Zeba A. Sathar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met today with Population Council Country Director, Dr. Zeba A. Sattar, at BISP headquarters. The meeting focused on joint efforts to improve women's reproductive health, promote adequate birth control, and support the healthy development of newborns through the cooperation of BISP and the Population Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted BISP's ongoing initiative Benazir Nashonuma to combat malnutrition in children by providing nutritious food to pregnant and lactating mothers and their children under two years of age, along with conditional financial assistance. She emphasized the importance of maternal health to ensure the birth of healthy children.

Both parties also agreed on the need for consultations with top provincial health officials to enhance measures related to reproductive health, birth control, and newborn care. Furthermore, they discussed the proposal to establish Population Council desks near Benazir Nashonuma Centers, where women can access essential awareness and guidance on these health related issues.

AIOU Hosts 10th International Conference on Bioethics

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) hosted a two-day 10th International Conference on "Bioethics: Challenges and Opportunities". Addressing the inaugural session of the conference, the speakers emphasized the need for joint efforts for human welfare and stated that to overcome the challenges in bio ethics, we need to seek guidance from universal principles. The conference was organized by the Department of Islamic Thought, History, and Culture in collaboration with the National Bioethics Committee (NBC), National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad, and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU stated that all civilizations and values in the world are for humanity, and nothing is greater than the dignity of humanity. He said that the technology, which is growing rapidly, can only be effectively addressed through Ijtihad (independent reasoning).

Professor Farhat Moazzam, Chairperson of the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Culture at SIUT, Karachi, said in her address that whether it is medical ethics, the etiquette of medicine, or research ethics, all are fundamentally for the welfare of the public.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Vice Chancellor Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad, was the keynote speaker, while Dr. Muhammad Salman, CEO of the National Institute of Health, explained the objectives and goals of the conference. Professor Dr. Shah Mohayuddin Hashmi, Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, presented the opening remarks and informed the participants about the various topics of the conference.

Mobilink Bank tops the SBP's banking on Equality scorecard for the second year in a row

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to gender equality and financial inclusion, securing a remarkable score of 82.7 on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Women Friendliness Grid. This notable increase from last year's score of 71.79 highlights the Bank's continuous efforts in fostering a supportive environment for women borrowers and entrepreneurs, particularly in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

Sharing his thoughts on the achievement, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO of Mobilink Bank, said, "Achieving an 82.7 score on the Women Friendliness Grid is a testament to our commitment to financial inclusivity and innovation. This milestone reflects our dedication to empowering women entrepreneurs, driving digital inclusion, and embedding sustainability into our operations. We will continue to focus on creating meaningful opportunities that foster gender equality and environmental responsibility." In addition to these efforts, 44% of Mobilink Bank's loan portfolio is allocated to agriculture, with 25% directed towards women-owned agri-businesses, demonstrating the Bank's positive impact on women farmers and the broader economy.

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), a flagship hospital of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in Islamabad held breast cancer awareness activity here on Tuesday.

Begum Fehmin Ali, wife of Chairman PAEC was the chief guest on the occasion. In her address she appreciated the contribution of 19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) being run by PAEC in diagnosis and treatment of cancer irrespective of the stage of the disease and financial status of the patients as well as spreading awareness about the disease. She paid rich tributes to AECH NORI for leading the noble cause of cancer care and spreading awareness among masses especially women. Mrs. Chairman PAEC also stressed on the need to further intensify the efforts in this regard. Recalling the proud moment of NORI being declared the Anchor Centre by International



Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) she said, "It was indeed a matter of great pride for PAEC as well as the nation when in September 2023 NORI Cancer Hospital was declared an Anchor Centre of the IAEA for sharing its expertise with other cancer hospitals in the region."

In her welcome address, Head Oncology Department, NORI, Dr. Humera Mehmood gave a detailed

presentation titled "NORI Turning the Tides" and highlighted the contribution of the hospital in fighting against the menace of Breast Cancer in Pakistan. She said, "NORI was among the first five Anchor Centres announced by the IAEA under its Rays of Hope initiative last year which is not only a proof of the commitment of the hospital in prevention and management of cancer but also a recognition on global level

of its expertise in imparting research, training and education in the field." Dr. Humera highlighted various initiatives by NORI for the welfare of cancer patients and their attendants which included Masafir Khana. She also shared that "NORI is the first cancer hospital in public sector in the capital to start treatment of cancer using cyber knife facility and the results are miraculous."

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Tourism Potential - Reviving glory of Multan's walled city

Spokesman Research

Boasting of its past glory and pride for a vibrant history spanning over around 5000 years, the important city of South Punjab, Multan stands tall among the world's oldest living cities.

Also known as the city of saints, Multan's cultural and architectural heritage is encapsulated within its Walled City; a 1.2 square kilometer area that houses scores of historic buildings, each with a unique story to tell.

These ancient structures, many of which are well-preserved, offer immense potential for hosting cultural events, turning Multan into a hub of heritage tourism.

The Walled City's monumental landmarks reflect the city's rich spiritual and historical importance. Some of its most iconic buildings include the Masjid Wali Muhammad, Masjid Hazrat Sakhi Yahya, Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Tarkhana Wali Masjid, Bohar Gate, Jain Mandar, and the Tomb of Shah Yousuf Gardez.

Other renowned sites like the Shrine of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya and Shrine of Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam are revered for their religious importance, drawing visitors from far and wide.

The city's ancient gates; Delhi Gate, Lohari Gate, Bohar Gate, Haram Gate, Daulat Gate and Pak Gate, as well as key streets like Mohalla Jatoo Shah, Mohalla

Kamngrah, Sabunwali Gali, Maharaja Mohalla, Mohalla Jamna Das, Mollaha Mori Patta, Kafnawali street and dozens others, further elaborate the area's cultural landscape.

Despite city's architectural marvels and spiritual treasures, the Walled City presently attracts around a 100 foreign tourists and a bit more locals every month.

However, the authorities can fully capitalize on its potential attracting thousands of tourists every year by improving existing facilities and jurisdictional complications involving multiple departments.

These complications coupled with inadequate funding hinder the development and maintenance of the Walled City, slowing down its restoration and promotion of area's unique assets.

Ten year ago, in an important step forward, the Italian government had allocated US\$251 million for the restoration of key heritage sites and the Walled City Authority had successfully restored areas like Haram Gate, Sarafa Bazaar and the Shrine of Musa Pak Shaheed, renewing their historic essence.

This step has set stage for a broader revitalization of the Walled City, promising to enhance both its aesthetic appeal and tourist experience.

"Each street and every home in the Walled City has a unique history," said Umair Ghazanfar, Assistant Director of Walled City Multan. "It is among the ancient cities and offers ample opportunities to culture and heritage lovers."

Excited about its uplift and restoration, Umair highlights the potential for further

growth, hoping for visit of more tourists to this historic and cultural city.

"We welcome an average 100 foreign tourists monthly and our tricycle tours are exciting for visitors to explore these historic streets and buildings," he said. "By uplifting and rekindling this heritage, we can attract more tourists and earn revenue."

Local enthusiasts are equally optimistic about the future of Multan's Walled City as Dr. Sajid, a medical practitioner and passionate lover of Multan's ancient beauty, sees immense potential for tourism in the area.

"We need to improve infrastructure of the Walled City, including small hotels, cafes and entertainment spots," he suggested. "By renovating and making it more attractive, we can turn it into an attractive destination for local and foreign tourists."

Similarly, Dr. Muzzamal, a local tourist suggests to hold cultural events in the walled city to highlight its importance locally and internationally. "Cultural events and festivals in Walled city must be made a regular feature to celebrate city's history."

He was confident that these events would attract more tourists and develop deeper connection among local residents and the visitors. "We should also train local residents to act as guides to promote a culture of hospitality and engage local community in preserving and promoting their heritage."

Beyond infrastructure, a concerted effort to embrace the culture of hospitality could play a pivotal role in making the Walled City a more welcoming desti-

nation for tourists.

The local community, with its deep-rooted traditions of warmth and generosity, would also help promote a sense of collectivity bridging the territorial and cultural divides.

"Professional guide training, hospitality workshops and cultural education would empower local residents also enabling them to share the stories of their historic city with pride and authenticity," Dr. Muzzamal said.

Looking ahead, the revitalization of Multan's Walled City holds the promise of transforming it into a cultural tourism hotspot. With restored buildings, improved infrastructure and focus on hospitality, the area is poised to offer a blend of history, spirituality and local charm.

"Social gatherings and festivals would not only breathe new life into these old streets but also flourish small businesses like boutique, hotels and traditional eateries to offer tourists an immersive experience," Dr. Muzzamal remarked.

As Pakistan is home to remnants of different ancient civilization discovered in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in Punjab and Sindh provinces and Buddha's stupa in KPK, Multan's Walled City is also important.

The city has vast potential for historical and religious tourism and promoting its historic charm would help it emerge as a must-visit destination and center of hospitality besides providing local people opportunities to flourish their businesses.

Achieving self-sufficiency in edible oil

As the government embarks on agricultural transformation shifting to corporate from traditional farming, peasants are embracing to novel technologies and techniques to enhance cash crops productivity for attaining food sufficiency and economic stability.

This voyage to economic resilience, like other parts of the country can also be seen in merged districts of erstwhile FATA where in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the farmers opted for olive grafting for locally enhancing olive oil production.

Taking advantage of land and climate suitability in Malakand division, farmers like Barkat Shah have started uncovering the potential for significant financial gains from their limited mountainous land.

His five-acre lush green olive grove on Mohmand-Bajaur road not only present an eye catching view but also makes him confident to earn sufficient dividend for his family.

"Bajaur's climate and soil conditions are ideal for wild olive grafting," Barkat Shah said. "Response from farmers is overwhelmingly due to grafting technique's cost-effectiveness and high oil yielding efficiency."

Known locally as 'Ustad' for his expertise in olive grafting, Haji Barkat reveals, the process of olive grafting involves a precise and skilled technique where a scion—a young, healthy olive variety—is joined to a robust rootstock, typically an older olive tree, resilient to diseases.

"This method enhances health and productivity of olive trees and ensures farmers to maximize gains from their land," he said. "We select a scion at growth stage, cut the scion and rootstock carefully for a snug fit and bind them together securely."

This careful union, he said, leads to formation of a strong new branch, capable of yielding high-quality olives in just four to five years. "The optimal period for grafting is from February to April and July to September."

As the region provides suitable land environment, Ziaul Islam Dawar, Director, Agriculture Extension appreciates people's response in Malakand towards olive grafting.

"Growers are getting aware of this farming and start using best quality olive varieties," he informed. "A good quality scion can easily be grafted onto a rootstock of rare variety to prepare a high-yielding and disease-resistant olive tree in a few years."

He stated that by grafting these rare varieties, the farmers can ensure better productivity for a longer period. "Besides their personal food and nutritional needs, olive also helps them earn living for their families and reduce import burden on national kitty."



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

Raja Bazar – A colonial era business legacy

Tooba Khan

Most often stuffed with buyers, traffic and illegally encroaching vendors, Raja Bazaar, boasts of it's over one and half century old legacy for once being the only central commercial point of ancient Rawalpindi.

As the time ran down, this British colonial era sanctuary of traders named after Rajput or Raja (castes) traders of this region still stands there with least of our younger generation knowing its origin and evolution into today's busiest bazar of Rawalpindi.

This blend of history and trade still holds a prominent place in city's business activities for its distinctive socioeconomic features, ancient building structures, classical archaeology designs and antique woodwork adorned with superb grillwork on facades of houses.

Majority of them are remnants of Sikh rule during their reign of Punjab. Narrow streets, multi-religious community centers, mosques and temples, historic mansions, havelis, old shops and godowns reflect its cultural heritage and socioeconomic importance. Abarar Sheikh, General Secretary Raja Bazaar's Central Traders' Association terms the bazaar as 'a symbol of socio-economic legacy' having multi-dimensional links with local and international markets.

"Looking around Fawara Chowk, one can find marks of ancient civilization towards 'Dingi Khoi' on one side and the rich marketplace on the other side," he said. "Strong reasons for being the heart of city are its central location and market linkage as it connects country's North region with the South. The entrepreneurs from GB and KP too, prefer Raja Bazaar for their trading ventures after China's silk route."

Highlighted an interesting feature of

departmentalized nomenclature of its sections, Abarar Sheikh mentioned to Sarafa Bazaar as house of jewelry; Kapra Bazar for cloths and garments; Lakar Bazaar for wooden articles and raw material; Urdu Bazaar books and stationary and Masala Bazar, Sabzi Mandi and other bazars for variety of goods and services.

"Around 50% of shops have been converted into small plazas and joint markets after joining close by shops together making Raja Bazar the largest wholesale market of the city," he said

Discipline of the bazaar and running businesses is governed by a 'constitution' formally crafted almost 120 years ago by Late Haji Muhammad Ismael, the founding father of central traders' association.

Faisal Shahzad, Ex RCCI Vice President and President of Garments Traders Association informed that more than 2500 shops in Raja Bazar are source of employment for thousands of workers. "Raja Bazar hosts millions of customer locally and from Azad Kashmir, GB and KP for being a 'one-stop market' providing multiple facilities of business, logistics, banking, currency exchangers, hotels, restaurants etc."

Raja Bazaar serves as a strong linkage between buyers and sellers offering multiple choices in terms of brands, quality and prices. It hotels, restaurants and tea stalls also have a variety of traditional foods like nihari, fish, soup, lassi, khoya falooda etc. as per seasonal requirement.

With Raja Bazar's expansion, the adjacent bazars like City Sadar road, Bara Market, Iqbal Road, Moti Bazaar etc, once having independent identity, now seem like its offshoots.

However, on identity of Moti Bazar alive, Tahir Taj Bhatti, Executive Member RCCI reveals Moti Bazaar as a separate entity named after a Hindu merchant, Moti Ram who built a haveli in 1883, that served as a Women Shelter for Hindu widows who had

rejected the 'Satti' ritual.

"The haveli, named 'Kunya Ashram' was meant for training widows on cloths stitching whose articles were displayed on haveli's outer walls for sale to generate welfare funds. But, later, it converted into a small shop," Bhatti said.

After Pakistan's coming into being, the haveli was converted into a boy's school and small market was developed into a bigger Moti Bazaar with 12 small market segments, Bhatti said. "Today, in Moti Bazar, over 1500 shops with diverse product are serving traders and customers."

"Purana Qila' (Old Fort) is another ancient market known for variety of wedding clothes while Imperial Market is home to electronics and electrical items. But, after conversion of adjacent residential area into commercial markets, nearby markets now look like parts of Raja Bazar. But, this growth of Raja Bazar and other markets brought along multiple problems for traders and residents like unusual rushes, suffocating and filthy environment and deterioration in quality of goods.

"Markets expansion has reached its maximum capacity without addition of facilities," remarked a trader, Faisal Shahzad. "Continuous traffic jam coupled with noise and air pollution creates a mess besides unhealthy environment for eaters and residents."

"Therefore, we need special economic zone along new Ring Road for trucks and cargo containers to facilitate small traders coming to Raja Bazar," he said also recommending "time management by starting bazars early morning and closing early evening to avoid rushes."

As an iconic mega trade center, Raja Bazaar can be transformed into a new commercial hub planned expansion, traffic and time management, removing encroachments and ensuring hygienic business environment.

Something Untold

Before the general election, it was widely assumed that the Pakistan Muslim League-Navaz (PML-N) would either secure a simple majority or at least come close to it. This assumption was based on the party's historical performance, particularly in its stronghold of Punjab, where it had consistently garnered substantial support. Many believed that the PML-N's extensive grassroots network, coupled with its legacy of infrastructure development and governance, would translate into electoral success. However, the election results defied these expectations, as the PML-N was unable to reach even 100 seats, a significant setback for a party that had dominated the political landscape for decades.

Various opinions circulated regarding the reasons behind this unexpected outcome. Some analysts suggested that the PML-N was undermined by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which had gained momentum under the leadership of Imran Khan. PTI's aggressive campaign, focusing on anti-corruption and promises of a "new Pakistan," resonated with a significant portion of the electorate, particularly the youth. Others speculated that hidden forces, possibly linked to the military establishment, played a role in weakening the PML-N's position. These theories gained traction given Pakistan's complex political history, where the military has often been seen as an influential player behind the scenes.

However, based on my research, I conclude that the real disruption in the PML-N's electoral performance was caused by the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a religious party that emerged as a significant force in the election. TLP, known for its hardline stance on religious issues, particularly the blasphemy law, managed to capture a considerable share of the vote, particularly in constituencies where religious sentiments run high. When analyzing the constituencies where the PML-N lost, it becomes evident that the margin between the winners and the PML-N candidates was often filled by votes that went to the TLP candidates.

This pattern is not confined to a few constituencies but is evident across the board, both in the national and provincial assemblies. The TLP's influence was

particularly noticeable in Punjab, where it managed to secure a significant number of votes, even in constituencies traditionally dominated by the PML-N. Even in constituencies where the PML-N managed to secure victory, the TLP still managed to siphon off a substantial number of votes, thereby weakening the overall strength of the PML-N. This diversion of votes played a critical role in the PML-N's inability to secure a stronger position in the assembly.



M Azam Tariq

The emergence of TLP as a substantial force in the electoral landscape presents a real and growing threat to the PML-N. The PML-N's dominance in Punjab has been crucial for securing federal power, and its ability to maintain this dominance is now being challenged by the TLP. The TLP's appeal to religious sentiments, particularly among

the more conservative segments of the population, has resonated in a way that poses a direct challenge to the PML-N's voter base.

If this trend continues, it could jeopardize the PML-N's ability to maintain its electoral and political significance in future elections. The implications of this shift are profound. The PML-N must recognize that the TLP, with its growing influence and appeal, is not just a passing challenge but a formidable opponent that could reshape the political dynamics in Punjab and beyond. To counter this threat, the PML-N will need to strategize effectively, perhaps by addressing the issues that have led to the TLP's rise and by re-engaging with the voter base that has been drawn towards the TLP.

This may involve addressing the socio-economic and religious concerns that have fueled the TLP's popularity, as well as reasserting the PML-N's commitment to its core values and promises. Without a timely and robust response, the PML-N risks a continued decline, which could ultimately undermine its position in both provincial and national politics. The party's future success will depend on its ability to adapt to the changing political landscape and to counter the influence of emerging forces like the TLP.

Writer is student at University Of Sargodha.

Renewal of the Kartarpur Corridor Agreement

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has announced the renewal of the "Agreement between the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the facilitation of pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan" for an additional period of five years.

Originally signed on 24 October 2019 for a five-year term, the Agreement is set to complete its initial duration on 24 October 2024. Its renewal underscores Pakistan's enduring commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence.

The Agreement continues to offer visa-free access to pilgrims from India enabling them to visit the sacred site of Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, where Baba Guru Nanak, the revered founder of Sikhism, spent his final days. Since its inception, the Corridor has facilitated the pilgrimage of thousands of worshippers to this holy site.

The Kartarpur Corridor fulfills



the long-cherished aspirations of the Sikh community for an access to one of their most revered religious landmarks. It reflects Paki-

stan's recognition of the importance of safeguarding the rights of religious minorities. The initiative has earned widespread appreciation from the

international community, including the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, who described it as a "Corridor of Hope."

Cultural Revival in Pakistani Cinema: Film 'Raja Rasalu' to Hit Screens in 2025

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The film, "Raja Rasalu," written by Irfan Arfi and Waqar Ahmed Fani, is a joint effort of director Faisal Mir and executive producer Mirajuddin. The main cast features Arman Ali Pasha, Shameen Khan, Hooriya Ansari, Adnan Shah Tipu, Kahlan Ali, Ayub Khoso, and Nayyar Ejaz in prominent roles. The team, along with the entire cast, has worked diligently to complete this project, which is further enhanced by music composed by Saji Ali, and songs written by Waqar Fani and Faisal Mir.

The romantic and adventure-packed film "Raja Rasalu," directed by Faisal Mir, has completed shooting, with editing, dubbing, and background music now in the final stages. The movie was filmed in the breathtaking landscapes of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Abbottabad.

The grand unveiling of the historical and cultural film "Raja Rasalu" took place recently at Roden Enclave, where several prominent figures from the film and television industry were



in attendance. Key cast members, including Nayyar Ejaz, Adnan Shah Tipu, Mirajuddin, Mishi Khan, Alia Zahid, Adnan Hameed, and other notable personalities, were present. Attendees were shown select visual excerpts of the film on the big screen, praising Faisal Mir's creative talents. Arman Ali Pasha takes on the lead

role of Raja Rasalu, while Shameen Khan portrays "Rani Koklan." The film is infused with deep emotions and captivating storytelling. Nayyar Ejaz delivers a standout performance as "Raja Sarkap," a key character in the film. Renowned TV star Ayub Khoso plays the role of Raja Rasalu's father, Raja Salbahan, while Kahlan Ali brings

the character of a powerful demon to life. Adnan Shah Tipu also plays an essential role in the film.

Speaking at the event, director Faisal Mir remarked, "Creating 'Raja Rasalu' was a significant challenge, involving authentic sets, props, and location selections that matched the ancient era.

Huawei Cloud Summit UAE 2024: Leap into Intelligence with a Better Cloud Across Middle East

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: During the GITEX Global 2024, Huawei Cloud Summit UAE 2024 was held where Huawei Cloud demonstrated how its industry-leading AI-native cloud drives digitalization and intelligence across various industries in line with the visions of regional governments. Senior Huawei executives also revealed Huawei Cloud's significant progress in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with its public cloud revenue growing 10-fold in the past year.

Under the theme "Leap to Intelligence with a Better Cloud", the summit underscored Huawei Cloud's commitment to boosting digital economy in the region by introducing open, equal, and accessible technologies and cultivating talent. During the event, Huawei Cloud launched its latest products and technical enhancements, and released joint solutions with ecosystem partners. These initiatives aim to introduce proven success in China to the region, turbocharging the development of local industries. The company's efforts have yielded significant results, with Huawei Cloud providing innovative services to over 900 local customers and building a comprehensive ecosystem with more than 300 local partners.

In his keynote, Steven Yi, President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, emphasized, "Achieving a nation's digital strategy requires vision, partnerships, and long-term commitment. Huawei believes in action, focusing on AI, big data, and cloud to drive innovation and help the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa progress toward a smarter future."

Jacqueline Shi, President of Huawei Cloud Global Marketing and Sales Service, delivered a keynote speech virtually using Huawei Cloud's virtual avatar technology. She stated, "Tech innovations built on industry know-how and ecosystems are crucial to digital transformation. On the digital journey, ecosystems matter."

During the event, Joy Huang, Vice President of Huawei Cloud and President of Huawei Cloud Strategy Industry Development, said, "Huawei Cloud has progressed rapidly over the



past year. We couldn't have done it without your support. Our job is to keep innovating to better serve you, with better infrastructure, better technology, and better experience. We aim to become your trusted partner for your digital and intelligent journey." He detailed on the ecosystem services offered by Huawei Cloud to enable digital transformation in various regional industries such as e-government, finance, carrier, media & entertainment, e-commerce & retail, and Web3. Joy also launched the Huawei Cloud Industry Solutions Joint Announcement, an initiative that brings global experience and ecosystem knowledge to the Middle East to support intelligent growth.

During his speech, Hu Yuhai, Vice President of Huawei Hybrid Cloud, highlighted that hybrid cloud has become the go-to foundation for digital transformation in government organizations and large enterprises today. He announced the release of Huawei Cloud Stack 8.5 for the Middle East and Central Asia, including a new Mainframe-to-Cloud Solution and more use cases of Hybrid Cloud for Large AI Models. He shared, "Huawei Cloud Stack provides a top-notch hybrid cloud for government and enterprise customers in the Middle East and Central Asia through more powerful cloud infrastructure, more diverse cloud services, and more extensive industry solutions. Currently, Huawei Cloud Stack provides more than 120 on-premises cloud services and 50 industry scenario-specific solutions.

In the future, we will continue to invest in the hybrid cloud market and work with customers and partners to leap to new horizons and accelerate industrial intelligence."

According to the latest survey conducted by Omdia, a world-renowned consultancy firm, Huawei Cloud has become a key player in the hybrid cloud market of the Middle East. The survey showed that Huawei Cloud Stack was rated in the leadership group in categories, such as infrastructure, cloud architecture, and AI capability, for proactive cloud service experience optimization, for suitability in training AI workloads, and for higher cloud service reliability. Huawei Cloud Stack is highly recognized by many customers. Omdia predicts that government organizations and enterprises across the Middle East will be eager for rapid private cloud and hybrid cloud adoption. Huawei Cloud Stack's leading solutions and compliance with local regulations will further drive this process.

Sebastian Shi, Managing Director of Huawei Cloud UAE, discussed in his keynote the competitiveness of Huawei Cloud in the Middle East and Central Asia region. He stated, "Huawei Cloud is dedicated to delivering innovative solutions, ultimate performance, and reliable customer-centric services to build a better MECA region together with our partners and customers." Together with guests from client companies such as STARZPLAY and Omantel, he shared the proven success of Huawei and customers in various

fields. Another highlight in this section was the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with multiple sales partners, demonstrating strong confidence in future partnerships with Huawei Cloud. Sebastian reiterated that these partnerships are crucial in building a holistic ecosystem that supports the digital transformation journey of businesses and organizations across the region.

The summit also featured industry-specific forums and roundtables, exploring how Huawei Cloud's solutions can address unique challenges and opportunities across different sectors. These sessions provided valuable insights into the practical applications of Huawei Cloud's technologies in various industries, showcasing the company's commitment to fostering innovation and growth across the region. In addition, Cloud Native Elite Club (CNEC), a community initiated by CNCF, CAICT, Huawei Cloud, and industry leaders to advance cloud native and AI technologies, was introduced by William Dong, President of Huawei Cloud Marketing, to Middle East and Central Asia.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz, visited the Huawei stall at GITEX and appreciated the transformational depth of Huawei technologies. He said that the revolutionary advancements in Tech have the capability to grow economies, disrupt industries and solve complex global challenges. To that end AI-powered, secure, scalable and optimised Cloud solutions are essential to translate innovations into meaningful impact. Huawei's latest Cloud offerings are making the latest technology accessible to carriers, SMEs and end-customers in Pakistan and world-over.

As digital transformation continues to accelerate across the Middle East and Central Asia, Huawei continues to provide innovative, secure, and efficient cloud solutions that empower businesses and organizations to thrive in the intelligence era. The company is focused on sharing industry know-how and ecosystem resources to enable digital transformation in industries such as e-government, finance, carrier, media & entertainment, e-commerce & retail, and Web3.

BZU Vice Chancellor's Student Recognition Initiative



Special Correspondent

MULTAN: We are excited to announce the initiation of the Vice Chancellor's Student Recognition Program at Bahauddin Zakariya University! As part of this initiative, our esteemed Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Iqbal, will personally meet the 1st position holder students across various undergraduate and postgraduate programs to celebrate their achievements and inspire them towards further success.

Today, the Vice Chancellor had a meaningful interaction with top-performing students from the Department of Commerce and the Institute of Banking and Finance. He applauded their dedication, awarded them appreciation certificates, and encouraged them to continue their pursuit of excellence. During the meeting, he urged students to get involved in social causes and take the lead in initiating a cleanliness drive, both on campus and in their residential areas.

The Vice Chancellor reminded students, "You are the face of Bahauddin Zakariya University. Always strive for greatness, and remember that the top position is always vacant. With hard work, you can reach new professional and academic heights." He also assured them that his office door is always open and that he will remain in constant touch with the student community.

NIMA-ISSI hold joint seminar on "Challenges to Maritime Trade"



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) Islamabad, in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized 2nd seminar of the series on Blue Economy, titled "Challenges to Maritime Trade". It was centered around regional connectivity initiatives including BRI, global & regional security imperatives, latest technological & climate stimuli, etc.

In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), President NIMA, while welcoming the guests, outlined the key themes of the topic. The Guest of Honor Captain. Naeem Sarfraz, emphasized the importance of inclusion of subject-matter experts in the policymaking hierarchy. He also advised to adopt cheap, safe and green inland water transportation system.

Renowned scholars Dr. Anjum Sarfraz, Dr. Hassan Daud and Dr. Maliha Zeba Khan set the stage for ensuing panel discussions. The panelist included renowned experts, i.e. Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Dr Salma Malik, Dr Faiz Hussain, Dr Khurram Iqbal, and Dr Usman Chohan. They offered further insights into Pakistan's missing links of maritime vision, policy, strategy and its implementation plan. There is a need to interlace maritime diplomacy with global maritime industry. The participants also lauded the efforts of Pak Navy in expanding the scope of 'Exercise Aman' by introducing PIMEC initiative to integrate world maritime industry into the national economy. It was a concerted view that maritime trade generates economic activities, that eventually contributes to national power; therefore, its an established historical fact that trade sprouts the major powers' status.

The Chief Guest, Vice Admiral Ahmad Tasnim HI(M), SJ & BARS. Bt (Retd), appreciated the quality input by all experts. He suggested to the country's economic policy-makers to shift the 'Center of Gravity' of the economy from north to south.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, DG ISSI, in his closing remarks, emphasized the need for long-term all-inclusive strategic planning to address maritime challenges and realize the vast untapped potential in this domain. The event brought together experts from academia, diplomats, practitioners, think-tank experts, and students from various Universities.

IIUI holds condolence reference in honour of Late Dr. N. B. Jumani



ISLAMABAD: A heartfelt condolence reference was held in honor of the late Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani, former Vice President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), where prominent figures paid glowing tributes to his invaluable contributions to education, curriculum development, distance learning, progress of university and research. Speakers fondly remembered his lifelong dedication to the promotion of knowledge, his affectionate personality, and his unwavering commitment to hard work.

Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), highlighted Dr. Jumani's unwavering honesty towards the teaching profession. "His students' praise, both during his life and now after his passing, is a testament to his success," he said, praying for Dr. Jumani's eternal peace.

Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, President of IIUI, expressed profound sorrow at the irreparable loss. He remarked that Dr. Jumani's departure has left a void that will never be filled. "He was a man of updated knowledge and innovation," said Dr. Sarwar, emphasizing that his life remains a source of inspiration for academicians, administrators, and leaders. He added that after Dr. Jumani's passing, many came forward to share how his influence had positively impacted their lives. In an emotional address, Abdul Karim Bux Jumani, the brother of the late Dr. Jumani, shared the grief felt by the family, but stressed the importance of patience during this difficult time, saying that we all belong to Allah.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
86,466.57	86,057.51
Day's High	Day's Low
86,846.03	86,294.69
Index Value	Change
16,091,644,695	+409.06
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	22 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,306.54	-11.70
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	22 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,938.30	+6.70
Percentage	Time
+0.016%	22 Oct, 12:45 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,411.96	-542.64
Percentage	Time
-1.39%	22 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	187.91
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.35	202.75
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	298.05	300.80
Hong Kong Dollar	35.3	35.65
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.37	906.87
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.96	25.26
Omani Riyal	715.71	724.21
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.15
Saudi Riyal	73.55	74.10
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	319.39	322.19
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	358.10	361.6
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

Senator Rubina Khalid Meets ADB Country Director Emma Fan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan, today at BISP headquarters. The meeting focused on promoting a future partnership between BISP and ADB, identifying key sectors for skill training of deserving families, facilitating international certifications, providing overseas job opportunities, and strengthening coordination with provincial poverty graduation programs and awareness campaigns for deserving women were also discussed.

On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that BISP is currently providing financial support to 9.3 million deserving families, a



number expected to rise to 10 million by the end of the year. To further economically empower these families, BISP is initiating a skill training program. She emphasized the importance of acquiring international certifications to help beneficiaries secure employment abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also stressed the need to link existing provincial-level poverty graduation and skill development programs with BISP.

Country Director Emma Fan assured ADB's full support in enhancing BISP's efforts to uplift deserving families and strengthen the ongoing partnership. Both parties agreed to hold further consultations to identify suitable sectors for skill training and to develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing key initiatives, including raising awareness among deserving women.

SAHA Expo

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting SAHA Expo in Istanbul Turkiye on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

NEPRA issues decision on KE's generation tariff petition for the period post June 2023

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) vide its decision dated 22 October 2024 has issued KE's generation tariff petition for the control period post 2023, which was submitted in December 2022.

It must be noted that this determination will not affect electricity rates charged to consumers, which is governed under the uniform tariff policy implemented across Pakistan.

This decision marks a significant milestone for K-Electric towards realizing its comprehensive investment plan 2030 that entails company's efforts to reduce losses in transmission and distribution, drive growth in its customer base, and bolster

the power utility's infrastructure to meet current demands and future needs.

While KE is evaluating the complete and extensive determination issued by NEPRA, the utility has observed the approved tariff structure includes some reductions, particularly pertaining to Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs, Return on Equity (RoE), and a redefined control period.

The company is actively engaged with the honorable Regulatory Authority to ensure that these changes align with a vision to build a stable, sustainable energy ecosystem. KE also remains engaged with NEPRA for earliest finalization of Tariffs for the Distribution, Transmission and supply tariff along with investment plan review.

Pak-Qatar Group and Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan join hands

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aims to develop the skills and knowledge in Takaful and Islamic financial services, ensuring alignment with regulatory standards and ethical practices.

PQG will gain access to expert opinions and solutions for financial market issues, a forum for discussions on topics relevant to government entities and regulators in Pakistan, IFMP's information repositories, and consulting services on financial market matters.

Mr. Waqas Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating: "We are pleased to collaborate with IFMP and are



excited to access their pool of talented individuals with expert knowledge on financial markets to our human capital. This is part of our initiatives to continuously move forward to provide the best Islamic financial solutions to our customers as Pak-Qatar

Group is committed to providing expertise for making financial decisions to our customers for their secure financial future along with technology based innovative products and services with industry best customer services."

Dawlance wins Gold Award at 'Dragons of Asia' 2024 Event

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading brand of Home-Appliances-Dawlance has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award at the Dragons of Asia 2024, for its impactful Father's Day campaign: "Dawlance ka SALAAM, ACHAY FATHERS ke naam." (Dawlance Salutes Good Fathers). Following its success at the Dragons of Pakistan, Dawlance achieved this significant milestone by competing against top campaigns from across the Asian region.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance, Umar Ahsan Khan, expressed his delight at winning this coveted award, stating: "I am grateful to the 'Dragons



of Asia' forum for this honor & award, which is a testament to the creativity and dedication of the Dawlance team. Our brand remains committed to promoting family values, care, and affection for strengthening relationships across all segments of society."

Since 2000, the Dragons of Asia have recognized the best results-driven marketing communication campaigns, evaluating the marketing activities of leading enterprises and advertising agencies across Asia.

SECP & PSX Host IPO Roundtable 2024 in Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), in a collaborative effort, held the IPO Roundtable 2024 in Lahore, themed, 'Empowering the Future of Capital Markets'. This roundtable was convened following the success of the IPO Summit held in Karachi in January 2024. The focus of the roundtable was to generate awareness among growth-driven private companies on how they can leverage the capital markets (IPO) to achieve their vision of growth, expansion, diversification, and corporatisation.

Key capital market stakeholders, including business leaders, market participants & Consultants to the Issue, investment banking professionals, regulators and potential issuers (totaling 30 companies) participated in the roundtable. Prominent participants included Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP; Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich, Commissioner SECP, and team members from the Securities Market Division of the

SECP. Mr. Ahmed Chinoy H. I. S. L., Board member PSX, led the team from PSX. The CTIs at the conference were led by the top management of AKD Securities Limited, Arif Habib Limited, Next Capital Limited, Integrated Equities Limited and Topline Securities Limited. The (new and old) listed companies from Lahore region present at the conference included leadership from Fast Cables Limited, Hi Tech Lubricants Limited, Honda Atlas Cars, Pak Electron Limited (PEL), and Packages Limited, among others.

Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, in his welcome address, highlighted that the capital market provides flexible, efficient, and cost-effective solutions to businesses pursuing debt and equity capital raising options depending on their needs. He discussed the regulatory measures and responded to queries regarding ease of listing from a regulatory perspective.

Mr. Ahmed Chinoy, Board member PSX, added, "It is indeed a step in the right direction that after the successful convening of the IPO Summit in



Karachi earlier this year, we are now holding this important IPO Roundtable in Lahore. IPOs are much more than just a means for companies to raise funds. The transition from private to public market status represents a significant milestone in any company's journey, offering access to a broader pool of capital and the prospect of increasing corporate

governance & transparency. Today's session gives us a unique opportunity to explore how we can further unlock this potential by addressing the challenges that companies face when considering going public."

Ms. Raeda Latif, Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer at PSX, gave a presentation of the

briefing to the attendees of the conference, on the benefits of listing for the companies themselves and for the economy as a whole.

In the concluding remarks, Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich, Commissioner SECP, emphasized the importance of early adoption of corporate governance structures as the companies begin their journey of listing and progress going forward.

CCP and PBS sign MoU for Enhanced Data Sharing at National Data Fest 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation and improve data utilization. The MoU was formalized at the inaugural National Data Fest-2024, held at the Pak China Friendship Centre.

Dr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, graced the event as the Chief Guest, accompanied by esteemed officials including Lt-Gen Muneer Afsar, Chairman NADRA, Mr. Awais Manzoor Sumra, Secretary Planning, and Dr. Naem Uz Zafar, Chief Statistician. Key representatives from various Federal and Provincial Ministries were also in attendance.

Addressing the event, Dr. Ahsan Iqbal stated, "2024 is an important year for Pakistan, where we are defining our future direction. He highlighted the importance of providing reliable, quality data for informed decision-making and technological advancement. Dr. Iqbal stressed the need for policy continuity and stability to ensure sustainable economic development and keep pace with global progress.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Kabir Ahmad Sidhu, Chairman CCP, and Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member PBS. The agreement aims to promote efficient data sharing and in-depth analysis, supporting evidence-based decision-making. Market data is important for CCP as it helps identify potential collusions, price manipulations, and cartels. The MoU will enhance CCP's ability to monitor and analyse market data across sectors, boosting its capacity to detect anti-competitive practices.

In the past, the CCP used to collect evidence using traditional methods such as dawn raids and inquiries from market etc. However, with the establishment of the Market Intelligence Unit (MIU), the CCP now employs modern detection techniques to proactively monitor abuse of dominant positions, cartelization, deceptive marketing, and mergers. MIU uses market data to keep surveillance of the various sectors of the economy.

Pakistan, England optimistic to put up a good show in 3rd Test

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: With the third and final Test between England and Pakistan just around the corner, both teams are gearing up for an intense battle in the third Test beginning Thursday at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi.

England batter Harry Brook expressed his optimism about the pitch, saying, "I think it'll be like any other Pakistani pitch, good to bat on for the first few days, and then we can expect turn later in the game," he said in a press conference at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Brook, who scored 317 runs in the first Test, remains hungry for more. "I'd love to play a big part in this game."

Brook acknowledged the threat posed by Pakistan's spin duo, Sajid Khan and Noman Ali, saying, "Both can play a massive part in their team this week (3rd Test)."

He drew confidence from England's previous win in Rawalpindi, stating, "We'll bring that momentum into this game and put on a good performance."

Pakistan's Test team vice-captain Saud Shakeel emphasized the team's renewed morale after their comeback win in the second Test.

"We'll try to repeat the same game plan in this game," Shakeel praised Noman Ali's experience and expected contributions similar to those in the second Test.



To a question, he said Mir Hamza is nursing a right gluteal niggle and has also missed practice for the past two days.

Shakeel observed the weather difference between Multan and Rawalpindi, noting, "It's hot and humid in Multan, whereas Rawalpindi favors fast bowlers." However, he anticipates spin on the Pindi

pitch. He also emphasized the importance of adapting to spinners in different series and matches.

The stage is set for an enthralling encounter, with both teams eager to claim the series. Both teams also conducted a rigorous practice session at the Pindi Stadium to gear up for the

third Test.

The series is poised at 1-1, following two thrilling Tests in Multan. England dominated the first Test, securing a convincing innings and 47-run victory. Meanwhile, Pakistan bounced back strongly in the second Test, winning by 152 runs.

Four more matches decided in Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink Tournament

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Four more matches were decided on the second day of the Lahore Smart City Polo in Pink Tournament at Lahore Polo Club on Tuesday.

The matches attracted a large crowd of spectators and families. The event was graced by the presence of Lahore Polo Club President Malik Azam Hayat Noon, Executive Committee members, Secretary Lt Col (Retd) Aamir, and several former players.

In the first match of the day, FG/Din Polo defeated Lahore Smart City by 10-7. For FG/Din Polo, Raja Mikail Sami scored five goals, Mian Abbas Mukhtar and Rafi Sheikh each scored two, while Sahar Yaghoobi added one goal. For Lahore Smart City, Agha Musa Ali Khan smashed in five goals, while Farooq Amin Soofi and Bilal Hai contributed one goal each.



In the second match, SQ Seagold outpaced One Degree, winning 9-4. English player

Charlotte Sweeney fired in four goals for the winning side, while Azam Hayat Noon and Taimur

Moazzam added two goals each. Adil Rao thrashed in two goals for One Degree, with the team

also benefiting from a two-goal handicap advantage.

The third match of the day was won by Guard Group/Zacky Farms, who defeated Black Horse Paints 8-5. Shah Qubilai Alam led Guard Group/Zacky Farms with superb six goals, while Taimur Ali Malik and Ahmed Bilal Riaz each scored one goal. For Black Horse Paints, Shah Shamil Alam hammered three goals, and Chaudhary Hassan Mansoor added two.

The fourth and last match of the day saw Platinum Homes emerge victorious over Diamond Paints with a 7-5 win. Bilal Noon converted three goals for Platinum Homes, while Lt Col (R) Omar Minhas and Emelia scored two each. For Diamond Paints, Raja Jalal Arsalan scored four goals, and Mir Shoab Ahmed added one. On Wednesday (Oct 23, 2024), four more important matches will be played at the Lahore Polo Club.

Sports Endowment Fund key to welfare of athletes

Tahir Amin Malik

Secretary Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over an important meeting to discuss different features of Sports Endowment Fund at the Punjab Stadium on Tuesday.

DG Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, Additional Secretary Usman Ali, General Manager Pension Fund Ashab Naeem, Director Sports Yashmeen Akhtar, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials also attended the key meeting.

DG Youth Affairs Punjab presented an in-depth briefing regarding the multiple usages of Punjab Sports Endowment



Fund during the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Secretary Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the

establishment of Sports Endowment Fund is definitely a revolutionary measure and it will play a key role in the welfare of the

players. "This factor ultimately will prove to be very helpful in the development of sports culture across the province."

He informed that a profit of over Rs 240 million has been obtained from Rs 2 billion Sports Endowment Fund. "The money from the Sports Endowment Fund will be spent on the development of the sports culture and welfare of athletes across the province," he elaborated.

Pervez Iqbal on this occasion said that an appraisal committee has also been formed regarding the Sports Endowment Fund. "There is no doubt that the Punjab Sports Endowment Fund will play a vital role in enhancing the national and international sports achievements of our athletes," he added.

India assistant coach provides update on Rishabh Pant's injury

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ryan ten Doeschate, the assistant coach of India, on Tuesday expressed hope that wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant will achieve full fitness ahead of the second Test against New Zealand.

Pant made a valiant 99 in the opening loss to the Kiwis, marking the visitors' first Test victory in India since 1988.

But while keeping wickets, he hurt the same knee that was operated on after a serious car crash in December 2022 that sidelined him for more than a year.

His fitness remains in focus as the hosts look to level the three-match series in the Test starting Thursday in Pune.

"Rishabh's pretty good," Ryan ten Doeschate told reporters. "He was having a little bit of discomfort at the end range of his movement with the knee. But fingers crossed he'll be good to keep in



this Test as well."

Rishabh Pant, 27, has made a remarkable comeback from the night his

Mercedes rammed into a barrier, flipped and caught fire near New Delhi.

He was left with a damaged ligament

in his right knee, a hurt wrist and ankle and abrasions to his back, and laboured through an intensive rehabilitation programme.

India were bowled out for 46 in the opening match before Pant helped lead the fightback in a 177-run partnership with Sarfaraz Khan, who hit 150 after coming in for Shubman Gill.

Sarfaraz's first Test ton has left India weighing a problem of plenty, with Gill set to return in the second match and management backing senior batsman KL Rahul, who has struggled with patchy batting form.

"There's certainly no concerns about KL," said ten Doeschate. "He's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space, but yeah, we're certainly going to have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to be best for the team."

PCB Regional Inter Club Cricket Tournament (Karachi Region)

Muhammad Hussain CC, Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues qualify for Semi Final

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Muhammad Hussain Cricket Club and Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues

Moved into Semi Final of the PCB Inter Club Cricket Tournament (Karachi Region) after beating their opponents at various cricket grounds.

Scores in Brief:

Muhammad Hussain CC beat Faisal Gymkhana by 6 wickets at Naya Nazimabad Stadium. Faisal Gymkhana 201/9 in 40 overs. Muhammad Afzal 84 10x4 1x6, Arsalan Farzand 22, Hassan Jawed 20. Touheed Khan (sla) 3/45, Farhan Nasir 2/21. Aqib Rizvi 2/21. Yasir Hussain 2/52.

Muhammad Hussain Cricket Club 202/4 in 31 overs. Aqib Rizvi unbeaten 92 10x4 1x6, Sohail Khan 74 5x4 6x6, Shah Ali Zafar 16. Yasir Mushtaq 2/30.

In the fourth Quarter Final Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues defeated Airport Gymkhana by 6 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Airport Gymkhana 122 all out in 29.4 overs. Khairullah 47 1x4 5x6, Muhammad Umar Shaikh 28, Zubair Dilawar 26, Ahmed Khan 23. Fawad Khan (sla) 3/22, Saif Yamin 2/10, Zafar Ali 2/24, Naeem Gull 2/26.

Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues 123/3 in 20 overs. Muhammad Majeed 42 2x4 4x6. Qadir Khan 35, Mehood Shah 23. Ahmed Khan 2/27.

Pakistan Cricket Club will meet Dawood Sports in the first Semi Final at KCCA Stadium today Wednesday.

LCWU beat PU to win HEC-PCB intervarsity T20 title



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) women beat Punjab University women by six runs in the final of HEC-PCB All Pakistan Women Cricket T20 Intersports tournament 2024-25 at the Ghani Glass grounds, DHA here on Tuesday.

The LCWU scored 127-8 in 20 overs while the PU women could score 121-6 in the chase. Tuba Hassan was adjudged player of the match for her all-round performance. She hit 63 runs while picked one wicket.

The LCWU clinched their 7th consecutive HEC intersports title.

Vice Chancellor, LCWU, Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi and COO PCB Salman Naseer were the guests at the final.

In her remarks, Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi congratulated the winning team and said, "LCWU's triumph demonstrates our commitment to promoting women's cricket and education. We're proud to have hosted this historic event."

PCB's Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket Junaid Zia praised the participating universities and said,

"PCB is dedicated to developing women's cricket in Pakistan. This tournament showcases the talent and potential of our young players."

Salman Naseer, PCB's Chief Operating Officer, added: "We're thrilled to see the growth of women's cricket in Pakistan. LCWU's 7th title win is a testament to their hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing these talented players represent Pakistan globally."

PFF Referee Course concludes



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalization Committee has successfully concluded the PFF Referee Refresher and Talent Hunt Course 2024, in Sialkot.

Sponsored by DFA Sialkot, the event was organized to enhance the skills of referees and identify promising new talent to contribute to the future of football officiating in Pakistan, said a press release.

The four-day course provided comprehensive training and skill development opportunities for both experienced referees and aspiring individuals.

The course was led by Khurram Shahzad, PFF's Refereeing Manager, with instructor Waheed Murad who guided participants through various aspects of officiating, helping them gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and challenges that come with refereeing at different levels of the game.

England name XI for 3rd Test



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: England have confirmed their Playing XI for the third Test against Pakistan, set to take place on Thursday at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi.

There are two changes from the second Test in Multan. Seamer Gus Atkinson returns and leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed is named for the first time since the Test match against India in Rajkot back in February. Durham pair Brydon Carse and Matthew Potts both miss out.

England's XI for the third Test: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (C), Jamie Smith, Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmed, Jack Leach and Shoab Bashir.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam calls on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters on Tuesday.



PM for immediate relief aid to Palestine, Lebanon through land, aerial routes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to immediately dispatch two planeloads of relief goods to Gaza and Lebanon and called for using both land and aerial routes for the aid supply.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief activities for Palestine and Lebanon, asked for improving coordination with Pakistan's

ambassadors in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt to ensure a better supply of relief goods.

Stressing for an accelerated pace of relief aid, he called for ensuring that the relief goods reached the deserving people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated the PM Fund for Gaza and Lebanon with Account No. IBAN: PK11SBPD00000111114292. He

also instructed the relevant authorities to run an awareness drive to acquaint the people with the Relief Fund established by the government.

In the briefing on the relief activities, the prime minister was told that relief goods including winter tents, clothes, blankets, medicines and eatables were being dispatched for the people suffering the Israeli barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon.

It was told that the Israeli attacks and siege were impeding the supply of

relief goods to the affected areas.

The meeting was told that the government would also facilitate the NGOs desiring to send relief aid to Gaza and Lebanon.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, and Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Shiza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, chairmen of the Higher Education Commission, and National Disaster Management Authority and senior officers attended the meeting.

Approaches discussed to access int'l capital markets, external creditors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's delegation, currently attending the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in the United States, met with Alvarez & Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services wherein approaches were discussed through which Pakistan could access the international capital markets and external creditors.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb is leading Pakistani delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

Other delegates include, Finance Secretary, Imdad



Ullah Bosal; Secretary Niaz and Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad. The Pakistani delegation held meeting with the repre-

sentatives of Alvarez & Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services, comprising Managing Director and Global Practice Leader, Dr. Reza Baqir; Division Executive for Sovereign Advisory Services, Peter Briggs and Thibaud Fourcade.

Alvarez & Marsal team congratulated Pakistan on the successful conclusion of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with IMF.

Approaches discussed to access int'l capital markets, external creditors

The team outlined the steps needed for the country to chart an accelerated path to capital markets following a well-sequenced strategy and deliberated on ways to restore access to internal international capital markets and external creditors..

CM chairs 18th cabinet meeting, takes measures for environmental protection

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 18th meeting of the provincial cabinet to discuss and decide on important agenda items including historical measures for environmental improvement.

The Cabinet approved amendments in the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965 to increase fine for vehicles that emit smoke. It was briefed that a vehicle operating without a Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be fined and impounded after a one-time notice.

The Cabinet also approved a historic initiative to eliminate environmental pollution, and to introduce single-use plastic culture in Punjab. It also gave approval to set up District Plastic Management Committees to address enforcement issues. DCs and DPOs will be chairpersons of District Plastic Management Committees while traders and other relevant authorities will be their members.

The District Plastic Management Committees will have the power to impose fines to ensure implementation of plastic elimination campaign. They will also have the power to seal



factories manufacturing non-standard and environmentally non-friendly plastic bags besides lowering the registration and renewal fee of a quality and environment-friendly plastic bag manufacturing factory. The Cabinet also gave approval to recruit 310 Environment Inspectors besides approving the purchase of 250 e-bikes and a Standard Uniform for them.

The Cabinet approved the estab-

lishment of Punjab Examination, Curriculum, Training and Assessment Authority (PECTAA) besides approving CM Punjab laptop scheme. Madam Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to give laptops to students as soon as possible.

The Provincial Cabinet gave approval to Khelta Punjab Games 2024 (Under 16 Talent Hunt Programme).

It was briefed that more than one lakh 15 thousand players have been registered for Khelta Punjab Games, and 6,000 youths will be given internship in sports department at Rs 25,000 per month. It was also apprised that private universities will provide 50 young athletes with free education along with sports facilities.

The cabinet approved Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Card for Small Farmers, and set a target of producing 2 lakh animals per year, besides extending the scheme to big farmers too. It approved an Act 2024 for the establishment of 3 new authorities in Punjab: Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water & Sanitation Authority and Punjab Horticulture Authority.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to issue festival card for Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab, under which Rs 10,000 will be given to 2200 families on the occasion of Baba Guru Nanak's birthday and Diwali.

The Cabinet also approved to open technical universities in Punjab besides approving recruitment to Grade 1-15 Vacancies in Wildlife Park Joharabad.

PM lauds Pakistan Navy for foiling smuggling of Indian narcotics pills, drugs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauded the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy for foiling an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of Indian-made narcotics pills and drugs.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the Pakistan Navy was not only safeguarding the maritime boundaries of Pakistan but also playing an effective role in curbing illegal activities in the region.

The whole nation, including me, feels proud of the Pakistan Navy's officers and personnel deployed to safeguard the country's maritime



boundaries.

26th Constitutional Amendment challenged in Supreme Court, SHC

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: The 26th Constitutional Amendment, recently passed in Pakistan, is facing significant legal challenges in the Supreme Court and the Sindh High Court. Lawyers argue the amendment undermines the independence of the judiciary and violates fundamental rights.

In the Supreme Court, a petition filed by Muhammad Anas, represented by his counsel, seeks to have the amendment declared null and void. The petition argues that while

parliament has the power to amend the constitution with a two-thirds majority, it lacks the authority to dictate judicial matters.

The amendment, according to the petition, alters the process of appointing the Chief Justice, effectively placing this power in the hands of the government. The petitioner contends this violates fundamental rights and judicial independence, requesting the court to declare the amendment unconstitutional. The federal government is named as a respondent in this case.

Tarar offers Fateha for late mother of DG IP Wing, Ashiq Sheikh

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar offered Fateha on Tuesday for the soul of the late mother of Ashiq Hussain Sheikh, Director General of the Internal Publicity Wing, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Expressing his heartfelt condolences to DG IP Wing Ashiq Hussain Sheikh, he noted that there is no substitute for a remarkable person like a mother. The minister described her passing as an irreparable loss and a profound shock to the bereaved family.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to



grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to provide the family with the strength to endure this loss with fortitude.

Also present at the occasion were Prime Minister's Media Coordinator Badr Shahbaz Waraich, Federal Information Secretary Ambrin Jan, and Principal Information Officer Mubasher Hassan.

FBR makes major announcement for late filers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced that it will add the names of late income tax return filers to the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) upon payment of a specified surcharge.

This change comes following the issuance of S. R. O.1638(I)/2024, which amends the Income Tax Rules.

According to the new notification, individuals who file their income tax returns for the most recent tax year by the original or extended due date set by the Commissioner or the

Board will be included in the ATL.

The "latest tax year" is defined as the most recently completed tax year prior to the filing date, and may also include the previous year if the deadline for that year has not yet passed.

For those who submit their returns after the designated due date, inclusion in the ATL is contingent on the payment of a specified surcharge as outlined in section 182A of the Income Tax Ordinance.

Additionally, companies or associations formed after June 30 of the relevant tax year will also be eligible for inclusion in the ATL, provided their returns are not yet due.

Woman arrested for spreading false information in 'fake' Lahore rape case

Bureau Report

A woman has been arrested and charged in spreading false information about the "fake" rape case in a private college, in Lahore.

The accused, identified as Sarah Khan, allegedly claimed on social media that she was the mother of the affected student. This prompted the police to file a case against her at Gulberg Police Station. The charges included violations under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes

Act, 2016, among other legal provisions.

An officer of Police Service of Pakistan, Muhammad Imran Khan, filed the complaint, stating that the woman's claims were unfounded. In a video, she asserted that the victim was her daughter, further complicating the situation.

Authorities are currently conducting raids to locate and apprehend the accused, with police officials indicating that her arrest is imminent.