

### President appoints Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday appointed Justice Yahya Afridi, a Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan. The president made the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi for a period of three years with effect from October 26, 2024



### Pakistan reports 40th polio case of 2024

Pakistan reported another polio case as a child from Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been confirmed to be affected with the virus. A two-and-a-half-year-old child belonging to Dara Adamkhel has been infected with Type-1 of the poliovirus, the NIH sources said. This is Kohat's second instance of polio this year; earlier this month, another district child was found to have contracted the virus. Four sewage samples taken from Kohat have been found to contain poliovirus.

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## Bright future ahead

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with students of Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their medical education on Wednesday



Photo: PID

# Attackers kill 4, injure 14 at Turkish state aviation site



Reuters

ANAKRA: Four people were killed and 14 others wounded in what the government called a terrorist attack at the Turkish Aerospace Industries' (TUSAS) headquarters on Wednesday, after witnesses said they had heard gunfire and an explosion at the site near Ankara. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said two attackers were killed in the attack, adding three of the injured are in critical condition. TV broadcasters showed footage of armed assailants entering the TUSAS building.

"Two terrorists were neutralised in the terror attack on the TUSAS Ankara Kahramankazan site. Sadly, we have 3 martyrs and 14 wounded in the attack," Yerlikaya said.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, alongside Russia's Vladimir Putin at a BRICS

conference in the Russian city of Kazan, condemned the attack and accepted Putin's condolences. NATO, the United States and the European Union also condemned the attack.

The cause of the blast and perpetrators of the attack remained unclear. No group had claimed responsibility. Prosecutors have launched an investigation, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Some media reports claimed a suicide attack had occurred and that there were hostages inside the building, though officials have not confirmed this.

Witnesses told Reuters that employees inside the building were taken by authorities to shelters and no one was permitted to leave for a few hours. They said the blasts they heard may have taken place at different exits as employees were leaving work for

### President Zardari, PM strongly condemn Ankara terrorist attack

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in tragic loss of lives.

The president extended his deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Türkiye during this hour of grief. President Secretariat Press Wing said in press release.

The president said that Pakistan stood in full solidarity with the Turkish brothers and sisters in this difficult time.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this cowardly attack, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured," he added.

The president said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was a global menace and Pakistan, having endured the scourge of terrorism, understood the pain and suffering caused by such brutal acts.

lot, as well as attackers carrying assault rifles and backpacks as they entered the building. Ambulances and helicopters later arrived. TUSAS is Turkey's largest aerospace manufacturer, currently producing a training craft, combat and civilian helicopters, as well as developing the country's first indigenous fighter jet, KAA. Owned by the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation and government, it employs more than 10,000 people.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte condemned the attack and said the military alliance would stand with its ally Turkey.



He emphasized that terrorists were enemies of peace and humanity, reiterating the need for united efforts by the international community to eradicate the scourge of terrorism and ensure a secure future for all nations.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep shock and sadness over a terrorist attack in Ankara.

The prime minister strongly condemned the dastardly act and prayed for the families of the victims as well as speedy recovery of the injured.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to my dear brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan & the people of Türkiye. Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with our Turkish brothers," the prime minister posted on X handle.

## PM welcomes Palestinian students to their 'second home'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, while lamenting the silence of the international community to halt genocide in Gaza, assured the Palestinian students of every possible facility and quality education in their 'second home' Pakistan.

Addressing a batch of Palestinian students from the war-torn Gaza, the prime minister said that a batch of 'shining and outstanding students', have now arrived in their second home.

He said the ongoing massacre of Palestinians was known to the entire world. "It is heart-wrenching to watch brutalities and atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on daily basis. They have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians while thousands had been maimed and injured," he added.

The prime minister said that cities after cities had been demolished, buildings razed to the ground and the international community had yet to act, and regretted, "Speeches, resolutions and commitments are still to see the light of the day. Whether these were UNSC resolutions or ICJA' verdict at the Hague, nothing has helped in bringing ceasefire in Gaza where the world had not seen this kind of carnage in the contemporary history."

The prime minister recalled that during his participation in the United Nations General Assembly session, they heard speeches after speeches of the world leaders about the plight of the Palestinians and as to how Israeli forces had been committing genocide in this part of the world, but the blood continued to spill on the streets of Gaza, hospitals were smashed, schools bombard and the world was mere a spectator.

The prime minister referred to the international community's interference to bring about peace in different parts of the world including Sudan and Bosnia.

In Bosnia, he said, cries were finally heard after a large number of Muslim population was martyred there. The mass graves were unearthed and finally, the global community came to realization, he added.

The prime minister said that it was not just a gathering of the students but of a family.

He also thanked all the stakeholders under Gaza Health Outreach programme including Al Khidmat Foundation.

The prime minister said that they would welcome other Palestinian students on their soil and in this regard, he had already issued directives to the relevant authorities.

He reassured that the cost of their education would be borne by the government.

## Pakistan condemns terrorist attack in Türkiye

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned a cowardly attack on the facilities of Turk Havachik ve Uzay Sanayii AS (TUSAS) in Ankara, Türkiye resulting in multiple casualties.

"We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

The Government of Pakistan reaffirmed its unwavering support for Türkiye's efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism and stood in solidarity with the brotherly people of Türkiye.

"We are confident that the brave Turkish nation, with its characteristic grit and determination, will defeat the menace of terrorism," it was further added.

## Bushra's release delayed despite court order

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has granted bail to Bushra Bibi, wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, in the Toshakhana case. However, her release has been delayed due to the unavailability of the special judge to issue the release order.

Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb of the IHC heard the case today. The court ordered the submission of two surety bonds of 10 million rupees each. The prosecution, represented by FIA prosecutor Amir Majeed, argued that gifts received by public office holders are state property unless legally purchased. They contended that the case relates to gifts that were not properly declared.

The court questioned why Bushra Bibi was implicated if she did not receive the gifts herself. The prosecution responded

that it was because Imran Khan, the PTI founder, held public office at the time. Justice Aurangzeb noted that the accurate valuation of Toshakhana gifts can only be determined through auction.



He drew a comparison to a British Prime Minister who also took gifts home, stating that while rules may have been followed, there is also a matter of public perception and propriety.

The court also inquired about the

implications if the gifts were returned. The prosecution explained that while plea bargaining exists under the NAB law, there's no such provision in this specific case.

After hearing arguments, the court approved Bushra Bibi's bail application and ordered her release. However, the release order could not be issued due to the absence of Special Judge Central Shah Rukh Arjumand. The inability to secure the release order was further compounded by the leave of absence of the duty judge, Humayun Dilawar.

PTI lawyers spent the day attempting to submit the surety bonds and secure her release, but the court adjourned before the process could be completed. Attempts to obtain the release order from Administrative Judge Raja Jawad Abbas were also unsuccessful as he had already left for the day.

## Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to skip new CJP's oath taking ceremony

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah will depart for Makkah on Thursday to perform Umrah. He is expected to return after the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Sources indicate that Justice Shah will be unable to attend the farewell reference for outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and the swearing-in ceremony of the incoming Chief Justice, Justice Yahya Afridi.

He will be traveling with his family and is scheduled to

return on November 1. A full court reference will be held on October 25 in honor of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, with Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi also addressing the event.

President Asif Ali Zardari will administer the oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan on October 26 at 11:00 AM in a ceremony at the President's House, with 300 guests in attendance.

Justice Shah's absence will mean he will miss both the farewell and swearing-in events.

# 16th Sirat-un-Nabi Conference ends in Kotli

Abdul Majeed Tahir

KOTLI: The 16th Sirat-ul-Nabi Conference organized by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Boys Association has concluded here today. In the conference, inter-district competitions of Husn e Recitation, Husan e Naat, Haasan Kalam and Biography were held. On the second and last day of the conference, the conference was presided over by Minister of Wildlife and Fisheries Sardar Javed Ayub, while Ministers Zafar Iqbal Malik and Javed Iqbal Badhanvi and Secretary Education Schools Razak Nadeem were the special guests and distributed shields among the winners. Minister of Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik said that the Creator of the Earth and Lord Almighty has made the Messenger of God a perfect and good example for the human race and he has declared the way of the Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, as a natural way.



Nations that forget the sacrifices of their forefathers fade away. There is a long story and struggle behind our freedom. The teachers are requested to tell the children about the importance of Independence Day on October 24. Today we have our own assembly, our own Supreme Court and High Court, our own flag due to the independence of the independent region. The work of the base camp government is to fight for the freedom of Occupied Kashmir.

Our independent time is not complete until Occupied Kashmir becomes independent on October 24. We have to celebrate the sacrifices of our forefathers across Azad Kashmir. Ceremonies should be organized in all educational institutions and the new generation should be told their history. He said that a stable Pakistan is the guarantor of our freedom. Minister for

Wildlife and Fisheries Sardar Javed Ayub while addressing the conference said that participation in such conferences is a matter of great fortune, it refreshes the soul and mind.

Secretary Education Schools Razak Nadeem while speaking said that participation in this conference is a blessing for everyone. Scouts is an international movement whose work is

character building. There are currently 242 Scout organizations in the world. Our education policy also includes character building of children. All Muslims read the interpretation of the Qur'an and study the hadiths. Literacy rate is 77%, education policy is given, ranking of schools is released. Azad Kashmir has come first in the United Nations HDI report he disclosed.

*Murad says PPP leadership from its founder to Chairman Bilawal continue to be the voice of people of Kashmir*



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the PPP leadership, from Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and from President Asif Ali Zardari to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has always been the voice of the oppressed people of occupied Kashmir.

He said this while meeting with a delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by its Convenor Ghulam Mohammad Safi. The delegation members included Advocate Parvaiz Ahmed, Hameed Lone, Syed Aijaz Shah, and Majeed Shaikh. Provincial Ministers Saeed Ghani and Zia Lanjar were also present at the meeting.

The delegation convenor said that the Indian government deployed their forces in Kashmir on October 27, 1947, and began occupying the region. He also shared that the APHC plans to organise a program on October 27 in the city and extended an invitation to the PPP to attend the program.

The Hurriyat delegation informed the CM that they would also invite other political parties to demonstrate unity on the Kashmir issue. At this, the CM said that his party and leadership have always supported the Kashmir issue.

He said that it was Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who took the Kashmir issue to the United Nations, resulting in resolutions for the resolution of issue., Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto obtained the status of Observer to the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in the OIC.

Mr. Shah said that President Asif Zardari always kept the Kashmir issue alive and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari continues to be the voice for the people of Kashmir. He confirmed that his party would participate in the APHC program.

*KPK Food Safety Authority successfully concludes seven-day free mobile food testing campaign*



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

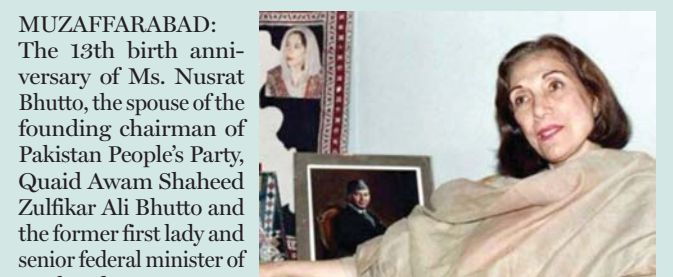
TAKHT BHAI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Successfully Concludes Seven-Day Free Mobile Food Testing Campaign. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFSA) has successfully concluded a seven-day free mobile food testing campaign across the province. During the campaign, 848 samples of various food items, including milk, water, oil and ghee, spices, vinegar, tea leaves, salt, and beverages, were collected and tested on the spot using mobile food testing laboratories. Campaign Details: Total samples collected: 848 Samples collected by division, Peshawar: 255, Mardan 121, Bannu: 81, Dera Ismail Khan, 63 Kohat: 55 Hazarah: 110 Malakand, 16, Test results, Satisfactory: 664, Substandard, 184, Types of samples tested, Milk: 332, Water: 156, Beverages, 30, Spice 49 Tea leaves 78, Oil and ghee 78, Salt: 22

The campaign was well-received by the public and food business operators, who appreciated the initiative and called for more such campaigns in the future.

KPFSA Director General, Wasif Saeed, praised the Food Safety teams for their successful campaign and vowed to continue crackdowns and testing campaigns to improve food safety standards in the province. Provincial Food Minister, Zahir Shah Toru, also commended the Food Safety teams and said that providing safe and quality food to the public is a top priority of the provincial government. Note: I've maintained the original formatting and structure to ensure clarity and readability.

*Nusrat Bhutto's death anniversary celebrated with great devotion in Azad Kashmir*

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: The 13th birth anniversary of Ms. Nusrat Bhutto, the spouse of the founding chairman of Pakistan People's Party, Quaid Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the former first lady and senior federal minister of mother democracy, was celebrated with great devotion and respect in the entire Azad Kashmir as well as in the four provinces.

Paying homage to his eternal struggle, the rule of law, the rule of law, the stability of democracy, the invincible defense, the freedom of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the freedom of terrorism, lawlessness, extremism, and the leadership of former Federal Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto.

It was determined to face all internal and external palace conspiracies manfully until Uzma took office. Yesterday, a prayer ceremony was held in the speaker chamber of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly in which Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar People's Party Azad. Central Deputy Information Secretary of Kashmir nominated candidate for Assembly Constituency Seven Shaukat Javed Mir, former member of Kashmir Council Akhtar Parvez Awan, Raja Farooq Khan Chaudhry Murad Ali, Zafar Roshan and a large number of workers participated and the deceased's high rank for democracy.

Speaking on the occasion where Fatima was recited, Speaker Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that Ms. Nusrat Bhutto fought the battle for the restoration of constitution and law in the government machinery of the worst martial law. She is her example. He played a role in the revolutionary movement of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as his arm and arm.

## Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan along with Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurating the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition Texpo 2024 at Expo Centre Karachi on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Sardar Attique says Kashmir liberated after sacrifices of great leaders

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the present territory of Azad Kashmir is liberated as a result of the sacrifices of our great leaders. He said that the Completing the mission of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Mujahid e Awwal Sardar

ar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan is our first duty. Peace cannot be established in the world without the solution of the Kashmir and Palestine problem. The establishment of non-state parties in Azad Kashmir weakened the position of the government of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and the process of division of the nation also began in Azad Kashmir. Pakistan has the ability to rise from all difficulties. India has emerged as a terrorist country. He



expressed these views in his message on the occasion of the 77th Founda-

tion Day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that in 1947, the people of the state of Kashmir committed their future to Pakistan by approving the Treaty of Accession to Pakistan under the auspices of the Muslim Conference in Srinagar, the residence of Ghazi Millat, 23 days before the creation of Pakistan. Later, the Maharaja signed the Standstill Agreement between India and Pakistan.

# Sindh minister launches breast cancer awareness campaign

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh's Minister for Labor and Human Resources, Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim, inaugurated a breast cancer awareness campaign at the Kulsoom Bai Valika Hospital under the Sindh Social Security Institution (SESSI) and led an awareness rally alongside Sessi Commissioner, Miandad Rahujo. During the event, the minister and other guests awarded hospital staff and medical experts for their outstanding performance. Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim announced that the hospital would be equipped with a mammography

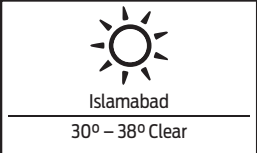


machine and other advanced facilities for the treatment of breast cancer. He stated that a province-wide

awareness campaign has been launched to increase the registration of workers under social security, and

steps are being taken to modernize the medical wing of social security to ensure that workers receive free and quality treatment. Miandad Rahujo mentioned that efforts are underway to improve the institution's performance, and new hospitals are being established in Sukkur and Nooriabad.

Medical Advisor, Dr. Kamran Awan, shared that Kalika and Landhi hospitals in Karachi have been upgraded with modern facilities, offering free cancer treatment, and efforts are ongoing to open more hospitals and dispensaries across various cities of Sindh.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 4:56 am  
 Zohr ..... 11:52 am  
 Asr ..... 3:46 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 5:24 pm  
 Isha ..... 6:48 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
 Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
 MH ..... 561116  
 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

*Descon Engineering - Furthers Digital Transformation with Live H2H SAP Bank Integration*

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Descon Engineering is excited to announce the successful implementation of Host-to-Host (H2H) SAP integration with leading financial institutions, including Standard Chartered, First Abu Dhabi Bank, and Commercial Bank of Qatar.

CFO Descon Engineering Yasir Siddique Sheikh said "We are thrilled to achieve this important milestone, the integration of our financial operations with these leading banks is a testament to our commitment to adopting innovative technologies that enhance efficiency across our organization.

This solution not only benefits our internal processes but also strengthens our partnerships with vendors and banks, ensuring a higher standard of service."

# Ahsan Bakhtawari urges citizens to take responsibility for dengue eradication

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Central Core Committee UBG and former President of ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, has emphasized that every citizen must take responsibility for the eradication of dengue in Islamabad. He stated that public cooperation is essential for the success of government efforts to control dengue. By understanding the causes of dengue and adopting preventive measures, we can protect ourselves from this deadly disease. Under the "Clean and Green Islamabad" mission, we are striving to safeguard the citizens from dengue by conducting dengue sprays and providing awareness in the business centers of every sector in Islamabad. He urged the residents of Islamabad to step forward, take responsibility, and play an active role in this campaign to eliminate dengue.

He expressed these views during a conversation with the President of Jinnah Super Market, Asad Aziz; General Secretary of Jinnah Super Market and Senior Vice President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui; Vice President of Jinnah Super Market, Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad; Coordination Secretary of Jinnah Super Market, Usman, and other representatives of traders' delegations while carrying



out dengue spray and distributing awareness pamphlets during a dengue awareness campaign at Jinnah Super Market. President of Jinnah Super Market, Asad Aziz, expressed his gratitude to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for taking the initiative to combat dengue in Islamabad. He praised Bakhtawari for launching the spray and awareness campaign across the city and assured him that the business community stands by his side and will

provide full cooperation in this mission. General Secretary of Jinnah Super Market, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, remarked that government efforts and public cooperation are equally important for the elimination of dengue. If we all collectively maintain cleanliness and adopt preventive measures, not only can we protect ourselves and our loved ones, but it is also possible to completely eradicate the deadly dengue virus.

## Souvenir

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting souvenir to Türkiye Minister of National Defence Yasar GULER in Istanbul on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## World Food Day Call to Action

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On World Food Day, the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign partners including Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA), the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination, the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), and Heartfile, urged the Government to take immediate action to limit industrially produced trans fats to less than 2g per 100g of total fat in all food sources and completely eliminate partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs), a major source of these harmful fats in our diet.

Trans fats are commonly found in



margarine, baked goods, fried snacks, dairy products, and several other ultra-processed foods. While food manufacturers favor trans fats for their ability to enhance texture, shelf life, and flavour stability, the health costs far outweigh these benefits. Industrially produced trans fatty acids

(iTFA) have no known health benefits and significantly raise levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) or "bad" cholesterol while lowering high-density lipoprotein (HDL) or "good" cholesterol.

These silent killers are fuelling a health crisis in Pakistan, where non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for over 58% of all deaths, with cardiovascular diseases claiming more than 200,000 lives annually. Research shows that even a modest increase in iTFA intake—a mere 2% rise in energy from trans fats—correlates with a 23% increase in coronary heart disease incidence. Alarmingly, iTFAs have also been found in infant formula milk, threatening the health of our youngest population and adding new risks for them.

## Former Governor Kaira hails Gujrat cleft hospital for its humanitarian service

Anwar Chuhan

GUJRAT: Former Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan, Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira, praised the institutions serving humanity in Pakistan, stating that the cleft hospital in Gujrat, which provides free plastic surgery for children with cleft lips and palates at an international level, is an exemplary humanitarian service. He was speaking at a dinner hosted by Chairman of Skyways Group of Companies, Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, in honor of the UK plastic surgery team. He mentioned that he would discuss the promotion and support of this institution with the federal government. He specifically thanked the foreign cleft surgeons' team, who visit Pakistan twice a year to perform free surgeries for children with cleft lip and palate issues. He added that this service does not only transform the life of a single child but turns the despair of the entire



family into smiles, describing it as a great mission.

Chairman of Skyways Group, Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, said he had been associated with the hospital for

a year and wished that all his friends visit the hospital and meet the children before deciding whether to support the institution or not. He expressed confidence that they would not be able to

refuse. Amir Mushtaq Shani thanked Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid and Dr. Ijaz Bashir for introducing them to this noble cause and allowing them to be a part of it. He pledged that they would all continue working together to improve the institution.

The hospital's coordinator, Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, stated that Ayesha Bashir Hospital in Gujrat offers world-class facilities for the treatment of children with cleft lip and palate. The cleft hospital and camp play a crucial role in preserving the smiles of these children through plastic surgery. He appealed to Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira to nominate Dr. Ijaz Bashir for the Presidential Award for his service in providing free treatment to 27,000 children with cleft lip and palate issues. The hospital's founder, Dr. Ijaz Bashir, briefed attendees about the facilities and future plans of the hospital. The foreign surgeons also addressed the gathering.

## Revolutionary Step for IT Education in Public Sector Schools



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Education and Professional Training has made a groundbreaking move by introducing IT education in public sector schools, with the goal of equipping young scholars from grades 1 to 5 with essential digital and technological skills. Following the establishment of state-of-the-art computer labs, schools like IMCB I-8/3 have embraced this initiative, providing students with hands-on learning in AI and IT under the guidance of professional experts. This forward-looking approach has ignited great enthusiasm among students, encouraging them to engage with technology from an early age. Parents have also commended the ministry's efforts, appreciating the free access to high-quality IT education that would otherwise only be available in a limited number of private institutions charging hefty fees. This initiative marks a significant step in aligning public education with global standards, equipping students with the tools to excel in a technology-driven future. With the support and dedication of educators, parents, and students, the positive impact of this program will undoubtedly become evident in the years to come.

## Speakers at AIOU moot emphasize interfaith dialogue



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The tenth international conference on "Contemporary Bioethics: Challenges and Opportunities" concluded yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University. It was attended by the local and international scholars, religious leaders, education experts, and research students. Speakers emphasized the need to promote interfaith dialogue to address significant contemporary issues and the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah. They stated that to achieve economic development and eliminate poverty, guidance from Qur'anic teachings is essential. The speakers also highlighted the importance of raising awareness about biodiversity among the younger generation through educational institutions, advocating for events that inform the general public about biodiversity. Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences Academy, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali was the Chief Guest while Vice Chancellor Kohsar University Murree, Prof. Dr. Syed Habib Bukhari presided over the closing session. The speakers include: Dean, Kidney Center Karachi, Dr. Asim Ahmed, Chairman Rehmatul-lil Alameen Authority, Khurshid Ahmed, and Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi. The conference was organized by the Department of Islamic Thought, History, and Culture in collaboration with the National Committee on Medical Ethics (NBC), the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad, and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. This event was part of the ongoing celebrations for the university's golden jubilee.

## Cyber Criminals' group "Sidewinder" targets Pakistan with new espionage tool



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: SideWinder, also known as T-APT-04 or RattleSnake, is one of the most prolific APT groups that started operations in 2012. Over the years, it has primarily targeted military and government entities in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, and Nepal, as well as other sectors and countries in South and Southeast Asia. Targets include government and military entities, logistics, infrastructure and telecommunications companies, financial institutions, universities and oil trading companies.

Recently, the Kaspersky Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT) has detected that the SideWinder APT group is expanding its attack operations into the Middle East and Africa, utilizing a previously unknown espionage toolkit called 'StealerBot'. Kaspersky discovered that recent campaigns were targeting high-profile entities and strategic infrastructures in these regions, while the campaign in general remains active and may target other victims.

Kaspersky first reported on the group's activities in 2018. This actor is known to rely on spear-phishing emails as its main infection method, containing malicious documents exploiting Office vulnerabilities and occasionally making use of LNK, HTML and HTA files that are contained in archives. The documents often contain information obtained from public websites, which is used to lure the victim into opening the file and believing it to be legitimate. Kaspersky observed several malware families being used within parallel campaigns, including both custom-made and modified, publicly available RATs. To mitigate threats related to APT activities, Kaspersky experts recommend equipping your organization's information security experts with the latest insights and technical details, such as from Kaspersky Threat Intelligence Portal. Use robust solutions for endpoints and to detect advanced threats on the network, such as Kaspersky Next and Kaspersky Anti Targeted Attack Platform. Educate employees to recognize cybersecurity threats such as phishing letters.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**  
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 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**  
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.  
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,  
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408  
 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,  
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390  
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com  
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

# Youm e Tasees: A Celebration of the Bonding between Kashmir and Pakistan - I

The bond between Kashmiris and Pakistanis is deep and meaningful. The connection between the people of Pakistan and the residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a powerful testament to their shared identity, culture, and aspirations. Grounded in history, geography, and a common struggle for self-determination, this relationship goes beyond political affiliations, embodying a profound emotional and social connection that continues to flourish.

AJK operates under a parliamentary system, where the President acts as the head of state and the Prime Minister serves as the head of government. The region has its own legislative assembly responsible for enacting laws on various matters, except for foreign affairs and defense, which remain under the federal government's jurisdiction. This structure allows AJK to maintain a degree of political autonomy while still being integrated into Pakistan. In terms of administrative facilities, AJK has made notable progress over the years. The region is home to several governmental institutions dedicated to providing public services and promoting development. AJK has a network of hospitals and clinics that address the healthcare needs of its residents. The government has launched health programs aimed at combating

prevalent diseases and enhancing maternal and child health. Additionally, AJK features various educational institutions, including universities and colleges, that offer higher education opportunities. Efforts have been made to improve literacy rates and expand access to education, particularly in rural areas. Infrastructure improvements in road networks, telecommunications, and energy supply have been prioritized to enhance connectivity within AJK and with the rest of Pakistan. Development projects funded by the government and international agencies aim to elevate the living standards of the local population. AJK's breathtaking landscapes, which include mountains, rivers, and forests, attract tourists from across the country and beyond. The government has invested in promoting tourism as a key sector for economic growth, developing facilities such as hotels and recreational areas to enhance visitor experiences.

In contrast, IIOJK has been a focal point of conflict and human rights violations for decades. The situation has attracted international attention due to ongoing reports of atrocities committed by security forces, including the Indian Army. It is crucial to highlight the human rights violations in IIOJK and their implications for the local population and the broader international community. The Indian government maintains a heavy military presence in IIOJK, justifying it as necessary for so-called national security. However, this militarization has resulted in widespread human rights abuses against the local population. Reports from various human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, document numerous violations in IIOJK. Security forces frequently employ excessive and lethal force during protests and clashes, using live ammunition, pellet guns, and tear gas against unarmed civilians, resulting in deaths and severe injuries. The use of pellet guns, in particular, has caused significant eye injuries among protesters, including children. Numerous reports indicate that individuals suspected of involvement in freedom movements have faced enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions. Families often remain unaware of the fate of their loved ones for extended periods, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. Testimonies from former detainees reveal disturbing accounts

of torture, including both physical and psychological abuse, during interrogations. Such practices not only breach national and international law but also leave enduring scars on the victims and their families. The Indian government has imposed stringent restrictions on media and communication in IIOJK. Journalists face harassment, threats, and detention for reporting on human rights violations. The communication blackout that ensued following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, which had granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, further isolated the region and limited the flow of information. The ongoing conflict has resulted in significant displacement, both within the region and beyond. Families have been uprooted from their homes, with many losing their livelihoods due to the instability in the region. The socioeconomic fabric of IIOJK has been profoundly affected, exacerbating poverty and inequality. The international community has largely condemned the human rights violations occurring in IIOJK, with various United Nations bodies calling for investigations into these abuses and urging the Indian government to respect the rights of the Kashmiri people. However, tangible actions remain limited, as geopolitical considerations often hinder robust interventions.

The unique approach that this team used to start with provincial data to extrapolate the national prevalence of Hepatitis C. Based on their calculations, they estimated that 9.7 million patients in Pakistan are currently infected with Hepatitis C.

## What we need to do

While it has been known that Hepatitis C is a widespread disease in Pakistan, the full extent of liver infection burden in Pakistan was previously unclear. A recent paper published in the Journal of Viral Hepatitis in April of this year sought to use modeling to better characterise the extent of Hepatitis C in Pakistan. They then used this information to propose what an evidence-based path towards Hepatitis C elimination would entail.

This project was an international collaboration consisting of 24 authors representing twelve different organisations – including the Center for Disease Analysis Foundation (US), the Ministry of National Health Services in Islamabad, representatives from all provincial hepatitis control programmes, in collaboration with liver experts from both private and public sector.

We contacted one of the contributors to the paper Professor Aamir Ghafoor Khan from the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar regarding these findings. He shared context that there are many common practices that risk spreading Hepatitis C. "Mainly people use the reusable syringe, they should use disposable sealed syringes, barber should use clean blades, roadside dentist and ataais [who do medical treatment without having certification] in villages for delivery should be avoided, because they have infected instruments."

The paper provided insights into what next steps may look like for Pakistan, and what solutions are available to decrease Hepatitis C. Specifically, in order to reach the World Health Organization elimination targets for Hepatitis C, they estimated that Pakistan would need to establish processing for 18.8 million annual screens, 1.1 million treatments, and prevent 46,700 new infections each year. This could ultimately save 152,000 lives by 2030.

We discussed the feasibility of such a plan with Dr Huma Qureshi, another co-author of this paper and prior national lead on hepatitis management in Pakistan with the Ministry of National Health Services. Dr Qureshi commented via email, "The cost of this is estimated to be PKR 70 billion. Currently, the 4 provinces are supporting hepatitis testing and treatment through their own budget but their budget is not enough to cater for all the population."



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Courtesy China Daily

## Economic Impact of Climate Change on Pakistan and the Role of NGOs

Muhammad Rizwan Hussain

Climate change presents a critical threat to Pakistan's economy, particularly due to its heavy reliance on agriculture, which employs around 42% of the labor force and contributes nearly 19% to the country's GDP. With rising temperatures and increasingly erratic weather patterns, Pakistan faces substantial challenges in sustaining its economic growth. The country, ranked as the 8th most vulnerable to climate change by the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, is already experiencing climate-induced disruptions that are exacerbating poverty and threatening food security.

Pakistan's agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change. Agriculture contributes about one-fifth of Pakistan's GDP and supports 60-70% of the population for their livelihoods. However, climate variability, including rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, and extreme weather events like floods and droughts, has significantly reduced agricultural productivity. The 2022 floods alone resulted in economic damages exceeding \$30 billion, wiping out key crops like cotton, rice, and wheat, which are vital for both domestic consumption and export, according to The World Bank. The damage to agriculture has a cascading impact across other economic sectors, such as industry and commerce. Pakistan's textile industry, which relies on agricultural raw materials like cotton, has seen reduced productivity, leading to a decrease in exports and further widening the trade deficit, reports The News. A world bank study projected that the GDP could contract by as much as 2.2% following extreme weather events, and multidimensional poverty could rise by 5.9 percentage points, pushing an additional

1.9 million households into poverty.

Pakistan has been forced to rely on costly food imports, straining foreign reserves and further burdening the economy. In 2023, food inflation surged to 30%, driven by supply disruptions caused by climate change-induced agricultural losses, as reported by The Express Tribune.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have stepped in to fill the gap left by government limitations, playing a crucial role in combating the effects of climate change in Pakistan. NGOs such as the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), WWF-Pakistan, and the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) have mobilized communities and provided essential services to mitigate climate risks. They focus on grassroots initiatives, including sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and renewable energy projects, all aimed at building local resilience.

For example, the PPAF has implemented climate-resilient infrastructure projects in flood-prone areas, benefiting over 1.5 million people. Similarly, WWF-Pakistan's Climate Resilient Agriculture Program trains farmers in sustainable farming practices, helping them adapt to unpredictable weather conditions. NGOs also serve as advocates for marginalized communities, particularly women and rural populations, who are disproportionately affected by climate-induced disasters, as noted by the World Bank.

NGOs emphasize collective action and community-driven initiatives as essential components of building climate resilience. Local communities are often the first responders to climate disasters, and their involvement in decision-making is crucial for effective adaptation strategies. In regions like Sindh and Balochistan, NGOs have worked closely with farmers and fishermen to implement ecosystem-based adaptation, including

mangrove reforestation and sustainable water management systems, according to FAO.

A key challenge in building resilience is securing adequate funding for large-scale projects. While international donors pledged \$11 billion to Pakistan's recovery after the 2022 floods, more than 70% of that funding has yet to be disbursed, and the rebuilding needs are estimated at over \$16 billion, states UNDP. Addressing these gaps requires stronger coordination between the government, NGOs, and the private sector to streamline funding and ensure timely responses to climate emergencies.

The economic impact of climate change on Pakistan is part of a broader global challenge, particularly for developing nations. The financial gap for climate adaptation is significant; a study by the United Nations estimates that developing countries will require \$140-300 billion per year by 2030 to adequately adapt to climate change, according to the World Resources Institute. For Pakistan, climate-induced displacement is another growing concern. By 2050, an estimated 36 million people in South Asia could become climate migrants, further straining national resources, reports The Diplomat.

In conclusion, while the government has made strides in addressing climate change, the role of NGOs is critical in mobilizing resources, advocating for vulnerable communities, and promoting sustainable adaptation measures. A coordinated and well-financed approach that includes government, civil society, and international support is essential to mitigate the economic and social impacts of climate change in Pakistan. Without immediate action, the country risks falling into a cycle of economic instability and increasing poverty, driven by the ongoing climate crisis.

Writer is PhD scholar at the University of Debrecen

## Religious Extremism in Pakistan - I

Behaving and possessing in an extreme way within a religion, rejecting other viewpoints, and imposing one's own strong religious convictions on others are all considered forms of religious extremism.

Extremism is at an all-time high in Pakistan; numerous incidents have occurred there over the past few years. When it comes to Pakistan's contentious blasphemy laws, which have been utilized more and more to punish minorities, particularly Christians, Salman Taseer, a member of the Punjab Assembly and the Pakistan People Party, became an outspoken opponent of these laws. The 2010 case of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman convicted of blasphemy and condemned to death, garnered global attention. Taseer paid her a visit when she was incarcerated, demanded her release from prison, and denounced the blasphemy laws as "black laws." Because of this position, he became the target of conservative religious organizations, who said that on January 4, 2011, he had committed blasphemy himself. His bodyguard Mumtaz Qadri killed him. In 2016, almost 90,000 people attended Mumtaz Qadri's burial, making him a hero in our community. Following that, the same thing occurred at Abdul Wali Khan University in 2017. Mashal Khan students in a media study began to complain about faculty corruption in particular, blaming Mashal Khan, also known as "Gustakh-e-Rasool," for it. As a result, a group of students, staff, and outsiders swiftly track him down in his dorm room. The angry mob killed, stripped, and beat him in spite of the lack of any solid evidence.

The similar thing happened to 49-year-old Sri Lankan Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana

on December 3, 2021, in Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan, when he was lynched by a crowd due to blasphemy accusations. Although the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) formally disassociated itself from the incident, there were rumors that its supporters were involved in Kumara's murder. Six of the lynchers were ultimately sentenced to death by the Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore, while nine others were given life sentences. Seventy-two more people received two-year prison sentences. A security guard named Syed Khan killed someone in the police station a few days ago, accusing them of being "Khatme nabuwat" without giving them an opportunity to contest their conviction.

The same thing also occurred in Punjab, Khyber Pashtoon Khuwa, and Sindh.

Presently, this religious extremism people use for personal issues under the name of "Gustakh-e-Rasool" and "khatme-nabuwat" On August 16, 2023, accusations of blasphemy (since proven false) against two Christian residents of Jaranwala in the Punjab province of Pakistan's Faisalabad district resulted in a mob that vandalized and destroyed more than 80 Christian homes as well as more than 20 churches. In May 2024, a large number of individuals attacked Sargodha churches over private issues. Nowadays, a number of political and governmental figures have also exploited religious convictions in their pursuit of legitimacy and authority in government. As a result, Pakistan has seen a politicization of spiritual explanation, as evidenced by sectarian conflicts and the persecution of those who are spiritually underprivileged. Religious fanaticism in Pakistan has its roots in the "Zia-ul-Haq" era.

To be continued



Analysis

Wasim Ullah

# Korean Embassy celebrates National Foundation Day, 76th Anniversary of Korean Armed Forces

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister, Ministry of Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada congratulated Korea on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan. He praised the strong diplomatic relations between the two nations and emphasized the importance of further strengthening cooperation in various sectors. He Addressed to gathering as a Chief Guest on the occasion of a grand reception to commemorate the National Foundation Day and the 76th Anniversary of the Korean Armed Forces Day hosted by the Korean embassy.

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Kareem Kundi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar, Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan and the Members of National Assembly, Senate and Diplomats, prominent business figures, and representatives from the media were attended the event.

The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm, starting with a rendition of the Korean national anthem by a renowned Korean artist, followed by the Pakistani national anthem, performed by a group of Korean children, which was met with resounding applause and appreciation.

In his opening remarks, the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest and other attendees. Ambassador Park mentioned that the Republic of Korea, with its wealth of experience and technological advancement, stands ready to support and partake in Pakistan's endeavors to take the friendship to the next level but it is not possible without the



support of the Government of Pakistan.

He further mentioned that the Embassy of the Republic of Korea is celebrating the 2024 K-Week



in Islamabad, including 2024 Korea-Pakistan Cultural Gala in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which will be held at the Liaquat Gymnasium on October 23rd, 2024 and the Korea-Pakistan Movie Day which will be held on October 24th, 2024 and the 17th Korean Ambassador Senior National Cadet National Taekwondo Championship which will be held on October 25th, 2024.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea shared that he is optimistic regarding the future of the bilateral relations between Korea and Pakistan and he is hopeful that the two nations will continue to strengthen their ties through culture, art, literature and music.

The event also featured captivating performances by Korean opera singer Ms. Heemin Kim and a mesmerizing Taekwondo demonstration by a group of Korean martial artists, which earned widespread acclaim from the audience.

The evening concluded with a networking session and a lavish dinner hosted by the Korean Embassy.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal & Sultan Bashir

# Uzbek language, historical source of bilateral cultural and trade with Pakistan: Uzbek Envoy

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev on Tuesday said that the national language of Uzbekistan is a historical source of bilateral cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which is still established in modern times.

The Uzbek language continues to thrive, and even abroad, including here in Pakistan, favorable conditions are being created for learning it.

There are more than 4,000 similar words in Uzbek and Urdu languages, which foster understanding between our brotherly peoples, the Ambassador said.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev said this while addressing the ceremony of the national language day of Uzbekistan in Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

Intellectuals, diplomats, poets, journalists and people from different walks of life participated in this prestigious event.

The Dictionaries are being published and various modern IT programs are being developed.

Uzbek Ambassador said the 35 years ago on October 21, 1989, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the State Language was adopted, granting the Uzbek Language official status.

This event holds great significance for our culture and identity, as language is an inseparable part of our national spirit, traditions and self-awareness, he said.



Today, Ms. Saniya Iskanova, a representative of this Center joined to us and we extend our special gratitude to her for teaching the Uzbek language to our Pakistani friends.

We are delighted to welcome all of you to our Embassy, Uzbek Ambassador said.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in this event celebrating the 35th anniversary of Uzbek language was granted the status of the State Language and the 630th anniversary of the birth of the Great Statesman and Scholar - Mirzo Ulughbek."

Meanwhile addressing the gathering, he said that as a result of strengthening the bonds of friendship between our nations, with roots that go back thousands of years, our languages have also

enriched each other. He said that a testament to this is the Uzbek-Urdu Dictionary of Mushtarak Words, compiled by the Uzbek scholar Ansoriddin Ibrohim and it is a living heritage of our ancestors, reflecting deep wisdom, history as well as customs.

Through language, values are passed down that connect generations and strengthen our society, he said. The Ambassador said that for centuries, the Uzbek language has served as a cultural bridge, uniting various ethnic groups and peoples who have lived on this land and it has fostered the development of literature, art and science, making our contributions to global culture invaluable.

he said.

The Ambassador said that for centuries, the Uzbek language has served as a cultural bridge, uniting various ethnic groups and peoples who have lived on this land and it has fostered the development of literature, art and science, making our contributions to global culture invaluable.

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan places special emphasis on strengthening and promoting the Uzbek language, both domestically and internationally, he said.

He said that numerous initiatives have been implemented to develop education in the Uzbek language, support young writers and create opportunities for preserving linguistic heritage.

The law adopted 35 years ago which laid the foundation for the status of the Uzbek language, and much has been done since then to popularize it.

"I am confident that in the future, we will continue to work on ensuring that the Uzbek language continues to grow and flourish as a cornerstone of our culture and identity. For in this, we find not only our past, but also the future of our people."

Meanwhile talking on the literary profound work of Uzbek Scholar and thinker Mirzo Ulughbek, he said that Mirzo was a great Uzbek scholar, thinker and statesman whose name is forever

inscribed in the history of world civilization and science.

Mirzo Ulughbek, scientific legacy and role in the history and spiritual life of the Uzbek People is significant.

He was not only a great ruler of the Timurid Dynasty but also an outstanding scholar whose achievements had a profound impact on the development of astronomy, mathematics as well as education.

The Ambassador said that his greatest achievement was the establishment in the early 15th century of one of the most famous observatories in the world - the Samarkand Observatory, became a center of scientific research, where Mirzo Ulughbek and his research-students made groundbreaking discoveries.

Mirzo Ulughbek showed that science knows no boundaries, and his works inspired subsequent generations of astronomers, however, his contributions were not limited to science, he said.

Mirzo Ulughbek was a true educator who understood the importance of knowledge for society and in his famous madrasa in Samarkand, he gathered the best scholars of the time, fostering the development of science, education, and culture in the region. Under his guidance, Samarkand became one of the largest intellectual centers of the world, he said.

His discoveries, made more than five centuries ago, remain relevant today, highlighting the genius of this great man.

"We are proud that Mirzo Ulughbek is an integral part of our historical and cultural heritage, and his scientific achievements continue to inspire scholars worldwide today, including renowned Pakistani astronomers like Muhammad Shahid Qureshi, Maulana Muhammad Musa Bazi Rouhani, Sami Khan Solanki, and others.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal



**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
87,194.53	86,466.57	
Day's High	Day's Low	
87,309.22	86,284.25	
Index Value	Change	
17,329,887,551	+727.96	
Percentage	Time	
+0.84%	23 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,258.64	-47.90	
Percentage	Time	
-0.58%	23 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,489.34	-435.55	
Percentage	Time	
-1.01%	23 Oct, 12:45 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,104.86	-307.10	
Percentage	Time	
-0.80%	23 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	187.63
Bahrain Dinar	732.22	740.22
Canadian Dollar	200.67	203.07
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	297.55	300.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.3	35.65
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.63	908.13
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.96	25.26
Omani Riyal	716.62	725.12
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	319.20	322.00
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	357.75	361.25
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

# FPCCI & FBR exclusive meeting genuine taxpayers should be protected at all costs: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), has agreed, in an exclusive, candid and detailed meeting, with FPCCI's demand of an end to harassment of genuine and regular taxpayers – and, only the tax evaders or defaulters should be served with notices.

However, FBR Chairman demanded that FPCCI should support the efforts of FBR to persuade all traders and industrialists to file their returns in a fair, legitimate and transparent manner. To which the high-profile FPCCI delegation agreed to assist FBR; if the tax collection machinery is run and policy-making is undertaken in a consultative style.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh acknowledged that the demand of signing an affidavit by chief financial officers (CFOs) of companies has been withdrawn by FBR after special request by FPCCI. It was intrinsically unnecessary and redundant as sales tax act 1990 already offers enough provision for responsible filing of the sales tax returns, he added.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, observed that FBR's revenue collection target is



PKR. 12.97 trillion – representing a 40 percent YoY increase – while the economy is growing at only 2 – 3 percent. This is huge cause of concern for the business community; and, may result in new taxes, mini budgets and taxing the already taxed even further.

SVP FPCCI highlighted that Tajir Dost

Scheme (TDS) was also implemented without consultation; and, as a matter of fact, it has been revealed that TDS has missed its revenue collection target by 99 percent.

Mr. Khurram Ejaz, member of PM's committee on cross-cutting in ports and advisor to President FPCCI on FBR affairs,

questioned that why Pakistani ports and terminals cannot operate 24 / 7 examination.

Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman FBR, agreed that tax rates should be curtailed to reduce tax burden and enhance compliance; however, it is not possible in the current circumstances.

FBR Chairman stated that he, in principle, agrees with FPCCI's demands and proposal on withdrawing affidavit pertaining to sales tax filing; ambiguities in SRO. 350; ports & shipping matters; need for consultative process and the need for complete digitalization of the FBR system.

Mr. Muhammad Ayub, President of Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry (QCCI), raised the issue of stuck-up and delayed cargo containers at Panjgur; which should be released swiftly after payment of any outstanding duties. To which member customs at FBR agreed to resolve the matter after collection of the incurred duties; and, help save the concerned traders from any further delays and losses.

Dr. Jassu Mal, representing cotton ginners, highlighted the plight of the sector as it has to pay taxes on every stage of the cotton production – which raises cotton prices at many different levels and makes it uncompetitive.

## Building a Brighter Future

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd IBCC Annual Conference, under the theme "Building a Brighter Future: The Role of Technology in Assessment," was attended by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as the chief guest.



Photo: PID

## PSX's Shariah Focus Group to enhance accessibility of Shariah Compliant Financial Products

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) established a Shariah Focus Group in December 2023 to further the objective of meeting the financial preferences of its diverse investor base. This pioneering Group comprises of distinguished Shariah scholars from various schools of thought, practitioners of Islamic financing, capital market experts, and industry professionals, who are united to enhance the accessibility and advisory of Shariah-compliant financial products for investors. This inclusive composition of the Group ensures that the perspectives and principles of each school of thought are respected and incorporated into the development of investment products.

After a meeting held by

the Shariah Focus Group on October 21, 2024, Dr. Fakhara Rizwan (PSX's Company Secretary), said, "By bringing together renowned Shariah scholars and capital market professionals, we are confident that this initiative will pave the way for enhanced investment options that not only meet the needs of Shariah-compliant investors but also contribute to a more dynamic and robust capital market".

As the national stock exchange of the country, the Pakistan Stock Exchange is cognizant of the investment needs of Pakistan, a nation with a predominantly Muslim population. PSX's broader strategy is to contribute to the growth and development of Pakistan's economy by accommodating the financial preferences of its diverse investor base.

## PTCL announces strategic reseller agreement with Veeam Software at GITEX Dubai 2024

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL entered into a strategic reseller partnership with Veeam® Software, the #1 leader by market share in Data Resilience, during GITEX Dubai 2024. The partnership will enable PTCL to enhance its advanced offerings in data protection, disaster recovery, and cloud services to its corporate and enterprise clients.

Waqar Ahmed, Group Director Enterprise Solutions, PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Kinda Baydoun, Channel and Alliances Director, EMEA East at Veeam, signed the agreement in the presence of top management on the sidelines of the GITEX Dubai 2024 exhibition, which brings together hundreds of global tech companies, innovators, business leaders, and investors to chalk out a future AI economy.

At the signing, Sayyed Muhammad Imran Ali, Group VP B2B Strategy & Product Management, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "Our collaboration with Veeam signifies a pivotal moment for PTCL as we expand our portfolio of data management solutions. The partnership mirrors our steadfast commitment to bringing world-class data protection and recovery solutions to our business and enterprise



customers to empower them to safeguard their critical business information in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

At the signing, Kinda Baydoun, Channel and Alliances Director, EMEA East at Veeam said, "We are thrilled to partner with PTCL, paving the way for advanced data resilience in Pakistan. The Veeam Data Platform is an end-to-end data recovery solution designed to accelerate

hybrid cloud initiatives, offering increased cyber resiliency, hybrid-cloud optimization, and direct-to-object storage capabilities.

The partnership solidifies PTCL's standing as a leading proponent of digital transformation in Pakistan, helping businesses protect their most critical assets and ensuring they remain resilient in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

## TikTok Partners with PTA to Launch #DigitalHifazat Contest Focused on Promoting Digital Safety



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), has announced the launch of the #DigitalHifazat Contest, an initiative aimed at raising digital safety awareness among the youth across Pakistan.

The contest invites TikTok creators to produce short, impactful videos highlighting six key areas: responsible social media usage, combating online harassment, preventing online fraud, ensuring youth safety and well-being, understanding TikTok's safety tools, and addressing misinformation on social platforms.

Through the #DigitalHifazat Contest, TikTok and the PTA aim to inspire the platform's users to help spread the message of digital safety and foster a culture of verifying information before sharing. By participating, users will play a role in educating others about responsible online behavior, contributing to a safer digital environment for all.

TikTok remains committed to the safety of its users, ensuring that content on the platform adheres to its Community Guidelines, mitigating issues such as online harassment, fraud, threats to youth safety, and misinformation. The #DigitalHifazat Contest is part of TikTok's ongoing efforts to uphold these values and maintain a secure, positive space for its global community.

The contest will run from October 20th to November 5th, 2024.

## FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Ltd announces Q3 2024 Financial Results

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) announced its financial results for Quarter 3, 2024.

Effective July 1, 2024, an 18% sales tax was imposed on the sale of UHT

milk, which was previously zero-rated. In an environment where the disposable income for an average consumer is declining, the imposition of Sales Tax has severely impacted the processed milk category, leading to a significant decline. This also incentivizes the consumption of loose milk, which is

unsafe and remains untaxed. With an agile business model in place, the company continued to drive cost efficiencies across its value chain, effectively mitigating the impact of inflation. The drive for efficiencies led to an improvement in the gross margin by 60 basis points compared to last

year. As a result, the year-to-date profit after tax saw a significant increase of 28% from the previous year.

The growth in profit after tax was driven by the enhanced gross margins and a reduction in tax expense.

The purpose of the company continues to be the provision of nutri-

tion for all Pakistanis. Accordingly, the company has continued to advocate with relevant stakeholders to increase awareness around the benefits of UHT Milk and increase accessibility, driving the school milk program and working towards the safe milk city pilot with the Government.

# ACC Men's T-20 Emerging Team's Asia Cup 2024

Mohd Haris Nice Batting 71 Runs Not out and Shahnawaz Dahani Taken Five Wickets. Pakistan Shaheens to Qualify Semi-Finals



Imran Usmani

MUSCAT: An unbeaten half-century from skipper Mohammad Haris and a maiden T20 five-wicket haul for Shahnawaz Dahani led Pakistan Shaheens to a 114-run victory over United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the 11th match of the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Team's Asia Cup on Wednesday afternoon at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Muscat.

The commanding triumph sealed Shaheens' spot in the semi-finals of the tournament set to take place on Friday, 25 October.

After opting to bat first, Shaheens racked up 179-4 in the allotted 20 overs as Haris notched an unbeaten 71 off 49 balls. Opening batters Omaid Bin Yousuf (21, 11b, 2x4s, 2x6s) and Yasir Khan (25, 13b, 3x4s, 2x6s) departed inside the Powerplay where Shaheens amassed 49 runs for the loss of two wickets.

Mohammad Haris, who walked into bat after two overs, kept the Shaheens innings intact as he put on 62 runs for the third wicket with Qasim Akram (23, 28b, 1x6).

UAE's Muhammad Farooq produced

a double-blow in the 14th over when he dismissed Qasim and Abdul Samad to leave Shaheens 112-4. Haris was then joined by Haider Ali as the duo accounted for an unbeaten 67-run fifth-wicket partnership. Haris hit six fours and three sixes while Haider slammed as many sixes and one four in his 17-ball 32 not out.

For UAE, Farooq was the only successful bowler as he returned for 3-27 in his four overs.

In reply, UAE lost wickets at regular intervals as they only managed 28-3 in the first six overs as Dahani struck thrice. Skipper Rahul Chopra, batting at No. 5, top-scored for his team with 20 off 18 balls hitting three fours while Tanish Suri (15, 15b, 3x4s) and Syed Haider (12, 16b, 1x6) were the only other batters to reach double figures.

Dahani registered his career-best T20 bowling figures when he dismissed Akif Raja in the 15th over, finishing with 5-12 in four overs including two maidens. Sufyan Moqim picked up two wickets while Ahmed Daniyal, Mohammad Abbas Afridi and Arafat Minhas dismissed one batter each.

Scores in brief:



Pakistan Shaheens beat UAE by 114 runs at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, Muscat

Pakistan Shaheens 179-4, 20 overs (Mohammad Haris 71 not out, Haider Ali 32 not out, Yasir Khan 25;

Muhammad Farooq 3-27)

UAE 65 all out, 16.3 overs (Rahul Chopra 20; Shahnawaz Dahani 5-12, Sufyan Moqim 2-17)

Player of the match - Shahnawaz Dahani (Pakistan Shaheens)

## 25th National IKO-MATSUSHIMA Kyokushin karate championships

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Shibhan Atta Hussain Butt Black Belt 5th Dan Japan International karate master instructor informed teams from all over Country will participate both male and female teams from Sindh, Baluchistan, KPK, Punjab, Gilgit Bultistan, Kashmir, Police, Pakistan Railway will arrive at Railway stadium on 24th October. Almost 150 male and 50 female fighters will compete in their weight categories. Sensie Saima Batool Cheif organizer of championship informed that teams from Punjab University Lahore, National college of Arts Lahore, Punjab college Lahore, Lahore college for women University, Al Ayesha High school will perform demonstrations and karate kaz prove their skills & proficiency. Separate groups of female karatekaz perform self defence techniques which is need of time to educate them, how to deal with the bad people if harassed. Saima said this is our 25th anniversary silver jubilee of National events. To make our event historical we tribute, to our Heroes Ghazi and Shohdas of ARMY, POLICE & CIVILIANS who lost their lives in the line of duty for our better future. Ghazi Col Rtd Dilawar Hussain Butt (Sitara e Jurrat) 1965 Pak India war of Chavinda. His son Maj (Engineer) Shaheen will officially honour all participant 22 team's coaches with big memorial trophies. All participants will be awarded with medals, certificates, souvenirs, trophies, Official Mugs, T shirts etc. Chief guest will be from Armed forces, Police Officers and executive Civil officers and current Govt Ministers.

## Pakistan to 'urge' Commonwealth Games to reconsider exclusion of hockey, wrestling

KARACHI: The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has decided to formally write to the Commonwealth Games Federation over exclusion of hockey and wrestling from the 2026 Commonwealth Games, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Informed sources claimed that the POA would send an official letter to the federation, urging the latter to reconsider its decision to exclude these sports, which are seen as Pakistan's medal prospects in the game.

The decision to drop several sports, including hockey and wrestling, from the Games in Glasgow has already caught criticism from various quarters.

The sources added that the Indian Olympic body is also unhappy with the decision and they're likely to join POA in writing the Commonwealth sports body to press for the inclusion of hockey and wrestling.

"We are planning to write a letter this week to express our concerns over removal of these sports and to request them to reconsider their decision," the source said.

## Third Cricket Test Match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

# Pakistan and England play 3rd Cricket Test Match today

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The final Test match of the three-match series between Pakistan and England will be played on October 24 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Both teams have had intense net practice sessions at the stadium, while the players of the England cricket team played football before their net practice session to maintain their fitness. The weather in Rawalpindi is some what better than in Multan, where both teams played two Test matches from October 7 to October 18 in Multan under intense heat. In the first Test match, England defeated Pakistan, while in the second match, Pakistan secured a victory against the England team. The Pakistan cricket team has made no changes for the Rawalpindi Test match.

The players who participated in the second Test match in Multan have been retained. However, the England cricket team has made two changes, including the inclusion of spinner Rehan Ahmed and fast bowler Gus Atkinson. The third and final Test match, which will be played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, is expected to have a pitch that will begin to assist spinners from the second day, according to cricket experts. The team that wins the toss and chooses to bat first may face difficulties in the first session of the match. A reception was hosted by the British High Commissioner Jane Marriott in honor of the management teams of both the England and Pakistan cricket teams. The manager of the Pakistan cricket team, Naveed Akram Cheema, presented the Pakistani team captain's shirt as a gift to British High Commissioner Jane Marriott. On this occasion, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott extended her best wishes to both teams for the third and decisive Test match. She had hoped that



England would win the second Test, but expressed happiness over Pakistan's victory.

She said, "I hope we get to see good cricket in the third Test." The British High Commissioner added, "There is one thing England definitely wants to change completely, and that is their luck. This relates to the toss, and the whole world knows what kind of

pitch is being prepared at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

England's head coach, Brendon McCullum, has already stated that the outcome of the current Test is 65% dependent on the toss, compared to 35%. When the pitch in the second Test in Multan was spun, the importance of the toss was decided right then, and the match result made it clear. Now a similar pitch is being prepared in Rawalpindi.

**\*Pakistan-England Test Records\***

There have been 91 Test matches between Pakistan and England. England has won 30 times, while Pakistan has secured victory in 22 matches, and 39 matches have ended in a draw. In the last five meetings, England holds a 4-1 record, with Pakistan winning the recent match in Multan last week. On home soil, Pakistan still trails England 5-6, with 16 Tests ending in draws.

**\*Rawalpindi Records\***

Pakistan has a mixed record in Rawalpindi, with 5 wins, 6 losses, and 4 draws. In their last Test at this venue, Pakistan suffered a 6-wicket defeat against Bangladesh, and just last month, they lost the first match of the series at this venue by 10 wickets. England achieved success at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium during their last tour for a Test match, thanks to centuries from Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, and Harry Brook, posting a total of 657 runs, which is the highest score at this venue. Pakistan responded with 579 runs, led by centuries from Babar Azam, Abdullah Shafique, and Imam-ul-Haq, which stands as their highest total in Rawalpindi.

**\*Reversed Toss Outcomes in Rawalpindi\***

Looking at the pitch, there is a strong desire to win the toss and bat first, but the records at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium suggest the

opposite. Out of 15 Test matches played here, Pakistan has won 5, lost 6, and 4 were drawn. In the 11 matches that produced a result, only 3 were won by the team that batted first, while 8 times the team that batted second emerged victorious. The average score in the first innings is 341, while for the second innings, it's 403 runs. The third innings averages 239 runs, and the fourth innings averages 168 runs. The highest individual score at this venue is Rahul Dravid's 270 runs in 2004, while Mohammad Zahid's 7 wickets for 66 runs against New Zealand in 1996 is the best bowling performance. In the same match, his 11 wickets for 130 runs remain the best overall match performance at this venue.

**\*England's 3-Month Losing Streak\***

England has been on a dramatic streak, as it's been 90 days since they last won a toss. In the past seven Test matches, England has not won a single toss, and it's been

over three months since their last success in this regard. This streak comes at a crucial time when the toss for the decisive Test match is approaching, and the Rawalpindi toss is highly significant for the current series.

They haven't made changes and have included spinner Zahid Mahmood in the lineup.

The Pakistani team includes Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Rizwan, Sajid Khan, Nauman Ali, Aamir Jamal, and Mohammad Zahid.

**\*Toss Crucial in Rawalpindi: England's Struggles Over the Past 7 Tests in 3 Months, A Major Threat for Pakistan Too\***

England has already announced their squad, with spinner Rehan Ahmed and pacer Gus Atkinson included.

The 3-match Test series between Pakistan and England is tied at 1-1, and this match will be the decider. England won the first Test in Multan, while Pakistan took the second. The series is part of the ICC World Test Championship, but both teams are already out of the race for the final.

**\*Pakistan's 360-Degree U-Turn\***

In the two Test matches played against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi, Pakistan fielded zero spinners and four specialist fast bowlers in one Test, and in the second Test, they played one spinner and three specialist pacers. The decisive Test against England is also in Rawalpindi, where all the bowlers are spinners except for one pacer, Aamir Jamal, who is considered almost part-time. Considering the Rawalpindi surface and conditions, there was speculation that Pakistan would play a pacer instead of Zahid Mahmood, but by not doing so, it seems like a mistake.

Pakistan's head coach, Jason Gillespie, has admitted that he no longer has any say in team selection. He said, "My job now is solely to coach the available players, whether it's on match day, before the match, or during the match." Gillespie was speaking at a press conference at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, a day before the start of the third Test between Pakistan and England. He answered various questions, including one about how he feels now that he has to focus on each individual player, especially spinners, given that he was a fast bowler. He gave a mixed response to this. Gillespie

expressed satisfaction, saying that the pitch looks better and should produce results in line with their strategy.

England captain Ben Stokes, in a press conference at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, said, "Let's see what the pitch does." However, he expected that the pitch would be favorable for batting on the first day, and pacers would also get some assistance. It didn't seem like Ben Stokes would be troubled by spin tactics. Meanwhile, the England cricket team began practicing hitting sixes a day before the match. Their players hit plenty of sixes in the nets. It seemed like they were preparing to play aggressive "Bazball" cricket, which is England's unique style, and they planned to dominate Pakistan in batting.

Not only that, but Ben Stokes and his head coach Brendon McCullum—who holds the record for the most sixes in a career with 107—also engaged in a six-hitting competition. Ben Stokes eventually conceded defeat to his head coach. It was a fun contest, with sixes raining everywhere. It didn't seem like a Test match was about to begin; this type of practice is usually seen before T20 matches, not before a Test match. This could also be a psychological tactic to put pressure on the Pakistan cricket team.

On the other hand, the England cricket team has made a decision after observing everything. In the decisive Test match starting Thursday, October 24, in Rawalpindi, they are going to attack with four spinners.

This includes three regular spinners and one part-time spinner. Along with Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir is there, and the next addition is Rehan Ahmed.

The names of the England cricket team players who will participate in the match are as follows.

Ben Stokes (Captain), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith, Gus Atkinson, Rehan Ahmed, Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir.

While the names of the Pakistani cricket team players who will participate in the match are as follows.

Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Shan Masood (Captain), Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and Zahid Mehmood.



## Meeting

WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, accompanied by the Governor State Bank of Pakistan, attended the meeting of Managing Director IMF with Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, and Heads of Regional Financial Institutions of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP).



Photo: PID

## Pakistan developing 'Climate Prosperity Plan', seeks Senator Aurangzeb

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, said in Washington that Pakistan is in the process of developing its Climate Prosperity Plan and urged Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to expand grant opportunities and concessional financing windows.

The minister was participating in the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) Ministerial Dialogue on the theme "Realizing Climate Prosperity through Financial Reform, Debt Solutions, and Affordable

Capital.

The minister emphasized the need to reform global finance to "make debt work for the climate," according to press release issued by finance ministry here Wednesday.

He also endorsed the official recognition of the V20 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as an official intergovernmental group.

Aurangzeb is leading the Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024. Other delegates include Finance Secretary, Imdad Ullah Bosal;

Secretary Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the minister on the sidelines of annual meetings, met with a delegation from Citibank led by Jay Collins, Vice Chair of Public Sector.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister briefed the delegation on Pakistan's economic stabilization and the ongoing reforms in the areas of taxation, energy, SOEs, pensions, and government rightsizing.

He also outlined the long-term "Road-to-Market" strategy,

stating that tapping into international capital markets would be on the government's agenda in due course.

The minister also attended the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting and urged all development partners to work closely together to resolve the pressing issues of climate change, population growth and child stunting faced by developing countries especially Pakistan.

In his statement on becoming the Second Vice Chair of G-24 Bureau during the fiscal year 2024-25, Finance Minister emphasized

the need to address issues including high debt burdens on developing countries, need for climate action and greater representation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions.

Aurangzeb also had meeting with Makhtar Diop, Managing Director International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Issues relating to expedited evaluation of bids for Islamabad airport, Diversified Payment Rights (DPR), raising local currency through offshore bond issuance, privatization of DISCOs and HBFC came under discussion.

## Pakistan-China business ties in high-profile sectors to be formalized: Aleem Khan

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Business-to-Business activities between China and Pakistan are ongoing and in this regard, major road shows for Leather and Fisheries are being organized in different cities of China. These shows will be held on October 29 in the city of Qingdao and on November 5 in the city of Guangzhou in which prominent Pakistani companies will participate, including 30 representatives from 17 fisheries companies and 16 executives from 10 institutions in the Leather Show.

This was observed in a high-level meeting held here to review Pakistan-China Business-to-Business activities



under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the Board of Investment is

following an integrated strategy to cooperate with business enterprises in China and with this initiative the Pakistani business community can access to the American and European markets through global road shows. He

said that 7 major sectors are of great importance, including Leather, Textiles, Medical and Surgical Equipments, fruits and vegetables, Plastics, Fisheries and Animal food as Pakistan-China business cooperation can be a big breakthrough

for the country's economy. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that a total of 168 companies from China and 78 companies from Pakistan are working under mutual cooperation and Pakistan should take maximum share in the transfer of industries from China.

He said that increase in business partnership from China is our first priority for which we will provide all possible support.

He added that all the Officers of Pakistani Embassy in China playing a significant role in the promotion of business while we will ensure the provision of all possible facilities to the business community of Pakistan.

## Pak-Uzbek entrepreneurs ink MoU to boost trade

## Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed to strengthen joint cooperation and enhance trade ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The signing event took place here at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Wednesday, in which a high level trade delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev, and delegation from RCCI led by its President Usman Shaukat participated.

According to the details, during the delegation level meeting, both the delegations discussed opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation in diverse fields of mutual interest.

Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev, in his address noted that bilateral trade has grown significantly by 50 to 55 percent annually over the past three years, increasing from USD 50.00 million

to USD 240.0 million last year. He also informed the participants that direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan would be resumed by the end of this year.



He further stated that visa issues for tourists have also been resolved.

Uzbekistan trade delegation visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to.

The delegation included key representatives from various sectors:

- Mr. Tukhtaev Akorbiro, Deputy Chairman of the Chemical Industry Association (Uzkimyosanoat)
- Mr. Halimjon Safarov, Deputy Chairman of the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Mr. Bakhrom Yusupov, Commercial Consular
- Mr. Hamid Mahmood, Representative of the Ministry of Tourism, Uzbekistan in his welcoming

remarks, RCCI President Usman Shaukat highlighted the strong potential for expanding trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in sectors including energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture, chemical industry, and tourism. He emphasized

the importance of exploring investment and joint venture opportunities and discussed practical matters such as sector-specific information, direct flights, and streamlined visa processing.

Tukhtaev Akorbiro, Deputy Chairman of Uzkimyosanoat, delivered a detailed presentation on Uzbekistan's chemical industry, sharing key figures on the production of over 150 products, including urea, fertilizers, polyethylene, and medical disinfectants, with 78 products being exported.

He also provided insights into the sector's performance as rated by agencies such as Fitch, Moody's, and KPMG.

The visit, which was followed by the MoU signing was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Executive committee members and a large number of RCCI members were also present on the occasion.

## President calls for pursuing Nusrat Bhutto's mission of democracy, public welfare

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday urged the countrymen to pursue the late Nusrat Bhutto's mission of public welfare and strengthening of democracy in the country.

The president, in his message on the 13th death anniversary of the Madar-e-Jamhuriat (Mother of Democracy) Nusrat Bhutto, called for following her ideology as a role model to strengthen democracy.

Paying tribute to the late Nusrat Bhutto's great political services and struggle against the dictator for the restoration of democracy and people's rights, the president said that she played a leadership role for the Pakistan Peoples Party in difficult times.

He lauded the late Nusrat Bhutto's sacrifices for democracy and said that she bravely faced the tyranny of the dictatorial regime.

"Begum Nusrat Bhutto is the



Mother of Democracy and a symbol of determination and courage. She was an intellectual and visionary politician," President Zardari said and also recalled her remarkable role in the empowerment of women and their involvement in politics.

## Police and other security forces high alert for the crush of terrorism

## Kiran Asim

MULTAN: In the mock exercise at the Northern Sui Gas Pipeline Transmission Office, the CTD, Special Branch, Civil Defence, Dolphin Forces, area SHO, and other agencies participated actively. The entire mock exercise was supervised by GM Transmission Engineer Javed Ashraf, Deputy Chief Admin Engineer Ayaz Mahmood, Senior Engineer HSE Shahbaz Ali Jafar, Executive Engineer Hashim Akhtar, and other officials. On this occasion, General Manager Engineer Ashraf Javed stated that we must

ensure our own safety and keep an eye on everything.

All departments should conduct mock exercises as they raise awareness about avoiding various risks. He expressed these views while addressing the mock exercise at the Sui Gas Transmission Office yesterday. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Admin Ayaz Mahmood, Senior Engineer HSE Shahbaz Ali Jafar, Executive Engineer Hashim Akhtar, and representatives from other departments also spoke and developed safety measures to mitigate all risks.

## Final auction for PIA to be on Oct 30, NA told



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The final auction for privatisation of the state-owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Corporation would be held on 30th October.

This was stated by Parliamentary Secretary for Communication Gul Asghar Khan in the National Assembly while responding to the

call attention notice of Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi.

Gul Asghar Khan said the PIA privatisation is a lengthy process conducted under the elaborate structure of privatisation.

"The privatisation process was initiated in February 2024 and would be finalised on October 30th," he added.

## TikToker Minahil Malik says obscene viral video is 'fake'

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani TikTok star Minahil Malik is at the center of controversy following the emergence of an alleged explicit video online. Malik has strongly denied the video's authenticity, labeling it as fabricated, and has filed a legal complaint in response to the situation.

This incident has led to significant online bullying and prompted an investigation by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

According to reports, the leaked video purportedly shows Malik in an intimate moment with a friend, although it has not been independently verified.

The clip has been widely circulated on social media, resulting in intense speculation and criticism aimed at



the TikTok star.

In a video statement posted on TikTok, Malik asserted, "These videos are completely fake. I have already filed a complaint with the FIA against the person responsible, and they will be arrested soon."