



**Finance Minister reaffirms commitment to first Panda Bond in talks with IFIs**

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb engaged with leaders from many international finance institutions (IFIs) in Washington, doubling down on Pakistan's commitment to entering global capital markets by issuing its first Panda Bond. (Details on Page 8)



**Advisory for Pakistani nationals intending to travel to Iraq**

ISLAMABAD: In view of the developments in the region, Pakistani nationals planning to travel to Iraq are advised to exercise extreme caution until the situation stabilizes and airline operations return to normal. For further information and facilitation, Pakistan Embassy in Baghdad can be contacted at the following contact numbers: +964-783 495 0311 and +964- 772 997 7773. PR

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Black Day**

ISLAMABAD: A view of Pakistan, Kashmir and black flags installed on Faizabad bridge in the Federal Capital on the eve of Black Day heald on 27th October. The 27th of October is observed the world over as 'Black Day' as 74 years ago, on this day, India without any legal justification, forcibly took control of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

**Cadet Arif Ullah martyred in Lakki Marwat mosque attack**

*The President said our religion does not allow carrying out attacks on places of worship and mosques*

**Spokesman Report**

LAKKI MARWAT: In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khwarij attacked a mosque in district Lakki Marwat during Maghrib prayers on Friday.

According to ISPR, under training gentleman at Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, Cadet Arif Ullah, who was on leave at his hometown, was also present there, offering prayers in the same Mosque.

As soon as Khwarij started firing, he immediately responded and fought the khwarij bravely. However, during the incident, nineteen years old gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah embraced martyrdom sacrificing his life, while saving many innocent lives of worshippers.

Such heinous and cowardly act of attacking worshippers in the mosque while praying reflects the true ideology of these Khwarij.

Valiant act of a young Gentleman Cadet is a testament of spirit of sacrifice and dedication of security forces' personnel to eliminate the



GC ARIF ULLAH SHAHEED 25-10-2024

menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices further strengthen our resolve.

President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned the attack on a mosque in Lakki Marwat.

In a statement, he paid tributes to PMA cadet Arif Ullah, who embraced martyrdom in the attack lost his life in the attack.

The President said our religion does not allow carrying out attacks on places of worship and mosques. He said attacking the places of worship is a very cowardly and un-Islamic act.

The President also prayed for high ranks of the martyr, and granting fortitude to the bereaved family.

**PSX rise shows investors' confidence in govt's policies: PM**

PM Shehbaz Sharif congratulates nation as Pakistan Stock Exchange surpasses historic 90,000 points

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange's 100-index exceeded the historic mark of 90,000 points.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that gradual increase in the stock market since March 2024 reflected growing investor confidence in the government policies.

"Such a swift surge in Pakistan's stock market after 14 years is a result of untiring efforts of the economic team," PM Shehbaz said.

He attributed the 36% increase in the stock market since March 2024, a significant reduction

in the inflation rate and overall economic stability in the country to the efforts of the economic team.

He said the inflation rate had eased down from 38% to 6.9% while the current account had also been in surplus for last two months.

During the previous quarter, he said the Overseas Pakistanis dispatched record remittances worth US\$8.8 billion.

Similarly, the prime minister emphasized that the process of revising the contracts made with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) had also been initiated to provide maximum facilitation to the power consumers.

Furthermore, he said that the long-term \$7 billion facility from



the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would also improve the country's economy.

"Dreams of those wishing Pakistan fell into default have been broken," he said adding that he had pledged with the people that he would not let the country, obtained through millions of

sacrifices, fall victim to the consequences of the negligence of those who were incompetent.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the Punjab Police for carrying out a successful operation in the Mianwali area of Mianwali in which 10 terrorists were killed.

The prime minister lauded the timely and effective anti-terror action by the Punjab Police and its Counter Terrorism Department, according to a PM Office press release.

"The entire nation feels proud of its brave policemen. We will continue to foil the nefarious designs of the terrorists," the prime minister said and reiterated the government's resolve for continuous action till the complete elimination of terrorism.

**Chinese envoy highlights regional coop, security concerns at SCO, BRICS Summits**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong on Friday underscored the evolving and deepening partnership between China and Pakistan, describing it as a distinctive and unparalleled alliance.

Talking to a select group of journalists here at the Chinese Embassy, he noted the significance of Chinese President Xi Jinping's participation in the 16th BRICS Summit, held from October 22 to 24, 2024, in Kazan, Russia, which garnered global attention, including from Pakistan.

Referring to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Jiang highlighted that it was established with China's involvement 23 years ago and has since expanded from 6 to 26 member states, covering a significant portion of the world's population. He underscored President Xi's consistent support for SCO's

development, adding that Xi had promoted the organization as a platform for solidarity, mutual trust, and regional stability at this year's Astana Summit.

The Chinese envoy also acknowledged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's participation in the Astana Summit, where he discussed important initiatives aimed at achieving common goals.

Ambassador Jiang highlighted key outcomes from the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, held in Pakistan. He shared that according to his understanding, Chinese Premier Li Qiang proposed several initiatives focusing on four main areas: expanding practical cooperation among member countries, proactively addressing major risks, enhancing people-to-people exchanges, and building upon the consensus reached during earlier meetings. APP

**Naqvi praises Mianwali Police for eliminating 10 extremist terrorists**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has praised the brave efforts of Mianwali Police for their successful operation that resulted in the elimination of 10 extremist terrorists in the Mianwali district on Friday.

The police action was described as a major blow to terrorist activities in the region and a testament to the courage and efficiency of Punjab's law enforcement agencies.

In an official statement, Minister Naqvi commended the District Police Officer (DPO) of Mianwali, Akhtar Farooq, along with his entire police team, for their exceptional performance in thwarting what could have been a devastating attack by the terrorists. The operation, which was carried out in a strategic and daring manner, successfully neutralized the terrorists and prevented any harm to civilians in the area.

"The brave personnel of Punjab Police have brought 10 extremist terrorists to a humiliating end," Naqvi said, emphasizing the significance of the operation. He added that the terrorists were part of a dangerous extremist network seeking to spread fear and chaos in the region, but



their evil plans were crushed by the prompt action of the police.

Naqvi also highlighted the broader impact of this successful mission on the ongoing fight against terrorism in the country. "The Mianwali police team courageously thwarted the nefarious designs of extremist terrorists," he remarked, pointing out how their decisive actions served as a crucial contribution to national security.

The minister took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to the Inspector General of Punjab Police (IG) Usman Anwar and his entire force, recognizing their leadership and operational excellence. "I congratulate Punjab Police Commander IG Usman Anwar and his team," he stated, underscoring the collaborative efforts that led to the

operation's success.

In a message directed to the public, Naqvi expressed that the nation should be proud of its law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of the people. "The nation is proud of the achievements of Mianwali Police," he said, while praising the exceptional bravery of the officers involved in this particular operation.

"The brave sons of Punjab Police have achieved significant successes in the fight against terrorism," the Interior Minister declared, reflecting on the sacrifices and efforts made by the force to uphold peace and stability across the province.

In closing, Naqvi hailed the officers who carried out the mission as national heroes. "The police officers who killed 10 extremist terrorists are the nation's heroes," he concluded, expressing his gratitude for their dedication and service.

This operation comes as a strong message to terrorist organizations attempting to disrupt peace in the country. With the continuous efforts of law enforcement agencies, Pakistan remains committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms. APP

**At UN, Pakistan calls for ending women's suffering in IIOJK, Palestine**

**Spokesman Report**

NEW YORK: At the United Nations, Pakistan has called for ending the suffering of women and girls under foreign occupation in Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir and Palestine.

Speaking at a debate titled Women, Peace, and Security at the UN Security Council, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram said this agenda must accord priority to end the suffering of women in areas under foreign occupation.

He called on the Security

Council to address the dire and unacceptable situation of women and girls under foreign occupation.

Ambassador Akram said Pakistan was the first country to endorse the UN Secretary General's Declaration of shared commitments which identified Women, Peace and Security as a central priority to strengthen UN peacekeeping.

He said an increasing number of Pakistani women peacekeepers in recent years have served as doctors, nurses and police officers in some of the most challenging environments.

**CJP Isa remained 'complacent, indifferent' to external pressure on judiciary: Justice Shah**

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has fired broadside against outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa for remaining "complacent and indifferent to external pressure on the judiciary" during his tenure as the senior puisne judge skipped a full court reference to bid farewell to the latter.

CJP Isa took oath as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) on Sept 17, 2023 at a ceremony, where his wife Sarina Isa was standing beside him.

Justice Yahya Afridi, who was appointed by a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC), is set to take oath as the next chief justice tomorrow (Saturday).

In a letter to Supreme Court Registrar, Justice Shah — who would have become the CJP had the 26th Amendment not been passed — noted that it is universal custom to hold a farewell event to acknowledge the departing chief justice's contributions.

However, he said, traditions, like institutions, "rely on the merits of those who embody them."

He explained that he decided against attending former CJP Saqib Nisar's reference because "he had exceeded the limits of his constitutional role."

He reiterated that he would also not be attending CJP Isa's reference "though for different but more worrying reasons".

Justice Shah pointed out that the chief justice's role is to protect the rights of the people, uphold judicial independence, and ensure justice for all.

"CJP Isa, like an ostrich, with his head in the sand, remained complacent and indifferent to external influences and pressures on the judiciary," he wrote, adding: "Instead of standing as a bulwark against interference, he opened the gates wide, betraying the judiciary's sacred role as a check and balance on power."

The senior judge further said that the outgoing CJP showed "neither the courage nor the moral fortitude to defend the judiciary rather ceded ground to those who sought to weaken the courts for their own gain thereby compromising the very foundation of the rule of law." Agencies

# AJK President calls for unified stand on Kashmir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has stressed the need for adopting a unified stand on the issue of Kashmir.

While addressing a dinner hosted by him in honour of heads of all political parties of Azad Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said that it was high time that the leadership across the political spectrum should come forward in a big way and work together to promote the Kashmir cause effectively.

“There is a dire need that the top leadership representing different political/religious parties must rise above partisan politics and work together for the freedom movement of Kashmir”, the president said, adding that he as the President of state would continue to play his role in this regard.

He said that the main objective behind the establishment of free government in the liberated territory (AJK) was to strengthen the freedom



movement and liberate the rest part of the state. Referring to the ruthless suppression of political dissent in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said, “Since the top leadership of Hurriyat Conference in has been languishing in jails, it is our shared responsibility to become a voice for the voiceless Kashmiri brothers and sisters who have

reeling under the Indian state repression”.

India, he said, was hellbent on destroying the Kashmiris’ distinct identity, their history and culture under a well thought out conspiracy.

The function was attended by Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif

Akbar, former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Leader of Opposition Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, President Jammu and Kashmir People’s Party Sardar Hasan Ibrahim, government ministers including Colonel Retired Waqar Noor, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Mian Abdul Waheed, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Dewan Ali Khan Chagatai, Sardar Zia Qamar, Akmal Hussain Sargala, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Javed Butt, Asim Sharif Butt, Ms. Intiaz Naseem, Deputy Speaker Riaz Gujjar, Member of Assembly Chaudhry Ismail Gujjar, Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Dar, Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent Majid Ali Khan, Hurriyat Leader Yusuf Naseem, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed and others.

## Murad to approach federal govt to release Rs22bn FBR collected from Sindh



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI (OCT 25): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected over Rs. 22 billion from approximately 500 Sindh-based industrial establishments during the tax periods from 2014 to 2021 but has not transferred these funds to the provincial government.

“We will meet with the federal government to resolve various issues, including the release of pending funds and the recovery of the Sindh Workers Welfare Fund (SWWF) and the Sindh Workers Participation Fund (SWPPF).”

He said this while presiding over a Friday joint meeting of the Labour and Finance departments at the CM House. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani, Zia Lanjar, Shahid Thahim, Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary of Finance Fayaz Jatoti, Secretary to the Chief Minister Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of Law Ali Ahmad Baloch, Secretary of Labour Rafiq Qureshi, and others.

Mr Shah said that the FBR has collected over Rs. 22 billion from around 500 industrial establishments in Sindh during the specified tax periods but has not allocated any of these amounts to the provincial government.

## Three suspects arrested in connection with murder of brothers in Multan: DIG

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: City Police Officer, DIG Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, held a press conference alongside SSP Operations Kamran Amir Khan and SSP Investigation Rana Muhammad Ashraf. He reported that on October 18, 2024, Muhammad Faisal informed the Basti Malook police station that unknown motorcyclists had shot and killed his brother Amir and his wife Sajida, also known as Khushi, near Bridge 7 Faiz. Upon receiving the information, the Basti Malook police promptly arrived at the scene and initiated action. A case (No. 2032/24) was registered on October 18, 2024, under sections 302/34 based on Muhammad Faisal’s complaint, and efforts to locate the suspects began.

The case was traced, and orders were issued for the immediate arrest of the suspects. Under the supervision of SP City Division Shamsuddin, a special team was formed, led by SDPO Makhdoom Rashid Rao Tariq Pervaiz, which included SHO Basti Malook Imran Gul Niazi, CIA In-Charge Ahmed Nawaz, ASI Sajid Bandesha, and other officers.

Utilizing modern technology and leveraging their professional skills, the police teams traced the case and arrested three suspects, including the main accused, Younis. The arrested suspects are: Younis, son of Malik Kalu, resident of Miran Pur, Ghulam Yaseen, son of Jalal Khan, Baloch tribe, resident of Bahawalpur Bypass and Naveed, son of Saeed, resident of 380 WB Lodhran.

## DFP terms 27 October as darkest day in Kashmir’s contemporary history

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), while terming 27 October as the darkest day in Kashmir’s contemporary history, has said that the invasion of Kashmir by India on the day in 1947 was a naked aggression devoid of any legal or moral justification.

While referring to devastating impacts of the illegal occupation, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that India’s prolonged military occupation over the territory poses an existential threat to Kashmiris who have been reeling under India’s brutal repression for the past several decades.

Terming Indian invasion as an atrocious attack on the political and democratic rights of millions of Kashmiris he said on this fateful day the so-called democratic state had brazenly violated the international law by usurping the fundamental rights of millions of Kashmiris.

Recalling Kashmiris’ historic resistance against the Indian occupation he said, “Despite suffering at the hands of Indian tyrants the valiant people of Kashmir have never accepted its dominance over the region”.

“Kashmiris have neither accepted the hegemony of the Indian state in the past nor will they accept it in the future”, the DFP spokesman said adding that day was not far when Kashmiris’ struggle and their sacrifices for the noble cause would reach to fruition.

## APHC reviews preparation, protest programs on Kashmir Black Day



ISLAMABAD: All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) here on Friday held a meeting to review the preparation and protest programs regarding the Kashmir Black Day aims to pressurize India to impede its atrocities and barbarism on innocent Kashmiri people.

The meeting was chaired by APHC Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmad Butt. During the meeting, it was decided that all political, religious and social parties of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir including students of Liberation Cell, Pakistan Sweet Home and other schools of thought were invited to participate in the protest, said a press release.

Remember, October 27, 1947 is one of the darkest days in the history of Kashmir, when the Indian imperialism, in open violation of all international laws, landed its army in Srinagar.

The people of the state never recognized this Indian illegal occupation and started a movement against it which continues till today. There will be a huge protest demonstration observe here on October 27th Sunday against this imperialist occupation.

Former convener Mehmood Ahmed Sagar, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Mian Muzaffar, Intiaz Wani, Adeel Mushtaq, Mohammad Ashraf Dar participated in the meeting.

## Solidarity for Palestine and Lebanon

LAHORE: Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) shouting slogans during the protest against Israel attack on Gaza and Lebanon and showing their solidarity for Palestine and Lebanon people, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Jahangir Tareen inaugurates Computer Lab and two new class rooms at Khanewal Public School

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen, founder of the Tareen Education Foundation, and its president, Ali Khan Tareen, inaugurated a state-of-the-art computer lab and two new classrooms at Khanewal Public School & University College. The construction of the IT Lab and classrooms cost 14 million rupees. Among the attendees were Deputy Commissioner Khanewal, Muhammad Ali Bukhari, Deputy Commissioner Multan, Waseem Hamid Sandhu, ADC Khanewal, Abdul Sattar Khan, Assistant Commissioner Khanewal, Sumbal Javed, Principal of Khanewal Public School & University College, Hafiz Muhammad Rashid Saeed Rana, CEO of Tareen Education Foundation, Akbar Khan, and other administrative officials.

On this occasion, Jahangir Khan Tareen emphasized that quality and modern education are the only paths to progress. By equipping our children with the latest education in information technology, we can ensure the country’s development. He expressed gratitude



to God for blessing him with enough to spend on others, stating that whatever he has spent on children’s education has been returned to him tenfold with blessings in his work. He added that he and his son, Ali Khan Tareen, would always stand with the children of Khanewal.

Deputy Commissioner Multan, Waseem Hamid Sandhu, expressed

gratitude to Jahangir Khan Tareen for providing a state-of-the-art computer lab. He also mentioned that Tareen had previously provided a dialysis machine for Mian Channu upon their request. He praised Tareen as a generous supporter of education.

Deputy Commissioner Khanewal, Muhammad Ali Bukhari, said that they would work closely with the Tareen

Education Foundation to enroll Khanewal’s children in computer courses offered by TICER.

Assistant Commissioner Khanewal, Sumbal Javed, and Principal Hafiz Muhammad Rashid Saeed Rana, in their speeches, stated that the advanced computer lab would give the students of Khanewal Public School the opportunity to compete with global challenges.

## Inner Wheel Club to raise awareness on breast cancer

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Chairperson of Inner Wheel Club District 340 Miss Rizwana Malik has said that breast cancer is spreading due to silence and laziness of women. It is possible to cure this disease by informing about it in time.

All the clubs of Innervale will run a campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer.

It is more prevalent which is only due to lack of awareness, he expressed these views yesterday while addressing the Pink Day event in connection with breast cancer awareness campaign in collaboration with Mix Institute and Inner Wheel District 340.

Former district Chairperson Mrs. Rizwana Tabasim Durrani from the cere-



mony said that the month of October is celebrated all over the world for the

awareness of breast cancer so that more and more women’s lives can be saved by

awareness of this disease in this month.

Also informed that the hospitals for the event. Bilal Sultan, manager of MIX Institute, mentioned the insurance and other major hospitals of Pakistan about breast cancer in Pakistan and told about the facility given by the government that now the government is doing breast cancer treatment and operation very cheaply, women do not come to it due to lack of awareness, they gave all the numbers from which cheap treatment is possible and the event was organized by Ayesha Ikram, while all the members of District 340.

At the end of the participation of the club’s president secretary and other officials, Breast Cancer awareness walk was also conducted to Eid Gah Chowk for Breast Cancer awareness campaign.

Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:57 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:44 pm
Maghrib	5:22 pm
Isha	6:46 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80

# Free Media a cornerstone of democracy; German Ambassador

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Germany and the Embassy of the Netherlands, both members of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC), hosted a panel discussion titled "Media Freedom and Democracy - Challenges and Opportunities". This event brought together journalists, diplomats, and community members for an open dialogue about the crucial role of media in shaping democracy.

Both representatives of the countries emphasized the role of a free press in strengthening democracy and fostering informed societies. Commenting on the occasion, Ambassador Alfred Grannas highlighted: "A free press is a precondition for a thriving democracy; this is why, for



instance, we offer journalists from all over the world additional training courses with the DW Academy, both in Germany and online."

Mr Hajo Provó Kluit, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Netherlands Embassy added: "That is why the Netherlands supports a 3-year project of NGO Free Press Unlimited

helping rural journalists in Pakistan enhance their role as accountability advocates.

During the discussion German Ambassador Alfred Grannas, said that free and independent media was indispensable for democratic thriving sans freedom of expression.

Moderated by journalist and anchor Munizae Jahangir, the panel featured Pakistani journalists Ziaur Rehman, senior correspondent at The News International, and Maria Memon, news anchor from ARY News.

They discussed various challenges faced by journalists in Pakistan, ranging from censorship and safety concerns to the growing influence of digital media in promoting transparency.

The event underscored the commitment of both Germany and the Netherlands to upholding media freedom as a cornerstone of democracy.

The discussants acknowledged ongoing challenges while also highlighting opportunities for collaboration and growth within the country's media landscape.

## Believers of Rahman are figures of literature, Allama Riaz

**City Desk**



RAWALPINDI: The believers of Rahman are figures of literature, submission and love. Just as Allah Almighty has created twelve towers in the sky, in the same way, he has placed 12 imams in the family of Muhammad, who are the true advocates of the teachings of the religion.

These views were expressed by the guardian of the Supreme Institute of Education Islamia Khayaban Sir Syed Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah while addressing the weekly gathering of Zikr and Dars Quran. A large number of Sheikhs, Sadats, Ulemas and common people participated in this grand gathering. In his address, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah explained the verse of Surah Furqan and said that the creation of the heavens is the proof of the greatness of Allah Ta'ala and His innumerable favors. He said that just as Allah Almighty has mentioned the 12 constellations of the heavens in the Qur'an, in the same way in the light of the saying of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) that after me there will be twelve Nabees of my Ummah. Because of whom Allah Almighty will protect the religion, because of them rains will fall on the earth and crops will ripen, because of them you will be given sustenance. These will be the holy persons who will be the defenders of religion in the real sense.

## SECP Publishes Insurance Industry Statistics 2023



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released Insurance Industry Statistics for the year 2023.

The statistics offer a comprehensive perspective on the financial performance of the insurance industry, serving a broad array of stakeholders in making informed decisions. In addition to facilitating data analysis and generating insights, these statistics will also help establish standardized performance benchmarks across the industry over time, acting as a valuable tool for effective performance measurement.

The report's data reveals that the life insurance sector accounts for 64% of the industry's gross premiums written, while the non-life sector comprises 36%. In 2023, the total assets of the industry grew from Rs. 2,421 billion to Rs. 2,900 billion. A gross premium of Rs. 631 billion was written in 2023, reflecting a 14% year-on-year growth compared to Rs. 553 billion in 2022. Claims paid during 2023 amounted to Rs. 373 billion (2022: Rs. 276 billion), with life insurance companies paying Rs. 289 billion and non-life companies paying Rs. 84 billion.

Commissioner Insurance, Aamir Khan, in his message, highlighted several crucial steps to address the challenges faced by the insurance sector. These included the adoption of the five-year strategic plan by insurers, Federal Government's support in enacting proposed legal reforms, the enforcement and provision of compulsory and essential insurance schemes at the provincial level, and the simplification of regulatory approval processes by the SECP.

## Atif Raza says complete eradication of dengue is possible through public participation and awareness

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has stated that the complete eradication of dengue is possible through effective public participation and awareness. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding the anti-dengue campaign at the DC Office Attock. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Attock Anil Saeed, CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail, Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabeen, District Entomologist Shafiq Mughal, and officers from the departments of education, health, and other sectors. Dr. Asad Ismail, District Entomologist Shafiq Mughal, and health department officers gave a detailed briefing to the participants on the anti-dengue campaign. During the briefing, it was informed that steps are being taken for dengue eradication across the district, with all departments playing a significant role. Departments are also running awareness campaigns for the public. In the meeting, the performance of all departments concerning the dengue campaign was thoroughly reviewed. Speaking at the occasion, the DC Attock highlighted the current threat posed by the dengue mosquito, terming it highly dangerous and life-threatening. He emphasized the need for all government, semi-government, and private institutions to actively contribute to dengue eradication efforts and ensure the implementation of all necessary measures. He also stressed the importance of educating the public on preventive measures against the dengue mosquito and ensuring their adherence to these measures.

## Czech ambassador, SAPM discuss areas of mutual interest in digital media, public communication



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, Ladislav Steinhübel on Friday called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon and discussed areas of mutual interest in digital media and public communication.

He was accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission Michaela Chrtova, said a press release.

During the meeting, they explored avenues for collaboration in digital innovation, cybersecurity, and technology-driven communication.

Fahd highlighted Pakistan's initiatives in digital media, and both sides expressed a desire to strengthen bilateral digital ties.

They reaffirmed their commitment to fostering collaboration for sustainable growth in the digital sector.

## Kazakhstan Republic Day

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Privatisation, Abdal Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, and others cutting the cake during Kazakhstan Republic Day ceremony, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pullain Baloch visits PTV Quetta

**Bureau Report**

QUETTA: Pullain Baloch, Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting and Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan visited PTV Quetta Centre today.

During the visit, Pullain Baloch emphasized the vital role of Pakistan Television Corporation as both a state broadcaster and a national institution, underscoring the importance of modernizing the organization to effectively safeguard Pakistan's ideological values.

Chairman of the National Assembly's standing committee highlighted PTV's role in promoting soft image of Balochistan, stressing the government's full support and commitment to addressing the challenges faced by PTV.

He affirmed the significance of PTV in fostering national harmony through balanced portrayal of Balochistan's diverse culture and society and praised PTV Quetta Centre's dedication to



enhancing understanding and unity through its consistent coverage of Balochistan's cultural and social landscape.

The visit included a comprehensive briefing by Syed Faheem Shah, General

Manager PTV Quetta along with Gul Shah Bukhari, Program Manager, Javed Ali Hazara, Incharge Bolan and other key officials from Camera, Engineering, Administration, Finance, Design, News, Current Affairs, and IT department.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Serena Hotels holds educational session

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Serena Hotels organized a dedicated awareness session for its employees, aimed at empowering them with knowledge about early detection, diagnosis, and treatment options for breast cancer. The session featured esteemed medical professionals, Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed and Dr. Saeeda Yasmin, both are renowned and leading practitioners for breast cancer treatment and diagnosis.

Both the doctors highlighted the importance of early detection and shared details about the state-of-the-art facilities available for mammography, ultrasound, and biopsies. They have also shared important insights into breast cancer



detection and treatment, emphasizing the life-saving importance of

regular screening and self-examinations.

The session also included a practical demonstration on how to perform self-examinations, a key method in early detection. Employees had the opportunity to engage in testing and consultations with the doctors, further enhancing the session's impact.

Serena Hotels emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting the well-being of its employees and supporting initiatives that empower them through health awareness.

Breast cancer awareness is a vital part of not only women's but men's health, and Serena Hotels is proud to provide this platform where our employees can learn from leading medical professionals.

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# Karak: A Tapestry of Trials and Treasures

**Haseeb Ahmad Khattak**

If you have ever travelled along the Indus Highway in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, you have surely passed through Karak. Karak is a district steeped in history, rich in natural resources, and dealing with its own challenges. From vast oil and gas deposits to mineral richness such as limestone and salt, the district is rich in resources that fuel both local industry and national development initiatives. Despite these impressive assets, Karak faces numerous challenges. Water scarcity, environmental degradation from mining operations, and social inequality are major issues in the region. In this article, we will discuss Karak.

Karak district is located in the heart of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where history, culture, and nature combine to create beauty. Karak, 123 kilometers south of Peshawar, is surrounded by the districts of Kohat and Hangu to the north and Bannu and Lakki Marwat to the south. Historically, Karak was administered by Nawab of Terri from 1849 to 1958, which later became part of Kohat district. On 1 July 1982, Karak was granted the status of an independent district. Covering an area of 3,302 square kilometers, Karak is one of the largest districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with a population of about 0.8 million.

The district is divided into three tehsils: Banda Dawood Shah, Karak, and Takht-e-Nasrati. Each tehsil has its own unique landscape, from the mountains of

Banda Dawood Shah to the sandy plains of Takht-e-Nasrati, often referred to as "Thal." Karak has a predominantly arid and hilly climate.

Karak is home to the courageous Khattak tribe, whose legacy has endured through the years. Pashto is the primary language, and 99.99% of the population speaks it. The district has a higher literacy rate (67.75%) than the area average. Nature has blessed Karak with an abundance of natural resources, including oil, gas, uranium, and salt mines. These resources contribute significantly to the prosperity and potential of the country.

Karak plays a crucial role in Pakistan's energy industry, with OGDCL and private enterprises managing the high-quality oil and gas reserves in the region. The district also contains large salt and gypsum sources, which are significant in both domestic and international markets. Moreover, Karak's uranium reserves benefit Pakistan's nuclear energy and defense capabilities.

The oil reserves in Karak are spread over a broad area, with production taking place at several locations. The oil extracted from Karak meets the American Institute of Petroleum's strict standards, indicating global quality. Karak has several functioning oil fields, including Neshpah, Makoori, Manzalai, and Tal, which are administered by OGDCL and other private firms. Neshpah alone produces around 18,000 barrels of oil per day, contributing significantly to Pakistan's energy needs. The oil sector alone contributes an impressive \$580 million to the national budget, highlighting the region's

economic importance.

Karak is also a major hub for gas resources. According to OGDCL, Karak generates 395 MT of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and 91 mmcf of gas daily. The high gas formation pressure ranks among the best in the world. This significant gas output underlines Karak's importance in Pakistan's energy sector and its potential for future exploration.

Karak is known as the "ambassador of salt" due to its vast reserves. Areas like Karak city and Bahadur Khel contain different types of salt, including white, red, pink, and extreme red salt. With an estimated 10 billion tons of salt reserves, Bahadur Khel is a veritable treasure mine. This surplus meets domestic needs and positions Karak as an important supplier to neighboring countries.

Karak's gypsum deposits are of high purity, reaching levels of up to 90%. The district is a major center for gypsum mining, with the Jatta Ismail Khel area being particularly important. Gypsum is essential in construction, agriculture, and manufacturing. The previous government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had announced plans to establish a Gypsum City in Karak, underscoring the district's significance in this sector.

Karak's uranium deposits, particularly isotopes uranium-235 and uranium-238, are vital for Pakistan's nuclear defense and energy sectors. Uranium-235 is essential for nuclear devices, while uranium-238 plays a key role in energy production. Karak's contribution to both national security and energy stability through these resources is profound.

Despite its wealth of natural resources, Karak faces critical challenges. The health sector is in dire condition, with severe water contamination and inadequate medical facilities. Uranium contamination in water poses a serious health threat, and the lack of cancer treatment facilities is alarming. Hospitals are under-equipped, and finding available doctors is difficult.

Transportation is another major issue. Despite being a key district, Karak lacks modern transport infrastructure. The road network in remote hilly areas is poor, making it difficult to access essential services. Moreover, Karak, which is three times larger than Peshawar, lacks an airport or major transport projects.

In terms of education, Karak has a high literacy rate, primarily due to private institutions. However, the government has not established a university or medical college, despite the district's educational potential.

Energy shortages also plague the district. Although Karak supplies gas to the rest of Pakistan, local residents suffer from gas shortages and electricity load shedding of up to 14 hours daily. These issues exacerbate the economic difficulties faced by the people of Karak.

Karak is a region blessed by nature, generating nearly \$1 billion in revenue annually. However, the district is burdened with challenges in health, education, transportation, energy, and water. It is time for the people of Karak to raise their voices and demand their rights.

As Ahmad Faraz said: Shikwah zulmat-e-shab se tou kahin behtar tha, Apne hisse ka koi shamma jalate jaate.

## Israel, Iran: Military tensions escalate

As tensions between Israel and the Iranian government escalate, the conflict is moving beyond mere asymmetric warfare toward direct strikes on each other's soil. This new phase of hostilities raises concerns about the military capabilities of both countries, as analysts and experts assess the strengths and weaknesses of their armed forces.

To understand the full scope of the potential confrontation, it is essential to recognize that any war between these two nations would not only devastate them, but could also draw in other regional and global players, including state and non-state actors. The strategic importance of both Israel and Iran makes this conflict a potential trigger for wider regional instability.

Military capabilities can be analyzed through several categories that reveal the operational readiness and strategic power of a nation. These categories provide a framework to evaluate how Israel and Iran compare.

A country's defense budget serves as a crucial indicator of its military strength and priorities. It reflects the resources dedicated to developing and maintaining military assets, such as personnel, technology and weapons systems.

Israel's defense budget is significantly larger than Iran's, bolstered by substantial US military aid. Israel's annual defense spending is currently \$23.4 billion, with an additional \$3.18 billion annually provided by the US as part of a decade-long agreement. This financial backing enables Israel to procure advanced weapons systems, such as the Iron Dome and F-35 stealth fighters, meaning it is most likely the technologically superior force.

Iran spends considerably less due to international sanctions and economic constraints. Its 2023 defense spending was reported to be \$10.3 billion, although it might be higher due to undisclosed funds used for its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran compensates for its lower budget by relying on asymmetric tactics, such as using proxies and deploying missile forces capable of striking its regional adversaries.

Manpower is a vital component of military strength. In terms of active personnel, Israel maintains about 170,000 soldiers in its defense forces, with a reserve force that can quickly be mobilized, bringing the total potential military manpower to about 465,000. The Israeli military is highly trained, with mandatory military service ensuring a constant supply of well-prepared soldiers. However, Iran's available manpower significantly surpasses Israel's. It has an estimated 587,000 active personnel across its regular army, IRGC and paramilitary forces.



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

## 'Divided from Within'

If someone were to ask you, What is the most pressing issue in Sindh today, one that touches the very survival of its people?—and if your answer is extremism, as is widely debated on social media right now—then you are likely thinking in the wrong direction. Yes, the rising tide of religious fanaticism and extremism is a concern, but it is also being sensationalized to divert attention from deeper, more fundamental issues. If these core problems are not addressed promptly, Sindh could suffer irreversible damage.

Before focusing on these core challenges, let's briefly discuss the hype surrounding the recent Umerkot incident. This event has sparked fiery debates both online and offline, where fatwas (religious edicts) are being issued and contested. It is not the first time fanaticism has reared its head in society. From the pages of history, we know that intolerance has always existed. It feels like just yesterday when a patriot like Makhdoom Bilawal was crushed in an oil press by religious zealots, or when Sufi Shah Inayat was executed for promoting the philosophy "He who tills the land shall reap its fruits." These acts echo today—much like how Chanesar betrayed Sindh to Alauddin Khilji, only for Dodo Soomro to rise and sacrifice himself in defense of his homeland.

Even now, Chanesar-like betrayals persist, while the spirit of Dodo's resistance continues to resonate. The voices of Makhdoom Bilawal and Sufi Shah Inayat can still be felt in the air, as if they are waging a timeless battle against injustice and oppression. Despite thousands of years of struggle, Sindh has survived conspiracies, invasions, and crises. Betrayal has not ended, and neither has the birth of heroes to confront it. The struggle between darkness and light, between intolerance and unity, is

still ongoing.

History shows that oppressive forces always attempt to impose their ideologies by dividing people based on religion, language, and race. Today, these same forces are uneasy because Sindh has long embodied harmony among different faiths and communities—Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians have lived together in peace for centuries. This unity, however, remains intolerable to some, who wish to dismantle it by stirring conflict. But they must understand: whenever a traitor like Chanesar has appeared, a hero like Dodo has risen to confront him.

Recent viral videos of extremist figures inviting other radicals into the fray reflect the growing panic among those opposed to Sindh's spirit of unity. Their fear is a sign that the people's consciousness is a threat to their crumbling empire. Those who are loyal to Sindh and its values of peace and coexistence are fortunate, while those who align with invaders and oppressors—like Khilji, Nadir Shah, and Abdali—must decide: either abandon their betrayal or leave this land. If they don't, the people of Sindh may well raise the cry: "Clear the impure feet from this sacred land—this land is our honor!"

Alongside these cultural and ideological struggles, internal conspiracies aimed at dividing Sindh's people must also be recognized and resisted. But the most pressing issues remain unresolved. Sindh faces existential challenges, such as water rights and resource exploitation. The time has come to launch a unified, powerful movement against the theft of the Indus River's water, similar to the resistance against the Kalabagh Dam. The construction of multiple dams on the Indus is a punitive response to Sindh's opposition to Kalabagh, and this injustice cannot go unanswered.

Sindh's survival depends on unity in the struggle for its rightful share of water and resources. Every person living in Sindh—regardless of language or ethnicity—must take part in this battle for survival. This land has nurtured them, and it demands their defense in return. Intellectuals and writers have also called for returning state awards in protest against these injustices. While symbolic, such acts must be accompanied by sustained political pressure and organized resistance across all fronts.

In addition to water and resource exploitation, the issue of governance in Sindh remains dire. Lawlessness is rampant, merit is ignored, and corruption has tainted every institution—from educational boards to public service commissions, where grades and positions are sold openly. This multifaceted crisis demands a collective effort from Sindh's people, not fragmented engagement with isolated issues.

The unresolved cases of missing persons and injustices against individuals like Nazim Jokhio and Ajmal Sawan remind us that the struggle for justice in Sindh is far from over. The region is still plagued by feuds, tribal conflicts, and lawlessness. Blood continues to spill, and traditional jirgas perpetuate cycles of violence with impunity.

In these difficult times, Sindh's people must avoid internal division and stay united. External forces, fearing Sindh's unity, will always try to sow discord. We must resist the temptation to engage in unnecessary arguments and focus instead on the core issues—our resources, water rights, and governance. Social media, though powerful, can also distract us with trivial debates and divisive rhetoric. We must remain vigilant, ensuring that Sindh's fundamental issues are not sidelined.

The real threat to Sindh's heritage and identity lies not from outsiders but from within—through betrayal by our own people. As Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai once said: "It is the insiders who betray, for the strangers cannot harm us."

## Traders lament, Over Rising Crime in South Punjab

Last day, a delegation of traders met with the Additional Inspector General (IG) of South Punjab in his office to voice concerns over the rising incidents of thefts and robberies in the city. In response, the Additional IG explained, "The root causes of theft and robbery include inflation, unemployment, and social inequality. However, as experts in sociology and psychology highlight, while these factors contribute to crime, they are not the sole or direct reasons. Crime prevention requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses economic development, education, justice, and social welfare systems."

It is noted that, "When criminals do not fear punishment or when the justice system becomes sluggish, it creates an environment conducive to crime." We are not hesitate to write that the police force lacks the professionalism and competence found in developed countries. "We have witnessed how police personnel manipulate case registrations and investigation reports to favouritism the accused, thereby encouraging criminal behaviour. When investigating officers draft case reports in lawyers' chambers, the accused are almost guaranteed bail and release. Such practices allow offenders, including those involved in theft, robbery, and drug-related offenses, to walk free within days."

In today's technological age, the Additional IG pointed out, educated but unemployed individuals are increasingly turning to crime. "We are seeing a rise in cybercrimes and street crimes, with a significant number of young offenders involved in these activities. According to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), cybercrimes have surged by 83%, with many perpetrators being students or unemployed graduates." He further explained the complex psychological factors driving youth towards crime, including unmet childhood desires, exposure to violent or criminal environments, and the pressures

of education or finances.

The traders lament that the police force has failed to provide a satisfactory response or implement an effective strategy to tackle the situation. Despite repeated complaints and appeals for action, the authorities have been unable to control the escalating crime rate. According to business leaders, this absence of a comprehensive policy is creating an environment where criminal elements operate with impunity, further eroding public trust in law enforcement agencies. If urgent measures are not taken, traders warn that economic activity in the region could suffer, leading to the closure of businesses and unemployment. The persistent lack of security not only threatens the livelihoods of traders but also deters new investments in South Punjab, posing a serious challenge to the region's development and prosperity.

Public feel abandoned by the police, who, in their view, are either unwilling or incapable of fulfilling their duty to protect the public. They demand that the provincial government and police leadership take immediate action to address the crisis. Strengthening the professional capabilities of police personnel, improving intelligence gathering, and fostering collaboration with local communities are some of the steps they suggest to restore safety and security.

Traders expressed regret over the government's lack of decisive action, saying, "It is unfortunate that the authorities have failed to implement effective measures to curb these crimes." The Inspector General (IG) of Police can only earn the public's trust by enhancing the professional abilities of his department's employees and fostering a spirit of service within them. Police officers should have the capability to provide satisfactory responses to delegations and individuals. Currently, police officers fail to offer satisfactory responses to complaints from delegations or individuals.



**Sattar Sarohi**



**Zain-ul-Abideen Abid**

# Seminar on National Security through the Prism of Democratic Transition

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled "Democratic Transition and Political Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan" on 17 October 2024. Ameer Abdullah Khan, a Senior Researcher at CASS Lahore, opened the seminar by highlighting the nexus between political and national security.

Mr Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, delivered the keynote address, outlining Pakistan's political landscape from the perspectives of Islamic identity, political autonomy, institutional balance, and parliamentary democracy.

He praised the drafting of a robust constitution and the institutionalisation of a vigorous election commission as important milestones in Pakistan's democratic consolidation. He also analysed the parliament, political parties, and institutional balance as determinants of Pakistan's political security.

Mr Fahad Hussain, President Aik News, provided a compelling analysis of the factors shaping Pakistan's political security. He discussed the role of provincial, demographic, and political

fault lines, misinformation and fake news being spread through social media, and the influence of bloodlines visible in the form of dynastic politics and elite privileges in determining Pakistan's political stability.

Professor Dr Moonis Ahmer mentioned authoritarian mindset, corruption, nepotism, non-professional nature of political parties, and marginal role of education and youth as major factors of democratic fragility. He accentuated the importance of political pluralism, institutional dedication to the political process, and press freedom as avenues to political security.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks by Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore who said that Pakistan's path to democracy has been anything but easy. He highlighted that Pakistan's democratic future relies on a stable political process, robust institutions, and active participation from civil society. President CASS emphasised that adherence to the Constitution, serves as the nation's guiding light and Pakistan must learn from its past and use these lessons to build a better future.

The seminar provided an impor-



tant platform for dialogue on Pakistan's democratic journey and the

relationship between political transition and security. It laid the ground-

work for future discussions on democratic consolidation, political security,

and the role of emerging generations in shaping Pakistan's political future.

## AIOU Establishes Museum to Preserve 50 Years of Historical Legacy

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has officially inaugurated the "AIOU History Museum" to preserve its 50-year legacy. The museum was inaugurated yesterday (Thursday) by Hassan Nasir Jami, Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division. The ceremony was attended by H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, along with diplomats from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Malaysia, as well as AIOU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Dr. Farhat Asif, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, and Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Director General of the National Language Promotion Department and senior teachers and officers of the University. Two separate corners of Turkmenistan and Iranian cultures have also been set up in the AIOU History Museum.

Following the inauguration, an international conference was held to commemorate the "300th Birth Anniversary of Turkmen Poet Magtymguly Pyragy and the Legacy of Dr. Allama



Muhammad Iqbal." Federal Secretary Hassan Nasir Jami expressed enthusiasm for the museum's establishment and emphasized its potential to strengthen research and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkmenistan. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood noted that Iqbal, who emerged 150 years after Pyragy, shared similar values of patriotism, dignity, and humanity. The

Turkmen Ambassador highlighted ongoing celebrations for Pyragy's anniversary in both countries and the translation of his works into various languages.

Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir emphasized that Iqbal's poetry is rich in love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and serves as a profound source of inspiration for the entire community.

Dr. Serdar Atayev, a faculty member from Turkmenistan State University, delivered an insightful lecture on the contributions of Magtymguly Pyragy, while Dr. Saleem Mazhar and Dr. Farhat Asif discussed the significant impact of both poets' works. This event was organized by AIOU in collaboration with the Turkmenistan Embassy and the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.

## CM Maryam Nawaz to eliminate inflation in Punjab: Chaudhry Zulfikar

**Special Correspondent**

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfikar Ali Anjum, Chairman of the Group of Industries, member of the National Export Development Board, and member of the Board of Investment, expressed his pleasure at the establishment of a special monitoring unit by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to eliminate inflation in Punjab, which will closely monitor the prices of wheat and flour. Speaking to the media, the well-known industrialist stated that a few days ago, the Chief Minister instructed that the special monitoring unit be made fully operational within six months and approved a new price control mechanism according to international standards.

During the meeting, it was emphasized to set prices for wheat and other



commodities based on production and availability, and to increase local cultivation of tomatoes, onions, and other essentials in each city. He noted that for years, they have been advocating for increased cultivation of sunflower, soybean, and canola to reduce reliance on imported palm oil, and that farmers should be provided with quality seeds at affordable prices. To stabilize market

rates, it was suggested to issue forecast bulletins and utilize modern technology and artificial intelligence for price control under the SMU, so that farmers can receive timely returns for their hard work.

Chaudhry Zulfikar Ali Anjum stated that there is a need to increase the cultivation of canola and sunflower in Punjab to reduce the country's edible oil imports. Pakistan imports \$6.2 billion worth of edible oil each year, which is a burden on the economy. Various types such as Arri canola, Super Raya, and Punjab canola are suitable for cultivation in Punjab, providing better yields according to local conditions. The prominent industrialist remarked that the current government is moving in the right direction, and if the current efforts and economic policies continue, positive results for the economy will emerge soon, leading to

improvements in the lives of the public.

In recent months, there has been a slight decrease in the inflation rate, which is making it possible for public life to improve. He further mentioned that the SM Group of Industries has provided employment to hundreds of educated unemployed youth and thousands of workers.

"We fully support the government's timely and correct decisions, especially in achieving self-sufficiency in the cooking oil industry, which will save foreign exchange and strengthen the economy. The policies of the Punjab government to promote local crops such as sunflower, soybean, and olive are commendable.

In this context, I believe that special incentives should be provided to increase investment in the edible oil processing industry. We are ready to provide all kinds of cooperation in this field."

## Ayisha Ayub a Pioneering Cleft Researcher in Pakistan

**Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid**

In December 2015, Ayisha Ayub established the research department at Cleft Hospital, marking a transformative moment for cleft research in Pakistan. At that time, the country had little documented research on cleft conditions, leaving a gap in the understanding and treatment of this complex congenital issue. Ayub's vision was to fill this void by conducting both "dry" and "wet" research, enriching the global literature with a uniquely Pakistani perspective on cleft conditions.



From the very beginning, the department focused on showcasing and conducting studies across all the disciplines offered by Cleft Hospital. This multidisciplinary approach enabled the research team to address cleft comprehensively, from clinical care to surgical procedures.

Under Ayub's leadership, the department conducted numerous studies with international collaborators exploring cleft patterns, risk factors, and even the relationship between cleft conditions and cancer. These research efforts were showcased at both national and international forums and published in reputable international journals, elevating the standing of cleft research in Pakistan.

A notable achievement was their work in dental case studies, where step-by-step dental procedures for complex cleft cases were documented. This work is not only critical for the hospital's records but also offers valuable insights to dental professionals handling challenging cleft cases.

Another key area of focus has been the nutritional aspect of cleft patients. The research team collected data for a nutritional survey to better understand how cleft conditions impact a patient's nutritional intake and health. The results of these studies are currently being processed and will be published soon, providing essential information to improve care for cleft patients in terms of diet and overall health. Additionally, some research projects are in the pipeline and in various stages of planning, showcasing the department's continued dedication to expanding knowledge in the cleft field.

One of the department's significant early initiatives was to foster collaboration with both national and international organizations, such as the University of Health Sciences (UHS) and Mount Sinai Hospital. These partnerships were aimed at securing funding and advancing genetic studies on cleft conditions. The department collected a large volume of data from cleft patients and their families, providing crucial insights into the genetic factors that may contribute to cleft development. This sample data has also been used by graduate students conducting their own research, reflecting the department's commitment to mentoring future generations of cleft researchers.

In recent years, Ayub's department has made its mark with the publication of rare case studies in the field of plastic surgery, further establishing Cleft Hospital as a premier teaching, training, and research institute. The hospital's cleft treatment outcomes are now recognized as being on par with those achieved in the UK and USA, making it a center of excellence within Pakistan.

Looking to the future, the department's primary goal is to secure partnerships with other research institutes that specialize in cleft studies. By collaborating on genetic research and contributing to the global understanding of cleft etiology, Ayub and her team aim to push the boundaries of cleft research, enhancing treatment options for patients worldwide.

Cleft Hospital's research department dedication and vision have not only advanced cleft research in Pakistan but have also put Cleft Hospital on the global map as a leader in cleft treatment and research. Through continued innovation and collaboration, her work promises to make lasting contributions to both local and international medical communities.

## COMSATS and ISSI agree to collaborate for Science Advocacy and Regional Development

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) signed a MoU for complementing each other for Science Advocacy and Regional Development. It was signed by Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. M. Nafees Zakaria, and Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, today at COMSATS Secretariat.

COMSATS is an intergovernmental organization of 27 member developing countries, committed to advancing scientific research, innovations and

technologies for sustainable development. ISSI is an autonomous premier think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dedicated to providing in-depth understanding and objective analyses of regional and global strategic issues impacting international peace and security.

The MoU will pave the way for collaboration for activities such as scientific research, studies and publications, professional exchange and capacity building, sharing of knowledge and experiences, science diplomacy, and regional & international cooperation.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ambassadors and diplomats, Heads/representatives

of COMSATS' partner organizations, as well as senior officers of COMSATS and ISSI.

Amb. Sohail Mahmood deliberated on ISSI's commitment to expanding partnerships and outreach to niche specialised institutions. He considered COMSATS as one such organization focused at S&T for development. Amb. Mahmood highlighted ISSI's vision of next generation programs that concentrate on youth-inclusive dialogue and research. He noted that we need to pay critical attention to topics such as "Global South" and Middle Powers — the key players in both geopolitical and geo-economic landscapes.

In his remarks, Amb. Zakaria

expressed unflinching commitment of COMSATS to pass on the benefits of contemporary technologies to its Member States, and noted that COMSATS aspires to benefit from the strengths of ISSI with an aim to promoting intra-South reliance and cooperation. He highlighted some of the recent initiatives of COMSATS in the emerging fields of science and technology. He considered the MoU signing as beginning of mutually beneficial collaboration between COMSATS and ISSI.

The collaboration reflects the shared commitment of COMSATS and ISSI to harness latest technologies and innovation for sustainable development on a global scale.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
89,993.96	88,945.98
Day's High	Day's Low
90,593.61	89,373.82
Index Value	Change
30,372,935,001	+1047.98
Percentage	Time
+1.18%	25 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,248.84	-20.54
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	25 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,200.04	-174.32
Percentage	Time
-0.41%	25 Oct, 1:28 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,913.92	-229.37
Percentage	Time
-0.60%	25 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.75	186.00
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.60	203.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	298.20	300.95
Hong Kong Dollar	35.3	35.65
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.87	906.37
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.96	25.26
Omani Riyal	715.20	723.70
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.15
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	319.11	321.91
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	357.15	360.65
US Dollar	277.20	278.70

# Kyrgyz envoy visits RCCI, emphasizes potential for expanding bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, H. E. Avazbek Atakhanov, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and met with RCCI President Usman Shaukat. The meeting, which was attended by RCCI Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and other RCCI members, focused on strengthening economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat provided an overview of RCCI's ongoing activities and upcoming events, highlighting the potential for joint ventures in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and tourism. Acknowledging the modest \$20 million trade volume between the two nations, he called for increased interaction and cooperation to realize their shared economic potential.

Ambassador Atakhanov expressed optimism about boosting the trade volume to \$500 million, underscoring Kyrgyzstan's interest in deepening ties with Pakistan. "Pakistan offers unique opportunities, from the bustling port of Gwadar to the scenic Karakoram."

He informed that, Kyrgyzstan's economy has expanded 2.5 times in the last four years, presenting tremendous opportunities for collaboration. This is the message we want to send to our friends in Pakistan.

He highlighted Kyrgyzstan's historical ties with Pakistan and stressed the need to foster close relations. The ambassador also discussed Kyrgyzstan's relaxed visa policies, enabling easier access for visitors from 62 countries, with plans to further ease restrictions for Pakistani businessmen, investors, and tourists.



## Inauguration

Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi inaugurated Pakistan Pavilion at 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Jazz Launches FikrFree to Transform Pakistan's Insurance Sector with AI

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, proudly announces the launch of FikrFree, Pakistan's largest AI-powered digital insurance and healthcare marketplace. This innovative platform aims to revolutionize the country's insurance sector by making healthcare and financial protection accessible, affordable, and personalized for all Pakistanis, particularly underserved communities.

Kazim Mujtaba, President Consumer Division at Jazz, commented on the launch:

"FikrFree is not just about providing insurance—it's about transforming lives. By using AI, we are making financial and healthcare protection accessible to everyone, ensuring peace of mind for millions of Pakistanis, especially those in underserved areas."

At the heart of this initiative is Jazz's purpose: to improve lives and livelihoods



through the power of technology. By leveraging AI, Jazz is ensuring more people can access critical insurance and healthcare

services, addressing challenges in both sectors while empowering individuals with the security they need.

# PPL'S 73rd Annual General Meeting approves 25% Cash Dividend

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) held its 73rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at a local hotel in Karachi, where shareholders approved the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, along with the auditor's report. A final cash dividend of 25% on ordinary shares was also ratified, bringing the total dividend for the year to 60%.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shahab Rizvi, Chairman of the PPL Board of Directors, who expressed his gratitude to the shareholders for their continued trust and support. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the current business environment but emphasized PPL's resilience and agility. "Despite external headwinds, PPL has demon-



strated remarkable strength, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our employees," Mr. Rizvi stated. Mr. Imran Abbasy, Managing Director and CEO, highlighted the company's significant accomplishments during the fiscal year 2023-24. PPL recorded its highest-ever profit-after-tax of

Rs. 114 billion and achieved unprecedented collections from customers. He further noted the successful discovery of gas and condensate at Jim East X-1 in the Shah Bandar Block, alongside four other partner-operated discoveries, underscoring PPL's robust exploration capabilities. PPL's exploration port-

folio continues to thrive with 48 assets, including offshore blocks in Pakistan and Abu Dhabi, and an onshore lease in Yemen. Mr. Abbasy reported substantial progress in Abu Dhabi's Offshore Block-5, where two successful appraisal wells have been completed, and drilling of the first exploration well is underway.

# BankIslami Reports Strong Financial Performance during Nine Months of 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: BankIslami continues its growth trajectory, delivering substantial returns to its shareholders with a remarkable 33.6% increase in profit before tax for the nine-month ended September 2024. The Bank's profit before tax reached Rs. 19.9 billion, while its post-tax profit surged to Rs. 10.2 billion, reflecting a robust 20.5% growth. Despite challenging market conditions,

BankIslami remains steadfast in its commitment to financial excellence.

A key highlight of this period was the significant rise in non-fund-based income (NFI), which grew by nearly 1.3 billion rupees compared to the same period last year. The NFI ratio to total income also improved, rising to 9.4% from 7% in the previous year, underscoring the Bank's strategic focus on diversified revenue streams.

# Faysal Bank reports robust financial performance for the nine months of 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL), the leading Islamic bank in Pakistan, continued with its growth stride and has announced sound financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2024. The Bank reported a Profit After Tax (PAT) of PKR 19.8 billion, marking a 64% increase as compared to the same period last year. Reflecting this strong performance, the Bank also declared an interim cash dividend of 15%.

Mian Muhammad Younis, Chairman of Faysal Bank, stated, "Masha'Allah, the 9M'24 results highlight the strong foundation

we have established as the best Islamic bank, driven by the dedication of our Board, Management, and Employees. The financial performance reflects the Bank's solid business fundamentals, complemented by our innovative Islamic products."

Yousaf Hussain, President & CEO of Faysal Bank, stated, "Alhamdulillah, our success in the first nine months of 2024 reflects the trust of our customers, the commitment of our staff, and the strength of our Shariah-compliant offerings. We remain dedicated to delivering excellence and are well-prepared to sustain this growth momentum, In Sha Allah."

## CCP Approves Acquisition of Claforan Trademarks by Hoechst Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of trademarks for the pharmaceutical product Claforan by M/s Hoechst Pakistan Limited from M/s Sanofi Aventis Deutschland GMBH through a Trademark Assignment Agreement.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited, a public listed company in Pakistan, specializes in the manufacture, sale, and trading of pharmaceutical products. Sanofi Aventis Deutschland GMBH, a German-based limited liability company, is a prominent pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor across Europe. With this transaction, Sanofi is transferring Claforan's trademarks to Hoechst, positioning Hoechst as a key player in Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry.

CCP's assessment identified the relevant market as "Systemic Antibiotics" and classified the transaction as a horizontal merger. Hoechst Pakistan's market share will remain stable, as it has already been producing Claforan under license from Sanofi Aventis. This acquisition, therefore, will not alter the market balance but will strategically enhance Hoechst's position.

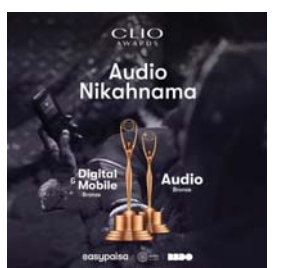
The CCP concluded that the acquisition would not lead to market dominance and authorized the transaction under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act. This ensures the transaction upholds competitive stability within Pakistan's systemic antibiotics market.

# easypaisa's 'Audio Nikahnama' achieves another global win, sweeping 3 major awards

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform, has once again made waves on the global stage with its groundbreaking Audio Nikahnama Campaign securing a Gold Dragon for Best in Digital, a Blue Dragon for Best in Pakistan, and a Red Dragon for Best Campaign in Asia at the Dragons of Asia 2024.

Rifah Qadri, Executive Director Marketing & Corporate Communications, TMB/easypaisa, praised her team's success, stating, "We are immensely proud of the global recognition that the easypaisa Audio Nikahnama has garnered at Dragons of Asia 2024. This achievement highlights our dedication to creating meaningful impact and addressing societal chal-



lenges through innovative, tech-driven solutions. With the Audio Nikahnama, we've sparked essential conversations around women's empowerment and financial inclusion. It's a campaign that resonates deeply with women across Pakistan, making a real difference. She continued, "The thoughtful design and execution of this initiative have already drawn widespread attention, and this recognition at Dragons of Asia underscores its far-reaching global impact."

IS Third Test

# Pakistan gains momentum as Saud hits century

Saud Shakeel 134 came on 223 balls including five 4s, marking his fourth Test century and giving Pakistan a 77-run lead

RAWALPINDI: Shakeel 134 came on 223 balls including five 4s, marking his fourth Test century and giving Pakistan a 77-run lead. Saud, who faced 223 balls for his 134 runs, initially stitched a 53-run partnership with Shan Masood (26, 70b) which was broken by Shoaib Bashir in the 36th over.

Pakistan started the Day with 73 for 3 in 23 over with Shan Masood (16) and Shakeel (16) at the crease. Pakistan managed to add 271 runs to their overnight total as they faced a total of 96.4 overs.

Pakistan lost wickets quickly as Masood (26), Mohammad Rizwan (25), Salman Agha (1) and Ameer Jamal (14) were dismissed in 36th, 50th, 52nd and 58th overs, respectively.

Mohammad Rizwan stayed on the crease for 46 balls scoring 25 runs with the help of one four and one six,

putting on a 52-run stand with Saud before Rehan Ahmed pinned him leg before wicket.

Rehan delivered two more blows in the 52nd and 58th over to remove Salman Ali Agha and Ameer Jamal as Pakistan were reduced to 177-7 in 58 overs. Noman and Saud joined forces to knit a gritty 88-run eighth-wicket stand, stalling Pakistan's batting slide. Saud brought up his century off 181 balls in the 79th over.

Noman contributed with a valuable 45 off 84 balls hitting two fours and a six as Shoaib put an end to the partnership in the 84th over. Sajid, who walked in to bat at No. 10, struck four sixes and two fours in his unbeaten run-a-ball 48, partnering with Saud for a brisk 72-run tenth-wicket stand.

Rehan registered figures of 4-66 while he was backed up by fellow spinner Shoaib, who snapped 3-129. Gus Atkinson accounted for two

wickets while Jack Leach picked up one wicket.

At stumps, England were 24-3 in nine overs in their second innings, trailing by 53 runs in reply to Pakistan's first-innings total of 344 all out at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Noman Ali snapped Zak Crawley (2, 12b) and Ollie Pope (1, 15b) late on day two while Ben Duckett (12, 15b, 2x4s) fell to Sajid Khan. Joe Root (5 not out, 7b) and Harry Brook (3 not out, 5b) will be on the crease for England at the start of day three.

Speaking after end of Day 2's play, Pakistan batter Saud Shakeel shared his thoughts on scoring a crucial century. "Upon seeing the pitch, I anticipated a spin-dominated track and prepared accordingly. I dedicate this century to myself, as scoring 100 is always a milestone. It's an incredible feeling," he said.

Shakeel emphasized his situa-



RAWALPINDI: Saud Shakeel scores a century on Day 2 of the Third Test against England in Rawalpindi on Friday.

backbone, scoring heavily. As a team (Playing XI), it's every player's responsibility to perform."

On playing on challenging pitches, Shakeel stressed, "You must back yourself and have a clear plan. I minimized sweep shots in my game, usually which I enjoying playing in Test cricket, as you have to adapt to the day's demands."

He also acknowledged the support of teammates Noman Ali and Sajid Khan. "We worked together, focusing on small targets, like getting 10-10 runs closer to the target."

England spinner Rehan Ahmed praised Pakistan's batting performance on Day 2 of the third Test, particularly Saud Shakeel's century.

"We thought we had a few chances late in the day, but Pakistan batted exceptionally well. Saud played a fantastic innings, we tried various tactics, but he responded impressively," he said. APP

## Sri Lanka 'A' outclass Pakistan Shaheens in Emerging Teams Asia Cup semi-final

Afghanistan 'A' and India 'A' semi-final to decide Sri Lanka's opponent for the final on Sunday

Spokesman Report

MUSCAT: Sri Lanka 'A' defeated Pakistan Shaheens by seven wickets in the first semifinal of the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup, securing a spot in the final.

The match took place at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Muscat on Friday, where Pakistan, choosing to bat first, struggled to build momentum and posted a modest total of 135/9 in their 20 overs.

Omaid Bin Yousef led Pakistan's batting with a solid 68 off 46 balls,



displaying resilience at the crease. However, with limited support from teammates—Haider Ali (14), Mohammad Imran Jnr (13), and Arafat Minhas (10)—the side was unable to reach a competi-

tive score.

Sri Lanka 'A' bowlers kept a firm grip on the game, with Dushan Hemantha taking a standout 4/21 in his four-over spell, while Eshan Malinga and Nipun Ransika

contributed with two wickets each.

In response, Sri Lanka 'A' chased down the target of 136 comfortably in the 17th over, losing just three wickets.

Opening batter Lahiru Udara made an explosive start with a quick 43 off 20 balls, smashing two fours and four sixes. Ahan Wickramasinghe anchored the innings with an unbeaten 52 off 46 balls, guiding his side to victory with composure.

The second semi-final, featuring Afghanistan 'A' and India 'A', will decide Sri Lanka's opponent for the final on Sunday, October 27.

## Pakistan Army wins National Men's Softball C'ship title

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army secured the KPT 7th National Men's Softball Championship title defeating Wapda by 12-3 in a one-sided final at the KPT Football Ground.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa triumphed over Balochistan with a score of 16-1, claiming the bronze medal in the tournament, said a press release.

Pakistan Army scored 12 runs in seven innings. Wasim hit a home run, while Nazir Ahmed and Aftab Alam contributed with three runs each. In response, Wapda managed to score only 3 runs in their seven innings.

In the match for third place, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa outclassed Balochistan, winning by 16-1.

The closing ceremony featured Brig Tariq Bashir, General Manager admin of KPT, as the chief guest, who distributed trophies, shields, and certificates to players and officials alongside President Pakistan Softball Federation, Asif Azeem, Chairman Organizing Committee Professor Dr Farhan Eesa, Chairperson Yasmin Hyder, and Vice President Shahid Khan Shinwari.

On this occasion, Maj (R) Mahmood Riaz, Sports Manager of KPT, Wasim Hashmi, Aisha Lena, Zeeshan Merchant, and others were also present.

Tariq Bashir praised all participating teams for their exemplary discipline, congratulating all players and officials. He noted that the championship not only provided players with ample opportunities to showcase their skills but also fostered mutual harmony, brotherhood, and affection among them.

Asif Azeem and his team were commended for their tireless efforts in making the championship successful while the KPT management assured of full support in providing continuous support to the Softball Federation of Pakistan.

Dr. Farhan Eesa expressed appreciation for the active participation of the teams, indicating that the championship would serve as a platform for preparing the national team for international events. He expressed confidence that the standout performers in the event could become part of Pakistan's national softball team in the future.

Chairperson Yasmin Hyder emphasized that no sport can flourish without sponsorship, extending gratitude to KPT, the Sports Department of the Government of Sindh, EFU Insurance, Dr Eesa Lab, Organic Meat Company, and Comeback Sports for their significant support in successfully organizing the event.

IS 25th National Senior Cricket Cup held

## Defending Champion Golden Eagles beat Al-Rehman Plaza by 5 wicket

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 25th National Senior Cricket Cup, 2024-25 defending Champion Golden Eagles beat Al-Rehman Plaza by 5 wicket. Batting first by Rehman plaza they scored 255 for 7 in stipulated 30 overs game, Skipper Asad Dar scored a brilliant century and he made quick fire 121 runs with the help of 16 fours and 4 sixes, while Zubair Awais 43, Zia-Ul-Saboor 32, M. Imran 19 and Hafiz Saeed 24 were the other main scorers.

From Golden Eagles Rehan took 2 wickets while Rauf Wai, Amer Hayat, Aqeel Arshad, and Imran Khan got one wicket each. In reply due to magnificent innings of Skipper Salman Khan and former Test Captain Pakistan Cricket team Misbah-Ul-Haq Golden Eagles achieved the target in 27.4 overs and lost 5 wickets and won the match. Salman Khan, 60, Misbah-Ul-Haq 55, Hamayun Farhat 48, Adil Nisar, 29, and Imran Khalid 24 not out were the main feature of Golden Eagles Innings. Khalid Mehmood Junior Bukhat Nawaz, Ali Akbar, M. Imran, took one wicket each. The Chief Guest of the prize distribution ceremony was Domestic Cricket PCB Khurram Niazi who gave away the jointly man of the match cash awards to Salman Khan and Misbah-Ul-Haq of their outstanding batting performance.



## Two-day Sports event concludes at NUML

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National University of Modern Languages, successfully concluded a two-day sports event dedicated to visually impaired female athletes, featuring competitions in Goalball and Archery. The event, held at the Gymnasium of NUML's Main Campus, brought together athletes from the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation (PBSF) and NUML, marking a significant milestone in promoting inclusivity in sports.

The event, aimed at raising awareness about blind sports and supporting athletes on their journey to the Paralympics in Spain this November.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, NUML Rector, Major General (R) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M), stressed the importance of supporting visually impaired athletes. "They



need our attention, and we must stand by them," he said. He further pledged NUML's commitment to collaborate with PBSF, offering full support to help these athletes achieve their goals.

He emphasized the responsibility of society to empower disabled individuals, stating, "We must provide adequate resources for those with disabilities, allowing them to flourish in society." He highlighted NUML's role as the first institution to organize such an event, calling for

continued efforts to support physically disabled individuals in the future.

President of the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation and other honorable guests commended NUML for its initiative, which serves as a great source of motivation for visually impaired athletes.

The sporting competitions saw visually impaired athletes from PBSF and NUML demonstrate exceptional skills in both Goalball and Archery. In a thrilling Goalball match, the PBSF team emerged victorious.

The event also featured inspiring performances from NUML alumnus Muhammad Hamza, a visually impaired musician who showcased his talent on the melodia, and nine-year-old Fawad from Gilgit, who played the rabab and sang, captivating the audience with his abilities.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates and awards among the participating athletes, celebrating their remarkable achievements and contributions to sports for individuals with disabilities.

## Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament Kicks Off



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) will organize the KHA President Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah 5-A-Side Inter Club Hockey Tournament from October 28, 2024, at the KHA Sports Complex's Mini Astro turf.

This tournament offers a fantastic platform for showcasing talent, fostering sportsmanship, and engaging in competitive matches with Karachi's top club teams.

Participating Teams:  
The 13 teams are divided into four pools:  
Pool A. 4. CFC HC  
1. Youth HC Orange Pool C.  
2. PTCL Gymkhana HC 1. Gulberg HC  
3. Al Faisal Club 2. Baldia HC  
4. DASTAGIR HC 3. Al Sagheer HC  
Pool B. Pool D.  
1. Youth HC Blue 1. Hanif Khan HC  
2. Rabbani HC 2. PAK FLAG HC  
3. KFC HC 3. Sea Hawks HC

KHA has announced the following Tournament officials:  
-Chairman: International Laeq Ahmed Lashari  
Tournament Director: Imtiaz Ul Hassan  
Assistant Tournament Director: Sagheer Hussain  
-Organising Secretary: International Khalid Jr  
Assistant Organizing Secretary: Ausaf Rabbani  
Umpires Manager: Faisal Ismail  
Technical Officials: Muhammad Faizan, Moin Alam, Muzammil Hussain, Muhammad Nadeem, Asad Zaheer  
Umpires: Irfan Tahir, Rizwan Khan, Imran Khan, Faheem Khan  
- Doctor: Dr. Samar  
- Media Manager: Batool Kazim.

## Lionel Messi lands spot on list of finalists for major MLS award

Argentine football legend earns his second nomination for MLS award since joining the US league in July 2023

NEW YORK: Inter Miami star Lionel Messi landed a spot on the list of finalists for the 2024 Major League Soccer's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) award, earning his second nomination for the award since joining the league in July 2023.

The Argentine football legend joined his Inter Miami teammate Luis Suárez on the list of finalists for the award which also included Columbus Crew's Cucho Hernández, Portland Timbers' Evander and DC United's Christian Benteke, ESPN reported.

Each player met the new qualifying regulations that require a minimum of 1,000 minutes played in the regular season campaign.

The 36-year-old former Barcelona and



Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) star failed to win the award last season but he is being considered the leading candidate for the award this year, after contributing 20 goals and 16 assists in just 19 games.

Despite concerns over his lack of participation throughout the 34-match campaign, playing only 55% of games, teammate Jordi Alba has insisted that

Messi must win MVP.

"Regarding Leo, I repeat myself, every time you ask me, I think he deserves all the awards they can give him, I think he is the best player in the world, with a lot of intensity compared to the rest and until he retires," he said on Friday.

"I'm sure he'll win the MVP and if he doesn't win it, well, it's no longer anyone's decision, it's the people who vote but hey, for me he's the best."

Messi's performance in 2024 led his MLS club to secure the Supporters' Shield, breaking the league record for most points in a single season.

Joining him in the spotlight is his former Barcelona teammate, Suarez, who netted 20 goals and provided nine assists in

27 matches during his inaugural MLS campaign after signing in December 2023.

The 37-year-old Uruguayan footballer's impressive debut has also earned him a spot as a finalist for Newcomer of the Year award.

Together, the dynamic duo has combined for 40 of the team's 79 goals this season.

Furthermore, finalists for MLS Newcomer of the Year include FC Cincinnati's Luca Orellano, LA Galaxy's Gabriel Pec and Inter Miami's Suárez.

Meanwhile, Inter Miami's Alba, Columbus Crew's Steven Moreira and Seattle Sounders' Jackson Ragen were named as finalists for Defender of the Year. Agencies

## Pak duo reach ITF J30 tournament final

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, OCT 25 (APP): Pakistani tennis players Ahmad Nael Qureshi and Bilal Asim advanced to the doubles final of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) J30 tournament in Riyadh Representing Ace Tennis Academy, the duo earned their place in the final by defeating Mohammed Alghaffi (ARU) and Ghannam Alghannam (KSA) with a scoreline of 6-3, 7-5.

Bilal Asim also excelled in the singles category, making it to the semifinals after a hard-fought win in the quarterfinal against top-seed Artem Semenov from Russia, a player ranked among the top 300 junior players globally. Bilal triumphed 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, underscoring his potential on the international stage.

Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) President, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, congratulated both players on their remarkable achievements, expressing confidence that they would continue their strong performance in the finals. Col. Zia-ud-din Tufail (R), Secretary General of the PTF, also commended the young players, encouraging them to stay focused and bring home the title. APP

## High-level event

WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, participated in the high-level event "Growing Stronger: An Urgent Call to Improve Child Nutrition," organized by the World Bank.



Photo: PID

## Safe City Project in Sindh to contain crime, terror incidents: Tarar

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday urged the Sindh government to ensure completion of Safe City Project that was crucial to contain terrorism and crime rate in the province.

The minister was replying to the queries of Member National Assembly (MNA), Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi of Pakistan Peoples Party.

Tarar said a Rs5.6 billion funding has been allocated by the Sindh Government and some 43 poles were installed in Karachi from Airport to the Red Zone. However, there was no harm in seeking technical assistance from other provincial departments for the project that had to be implemented into phases. He added that the remaining zones should be

completed on priority.

The Punjab Safe City Authority, he said would also provide full support to the Karachi Safe City projects as Peshawar and Karachi needed Safe City systems the most. The federal government was ready to provide all assistance in that regard. The first Safe City Project was established in the federal capital, whereas a four times bigger system was developed in Lahore, he added.

Attaullah Tarar said the Lahore Safe City project had played a pivotal role in controlling terrorism and crime, particularly in the investigation and tracking of DIG Traffic Lahore, Captain (R) Mobeen Shaheed's killers. The project enabled authorities to probe and track the suicide bomber who aided the suicide bomber in reaching the spot.

He said: "We have facial



recognition facility in the Safe City project as all details are available. However, a separate briefing in the committee should be held on this matter."

The project, he said was a government to government initiative between the Sindh government and the NRTC, Ministry of Defence, he informed.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday

and life imprisonment under Section 9C, to tackle drug-related crimes.

During the session, Tarar underscored the significance of mass narcotics destruction, revealing that recent operations have dismantled drug rackets valued at billions of rupees. He commended the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) for its relentless efforts, noting the sacrifices made by its officers in the fight against drug trafficking.

"From August 2023 to October 2024, we have made substantial progress in tracking and apprehending gang leaders," Tarar stated.

He acknowledged the persistent issue of drug use in schools and urged for it to be addressed by a relevant committee, calling for collaboration among all political parties to devise effective solutions.

## DPM Dar meets world leaders, discuss trade, investment cooperation

APIA (SAMOA): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday met with world leaders on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia to discuss matters pertaining to bilateral ties and exploring new avenues for investment.

In a meeting between Ishaq Dar and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Sam Matekane, the two leaders expressed satisfaction at the friendly ties between Pakistan and Lesotho anchored in shared values, mutual trust and cooperation at international fora.

They expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties and broaden cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, culture and people-to-people contacts.

In another meeting, the deputy prime minister held a meeting with Shirley Ayorker Botchwey, Minister for Foreign



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister meets with Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Anna Thandi Moraka on the Sidelines of CHOGM in Samoa.

Affairs and Regional Integration, the Republic of Ghana on the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia.

Noting the upward trajectory of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ghana,

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Foreign Minister Ayorker expressed their resolve to further strengthen friendly ties underpinned by shared values, mutual trust and cooperation at international fora.

They agreed to enhance

further cooperation in diverse fields especially trade, investment and education. Deputy Prime Minister invited Ghana to open a resident Mission in Islamabad further bolstering mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Ghana's Foreign Minister congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on election of Pakistan as the non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council for the term 2025-2026.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held another meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda Olivier J. P. Nduhugire, where the two leaders noted the positive trajectory in Pakistan-Rwanda ties based on mutual respect and shared values.

They expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral engagement and

cooperation in the economic domain, especially in trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges.

Noting the recent visits by the President of the Senate and the Chief of Defence Staff of Rwanda, Deputy Prime Minister Dar expressed the keen desire of Pakistan to further strengthen friendly relations with Rwanda.

He also congratulated Rwanda for opening a High Commission in Islamabad.

Echoing the sentiments of Deputy Prime Minister Dar, Foreign Minister Nduhugire invited Pakistani businessmen to avail of the investment opportunities in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Dar also held a bilateral meeting with the Adviser for Foreign Affairs Bangladesh, Md. Touhid Hossain. This was the first meeting between the two dignitaries, following their assumption of office. APP

## Finance Minister reaffirms commitment to first Panda Bond in talks with IFIs

Discussions held on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb engaged with leaders from many international finance institutions (IFIs) in Washington, doubling down on Pakistan's commitment to entering global capital markets by issuing its first Panda Bond.

The discussions were held on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings. Aurangzeb is leading a Pakistan delegation to the event underway in the US capital from October 21 to 26.

Other delegates accompanying him include Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary of Economic Affairs Dr Kazim Niaz, and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad.

In his meeting with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) President Dr Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, the finance minister acknowledged the bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education, and health.

He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid A Al-Falih to Pakistan for business-to-business engagements with the private sector.

The minister lauded the IsDB's investment in Mohmand dam along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group which, he said, "could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in the future".

Separately, the finance czar met with the representatives of JP Morgan Bank and provided an overview of the improvement in Pakistan's economic outlook on the back of the recently concluded SBA.

Aurangzeb underlined the criticality of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to lending permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing the structural reforms. He also highlighted important reforms in the areas of taxation, privatisation, and overhauling of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

He expressed the resolve to tap into International Capital Markets (ICM) through the issuance of the inaugural Panda Bond.

In the meeting with World Bank Managing Director of Operations Ms Anna Bjerde, the finance minister discussed Pakistan's development priorities supported by the Country



Partnership Framework (CPF).

He also briefed the MD about the Joint Domestic Resource Mobilisation Initiative (JDRMI) being launched with the support of the World Bank and IMF.

"We welcome the decision of the Board not to levy any commitment fee for four years for Program-for-Results Financing (PforR) and Investment Project Financing (IPF) instruments," he said.

Aurangzeb appreciated that the bank was considering a grant facility for project preparation and noted with satisfaction that IDA replenishment was proceeding satisfactorily.

While appreciating the recent improvements in the disbursements, the forum agreed that efforts would continue to sustain the continued improvements.

Moreover, the Pakistani dignity requested to organise capacity-building workshops for implementing agencies as well, in the quest to ensure better project preparation that will lead to improved implementation.

In a meeting with the leadership of Mashreq Bank, the minister expressed satisfaction that the bank was expanding its operations in Pakistan and would launch a new office soon. He hoped that approval of its digital banking license would be processed soon.

Meanwhile, the finance minister held a meeting with Ms. Anneliese Dodds, Minister of State for Development, Women and Equalities of the United Kingdom.

He appreciated the long-lasting partnership between the two countries in the development sector and welcomed the contribution of \$120 million to IFC's Climate Investment Funds for Pakistan.

He informed that the State Bank of Pakistan had cleared the backlog of all cases of repatriation of profits and dividends. He also invited the UK companies to invest in the agriculture, IT, mines, and minerals sectors, to avail the opportunities that are emerging because of the improved investment climate. APP

## PTI rules out 'deal' behind Bushra Bibi's release

Denial comes after Senator Faisal Vawda claimed former first lady was released as "part of a deal"

SARGODHA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Omar Ayub has categorically refuted rumours of any deal in relation to the release of party founder Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi.

Ayub, also the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, was addressing journalists in Sargodha on Friday, saying: "Bushra Bibi's release is not part of any deal."

He said that Imran's wife was kept in wrongful confinement and "now she is in a safe place". He further added that the Toshakhana case against the PTI founder was also false.

The politico's statement comes a day after Bushra, whose incarceration continued at the Adiala jail in a separate Toshakhana-2 case filed by

the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), was released from jail after spending around nine months behind bars.

She was initially held after being sentenced to 14 years in prison in January 2024 in the original Toshakhana case.

She was released a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted her bail against surety bonds worth Rs1 million in the new Toshakhana case.

The former first lady was arrested after a court on January 31 convicted and sentenced the couple to 14 years in prison after finding them guilty of retaining and selling state gifts in violation of government rules (Toshakhana case) while Khan was in power. Agencies

## Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-VII concludes

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Closing ceremony of Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-VII in Counter Terrorism domain was conducted between

the Armies of Pakistan and Russia at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi, Friday.

Two weeks long exercise was commenced on 13 October 2024. Special Forces of Pakistan Army

and 54 all ranks from Russian Army participated in the Exercise.

Inspector General Training & Evaluation (IGT&E), Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, HI (M) graced the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest.

Russian Ambassador, His Excellency Albert P. Khorev also witnessed the Ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professionalism during the conduct.

The Exercise was aimed at refining

drills, procedures and techniques, besides harnessing the historic mili-

tary to military relations among the friendly countries.

