



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے ابو نعیم نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا
ہم سے ابن ابی عمیر نے بیان کیا ان سے حکم
نے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو اسحاق نے بیان کیا کہ
کوئی میں نماز میں ہرگز ہوتے ہوئے اور عاقل
رضی اللہ عنہما اور ان کی یاد کی یاد کرنا اور کہا
کہ بلاشبہ وہ دنیا آخرت میں تمہارے ہی کریم
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی زوجہ ہیں لیکن تم ان کے
بارے میں آگے نہ بڑھو۔
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Biden casts early ballot for Harris as Election Day nears

President Joe Biden on Monday cast his ballot in the US presidential election, voting early in his home state of Delaware for Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in her race against Republican Donald Trump. The president, who dropped his reelection bid in July, joined many Americans who can vote before next Tuesday's polling day. He cast his vote at an early voting site in New Castle, Delaware.



Nationwide polio vaccination campaign launched

Pakistan Polio Programme on Monday launched a nationwide polio vaccination campaign to protect over 45 million children. Re-inforcing Pakistan's dedication to eradicating polio, the Programme has launched this vaccination campaign to address the resurgence of wild polio-virus and safeguard millions of children from the debilitating effects of polio.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM to attend 8th Edition of Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will undertake an official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the two-day 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative, starting in Riyadh from Tuesday.

According to Foreign Office, the Prime Minister will be accompanied by key Cabinet ministers.

The Future Investment Initiative serves as an important platform for countries to showcase their economic strength, draw foreign investments, and engage in dialogue to shape a sustainable future.

This year's Future Investment Initiative Edition is themed as "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow"

and will focus on global investments aimed at addressing major issues such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance, healthcare, and sustainability.

The Prime Minister is expected to hold important bilateral talks with the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and other senior Saudi officials.

The two sides will discuss economic and strategic partnership between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and explore bilateral cooperation in the economic, energy, and defence domains.

The Prime Minister is also expected to engage with participating leaders and entrepreneurs at the FII 8th Edition Conference.

PM vows to make Pakistan polio-free country

Shehbaz Sharif commended the efforts of the government polio team to eradicate the disease

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed the confidence that Pakistan will become a polio-free country soon.

Presiding over an important meeting on polio eradication in Islamabad on Monday,

he expressed the commitment to defeat challenges like polio collectively.

The Prime Minister said we will not be sitting calmly until polio is defeated forever. He also commended the efforts of the government polio team to eradicate the disease.

Shehbaz Sharif directed

Coordinator National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Focal Person for Anti-Polio Ayesha Raza Farooq and Secretary National Health, to visit the most polio-affected areas in the country during the recent anti-polio campaign.

He also instructed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-

polio drive. He also directed to evolve a comprehensive strategy regarding the immunity gap.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed regarding recent polio cases and anti-polio campaign in the country.

It was informed that currently, the number of active

polio cases in the country has reached forty-one and out of this, there are twenty-five cases in which routine immunization is not optimal.

The meeting was further briefed that the areas with better polio vaccination rates among children have lower polio prevalence.

Ahsan calls for urgent global action to address environmental crisis



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has underscored the urgent need for global cooperation to tackle the intensifying climate crisis.

He was chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad regarding the preparation for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference COP29 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan next month.

The Minister highlighted Pakistan's critical vulnerability to climate impacts, with recent floods positioning the country as a pivotal case study on the frontlines of climate resilience

and adaptation.

He said, despite the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022, Pakistani nation has shown unparalleled perseverance. Yet, the scale of these challenges exceeds our capacity, requiring immediate global support.

In the context of COP 2024, Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need to mobilize policy measures to promote regional cooperation. He directed the organization of a roundtable conference involving environmental experts, international specialists, and organizations to explore collaborative environmental solutions.

Pakistan believes in peaceful solution of global disputes: Law Minister

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has said Pakistan firmly believes in peace and peaceful solution of world disputes including that of Palestine and Kashmir.

Addressing the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action in Islamabad on Monday, he said Pakistan has always stood for the values of peace, stability and human freedom. We have participated in many UN peacekeeping operations and actively participated in various regional and global peace initiatives.

The Law Minister said Pakistan is committed to promoting human rights, socio economic development and building resilience to climate change. He also highlighted the legislation enacted by the parliament for the rights of women, minorities and poor sections of the society.

CJP Afridi-led full court discusses steps to reduce case backlog

ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Monday chaired the first full court meeting to discuss matters related to pendency of cases and enhance judicial efficiency.

According to a statement issued by the Supreme Court, the full court meeting was attended by all Supreme Court judges, including senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah — who joined through video link as he is currently in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency.

During the meeting, the SC registrar provided an overview of the current case-load and outlined the steps toward timely decision of cases.

She presented updated statistics, indicating that 59,191 cases were currently



pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Shah.

"The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases," said the statement.

Reviewing the Case Management Plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the targets.

"Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the monthly plan, were allocated to specialized two- and three- member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution," it added.

The statement further said that the judges contributed valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog. Agencies



No plans for 27th Constitutional Amendment: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaulah Tarar dismissed any speculation regarding a potential 27th constitutional amendment just days after the government secured a two-thirds majority for a constitutional package in parliament. Speaking to a local news channel on Monday, Tarar stated, "No deliberation was held on the 27th constitutional amendment in any government or legal committee meetings."

This clarification comes after reports emerged following a meeting between Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Lahore on Saturday.

According to media reports, the leaders discussed a proposed amendment focusing on provincial rights and expressed a consensus on addressing concerns raised by the provinces. Tarar, however, said that no draft or discussions regarding such an amendment had occurred at any official level.

He described the recently passed 26th Constitutional Amendment as a significant achievement in

legal reforms that aligns with the Charter of Democracy, originally signed by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

He noted that this amendment aims to improve access to justice and expedite case processing. He mentioned that a special parliamentary committee, chaired by PPP leader Khurshid Shah, has been established to explore further legal reforms.

"If the parliament believes there's a need for additional reforms, the committee should

continue its work," he said, reinforcing the importance of legislative development for democracy and parliamentary sovereignty.

In response to questions regarding the inclusion of Justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Munib Akhtar in the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Committee, Tarar stated the government has no concerns.

However, he expressed reservations about the Supreme Court's July 12 verdict, which allowed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to retain reserved seats for minorities

and women in parliament.

He argued that the ruling overlooked constitutional provisions and urged the court to align its decisions with the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024. He also addressed PTI's stance, asserting that the party had previously engaged in discussions about the 26th Amendment and resolved its reservations. Tarar further criticized the PTI's recent protests as attempts at "political point-scoring," noting that the party appears fragmented, with factions supporting different approaches. Agencies

PTI files contempt plea against ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday filed a contempt of court petition against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for non-implementation of the Supreme Court's orders in the reserved seats case.

Members of the country's top electoral body including chairman Sikandar Sultan Raja have been made parties in the petition filed by PTI leader and senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja.

According to the plea, the ECP should be ordered to implement the verdict immediately and action should be taken against the commission's members.

Citing the verdict, the petition said: "The aforesaid Judgment and affidavits/orders leave no doubt whatsoever that the PTI is entitled to reserved seats proportionate to the seats in the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies won

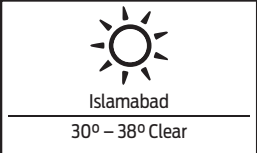
by it in accordance with the Judgment dated 12 July 2024.

"That the ECP has yet to act upon the judgment [...] and complete the process of election women and non-Muslims on reserved seats in the NA as well as provincial assemblies."

On July 12, the Supreme Court ruled that the PTI is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats, paving the way for the party to return to parliament.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

The PTI candidates did not contest the polls on a single symbol, forcing them to join hands with the SIC, but that could not get the party the reserved seats as the ECP ruled against them. Agencies



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:00 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:41 pm
Maghrib 5:19 pm
Isha 6:43 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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

Pakistan to push for more climate finance flows at upcoming global climate talks in Baku

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan along with other vulnerable countries would strongly push rich polluting countries to honour their climate finance to help developing nations cope with exacerbating climate impacts and transition to low-carbon future through adaptation and mitigation strategies.

"We are hammering out strong country position to pursue during the upcoming two-week long UN-led global climate talks (COP29), which would focus on several key issues, reflecting our priorities and challenges related to climate change, namely climate finance, adaptation and resilience, loss and damage and mitigation efforts," She said while delivering a keynote address at the day-long event 'Pre-COP29 dialogue: Road from Dubai to Baku'.

During the two-week long global climate talks, beginning from November 11, Pakistan would also reiterate the critical

need for substantial financial assistance flows from developed countries to support its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

She said that Pakistan has been vocal about the need for mechanisms to address loss and damage caused by climate change, particularly for countries that are disproportionately affected despite contributing minimally to global emissions. Therefore, the country's delegation at the COP29, however, would also call for the fulfillment of prior commitments to ensure vulnerable nations can effectively address climate.

The PM's climate aide said that climate action at any level should align with sustainable development and low-carbon goals and achieving this role of the rich countries with finances, technology and technical know-how is of unprecedented importance.

Addressing the event, Secretary climate change & environmental coordination ministry Aisha Humera Moriani said the country, like several other vulnerable nations, is bearing the



brunt of the unfolding catastrophe. In 2022, Pakistan was hit by a super flood which affected 33 million people, she recalled.

"As Pakistan navigates the complexities of climate finance change, carbon markets and resilience building as a part of efforts to tackle adverse impacts of



climate, it is clear that no meaningful progress can be made without strong collaboration with civil society," the federal secretary Ms Moriani told the participants.

Earlier in her welcome, remarks, Ayesha Khan, chief executive of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate

Change (CSCCC), said that it is matter of a serious concern that rich nations have failed to meet their climate finance pledges for the climate vulnerable countries. This has only exacerbated the vulnerability of the poor countries, most of them in Asian countries, to the adverse impacts of climate change.

National Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Ambassador of the Czech Republic Ladislav Steinhübel cutting a cake on Czech National Day in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Anti-polio campaign kickoff in District Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, stated that, like many other districts across the country, the anti-polio campaign in District Attock will run from October 28 to November 1. He expressed these views while inaugurating the campaign at Government City Hospital, Attock. CEO Health Dr. Asad Ismail, Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabben, and other relevant officials were also present. The DC Attock mentioned that 2,311 teams will be deployed across the six tehsils of Attock district for the campaign. These include 2,052 mobile, 130 fixed, and 40 transit teams, while 91 Union Council Medical Officers (UCMOs) and 407 area in-charges have been appointed in 75 union councils to oversee the teams. During this campaign, polio drops will be administered to 326,157 children from birth to 59 months. Officers from the District Health Authority, representatives of the World Health Organization, and he himself will specifically monitor this campaign. Additionally, children will be given Vitamin A drops. For monitoring, a District Polio Control Room has been set up at the District Health Authority Attock office to maintain communication with the public and health teams and address any issues. The contact number for the control room is 9316068. The DC Attock appealed to parents to ensure that their children receive the polio drops and cooperate with the polio teams. He emphasized that a small act of negligence could lead to lifelong disability for their child.

Illegal guesthouses in Islamabad are damaging the city's hotel industry: Mian Akram Farid

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mian Akram Farid, former Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Hotel Association and Chief Executive of Hotel Crown Plaza, has expressed concern over the increasing number of illegal guesthouses in Islamabad and demanded that the Government launch a strict operation against them.

He said that the Supreme Court's verdict and the recent orders of Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq clearly directed the closure of illegal guesthouses in residential areas. Due to illegal guesthouses in residential areas, not only is the city's hotel industry being harmed, but the crime rate in society is also increasing.

Earlier, due to the Supreme Court's orders, the CDA had started action but



stopped it after some time, due to which the number of guesthouses has increased

further. Since all these guesthouses are located in residential areas, they are also getting all utility services at residential rates. In addition, they are causing huge losses to the government treasury by not paying sales tax, income tax, bed tax, and EOBI and social security.

The city's hotel industry, on the other hand, is not only paying utility bills and all government taxes on a commercial basis but also has a verified record of the hotel industry with the FBR, Food Department, CDA, Health and Safety, law enforcement and all government agencies.

He demanded that the government take decisive action against these illegal guesthouses to save the hotel industry, which is already facing a crisis due to frequent strikes, sit-ins, and the country's deteriorating economic situation.

Sector Commander ISPR inspects Gilgit-Baltistan Public Relations Department



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Sector Commander Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Zone Muhammad Tariq Sohail met Director Public Relations Raja Shahid Hussain at PID Complex Muzaffarabad. Discussions were held on other professional matters including increasing the number of employees. The Director Public Relations made the Sector Commander ISPR inspect the various departments of the Public Relations Department. Sector Commander ISPR was also briefed about news department, monitoring, digital archive, advertisements, digital media production and other departments. Matters were also discussed with reference to the media. Raja Anjad Hussain Minhas, Director of Information, was also present in the meeting.

Life Savers Welfare, Focal Person Dengue Campaign launch 'Buses for Dengue'

RAWALPINDI: With the joint efforts of Life Savers Welfare Organization and Member Provincial Assembly and Focal Person Dengue Campaign Ms. Tahseen Fawad, a dengue awareness campaign was started on double-decker buses in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. A large number of volunteers participated, while on this occasion, they were accompanied by Rana Shahid, Director of Social Welfare Department, Dr. Ayesha, Director of Al-Shifa I Trust, 1122, Civil Defence, Chairman of Al-Khidmat Foundation, Right Trust, Aima Trust, DC Welfare, Youth Health Wave Society, Old Home, Hum Wasila, Nation Development Organization, Representatives of various institutions including Saadi Foundation, Savour Food Team were present with them. Speaking at the event, Life Savers Welfare Organization President Waseem Ali Malik said that the purpose of bringing together various social and government organizations on a platform today is to promote mutual agreement, so that solutions to problems can be found together. Together we will build a healthy and strong Pakistan. Member Provincial Assembly and Focal Person Dengue Campaign Ms. Tahseen Fawad said that people have taken a step towards prosperity. Pakistan Muslim League-N has once again come to power and saved Pakistan from its difficulties. She further said that dengue can be fatal if precautions are not taken. The campaign will continue till the end of dengue on the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Ms. Maryam Nawaz. This country belongs to all of us. We have to solve the problems together. At the end of the event, She invited the organizers of various institutions to show proof of being a responsible citizen and make the dengue campaign a success.

New research raises concerns on growing air pollution crisis in Karachi

City Desk

KARACHI: Air pollution in Karachi is causing serious respiratory health problems for its residents, specifically men, the elderly and patients with pre-existing pulmonary diseases. This is according to recent study by the Aga Khan University.

Published in the journal Atmospheric Pollution Research, this study focused on the urban population of Pakistan and revealed alarmingly high levels of harmful particles in Karachi's air. The research found dangerous amounts of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which are tiny particles that can be easily inhaled and affect health. The air also contained high levels of sulfate, ammonium, nitrate, and black carbon, which are widespread across the city and contribute to poor air quality. The study measured levels of PM2.5 constituents at Karachi's two busy sites; Korangi and Tibet Center on M. A. Jinnah Road. During the same time period, data was obtained from Karachi's three leading hospitals.

While discussing these findings, Professor Zafar Fatmi, Section Head of Environmental, Occupational Health & Climate Change, Department of Community Health Sciences at Aga Khan University said, "PM2.5, known to pose the highest risk to human respiratory systems, is emitted in large quantities from anthropogenic activities, and has been proven to contribute to cases of chronic bronchitis, lung infections, and the worsening of pre-existing respiratory diseases across the study sites. It is high time we treat air pollution as a crisis and adopt measures to curb the increasing levels of PM2.5 in our environment."

ABHI, FlowHCM collaborate to offer EWA to employees

City Desk

KARACHI: ABHI, a leading embedded finance platform, has partnered with FlowHCM, Pakistan's fastest-growing HRM/HCM software, to offer employees of mutual clients a comprehensive suite of financial services. This includes real-time access to earned wages, payroll financing, and additional financial tools to enhance employees' financial well-being. At the core of this partnership is a shared commitment to empower businesses to provide their workforce with greater financial flexibility, leading to improved employee satisfaction and retention.

With this integration,



FlowHCM clients will now be able to offer ABHI's advanced salary services directly through the FlowHCM software. Ali Ladhubhai, Co-Founder and COO of ABHI emphasized

the significance of this partnership: "In today's competitive business environment, organizations are prioritizing financial solutions that enhance employee well-being.

"As HR continues to evolve, prioritizing employee well-being is essential. Our partnership with Abhi enhances our One-Window HR Solution by integrating earned wage access and FinTech services, allowing businesses to streamline processes and offer financial flexibility—all within FlowHCM, making HR processes even more efficient and user-friendly," said Muhammed Ammar Munaf, CEO of FlowHCM.

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President Xi's Shared Prosperity Model

President Xi Jinping, since assuming office, has been a driving force in elevating China to unprecedented heights, not only in the country's own history but also in the global context. He possesses the qualities of a charismatic, pragmatic, and highly composed leader, rarely seen losing his temper, displaying worry, or revealing any personal anxiety. His humility and down-to-earth nature are evident in his respectful engagement with world leaders and citizens alike, garnering widespread recognition, respect, and admiration.

Unlike other global powers, President Xi Jinping's approach emphasizes peaceful development and self-reliance, positioning China as a model of progress rooted in shared prosperity and stability. His primary focus, however, has been on his own people, who appear to be dearer to him than anything else.

Driven by an unwavering commitment and by his belief that a capable, educated, and skilled population is vital for national progress—President Xi Jinping lifted over 100 million citizens out of extreme poverty by 2021, nearly a decade ahead of the UN's 2030 target through targeted financial aid, agricultural support, and the construction of 1.1 million kilometers of rural roads. He ensured access to education and healthcare, raised literacy rates, and slowed school dropout rates with the introduction of nine-year compulsory education, laying a solid foundation for long-term

economic independence. Xi's dedication to his people extended to redirecting state resources to improve public welfare, providing health insurance coverage for over 95% of the population and expanding pensions for rural and migrant workers. He also fostered economic independence by offering incentives to 20 million small and micro-businesses, enabling sustainable incomes and supporting local economies.

While his focus remained in improving the lives of its people simultaneously, he brought much needed economic growth by unleashing the entrepreneurial qualities of Chinese people and transforming companies and corporations to higher pedestal of growth and development. He transformed them from low-cost manufacturing to high-tech and consumer-driven organizations to meet the growing needs of the domestic population and to cater to the regional and international demands. Despite daunting global economic challenges, he steered the economy with his known grit and vision and made China the second-largest economy with a GDP exceeding \$18 trillion by 2021 a feat which looked impossible only a few years ago. Now his vision "Made in China 2025" is all set to drive China to become a global leader in high-tech industries, including arti-

cial intelligence (AI), robotics, semiconductors, and 5G and in no time, China is now one of the world's leaders in AI research and development and a leader in 5G deployment and digital transformation, extending China's influence in global telecom, enhancing connectivity nationwide.

It was only his vision and untiring effort coupled with political and administrative acumen that since he took over, in 2013, the country's foreign exchange reserves touched an all time high to \$3.238 trillion by the end of 2023. Per capita income nearly doubled from \$6,283 in 2012 to around \$12,605 by 2023. Trade volume expanded from \$3.87 trillion in 2012 to \$6.31 trillion by 2022 illustrating China's progress toward a more robust, internally resilient economy.

President Xi's vision extended beyond China's domestic prosperity; after achieving substantial growth at home, he focused on enhancing regional trade and commerce, leveraging China's resources to support the economic health of neighboring and global partners. His 2013 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), initially seen as a highly ambitious project with its intricate network of land, sea, rail, and air links, has since evolved into one of the world's largest infrastructure and investment programs. Spanning Asia,

Africa, Europe, and Latin America. By 2024, the BRI had attracted around \$1 trillion in total investment and connected over 140 countries. Trade volume among these nations reached approximately \$9 trillion, highlighting the vast economic engagement driven by the BRI, which continues to stimulate regional integration and substantial trade flows, with the potential to transform economies through enhanced connectivity and mutual growth.

President Xi's vision of shared prosperity, rooted in economic, investment, and infrastructure diplomacy with a "win-win" approach, did not go unnoticed by global powers. However, rather than appreciating these efforts or considering President Xi's generous offer to partner in China's pursuit of shared prosperity, the U.S. and its allies have often placed roadblocks in the path of China's progress. The USA and its allies launched a Chinese containment policy without appreciating President Xi's declared policy that this world is big enough for all of us to share its bounties and immense resources without undercutting each other.

The US and its allies launched a de-risking strategy aimed at reducing excessive reliance on China, particularly in supply chains and markets. On the military front, the US started bullying its partners and allies in the Asia Pacific and Indo-pacific region to encircle China in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

To be Continued



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

Schools Dropout – A persisting challenge

Persisting political turmoil and uncertainty leaves future of millions of students in shambles with education remaining the least priority area of respective previous governments.

Economic hardships, an outdated education system and the widening gap between education and employment opportunities are the multiplying components further aggravating this situation.

According to an official report of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), country's students' dropout figures rises to millions as situation is particularly dire for children aged 8 to 15 where dropout rates continue to rise.

Therefore, without immediate intervention, this situation will not only deprive millions of children of a brighter future but also hinder the country's overall development.

Iqbal Watto, Principal of a local prominent educational institute in South Punjab sees poverty as a major issue behind this phenomenon. "Many parents simply cannot afford to bear educational expenses for their children. For scores of families struggling to feed their children, education becomes a distant priority."

Just a couple of decades back, there were only the government schools producing brilliant educationists, judges, doctors, engineers, bureaucrats, politicians and much more. But, the situation continued deteriorating and today there are a few known good public sector institutions as private sector has overshadowed the public sector despite authorities' claims of taking measures to improve the situation.

"We have initiated programs to enhance enrollment under 'Zero Out of School Children' project," informed Fuad Hashim Rabbani, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) at South Punjab Secretariat.

"We have launched it as a pilot project in Layyah district where 6,000 out-of-school children were successfully traced," he said. "Plans are now being implemented for their education by involving schools, local authorities and NGOs."

"We're focusing on education despite many challenges," Rabbani said. "Our goal is to ensure that every child has access to education and we are mobilizing resources to bring these children back into system."

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary Schools South Punjab, Khawaja Mazhar ul Haq has emphasized to raising societal awareness about benefits of education. "Although economic pressures are there. But, we can address this issue by introducing short technical courses to equip our youth for an early earning."

He said such skills taught to today's student would pave way for better education of their children. "If not today, let it be tomorrow. Let us lay foundation for a brighter future of coming generations."

Mazhar informed that the Punjab government is planning to introduce "Middle-Tech" and "Matric-Tech" programs, to enhance enrollment by integrating technical skills with traditional education.

In prevailing situation, besides other measures, connecting traditional education with practical skills can enhance enrollment, making education relevant and beneficial for students and equipping them with expertise for an early earning for their families.



Rasmi

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

South Punjab needs sustainable practices for well-being of inhabitants

Tooba Khan

Rapid urbanization and massive population influx to urban areas posed multiple challenges to cities managers in sustaining populace load and ensuring uninterrupted provision of civic amenities to residents.

Over the period urbanization emerged as a global phenomenon with cities swelling and swelling thus resulting in shrinking facilities and overburdened civic departments with Pakistan also not being an exception to this tendency.

Many cultural regions and cities are fast losing their vitality with even preserved heritage under extreme pressure of urbanization besides usage of rich agricultural land for abruptly erecting housing societies and residential colonies.

Urban growth also poses challenges like pollution and waste generation, cleanliness and hygiene, social inequities and above all infrastructure development as witnessed in the South Punjab region. But, when it is a planned growth with areas properly developed, the situation is entirely different.

Rich in cultural heritage and natural resources, this region faces multiple social, geographical and economic challenges urgently needing sustainable practices for well-being of inhabitants as abrupt urbanization brings with it a glut of hardships.

The World Cities Report 2021 by UN-Habitat highlights sustainable urbanization in shaping resilient, inclusive and prosperous cities as the global shift towards urban living reckons that over 56% of the world's population will be living in cities by 2020.

Highlighting opportunities and risks associated with rapid urbanization, the UN-Habitat report encourages governments and stakeholders to pursue inclusive urban planning, invest in

green infrastructure and enhance social safety nets to foster equitable and sustainable cities. It also calls for urgent global cooperation to address challenges of urbanization and ensure that cities are centers of innovation, equality and sustainability.

The Urban Development Overview 2020 by the World Bank also outlines the importance of sustainable urbanization in fostering economic growth, reducing poverty and improving living standards. Seeing in other perspective, rapid urbanization particularly in developing countries like Pakistan is both a driver of economic opportunities and a source of challenges. Therefore, if there is proper planning, the challenges can be converted into opportunities.

"As far as environmental degradation due to urbanization is concerned, there are immense opportunities to enhance biodiversity and contribute to residents' physical and mental health," remarked Director General, Pakistan Horticulture Authority (PHA), Asif Rauf Khan. "Green infrastructure like parks, urban forests and wetlands can mitigate environmental degradation occurring due to urbanization," he said. "Green spaces reduce urban heat and pollution, improve biodiversity and contribute to residents' well-being."

He emphasizes cities' inclusiveness with a green environment and pollution control leading to a better quality of life. "Partnerships between governments, private sector and communities are crucial for successful urban development."

Several cities around the globe offer valuable lessons in sustainable urban planning like Curitiba in Brazil for developing bus rapid transit to reduce pollution and load on infrastructure and Singapore for water conservation practices.

Therefore, initiatives like desalination, wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting can contribute much in sustainable urban planning if our city managers have workable solutions in

their minds.

"Wastewater recycling and efficient irrigation techniques can help save water. Cities like Multan and Bahawalpur should prioritize water-sensitive urban designs to minimize runoff and encourage water conservation," stated Arif Abbas, Director Works, Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Multan.

He said WASA has launched water and sanitation schemes worth millions of rupees here in Multan through funding of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the situation would improve in near future.

Amidst all these challenges, the top city managers hope better days ahead as for them the establishment of South Punjab Secretariat was a leap forward for addressing the region's problems.

"Financial and administrative autonomy of South Punjab is helping us in making effective and responsive decisions at local level," remarked Fawad Hashmi, Additional Chief Secretary at South Punjab Secretariat. "We are working on the region's development under a comprehensive program. We have no shortage of emerging opportunities for growth and development." It is imperative to mention that past follies of the city planners aggravated our problems as licenses and authorities were issued blindly to housing societies' developers least bothered by the planning and amenities they were going to offer to their residents.

Moreover, they were not asked to develop connecting infrastructure for their societies and consequently, they earned billions of rupees but roads and other infrastructure was left for respective governments to construct.

Therefore, the federal and provincial have an onus now to tighten the noose around them and ask to contribute to infrastructure development instead of spending precious tax money on poor people for their benefit.

Social Complexities

Why does justice fail in Pakistan? This question frequently crosses the minds of its citizens. Various socio-political factors contribute to this failure, with the lack of an independent judiciary being a primary cause. Throughout Pakistan's history, the judiciary has been influenced by the executive and other state institutions. The government often exerts pressure on the apex courts to deliver verdicts in its favor. Ensuring the separation of the judiciary from the executive is essential for delivering justice effectively.

The elite-dominated nature of the state presents another significant obstacle to the judicial system. Since independence in 1947, both civilian and military rulers have been part of a dynastic structure. Members of the elite class, including feudal landlords, urban bosses, and individuals from political backgrounds, have infiltrated the military, government, bureaucracy, and judiciary. This infiltration leads to the misuse of power, favoring their families and local elites through a trickle-down effect.

Additionally, interference from the military and civil establishment undermines the transparency of the judicial system. The apex courts are often pressured by the military establishment, and judges are frequently threatened by high officials to issue verdicts that serve their interests.

Pakistan is a weak state but has strong societal structures supported by feudal lords, business tycoons, and politicians. Powerful groups with kinship ties to high-ranking officials and judges often receive preferential treatment. These connections allow them to misuse state resources and power through favoritism and nepotism. It is essential to uphold the supremacy of the constitution and ensure that power is allocated appropriately to strengthen the state. Political stability is also necessary for the judiciary and

the constitution to function effectively.

Furthermore, traditional or customary laws, such as "Panchayat" or "Jirga," hinder public access to state law. Many cases in rural areas are resolved by these bodies, which often lack female representation and frequently operate with codes and values that contradict state law, especially in cases involving women. Initially, cases are registered at police stations, but as proceedings begin, they are often negotiated away through the influence of Panchayat or Jirga.

Moreover, the overburdening of courts is a significant cause of the judicial system's failure. Thousands of cases remain pending in district

and high courts due to a shortage of judges and judicial staff. Compartmentalization within the courts could enhance their efficiency; for instance, creating specialized sections for family law, land disputes, murder cases, divorce cases, and political or constitutional issues. Additionally, untrained judicial staff and the communication barriers in courts, particularly in rural areas, adversely affect the smooth functioning of the judiciary. Increasing the number of professional judges in courts is essential to alleviate this burden.

Low literacy rates and a lack of awareness also contribute to the failure of justice in Pakistan. Many individuals are discouraged from seeking legal recourse, particularly in cases related to women and sexual abuse in rural areas. The government should increase its budget to promote literacy and raise public awareness, as these measures could lead to a decrease in crime rates and, ultimately, reduce the burden on the courts. Basic constitutional knowledge related to human rights and court procedures should be incorporated as a compulsory subject in colleges and Universities.

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Analysis
Ali Hasnain

Envoys present credentials to the President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkiye presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credential

ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyz Republic, Mr Avazbek Atakhanov, the Ambassador-designate of State of Palestine, Dr Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, Ambassador-designate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Choe Chang Man, the

Ambassador-designate of Uzbekistan, Mr Alisher Tukhtaev, the High Commissioner-designate of Kenya, Lt Gen (Retd) Peter Mbogo Njiru and the Ambassador-designate of Turkiye, Mr Irfan Neziroglu who also held separate meetings with the President. Welcoming the envoys, the President felicitated them on their appointment and

expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Pakistan, in the areas of trade, economy and culture. Earlier, the envoys were presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



The High Commissioner-designate of Kenya, Lt Gen (Retd) Peter Mbogo Njiru, presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.

Uzbekistan announces preliminary results in parliamentary elections

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Uzbek Central Election Commission has announced the preliminary results of the elections for the 150-seat lower house of the parliament.

According to the commission, the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan gained the majority of seats in the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the lower house of the parliament.

Preliminary data shows the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan won 64 parliamentary seats, followed by the National Revival Democratic Party with 29 seats. The Social Democratic Party Adolat secured 21 seats, the



People's Democratic Party won 20 seats, and the Ecological Party nabbed 16 seats.

The commission said that the total voter turnout reached 74.72 percent. The commission also noted that it was the first time the lower house elections were held based on a mixed electoral system.

New Ambassador Oybek Usmanov assumes duties in Kabul

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan has appointed a new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Afghanistan.

Today, Oybek Usmanov, the newly appointed Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Afghanistan, arrived in the Afghan capital, Kabul, according to Dunyo news agency.

From 2020 to 2024, Usmanov served as Uzbekistan's ambassador to Pakistan. He has been with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1998, holding various roles both within the central office and in international missions.

Prior to his appointment to Afghanistan, Usmanov served as ambassador to Egypt and Pakistan and acted as



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan from 2011 to 2012.

He succeeds Yodgorhoja Shadmanov, who represented Uzbekistan's interests in Afghanistan from 2012 to 2024.



The Ambassador-designate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Choe Chang Man, presented his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.

Pakistan and Russia reaffirm to further strengthen bilateral ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in the areas of trade, commerce, investment, agriculture and energy for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Ms. Valentina Matvienko, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the Russian delegation, the President highlighted the historical relationship between Pakistan and Russia which were marked by mutual respect and a shared commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields.

While talking to the delegation, the President underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs. He also pointed out that both countries had enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan. The President fondly recalled his



recent pleasant interaction with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Ashgabat. He also sought Russia's support for Pakistan's bid to become a member of BRICS that would greatly help Pakistan to enhance its role in regional and global cooperation through the alliance. Both sides underscored the importance of diversifying trade and economic cooperation, besides enhancing regional connectivity and

commercial relations through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the North-South Transport Corridor.

The Russian Speaker emphasized that her country accorded priority to its relationship with Pakistan and expressed confidence that her visit would further enhance bilateral cooperation. She hoped that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parlia-

ments of the two countries would further deepen bilateral relations. She expressed satisfaction over the growth in bilateral trade.

She also conveyed the special greetings from President Putin. Additionally, she congratulated Pakistan on the successful hosting of the SCO Heads of Government as well as Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The

President expressed gratitude to Russia for its support of Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The meeting was attended by the Chairman Senate, Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwala, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and other senior officials.



The Ambassador-designate of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr Avazbek Atakhanov, presented his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.

IICR Hosts Policy Roundtable on Navigating Complex Security Landscapes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) hosted an insightful policy roundtable addressing pressing issues in Pakistan's national security, and regional challenges. Esteemed academics, industry experts, and former military officials delivered talks on diverse, timely topics, providing an opportunity for robust discussion and strategy development. Prof. Dr. Nazir Hussain served as the moderator, guiding a session that underscored the importance of collaborative national resilience in the face of multifaceted security threats.

Dr. Khalid Chauhan, Dr. Khalid Chauhan, Director General Research at NACTA, delivered a comprehensive analysis of terrorism, radicalism, and insurgency, with particular emphasis on the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). His presentation highlighted that while the TTP continues its attempts to expand influence, it faces significant resistance due to minimal local support in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Dr. Chauhan emphasized the critical need for the state to adopt a proactive stance in reclaiming spaces vulnerable to extremist influence. He advocated for a people-centric, bottom-up participatory approach to policy making and implementation, stressing that internal security challenges in KP and Balochistan require immediate attention. His anal-



ysis included detailed insights into the TTP's internal tribal dynamics, particularly regarding the Mehsud tribe's influence, and the growing concern of extremist ideology proliferation through digital platforms.

Lt Gen Naeem Khalid Lodhi discussed Pakistan's internal and regional challenges. He advised fostering diplomatic relations with Afghanistan while handling the TTP as a separate concern. Gen. Lodhi warned that strained Pakistan-Afghanistan relations could compromise the war on terrorism. He stressed the importance of introspection within Pakistan's governance, stating that enhancing quality of life for ordinary citizens is fundamental to true progress. He further urged Pakistan to adopt a forward-looking approach, learning from past experiences and moving away from a "victim mindset."

Brigadier (R) Imran Malik delivered a compelling analysis on insurgency in Balochistan, pointing to increased threats from groups like

BLA/BRAS and the TTP. He presented a potential scenario where these groups could collaborate to incite nationalist, sectarian, and ethnic unrest. Malik recommended a two-pronged strategy: strengthening the government's media counter-offensive to negate foreign misinformation, and engaging the Baloch populace directly, bypassing feudal intermediaries. His call to action included strategic military preparedness, proactive intelligence, and a comprehensive, government-led approach to engage the educated Baloch middle class, address grievances, and counter external influences.

Dr. Bilal Zubair of the National Defence University spoke on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and foreign policy challenges. He explored "soft power" in national security, urging Pakistan to leverage its cultural assets through public diplomacy, education exchanges, and diaspora engagement. Dr. Zubair highlighted the potential for digital media initiatives like "Digital Pakistan" to enhance the country's image and promote its interests. He noted the need for a cohesive cultural diplomacy policy to project Pakistan's unique cultural strengths on the global stage.

Dr. Zunera Jalil, Chair of Cybersecurity at Air University shared her expertise on Pakistan's cybersecurity challenges. She identified ransomware,

AI-generated threats, and Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) as critical concerns, stressing the need for cybersecurity awareness and indigenous product development. Dr. Jalil recommended public-private partnerships, enhanced legislation, and digital forensics to address emerging cyber threats. She underscored the role of educational frameworks to build a cyber-secure workforce, equipped to protect national assets and counteract state-sponsored attacks.

Ms. Farzana Yaqoob argued that the recent elections in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) are not reflective of genuine consent to Indian rule, but rather an assertion of resilience under oppression. Ms. Yaqoob reaffirmed that the people of IIOJK remain committed to their struggle for self-determination, condemning ongoing Indian repression.

Conclusion and Future Initiatives The roundtable underscored the importance of addressing Pakistan's complex security landscape through comprehensive, multi-faceted approaches. Each speaker highlighted specific challenges while advocating for robust policy measures, strong governance, and proactive engagement with communities. The IICR remains dedicated to fostering dialogue, strategic insights, and collaborative efforts to address the nation's evolving security dynamics.



The Ambassador-designate of the State of Palestine, Dr Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid, presented his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.



The Ambassador-designate of Republic of Turkiye, Mr. Irfan Neziroglu, presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
90,195.51	89,993.96
Day's High	Day's Low
91,054.83	89,732.73
Index Value	Change
22,594,042,675	+201.55
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	28 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,285.62	+36.78
Percentage	Time
+0.45%	28 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,429.20	+314.80
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	28 Oct, 1:50 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,605.53	+691.61
Percentage	Time
+1.82%	28 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.75	184.94
Bahrain Dinar	730.70	738.70
Canadian Dollar	199.56	201.96
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	39.82	40.22
Euro	297.40	300.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.36	35.71
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.87	906.37
Malaysian Ringgit	63.34	63.94
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.98	25.28
Omani Riyal	715.20	723.70
Qatari Riyal	75.54	76.24
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	317.51	320.31
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.30	75.95
UK Pound Sterling	356.85	360.35
US Dollar	277.25	278.75

Sehgal's WEF initiative has spotlighted Pakistan globally, Kakar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar the Chief Guest at the ceremony commended Ikram Sehgal, Chairman of Pathfinder Group, for his enduring commitment to Pakistan's global narrative. "Mr. Sehgal's initiative to represent Pakistan at WEF has positioned Pakistan prominently on a global stage, creating new opportunities for dialogue, investment, and partnership," stated Mr Kakar.

Dr Huma Baqai, Senior Vice Chairperson of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR), moderated the event, underscoring the importance of the Pakistan Pavilion initiative, a platform launched by the Pathfinder Group to represent Pakistan's achievements and potential to international investors and policy-makers. She said, the Pakistan Pavilion at Davos showcases the country's vibrant economic landscape and challenges negative stereotypes. She acknowledged the Pathfinder Group's ongoing support at the World Economic Forum and encouraged both government and private entities to contribute.

Mr. Farhat Ali, Former President of the Swiss Business Council, shared his experiences in Davos, emphasizing the potential of the WEF for Pakistan's business sector. "The Pathfinder Group's signature Pakistan breakfast has been a hallmark of Pakistan's identity at Davos, serving



as an invaluable opportunity for branding, visibility, and fostering investment relationships," said Mr Ali. He urged the private sector to seize this platform for enhanced global outreach.

Dr Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman and CEO of Roots Millennium Education Group, emphasized the need to focus on education and human development as pivotal areas for Paki-

stan's sustainable progress. With WEF's 2025 theme centred on education, Dr Mushtaq highlighted the transformative power of education in fostering a resilient and competitive Pakistani workforce.

Closing the event, Mr Ikram Sehgal, Co-Chairman of Pathfinder Group and Patron in Chief of the KCFR spoke on the strategic

importance of Pakistan as the gateway to South and Central Asia, emphasizing Pakistan's natural resources and burgeoning sectors. He asserted that Pakistan sits at the epicentre of global economic activity, surrounded by nearly five billion people. We have every resource and potential to be a pivotal player on the world stage.

In anticipation of Pakistan's significant presence at the upcoming World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, a discussion dedicated to promoting Pakistan's economic and social potential convened at Islamabad. The event was organized by the Pathfinder Group, the Sindh Investment Department, and the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR). The event was held under the theme "Promoting Pakistan: IMAGE AND INVESTMENT" at the Pakistan Pavilion during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 in Davos. The event highlighted Pakistan's role in the global economy and discussed strategies for advancing Pakistan's image and investment prospects at the WEF annual meeting.

The forum in Islamabad provided a glimpse into Pakistan's vision for Davos 2025, where the Pakistan Pavilion will continue to reflect the nation's aspirations and progress, drawing global attention to its potential as a key investment destination in the region.

Call on

ISLAMABAD: The Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Chairman FBR Mr. Rashid Mahmood Lagrial at Federal Board of Revenue Headquarters on Monday.



Photo: PID

foodpanda and Atlas Honda join forces to enhance road safety for delivery riders

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: foodpanda has partnered with Atlas Honda to provide motorcycle safety training for its riders, aiming to reduce accidents and promote responsible driving practices. This

initiative underscores foodpanda's commitment to rider safety and fostering a safer traffic environment for all road users. The collaboration seeks to ensure a smoother, more secure road experience for both riders and the community.

Revolutionizing Slimness and Strength: The New Infinix HOT 50Pro+

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Infinix, the leading smartphone brand in Pakistan, is proud to introduce its latest innovation, the Infinix HOT 50Pro+ Series. This ultra-slim yet powerful device redefines smartphone design and durability with an incredible 6.88mm ultra-slim design, the HOT 50Pro+ Series boasts the world's slimmest 3D-curved SlimEdge design, offering enhanced portability and aesthetics. Priced

at PKR 57,999, the HOT 50Pro+ Series is now available offline on Outlets Nationwide and online on X-park.pk with exclusive gifts for early buyers.

Speaking on the launch of the Infinix HOT 50Pro+ Series, Simon Feng, CEO of Infinix, remarked, "The HOT 50Pro+ Series embodies the perfect balance between style and durability. We're excited to offer a device that not only looks stunning but also performs impeccably in real-world conditions."

ICCI-SBP close collaboration vital for growth of businesses: Nasir Qureshi

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the premier Chambers of the country, promoting economic activities in the region through close liaison between the Government Departments and private sector and SMEs growth through startups, incubators, entrepreneurships and

industry-academia linkages are some of its traits.

This has been stated by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi while talking to the State Bank of Pakistan's visiting delegation headed by the Chief Manager Adnan Imran, comprising Deputy Chief Manager, Intiaz Ali and Deputy Director, Saeeda Bano.

Foreign Service Personnel Briefed on Economy at FPCCI: President FPCCI

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the apex body has briefed the group of personnel from Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP) at its Head Office in Karachi - with the aim to orient them on macroeconomic issues & challenges; export promotion requirements of the business community; trade diplomacy and branding of a country's export offerings on an international scale.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh elaborated that the FSP delegation was told that IT & IT-enabled Services; value-added agricultural produce; processed foods; blue economy & infrastructure; processed minerals & chemicals and export of skilled workforce should be given priority in promoting Pakistan's economic, investment and trade relations.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, stressed that foreign services representatives and trade & investment officers of Pakistan should act like salesmen of the country; and, position Pakistan - as a country - a formidable brand in the export markets. We should aim for geographically diverse and multi-sectoral export promotion; coupled with industrialization and import substitution.



SVP FPCCI also briefed on FPCCI's Vision 2030; with \$100 billion exports as the primary objective. This is doable; and, we need the support of foreign office, embassies and consulates of Pakistan around the world for single-country, regional and international exhibitions.

Mr. Magoon also touched upon the recognition extended by FPCCI to the top 20 companies of the country from 20

industries or sector - on the theme of one sector, one winner. The awards were named FPCCI Excellence Awards; and, were given by none other than the highest office of the land; i.e. President of Pakistan. We can say with confidence that these are the top 20 brands from Pakistan which should be promoted internationally. In total, we have identified 72 industries or sectors; and, we will be identifying the top performers of the remaining sectors soon, he added.

Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, raised the challenges of cost of doing business and ease of doing business with the foreign service delegates: (i) interest rate remains at 17.5 percent; which makes access to finance impossible or unprofitable (ii) electricity tariffs are the highest in the region (iii) law and order needs to improve for better investor confidence (iv) gas prices need to be rationalized for export-oriented industries.

Mr. Arslan Meer, Programme Director FSP, maintained that the objective to visit FPCCI was to gain practical and grassroots knowledge of the economic challenges, opportunities and potential of Pakistan. We want to train FSP officers with the help of up-to-date and meaningful interactions, he added.

CCP conducts advocacy session with Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP)

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) recently hosted an interactive session with the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) to reinforce self-regulation and promote compliance with Competition Law, with a special focus on curbing deceptive marketing practices.

Ms. Bushra Naz Malik (Member, CCP) led the session alongside senior officials, including Mr. Shahzad Hussain (Director General) and Mr. Qasim Khan (Sr.

Joint Director). CAP was represented by Mr. Tariq Mehbub (Co-Founder and Patron-in-Chief), Mr. Asfandyar Farrukh (Co-Founder and Chairman), and Mr. Ahsen Mahmood (Senior Vice Chairman).

During session, Ms. Malik reiterated the CCP's commitment to fostering fair competition across sectors, highlighting that sector-specific guidelines are soon to be issued to strengthen compliance within the retail industry. She also underscored CCP's focus on raising awareness and building capacity among stakeholders,

including retail sector participants, on Competition Law and compliance.

Mr. Mehbub highlighted CAP's substantial economic contribution, representing over 150 retail businesses generating more than PKR 2000 billion in revenue per annum. He highlighted challenges faced by CAP members, emphasizing the need for heightened awareness of anti-competitive practices, such as deceptive claims and misleading discounts, to prevent financial penalties and reputational harm.

Mr. Farrukh reinforced the



importance of training and awareness initiatives led by the CCP, which would help CAP members align their business

strategies and practices with Competition Law.

The CCP and CAP agreed to continue their partnership

to foster a competitive and compliant retail landscape, benefiting both the economy and consumers alike.

JBS revolutionizing productivity and innovation; introduces HP's AI PCs to Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: Jaffer Business Systems (JBS) is excited to announce the arrival of HP's next-generation AI PCs in Pakistan. As the first company to bring these state-of-the-art devices to Pakistan, JBS continues to lead the way in technological innovation. Two of Pakistan's top banks will be the first to experience the transformative power of these revolutionary PCs, marking a major milestone in the nation's digital landscape.

Veqar Ul Islam, CEO of Jaffer Business Systems: "Our vision for the future is anchored in AI and sustainability, which are set to become the foundational pillars of our business strategy for 2025 and beyond.



By integrating advanced AI technologies and sustainable practices, we

are not only enhancing our capabilities but also paving the way for a more innovative and responsible business landscape. This dual focus ensures we remain at the forefront of technological advancements while committing to the well-being of our environment and society."

In a recent meeting held in Singapore, senior management from HP and JBS discussed their shared vision for the future, focusing on AI and sustainability as key drivers of innovation. The strategic discussions centered around the new futuristic direction of HP and how these advancements will shape the landscape of technology. JBS is excited to deliver these revolutionary AI PCs to two leading banks, enabling them to lead in innovation and productivity within the financial sector. This partnership underscores JBS's commitment to bringing the latest technological advancements to Pakistan.

PCB okays Gillespie as white-ball head coach for Australia tour after Kirsten resigns

Pakistan side set to visit Australia for three-match ODI and T20I series, commencing on Nov 4

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed Jason Gillespie as the white-ball head coach for the team's Australia tour following the acceptance of Gary Kirsten's resignation.

Gillespie, who is Green Shirts' red-ball head coach, will accompany the team for their upcoming ODI and T20I series against the Kangaroos set to commence on November 4.

The national side is set to play three ODIs and T20Is each against the Kangaroos which will be followed by a series against Zimbabwe with the same number of matches.

Gillespie's new role comes after Kirsten resigned after differences emerged between him and the PCB over various matters. It is to be noted that Kirsten and Gillespie were appointed as white and red-ball coaches, respectively on two-year contracts in April this year.

Though both coaches were given a



two-year contract, Kirsten's stint lasted a few months after his relationship with the board deteriorated, which the sources attribute to the South African's arbitrary acts and failure to adhere to his contract terms.

The now-former white-ball head coach had not only refused to stay in Pakistan, as provisioned in his contract but also insisted on joining the team five or six days before the series or tour.

Kirsten, despite being reminded of

his mandatory availability for 11 months under the contract, wasn't available during or after the Champions Cup, media reports said. Agencies

Upcoming white-ball series

Australia
November 4 — ODI, MCG, Melbourne
November 8 — ODI, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide

November 10 — ODI, Perth Stadium, Perth
November 14 — T20I, The Gabba, Brisbane

November 16 — T20I, SCG, Sydney
November 18 — T20I, Bellerive Oval, Hobart

Zimbabwe
November 24 — ODI, Bulawayo
November 26 — ODI, Bulawayo
November 28 — ODI, Bulawayo
December 1 — T20I, Bulawayo
December 3 — T20I, Bulawayo
December 5 — T20I, Bulawayo

PCB confirms venue for Sri Lanka 'A' tour to Pakistan

Islamabad Club to host two four-dayers and three-match 50-over series between Pakistan Shaheens and Sri Lanka A from 11 to 29 November

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board today confirmed that Islamabad Club will host the five-match red and white-ball series between Sri Lanka 'A' and Pakistan Shaheens in November.

As announced earlier, Sri Lanka 'A' on their maiden tour to Pakistan, will play two four-day matches from 11 to 21 November, followed by a three-match 50-over series on 25, 27 and 29 November.

Sri Lanka 'A' will arrive in Islamabad on 7 November and will train for three days before taking on the Shaheens in the first four-dayer commencing from 11 November.

For both four-day games, the toss will



take place at 9am PKT, with the first ball expected to be bowled at 9.30am PKT. The three 50-over series fixtures will be day-night games, with toss taking place at 1.30pm PKT. The first ball of the match is expected to be bowled at 2pm PKT.

The PCB continues to invest in its

young talent with Shaheens set to play their second home series in three months. In August, Bangladesh 'A' had traveled to Islamabad for two four-dayers and a three-match 50-over series.

Besides the home series this year, Pakistan Shaheens had also featured in two

four-dayers against Bangladesh 'A' in Darwin, Australia, two 50-over matches against Northern Territory and Bangladesh 'A' and also took part in the Top End T20 series. The Shaheens have also recently competed in the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Muscat.

Schedule of matches:
7 Nov — Arrival in Islamabad
11-14 Nov — 1st four-day match vs Pakistan Shaheens; Islamabad Club
18-21 Nov — 2nd four-day match vs Pakistan Shaheens; Islamabad Club
25 Nov — 1st 50-over match vs Pakistan Shaheens; Islamabad Club
27 Nov — 2nd 50-over match vs Pakistan Shaheens; Islamabad Club
29 Nov — 3rd 50-over match vs Pakistan Shaheens; Islamabad Club

France hijab ban in sports 'discriminatory': UN experts

"Muslim women and girls who wear hijab must have equal rights to participate in sporting life," say experts

GENEVA: United Nations rights experts on Monday slammed decisions in France barring women and girls who wear the Muslim headscarf from sports competitions as "discriminatory", demanding they be reversed.

France invoked its strict rules on secularism to ban its athletes from wearing religious symbols, including the hijab, during the Paris 2024 Olympics.

And France's football and basketball federations have also opted to exclude players wearing the headscarf from competitions, including at the amateur level.

These decisions "are disproportionate and discriminatory, and infringe on their rights (of French athletes) to freely manifest their identity, their religion or belief in private and in public, and to take part in cultural life," said a statement signed by eight independent UN experts.

"Muslim women and girls who wear the hijab must have equal rights to participate in cultural and sporting life, and to take part in all aspects of French society of which they are a part," they



The statement was signed by the UN special rapporteurs on cultural rights, on minority issues, and on freedom of religion and belief, and members of the UN working group on discrimination against women and girls.

They are independent experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, but who do not speak on behalf of the United Nations.

France's laws on secularism are intended to keep the state neutral in religious matters, while guaranteeing

citizens the right to freely practice their religion.

Among other things, they prohibit pupils and teachers in schools as well as civil servants from wearing "ostentatious" religious symbols.

But the experts insisted that "the neutrality and secular nature of the state are not legitimate grounds for imposing restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief".

"Any limitations of these freedoms must be proportionate, necessary to reach one of the objectives stated in international law (safety, health and public order, the rights and freedoms of others), and justified by facts... and not by presumptions, assumptions or prejudices," they said.

"In a context of intolerance and strong stigmatisation of women and girls who choose to wear the hijab, France must take all measures at its disposal to protect them, to safeguard their rights, and to promote equality and mutual respect for cultural diversity." AFP

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament Schedule announced

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Khalid Nafees Chairman, RCAF Tournament Committee announced the Schedule of First Phase of RCAF Telet Hunt Programme Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

According to Schedule Tuesday 29th October Zone-I Whites will meet Zone-II Blues at KCCA Stadium, on 30th October: Zone-III (W) vs Zone-VII (B) at KCCA Stadium, on 31st October: Zone-VI (W) vs Zone-VII (G) at KCCA Stadium, on 5th November: Zone-VII (W) vs Zone-II (B) at Young Fighter Ground, Zone-V (W) vs Zone-VI (B) at KCCA Stadium, Zone-IV (W) vs Zone-V (B) at Landhi Gymkhana Ground, on 6th November: Zone-I (W) vs Zone-III (B) at Young Fighter Ground, Zone-II (W) vs Zone-I (G) at KCCA Stadium, Zone-I (B) vs Zone-IV (B) at Landhi Gymkhana Ground, on 7th November: Zone-III (W) vs Zone-VI (B) at KCCA Stadium, On 11th November: Zone-IV (W) vs Zone-I Greens at Pak Star Ground, on 12th November: Zone-V (W) vs Zone-VII (B) Landhi Gymkhana Ground, Zone-VI (W) vs Zone-I (B) at KCCA Stadium, Zone-IV (B) vs Zone-VII (G) at Young Fighter Ground, on 13th November: Zone-II (B) vs Zone-III (B) at Young Fighter Ground, Zone-VII (W) vs Zone-I (W) at KCCA Stadium, Zone-II (W) vs Zone-V (B) at Landhi Gymkhana Ground, 14 November: Zone-VI (B) vs Zone-VII (B) at KCCA Stadium, 15th November: Zone-I (G) vs Zone-V (B) at KCCA Stadium, on 18th November: Zone-IV (W) vs Zone-II (W) at KCCA Stadium, on 19th November: Zone-III (W) vs Zone-V (W) at Landhi Gymkhana Ground, Zone-I (B) vs Zone-VII (G) Young Fighter Ground, Zone-VI (W) vs Zone-IV (B) at KCCA Stadium.

First Semi Final of the Tournament will be played between Champion of Group "A" vs Champion of Group of "C" on 20th November and 2nd Semi Final will be played between Champion of Group "B" vs Champion of Group "D" on 21st November at KCCA Stadium.

Man United sack manager Erik ten Hag after disappointing start to season



LONDON: Manchester United have sacked manager Erik ten Hag following the club's lacklustre start to the season, the fallen Premier League giants announced on Monday.

United dropped to a lowly 14th in the table after suffering their fourth defeat in nine league games at West Ham on Sunday and have won only one of their last eight games in all competitions.

"Erik ten Hag has left his role as Manchester United men's first-team manager," said a club statement.

"Erik was appointed in April 2022 and led the club to two domestic trophies, winning the Carabao Cup in 2023 and the FA Cup in 2024. "We are grateful to Erik for everything he has done during his time with us and wish him well for the future.

"Ruud van Nistelrooy will take charge of the team as interim head coach, supported by the current coaching team, whilst a permanent head coach is recruited."

Even before the West Ham loss, the Dutch manager Ten Hag had presided over United's worst start to an English top-flight campaign since the 1989/90 season.

The 54-year-old Ten Hag's position had been repeatedly called into question in recent weeks after United co-owner Jim Ratcliffe kept him on board at Old Trafford following the club's FA Cup final win over Manchester City at Wembley in May. AFP

GP Performance

LONDON: Christian Horner, Red Bull Racing's team principal, has hinted at potential changes regarding Sergio Perez's future after a challenging performance at the Mexican Grand Prix. Perez struggled in front of his home crowd, failing to advance past Q1 on Saturday and finishing at the back of the pack on race day, compounded by significant car damage. "Formula 1 is a results-based business," Horner remarked, adding, "As a team, we need to have both cars scoring points. That's the nature of Formula 1."

Perez's inconsistent results have impacted Red Bull's position in the Constructors' Championship, where they now sit third. Horner emphasized the team's support for Perez, mentioning efforts to help him regain form, but acknowledged the limits of their support. "We've done everything that we can to support Checco... There comes a point in time that you can only do so much," he explained. With four races remaining, Horner expressed urgency for Perez to deliver consistent results, noting, "Difficult decisions have to be made."

Amid speculation, young Red Bull-backed drivers Liam Lawson and Yuki Tsunoda have been named as potential successors. However, Horner also pointed out that these drivers struggled in Mexico, showing how quickly fortunes can shift in the sport. As Perez prepares for the next race in Brazil, he faces mounting pressure to solidify his position amid intensifying competition for seats at Red Bull. Agencies

Australia names T20I squad for Pakistan, key players rested

Key T20I coaching changes as McDonald, Di Venuto, and Vettori shift focus to Australia's Test series prep in Perth

SYDNEY: Australia has decided to rest all its Test players for the upcoming T20I series against Pakistan as they prepare for the challenging Test series against India.

Recent T20I captains Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head, along with Pat Cummins, will not be part of the squad for the Pakistan series. As a result, selectors are considering a new captain for the T20 side, with candidates such as Glenn Maxwell, Adam Zampa, Matt Short, Aaron Hardie, and Josh Inglis in the mix.

George Bailey, chairman of selectors, said the final captain decision would be made closer to the start of the series. "I think there's a number of players with the ability to captain and some that have had some captaincy experience as well," Bailey noted. "We'll work through that."

Returning to the squad after injury are Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis, and Spencer Johnson. All three missed the previous UK tour due to various injuries. While Johnson has already made his comeback in domestic cricket, Bartlett and Ellis are expected to be match-fit for the three-game series, scheduled from November 14 to 18.

This T20I squad closely resembles the group that went to the UK, with Maxwell rejoining after resting during that trip. Matthew Short and Jake Fraser-McGurk are set to open the batting, having shown strong form in previous matches.

The close scheduling between the T20I and Test series influenced the decision to rest Test players, as the Test squad will arrive in Perth just days before the T20 series wraps up. "The Test squad will be arriving in Perth and

finalizing their Test prep around the time of that second T20. We've been really clear that we are prioritizing the preparation for individuals around the Test summer," Bailey explained. This prioritization helps avoid the complications of switching players between formats on short notice.

However, Bailey kept the door open for some T20I players to be added to the Test squad if any injuries arise. "You've just got to cover your bases in case you lose the wrong person at the wrong time," Bailey said. "If that does shift, we can get someone across to Perth, and their preparation would look a little bit different, but that would be okay."

Josh Inglis, known for his effective reverse hits, is also being discussed as a potential leader in the T20 side. Recently, he was suggested as an



option for Australia's Test opener by New South Wales coach Greg Shipperd.

However, Bailey confirmed that Inglis won't be considered for the top order at this time. "Not in the short

term... I don't think that he's someone that we would be looking to place at the top of the order," Bailey said. "But there is no doubt that the form is really fantastic at the moment."

The coaching staff for the T20I

series will also look different, with Andrew McDonald, Michael Di Venuto, and Daniel Vettori focusing on preparations for the Test series in Perth.

Assistant coach Andre Borovec will step in as head coach for the T20I series, a role he previously filled during the series against India last October. Former batter Brad Hodge will join the staff as an assistant, along with Matthew Wade, who captained the T20 side in February and will now be in a coaching role.

The Australian T20I squad for the Pakistan series includes: Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, and Adam Zampa. Agencies

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ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Ms. Valentina Votvchenko at Parliament House.



Photo: PID

Durable peace in S. Asia, contingent upon peaceful resolution of J&K dispute: Amb. Ahmad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ambassador in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Monday said that durable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"27 October 1947 was one of the darkest days for the Kashmiri people as the Indian occupation of J&K, which began on that day, stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiris to determine their own destiny and subjected them to decades long gross and systematic violations of human rights," the ambassador said in a special seminar arranged by Embassy of Pakistan in France marking the Kashmir Black Day and to express solidarity with the Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).



For several generations, the ambassador said the Kashmiri people had been looking towards the global community, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their promised right to self-determination.

"India's illegal and unilateral actions and continuing grave atrocities since 5 August 2019 had further exacerbated the situation and completely alienated the Kashmiri people who were united in rejecting any attempts by the occupying power to undermine the inter-

nationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory," the press release quoted the ambassador as saying.

He said that India must realize that it could not suppress the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people through its continued forcible occupation and brutalities.

The ambassador further said that the Kashmir case stood on strong political, legal and

moral grounds and Pakistan would continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the realization of their just cause.

History was witness to the fact that legitimate freedom struggles could not be suppressed for long by use of force and violations of international law, he added.

The ambassador noted that self-determination was a fundamental right enshrined in the UN Charter and international human rights covenants.

Speaking on the occasion A&JK Minister for Small Industries and Trade Kausar Taqdees Gillani voiced strong concern for the inhuman treatment being faced by all Kashmiris especially women and children at the hands of Indian occupation forces.

She called the attention of international community to come together and formulate policy in accordance with UNSC resolutions to help free Kashmiris from Indian occu-

pation and protect their basic human rights.

Prominent speakers condemned the gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law being committed by the Indian occupation forces against innocent Kashmiri men, women and children.

They called upon the international community and media to highlight the miseries of the defenseless Kashmiris and to hold India accountable for its atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity in IIOJK.

People, representing Pakistani diaspora, Kashmiris, academicians, journalists and other distinguished guests participated in the event that highlighted the seven decades long legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

PSX hits historic high as KSE-100 crosses 91,000 points

PKR sees marginal dip against USD, closing at 277.68 in inter-bank market

KARACHI: In an impressive rally, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) hit unprecedented highs on Monday with the KSE-100 Index surging past the 91,000 mark during intra-day trading, a first in PSX history.

The benchmark index reached an intra-day peak of 91,054.84 points before closing at 90,195.51, marking a gain of 201.55 points, or 0.22%.

The session opened on a strong note driven by high-value stocks like HBL, MCB, MEBL, PPL, PSO, SNGPL, and SSGC. Although profit-taking pared some gains in the latter half of the session, the market's

closing above 90,000 signals robust investor confidence.

Market analysts attribute PSX's recent upward trajectory to expectations of a policy rate cut by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), scheduled for next week.

Investors also remain optimistic following positive corporate earnings announcements and recent economic indicators that suggest a favourable business climate.

The past week saw a strong performance by PSX, with the KSE-100 Index gaining 4,743.88 points—its highest weekly gain to date. Agencies

Russian Deputy Defence Minister meets Defence Minister, Secretary Defence



ISLAMABAD: Russian Deputy Defence Minister, Colonel General Aleksandr V. Fomin called Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Secretary Defence Lieutenant General (R) Muhammad Ali and Secretary, Defence Production,

Lieutenant General (R) Chiragh Haider here in separate meetings on Monday.

The Russian Deputy Defence Minister was leading a delegation whereas the dignitaries discussed bilateral defence production matters during the meeting. APP

Miftah cites history as evidence for current govt not finishing term

HYDERABAD: Former finance minister and Secretary-General of the Awaam Pakistan Party (APP), Miftah Ismail, has expressed doubts about the current government's ability to complete its constitutional term, citing a troubling historical pattern of prime ministers in Pakistan.

Speaking at a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday, Ismail remarked, "No prime minister had ever completed their term in Pakistan," predicting that the federal government would similarly falter due to its lack of delivery

on key issues.

Ismail stated, "Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) what was being done 'is not our politics,'" signalling a clear break from the ruling party's practices.

He further questioned the commitment of the PML-N to its manifesto, stating, "Is this the politics of honouring the vote? The PML-N left its manifesto." He pointed out that the political crisis could have been avoided had Nawaz Sharif accepted defeat in the February 8 general elections.

Ismail noted that many former members of the PML-N are now joining the APP, highlighting a potential shift in the political landscape. He also directed his criticism towards the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which has governed Sindh since 2008, stating, "They take votes but do nothing in the province."

Discussing local issues in Hyderabad, Ismail pointed to significant deficiencies in electricity, gas, drainage, and infrastructure, asserting that apart from Karachi, "there is

no maintained family park in the entire of Sindh."

He declared the APP's commitment to addressing rights abuses in the region, lamenting the country's economic decline over the past 30 years. "If you look at the past, Pakistan was at the forefront in terms of economy in Asia but became the poorest in 30 years," he remarked.

On the controversial passage of the 26th amendment, Ismail emphasised the importance of an "independent and fair judiciary" as

essential for protecting rights. He expressed concern over the process, stating, "The Constitution is a social contract, how can it be changed in the dark of night?"

In response to questions about other political entities, Ismail described the Pak Sarzameen Party and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party as being formed for specific purposes. He concluded, "APP does not claim that it will win elections, but if it does win, it promises to deliver." He also stated that Imran Khan is no longer a favourite. Agencies

Sustained participation of women in workforce need of an hour: Dr. Khalid

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday highlighted the need for sustained participation of women in the workforce.

Addressing a convocation ceremony at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the minister encouraged young women to be change agents in transforming the narrative around women in STEM fields.

He extended heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing that the graduates' success was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the nurturing environment at NUST. The federal

minister encouraged the graduates to make wise choices.

He shared his insights on resilience, the importance of action, and the need for lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving world.

He urged the graduates to embrace continuous self-improvement, reminding them that their actions would shape not just their own futures but also the destiny of Pakistan.

In closing remarks, the federal minister called on the graduates to restore belief in the nation and uphold the values that define Pakistan.

The graduation ceremony ended with a resounding sense of hope and optimism for the future, as the Class of 2024 stepped forward to embrace their new roles as the nation's future leaders.

In the ceremony, degrees were awarded to Post Graduate (Ph. D) and Undergraduate (BS) level students.

The event was attended by Secretary MoST Mr. Sajid Baloch, Lt Gen Javed Mahmood Bukhari, HI(M), Rector NUST, members of the NUST community, parents and family members.

Balochistan's first phase survey for solarizing 50 tubewells completed

ISLAMABAD: The detailed surveys for solarizing 50 agricultural feeders, out of a total of 581 tubewells, have been successfully completed in the first phase, as informed during the question hour in the National Assembly on Monday.

In a written response, Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the completion of the survey was a vital step toward implementing solar solutions that would benefit the farmers and enhance agricultural productivity.

The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Energy Department of Balochistan, QESCO teams, and representatives from the Zamindar Action Committee, with support from Law Enforcement Agencies.

The project aims to solarize 27,437 registered tubewell connections at an estimated cost of around Rs 55 billion, with funding divided as 70 percent from the federal government and 30 percent from the provincial government. An MoU was signed on July



8, 2024, to formalize this initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on July 8, 2024, for the solarization of agricultural tubewells. It is important to note that compensation of up to Rs. 2.01 will be provided for the solarization of each tubewell. Additionally, five RFO/Gas/Imported Coal-based IPPs totaling 3,742 MW have been commissioned in various areas of Balochistan with the facilitation of the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), while a 300 MW imported coal-based power project in Gwadar is currently undergoing financial processes. APP

PTI's Ali Muhammad rejects reports of deal for IK's sisters

"What deal are they referring to? If bail is considered a deal, then let's shut down all the courts"

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has rejected reports of a deal concerning Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, the sisters of the party's jailed founding chairman Imran Khan stating that if "bail is considered a deal, then let's shut down all the courts."

Both women were granted bail by an anti-terrorism court in Islamabad, which had approved their requests against surety bonds of Rs20,000 each.

The sisters were arrested on October 4 in connection with a case registered at Kohsar Police Station amid a PTI-led protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad. Their detention came as supporters gathered in the area following PTI's announcement of the planned demonstration. They were subsequently released from Jhelum Jail on bail on Friday.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail on Monday, Ali Muhammad Khan stated that the entire world observed a Black Day for Kashmiris, and Pakistan expressed its support. "India is the one committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir, but who is perpetrating such

acts in Pakistan?" he asked. Ali Muhammad Khan pointed out that even common prisoners are not subjected to the same treatment that Imran Khan has faced, citing the cutting off of electricity in his cell. "Is it not possible for a nuclear nation to provide security to a former prime minister?" he questioned.

He stated that the world witnessed how people were taken and forced during the amendment process, with compromises made on conscience.

"Today, I came under the court's orders, but I was not allowed to meet him. The question is, why do you pick and choose?" he asked. "I will come again tomorrow. As long as the founder is not released, we will continue to come."

He asked, "Is this Pakistan only Imran Khan's? Has only Imran Khan taken the responsibility to fix the country? Is it not anyone else's responsibility? Our governments were removed, so you should run Pakistan. We expect Imran Khan to be allowed to come out because he has no case against him in court." Agencies